

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 28, 1953.

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

QUESTIONS.

WHEAT STABILIZATION PLAN.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The Australian Agricultural Council, by a majority, decided to recommend to the State Governments the adoption of a new wheat stabilization plan providing for a flat rate for wheat for home consumption. Can the Chief Secretary inform this Council whether any consideration was given to the manufacturer and export of flour, wheat for which purpose commands a parity price, in order to maintain employment?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The Minister of Agriculture has not returned from the conference and the only information I have is the press report which the honourable member has seen.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Can the Chief Secretary indicate whether a ballot of growers in connection with any new stabilization scheme will be taken before legislation is introduced?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—This matter does not come under my administration, but I should imagine that if a ballot has to be taken legislation will be required to authorize it.

INFLAMMABLE OILS ACT.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I ask leave to make a brief statement with a view to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I have previously asked the Chief Secretary a question in regard to the Shell Company's oil installation at Birkenhead and I now desire further information. Under the Act premises are divided into two groups, namely, registered premises and licensed stores. Under the heading of registered premises the amount of inflammable oils allowed to be stored is restricted to 800 gallons of kerosene, when kerosene only is stored, and 300 gallons if petrol is also stored. Within township or municipal boundaries the quantity of stored petrol is restricted to 100 gallons, but section 12 (2) reads:—

If over one million gallons of inflammable oil are kept in any registered premises the person keeping the inflammable oil shall provide a watchman or watchmen so that the said premises are under continuous supervision.

It would appear, therefore, that there is a grave anomaly in this Act because the major

oil companies, which are governed by section 14 "Licensed Stores," are not compelled to have their premises watched, and I am concerned for the safety of the inhabitants of Birkenhead and surrounding districts in the event of a fire or explosion. In view of his previous answer in relation to this matter will the Government consider amending the Act to provide for the same protection in licensed stores as that prescribed in section 12 (2).

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—As the honourable member's question involves a matter of policy which will have to be determined by Cabinet, I ask him to put his question on the Notice Paper.

BLACK MARKETING IN GALVANIZED IRON.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—It is reported in the newspapers that there is a considerable amount of black marketing in galvanized iron. Has the Government considered taking any action in the matter?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—I will refer the question to the Minister concerned.

HOUSING TRUST RENTS.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (on notice)—What is the total amount the Housing Trust estimates it will receive this financial year by arbitrarily increasing the rents of its homes?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—£79,372 10s.

PORT AUGUSTA BRIDGE.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (on notice)—

1. Is it the intention of the Highways Department to construct another approach to the bridge across Spencer Gulf at Port Augusta?

2. If so, what is envisaged in the programme for such work?

3. What stage has been reached in the project?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—The Commissioner of Highways reports:—

In view of the industrial development likely to occur at Port Augusta, and the fact that the life of the existing Great Western bridge is limited, investigations have been conducted into the possibility of providing another through road of approach along Sydenham Road, Victoria Parade, across the parklands between the high school and the oval, and along Patterson Street to the proposed site for a new bridge alongside the existing one. Further investigation is now in hand to determine whether it is feasible to use the existing road system to link up with Patterson Street as an approach to a new bridge.

YALATA MISSION STATION.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (on notice)—What is the present position regarding the management of Yalata station property and the control and care of the native people who were transferred from Ooldea to Yalata?

The Hon. A. L. McEWIN—In purchasing the Yalata property, the Government had in view a long range policy for the betterment of the natives concerned. Negotiations toward the achievement of this end are still proceeding. Meanwhile the station is being operated by the Government under the same management as previously. The care and control of the natives is the responsibility of the Aborigines Protection Board and in this connection excellent service is being rendered by officers of the Lutheran Mission at Koonibba in distributing rations, providing medical attention, and exercising a general supervision to secure the welfare of the natives. The cost of these services is borne by the Aborigines Protection Board.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 23. Page 139.)

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE (Southern)—I associate myself with previous speakers' expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am sure the people of South Australia will appreciate the opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty when Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, visit the State next year. I join with other members in welcoming His Excellency Sir Robert George and Lady George, and I am sure that the examples of loyalty that they have had from South Australians will have convinced them that our people are indeed very loyal. I commend the mover and seconder of this motion on their speeches. They covered much ground and their speeches were full of important points and contained much of advantage for the State. The Chief Secretary received much commendation from various speakers, but I have always felt that he would perform the duties of Acting Premier creditably as he did previously when Mr. Playford went to England. He has outstanding administrative ability, and the offices of Chief Secretary and Minister of Health are among the most important portfolios in the Government. He has carried out those duties so well for many years that acting for the Premier is not beyond his ability.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—He would make an excellent Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—When the honourable member is a very old man he may see him as Leader of the Opposition, but he will have to live many more years yet. I listened with great interest to the speeches on this debate and I was most disturbed when Mr. Edmonds spoke of the closing of the Kowulka railway, which was to cater for the gypsum industry on the West Coast. I thought that industry offered a form of decentralization. From time to time I have inquired about the project and I believed that its establishment, with a belt installation necessary to load the gypsum, could have possibly provided a means of inaugurating bulk handling of wheat at Cape Thevenard on an economic basis. However, that has apparently gone by the board, but I hope that the high quality gypsum deposits in the area will be further examined by companies interested in such undertakings.

Mr. Condon again provided the Council with much information, but his speeches are always interesting. He featured the question of electoral reform, which I have no doubt will arise later this session, although more likely in another place. He spoke, too, in regard to a matter on which we know he has a tremendous amount of information, the flour industry. He has been Federal president and secretary of the Federated Millers and Mill Employees' Association, so we naturally listened to his remarks attentively. He said wheat marketing would be considered when the Marketing of Wheat Bill is presented to the Chamber. Just what it will contain is difficult to say because press reports one day give us certain information, but something different the next. What the price of wheat will be is a matter for conjecture.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—That is the worst of deciding it by politics.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Decide it by ballot, and then Parliament will have nothing to do with it.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—It remains to be seen what will happen. Country members realize that primary producers face a real problem in marketing their products. All our produce has to face overseas marketing conditions, and that is where the final adjustment will really be made. Mr. Condon also referred to the loss on water and sewerage schemes. He gets much information on these projects through being a member of the Public Works Committee. With one or two exceptions country water schemes are run at a loss. Until recently the

metropolitan water scheme made a small profit but I believe it is expected that all profits will disappear by 1960. In 1923 I made an exhaustive trip through the West Coast and the only sheep carried in that area were on the land adjacent to the coast where underground water was available. Hardly a hoof was carried above. Lock on farming land adjacent to the railway. Had the Uley-Wanilla and Tod River schemes not been inaugurated that country would have been practically devoid of sheep and the State would have lost much revenue. A water scheme for Yorke Peninsula has been suggested. It is difficult to estimate to what extent a water supply would increase the stock carrying capacity of that land but if the price of grain falls below a profitable level more stock will be carried. When the Public Works Standing Committee was taking evidence about a water supply for Jamestown and Caltowie farmers pointed out that although they could grow good lucerne their stock carrying capacity was restricted because of the poor water. Once the stock was compelled to drink that water, scouring took place and losses were considerable. During the past three or four years high prices have obtained but one has to lose only a few sheep to experience a large financial loss.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Where will the State obtain money to meet continued losses on water schemes?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—The State should be able to finance a proposition which has an economic value. I agree with Mr. Condon that water is too cheap. If the assessment of land includes the provision of a State water supply, the amount of the assessment should be reconsidered. If people want a good water supply they should be prepared to pay for it. I have always been a farmer and naturally I feel at home when discussing questions associated with land. This morning I received a letter from a Mr. Bedford of Goolwa. With three other men he is working a small irrigation area of about 50 acres which is carrying 50 head of stud cattle. There are 15 engines working on the property. In the Parliamentary Library there is an interesting booklet entitled *Fertility Farming* and Mr. Bedford is putting the principles suggested in it into practice. He is turning the rank growth back into the soil in the form of green manure and retaining the humus. His accomplishments are remarkable. The area was poor, hungry, riverside ground which originally would have been worth no more than £15 an acre. I read in this morning's press that a Mr. Lloyd from

Rhodesia desires to purchase up to 10,000 acres adjoining the River Murray between Waikerie and Mannum in order to establish orchards. That is a big undertaking but I have always advocated the establishment of private irrigation settlements along the river. Swan Reach is a town of windmills with a few isolated engines but the people have accomplished remarkable results on their settlements and are to be commended. The Loxton irrigation scheme has proved worth-while and it is pleasing to know that an additional area of 1,300 acres is to be planted. We realize that marketing is a serious problem and should be closely examined. The A.D.F.A. is endeavouring to encourage the consumption of dried fruits and is offering prizes to womenfolk for simple but effective recipes which will help create a demand for dried fruits. As members of Parliament we should take every opportunity to encourage our people to use dried fruits more and in this connection I draw attention to an article in the January-March issue of *Dried Fruits News* which shows the difficulties with which the A.D.F.A. is faced in marketing this product. I know that we have been told about this since as far back as the early twenties, but we must realize that we have to encourage our own people to use more dried fruit. It is a wonderful food, but unfortunately the price is very high at the moment though I believe that that will rectify itself in time. Another problem in connection with the up-river settlements is transport. The Public Works Standing Committee rejected the proposed Barmera-Morgan railway and now the question arises again as to what is to take its place. I have no doubt that before long there will be deputations waiting on the Government to ascertain its intentions in connection with bridges.

We have recently read statements in the press in regard to the use of the heavily stocked district extending from Tungkillo and Palmer, thence southwards, for military purposes. I cannot understand why our young soldiers cannot be trained in a less valuable productive area. After complaints about three years ago the military exercises were carried out at Caloote without much criticism. When speaking on the Appropriation Bill I referred to the land being developed in Willalooka and adjoining hundreds north of the Kingston-Keith road. The A.M.P. Society and private individuals are doing a remarkable job there, but transport difficulties are appalling. In some of those hundreds they have to tie two Land Rovers together so that in the event of

one being stuck the other can pull it out. Since science has shown the value of trace elements the people concerned are building up country which once carried only one sheep to 25 acres to land capable of carrying over one sheep to the acre. The articles written by a Mr. Johnstone which appeared in the *Advertiser* recently about the development taking place in this locality were well worth reading and must have created tremendous interest among the public of South Australia, and perhaps elsewhere. During a recent visit of the Public Works Standing Committee to the South-East members were taken out from Millicent towards Wattle Range, and found that in that fringe heath country people are clearing up what was formerly a useless bit of scrub. Their progress is to be commended and encouraged, but they must have roads. I was therefore very pleased to note the £500,000 provided for roads in the Appropriation Bill, as this should assist these settlers to develop their land, which will in turn bring revenue to the State and increased railway freights.

Much has been said lately about potatoes and it is wise sometimes to think of the difficulties and expense with which the grower is faced in producing this article which is so readily sought by the consuming public. In 1948 we passed the Potato Marketing Act and I thought that it would prove of great assistance to the growers. About 1935 I had some experience in growing potatoes. I had to pick them over three times and then sell them at £3 5s. a ton—rather different from the price being offered today. I find, however, that many problems arise under the Act. The growers voted in favour of legislation and agreed to shoulder the responsibilities prescribed in the Act. However, it did not provide that the grower should accept the responsibility of price fixing.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—Yes, it did. The board is grower-controlled.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I do not think that is the case because price fixing has become the accepted responsibility of the Prices Commissioner. The concluding paragraph of the leading article in the July issue of *The Grower* reads:—

The Government, however, can be blamed for permitting to continue a system which has this year so amply demonstrated not only its lack of realism in potato marketing, but also, a disturbing lack of knowledge of conditions within the industry. It is to be hoped that before any irreparable damage is done to our great potato industry, the Government will step in and protect it by permitting one or the other of two alternatives, viz., abolition of

Government price fixing, or the transfer of price fixing powers to the South Australian Potato Board.

If Mr. Densley can show that the Potato Board has this power, well and good, but I took it from that article that such was not the case. I have discussed the problem with many potato growers throughout the hills districts, without arriving at any solution other than allowing the grower to accept the entire responsibility. Whether that is the correct solution I am unable to say. The growers are trying to establish a co-operative potato growers' association and whether that will be helpful I do not know, but all these problems I believe are entirely due to the difficult times in which we are living, and the general high ruling prices from which I think nobody derives any gain. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—I join others in paying a tribute to the success of the Coronation celebrations. I have never known so much enthusiasm among the people as was shown in this great event. We all know of the solemn vows Her Majesty has taken and we in turn can assist her greatly in the carrying out of those vows because, at her still tender age, she has tremendous responsibilities. The Royal visit, which we hope will take place early next year, is assured of a tremendous welcome and the fact that the Premier and the Royal Tour Organizer, Mr. Pearce, have been to England will no doubt assist in the successful carrying out of the celebrations. It will be the first time that a reigning Monarch has set foot in Australia and I hope, as is now proposed, that Her Majesty's itinerary will include Port Lincoln and Whyalla.

His Excellency Sir Robert George and Lady George have responded in a wonderful manner to the welcome extended to them on their arrival. We all hope that their stay in South Australia will be happy and that they will be blessed with good health. Many tributes have been paid to the Chief Secretary for the manner in which he carried out the duties of Acting Premier during Mr. Playford's absence abroad. He has satisfied people in all walks of life with the able manner in which he carried out that office. We have frequently heard over the air, in the streets, and read in the press that this Government is a one-man affair, but the Chief Secretary's wonderful work during the Premier's absence must silence such criticism.

Yesterday was a day that we will remember for a long time, for last night's *News* announced that the war in Korea had ceased.

I have heard the bells of peace sounded for the cessation of the South African war, World War I, World War II., and now the Korean war. Unfortunately, there were 2,300,000 casualties, including 1,300 Australians, in the Korean war. I heard the Governor deliver a fine quotation this morning when opening the State Conference of the R.S.L. He said, "The bells of peace must not send us to sleep." That is a warning. We believe that the Korean war reached a stalemate, but I am afraid it is not the last that we will hear from the Communists. I believe they still have a great desire to come this way.

It is surprising how a person can excel when the necessity arises. I congratulate Mr. Jude on his splendid speech, both from the point of view of material and delivery. I also pay tribute to Mr. Anthoney. With his long experience in Parliament it is only natural that we should expect him to do justice in seconding the motion. I intend speaking mostly about primary production because I have some knowledge of it, having been engaged in the industry all my life. We have had the best season in history in regard to yields. It was astonishing that the final returns were 10,500,000 bushels more than the estimates, because usually estimates are far in excess of production. It was amazing where the grain came from. In a district such as Willowie, with a low rainfall, 15 bags to the acre were obtained. For the season 1952-53 wheat production yielded 33,900,570 bushels, barley 25,871,634, and oats 6,669,826, a total of 66,442,030. That wonderful yield was not due only to a favourable season, but also to the improvement in cereal production methods. Dairy production had an upward trend during the past 12 months, but pig raising is difficult to follow. Only a few weeks ago a chopper at the abattoirs sold for £80, but the other day a butcher in the suburbs was selling pork chops for 4s. 6d. each. That is a phenomenal price, one reason being that pig raising has not been a popular industry at any time, the other being the high price of wheat. Pigs have been bringing more money at the abattoirs than stud pigs. Last year South Australia had 11,500,000 sheep for wool and 440,000 carcasses were exported. That, too, is an indication of the wonderful season we had last year. This season is not as good as many people believe, for we had a dry opening and feed is scarce. When journeying from Terowie the other day I noticed there was practically no feed all along the line. That also applies to the Crystal Brook district. Feed is not

growing because of the late opening rains and cold weather. I am informed that lambing is down by 300,000 owing to the late opening rains. I hope the dry opening will be a lesson to primary producers to carry reserve stocks of feed. Those with considerable reserves had to feed it to their stock, but those without it have had the main losses with poor lambing. Future marketing conditions are not reassuring, for we are now entering a buyer's market. For years everything has been on an upward trend, but there must be a culminating point, and I think it has been reached in practically all our products. We must therefore increase production, not only from newly developed land but from the established farm. Greater production is possible by the aid of scientists and better methods, such as we have employed during the last two or three years. There is a great deal of wheat in the world today. The carry-over to June 30 was 1,264,000,000 bushels, 95 per cent more than for the previous year. Australia, Canada, the United States of America and the Argentine are the main exporting countries. At June 30 Australia had 74,100,000 bushels of wheat on hand, therefore, I cannot support the assertion that there has been a lag in production of wheat. There are wonderful possibilities in the advancement of agricultural technique. I am pleased that Sir George Jenkins has recovered from his serious operation. He has lifted the Department of Agriculture to an efficiency it has never known before. He is a practical man and has done a magnificent job as Minister. He has a wonderful off-sider in the director, Dr. Callaghan, who is a highly-qualified technical man. The combination of practical and technical has resulted in the department making splendid progress. I cannot agree with the Leader of the Opposition that there has been a go-slow policy on our farms, for there is no evidence of it. However, there is a great deficiency of manpower, and this is one reason why the acreage under crop has dropped in recent years.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Didn't the wheat-growers advocate growing less wheat on account of the price?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No, they said they would grow the most profitable cereal. The wage-earner works in the industry from which he can get the highest wage, and I think the Opposition advocates such a policy. Naturally, the primary producer will grow the most profitable cereal. Farmers on Eyre Peninsula suffered greatly during the past 12 months from trouble on the waterfront. Mr.

President, you have an interest in the firm that provides sea transport to Eyre Peninsula and you know that that undertaking is not paying very well. On three occasions I sent goods to and from Port Lincoln without their being loaded on the ship. These transport difficulties are retarding production on Eyre Peninsula. The Opposition must agree that conditions on the waterfront are causing disruption in primary production.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Who is causing the disruption?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Why did Messrs. Healy and Roach go to Port Lincoln twice last year? They are two of the leading Communists in Australia. The executive members of their union are closely associated with Communism, which is retarding the progress of this State.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Would you say that applies to the Port Adelaide branch of the Waterside Workers' Union?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I will not go so far as to say that but if what we read about what has taken place there in the last few weeks it is true . . .

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—If a man is entitled to a quarter of an hour for smoko and someone tries to take it away from him surely he is entitled to object?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Transport problems greatly affect my electorate. In my opinion, water transport is the best means of conveying produce from that area. It is senseless to transport goods 420 miles by road at great cost when there is a direct route by water. The Harbors Board proposes spending £1,000,000 at Port Lincoln and that expenditure is long overdue. I believe the Adelaide Steamship Company sent a man overseas to investigate matters relating to sea transport and we hope that from his inquiries improved water transport will be available. Kangaroo Island suffers similarly. It has a marvellous future although its production cannot be assessed at present. It was suggested by R.S.L. delegates yesterday that if produce could be driven on to boats, similar to those used in war time, and transported to Cape Jervis or Port Adelaide so much expenditure would not be incurred. That may be a solution of the problem. Increased production has taken place on the lower portion of Eyre Peninsula but it will not be worth much unless transport and markets are available.

Recently, I was conversing with a member of a committee controlling soil erosion and

was amazed at what he told me. The committee has done much to arrest sand drift, and land which was useless years ago is now being improved. Since rolling stock and engines have been transferred from the South-East to Eyre Peninsula the railways there have improved. When we visited Mount Gambier recently the Chief Secretary in an interesting address referred to an extract from *Hansard* which said that when the rolling stock was no longer required in the South-East it would be sent to Eyre Peninsula. That may have given people who were not formerly very familiar with Eyre Peninsula a low opinion of it.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Even so, that rolling stock would make an improvement.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It has made an improvement and I believe the narrow gauge lines there are more profitable than our broad gauge lines although not so convenient. The people are generally satisfied with the vast improvement the Government has brought about in railway transport. Reference has been made to water supplies. The Uley-Wanilla basin is standing up to severe pumping magnificently. Seven pumps are working almost continuously and last year if that scheme had not supplemented the Tod reservoir the Peninsula would have been without water. That scheme does much to aid decentralization.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Is it a permanent supply?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes, and it looks as though it will remain one for a long time. The Public Works Standing Committee went to Yeelanna and took evidence from persons who required water and subsequently water was reticulated from the Tod main through that area. Mr. Campbell, the engineer, told me that the consumers agreed to pay five and a half times the ordinary rate and are doing so but that it represents only 1 per cent of the cost of laying that line.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—That is some of the best land in the State but it is assessed at only 4d. an acre.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It is, and although the direct revenue is only 1 per cent, it is hard to assess the indirect revenue. The carrying capacity of the land is not governed by the amount of food available but by the supplies of water. We can conserve feed but if water is not available it is of no value. I would support a scheme for Yorke Peninsula as it will considerably increase its stock carrying capacity.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Has the water position at Cowell improved?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Cowell is experiencing an extremely dry season and in June received only 65 points which was hardly sufficient to bring the grain above ground. However, Cowell will ultimately be supplied with Uley-Wanilla water. Jamestown and Caltowie will thrive as a result of a water scheme which is now under way and I believe provision is also being made to extend water to Peterborough and Radium Hill. Those schemes will pay big dividends. The time is approaching when the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline will have to be duplicated because production is increasing tremendously in the districts it serves. The extension of electricity from Port Lincoln to Cummins and Tumby Bay is also proving a great boon. Much valuable information was gained from a visit to Leigh Creek last year and the new dam at Aroona Gorge will be of great benefit. It will make Leigh Creek a better place in which to live because water is the life blood of the country.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—There is sufficient storage but will there be sufficient intake?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—If the trees and other signs of floods which are apparent are any indication, there should be ample water to fill the large dam under construction. Last season superphosphate created a problem. I have never seen superphosphate set as much as it did last year and the manufacturing companies agreed to regrind it if producers returned it to the factories. Each bag had to be broken up with a shovel and the contents sieved. It meant more work but I believe it will not happen this season. An increased quantity of rock caused it to set like cement.

An article in the press suggested that the Nairne pyrites scheme would not be successful but that statement has since been contradicted. No Government would launch such a scheme unless assured of its success. Farmers are anxiously awaiting the manufacture of the pyrites product and if the B.H.P. undertakes anything one can bet that it will prove 100 per cent successful.

The bulk handling of wheat has proved highly successful at Ardrossan. Many farmers hope they will never have to market wheat in bags again and their earnest desire is that the bulk handling system will continue. They are converting their machinery to the bulk handling method. The huge silo was unable to cater for the tremendous amount of grain resulting from the phenomenal yields last season. I look forward to the time when all wheat will

be handled in bulk but that will only be when it is an economically sound scheme. Much criticism has been levelled at the Public Works Standing Committee for the long delay in bringing down a report on bulk handling.

His Excellency referred to the Deaf and Dumb Society. Members may wonder why I am interested in this subject, but I have been a member of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Council for a number of years. The reason for the inquiry recently conducted was that some of the parents of deaf and dumb children were not satisfied with the tuition being given. Just as changes take place in ordinary schools a change of headmaster took place at the Brighton School which did not appeal to some of the parents. However, I thank the Minister of Education and the Government for setting up the inquiry committee, which consisted of Mr. Cannon of Victoria, Mr. Pollnitz, formerly the Director of Building Materials, and Dr. Reilly, and we are looking forward to the committee's report which we hope will bring about what the people concerned desire.

I am vitally interested in war service land settlement and very happy to learn that 720 soldier settlers are now on their blocks and that 100 more have been selected. I regard soldier settlement as one of the major projects now going forward in Australia. South Australia, with Tasmania and Western Australia, is an agent State for the Commonwealth. This is a Commonwealth scheme and the policy laid down is a good one because it insists upon the selection of the right type of land; firstly, it must be in an assured rainfall locality and, secondly, as free as possible from sand drift—two very important features. I consider that South Australia is in advance of any of the other States in her soldier settlement schemes, and it was very pleasing to hear the Minister state that there are now only 143 applicants for irrigation blocks remaining unsatisfied. However, the position is not quite so satisfactory in respect of dry lands as we have not sufficient available. The Government acquired Yalluna Station from the Mortlock Estate and there are now 27 soldier settlers upon it. Since the subdivision production in the Tumby Bay district has increased by 300 per cent and all the settlers are doing exceedingly well; some have even established cattle studs. To lift the district's production by 300 per cent in three or four years in itself proves that the war service land settlement scheme is a major project. At Wanilla, which almost adjoins Yalluna, the settlers are faced with a

severe problem in the African daisy which has now been declared a noxious weed. It was introduced, I believe, in ballast from ships from South Africa. It does not thrive until land is cultivated and then it becomes very difficult to deal with. I believe that the C.S.I.R.O. will be able to produce a hormone capable of dealing with it while the plant is young, for when it is fully grown the strength of any hormone capable of dealing with it would kill other plant life.

The farm housing scheme introduced by the Government last year has had much criticism, but it has been a boon to many. Those who live in the prefabricated houses are quite satisfied with them, so why those who do not have to live in them should criticize the houses I cannot understand. This scheme enables workmen and share farmers to enjoy far better living conditions than hitherto, and is wholly commendable. Another interesting undertaking has been the aerial baiting to destroy dingoes and a wonderful job has been done at considerable risk for the airmen concerned. Some people have urged discontinuance of this scheme on the grounds that it is destroying bird life, but I think that far more good is being done by destroying wild dogs than by the killing of a few birds that may be poisoned by the baits. No-one wants to see our bird life destroyed, but the loss of lambs and calves through the ravages of wild dogs has been tremendous.

Myxamatosis has enabled us to carry far more stock than ever before. It has not been quite successful in the drier areas because there must be mosquitoes to carry the virus, but it has made a tremendous difference not only in the stock carrying capacity of land but in the prevention of sand drift in the Murray mallee. In these localities it was impossible to destroy the bush rabbits which do not burrow underground, but myxamatosis has got rid of most of the vermin which were causing so much destruction of the vegetation, resulting in sand drift.

Before concluding I would like to pay a tribute to the emergency fire fighting service which has performed such excellent work in South Australia. The number of volunteers now engaged in fire fighting is a tribute not only to Mr. Kerr who has done such an excellent job as the head of the service but to the public generally for their support. Members of the organization not only give their time voluntarily but incur some monetary expense, and I commend to members the annual display given by the fire fighting organizations at the

Royal Show as something well worth watching and supporting. The Royal Agricultural Society this year is also introducing shearing competitions. These have been introduced in quite a number of places throughout the State and will be the means of teaching many men to shear in a correct and fast way. In recent years shearers have been hard to get and I think the encouragement given by these competitions will do much to overcome the serious shortage.

I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN (Central No. 1)—I join with other Members in their expressions of loyalty and affection to our Gracious Queen Elizabeth II. The Throne of England now stands higher in the love and esteem of the people of the British Commonwealth of Nations than ever before. It may be truly said that the Queen's father, King George VI., and her grandfather, King George V., by their devotion to duty and sharing the sufferings and anxiety of their subjects during two great devastating world wars, elevated the monarchy to a dignity to which it was never raised before. We are confident that Queen Elizabeth will carry on the great traditions which her predecessors have established, and it is our earnest hope that her reign will be a long and happy one.

Just as the monarch undertakes to fulfil obligations to the people and reigns as a constitutional ruler, so the people have their obligations to the monarch. They are expressed in their undertaking to obey the laws passed by Parliament and assented to by the Queen, or her representative. In a more specialized sense, they imply the maintenance of the constitutional means of changing our laws rather than resorting to violence. It is one of the strongest planks of Labor's platform that it believes in constitutional government, having for its keystone the authority of the monarch and having that authority exercised in solving unusual and extraordinary situations, leaving the ordinary work of government, including constitutional and legal reform, to the Parliament of the country.

We have inherited a stability due entirely to the system of constitutional government, which has evolved over the centuries. Under no other system have the people the liberty and security that ours affords. By the adjustment of the powers and duties of the various components of that system, of which the Queen is now the head, it is our earnest hope that her

reign will be a long and happy one, and that it will be marked by that progress and prosperity which we associate with peace.

I also congratulate the mover and seconder and other members who have participated in this debate. Mr. Condon made a commendable contribution to the debate, and mentioned our electoral system and the Workmen's Compensation Act. I was disappointed that no reference to these things was made in His Excellency's Speech as various anomalies exist in some of our industrial laws.

The Industrial Code precludes "agricultural workers" from obtaining industrial justice. From time to time we have heard in this Chamber that we must increase production, particularly primary production, that the peoples of the world must be fed, and that if we do not play our part in feeding other nations that cannot feed themselves the blame will be ours. It has also been said that young people have left the country and sought employment in the metropolitan area; that is true. They have come to the city because they can work a 40-hour week in five days here, with fixed starting and finishing times. Amenities, such as canteens, are supplied by employers, and employees have an assured wage. They do not feel inclined to return to farms under the conditions that they left. Perhaps the farmers have been paying high wages because of the employment market, but will they continue to pay those wages? Even if they do, how can farmers expect to induce their employees to return when they have not the protection afforded other workers under the Code? The Code must be amended by removing the obnoxious provision excluding rural employees.

Employees of Government hospitals are entitled to seek an award on wage rates and working conditions, but the Industrial Code does not cover employees in subsidized and community hospitals, yet these institutions are being assisted by both the Commonwealth and State Governments. Surely these employees are entitled to the same protection as those in Government hospitals doing the same type of work? I was hoping there would be some reference to this matter in the Governor's speech. The Leader of the Opposition referred to workmen's compensation. I hope the Act will be amended soon to provide for compensation for accidents sustained in going to and returning from employment.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Hasn't the Government appointed a committee to inquire into workmen's compensation?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Yes, but we do not know whether the committee has sat or what its recommendations will be.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—But Parliament is supreme.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Parliament is the place where these matters should be brought forward. I agree with Mr. Condon that we are responsible for these things, not a committee of three set up for the purpose of passing the buck. Weekly payments should not be deducted from any lump sum payment. There should be an increase in the payments for death or total disablement. Further, weekly payments should not be less than the normal weekly wage. The maximum of £75 for hospital fees should be eliminated, making total hospital costs recoverable. No-one would suggest that an employee looks for an accident for the purpose of obtaining payments under the Act. The maximum payment for a married man with a family is £11 a week, irrespective of his normal wage, but he should receive at least his normal wage while incapacitated. Often a lengthy stay in hospital costs much more than £75. Anything above that amount must be met by the employee suffering incapacitation through no fault of his own. Mr. Condon and other members referred to our electoral laws. I think Mr. Bice said that most likely members of the Council would not get an opportunity of discussing a Bill for electoral reform.

The Hon. J. L. S. Bice—I did not quite say that.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I think the purport of his words was that if a Bill were introduced into Parliament it would not be discussed in this Chamber. The only construction I can put on his remarks is that it will not come to this Chamber. If that is so, it brings more forcibly before us the need for electoral reform. The total number of electors on the rolls for the metropolitan seats in the House of Assembly is 279,580, but the total electors for the country seats are only 169,635, that is, 109,945 more electors for the 13 metropolitan seats than for the 26 country seats. There was an overall majority for Labor at the last election of 47,523, yet Labor holds only 14 seats in a House of 39. It may be argued that some seats were not contested and that if they had the figures would have been different, but this will not bear examination, for there were nine uncontested seats with a total of 95,121 electors. Labor held four of them, representing 51,426 electors, and the Liberal and Country League held five,

representing 43,695 electors. Mr. Rowe criticized the Labor Party for its electoral reform policy of one vote one value, and to justify his faith in the present system quoted that in operation for electing Senators in the Commonwealth Parliament. He said Tasmania elected six representatives, but that New South Wales, with a far greater population, also elected only six. That is the Commonwealth law but it does not prove that a similar system should apply in South Australia. The present system has created a minority rule and it is this self-same system which has been responsible for the creation of dictatorships in other parts of the world. No member of the Labor Party subscribes to it. It has been suggested that it is a democratic system and that the people elect Parliament but the figures I have quoted reveal that the majority of the electors in this State last year expressed the desire to be represented by a Labor Government. The time has arrived when there should be a more equitable system of electing representatives to Parliament.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Do you mean proportional representation?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—The Labor Party will say what it means when it introduces legislation to amend the present set-up. It is gratifying to note the continued progress in our forestry and milling industry in the South-East, despite it being a Government undertaking. In my Address in Reply speech last year I commended that industry. At one time I was closely associated with the timber industry in this State and I again praise the progress which has been made. Last year those undertakings showed a profit and another profit is expected this financial year which proves that the State Government can successfully carry out its industrial undertakings despite the suggestion that private enterprise only can control and operate industries successfully.

I turn now to education and I note that the number of students attending the public schools totals 108,600. That has necessitated an active building programme and huge expenditure. The Minister of Education and the school committees deserve commendation for their sterling work. The untiring efforts of the school committees in raising moneys for school amenities are praiseworthy. This money is subsidized on a pound for pound basis by the Government, but I believe the Government should seriously consider subsidizing private schools. Our schools and teaching staffs are maintained by the taxpayers and are not the parents of children attending private schools

taxpayers? These parents actually pay twice and although they are not compelled to send their children to private schools, does the Government realize the position it would be in if all private schools closed down? Could it provide accommodation for those students and obtain the services of sufficient teachers?

The Hon. L. H. Densley—What would happen to the teachers in those private schools?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Many of them would not be available for teaching in State schools. Let me quote from a statement of financial transactions during 1952 of one private school. The fees from 500 pupils amounted to £8,337 11s. 6d. and the average fee was £16 13s. 6d.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Is that the fee per annum or the fee per term?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I do not know. The amount raised by Parents and Friends Committee was £2,339 11s. 9d. and the money received from other sources—concerts, donations, bookroom trading, etc.—was £204 10s. The expenses comprised salaries to two permanent and three visiting teachers £1,074 2s.; domestic staff £735; labourers £410 9s. 11d.; domestic upkeep £3,748 16s. 1d. (and this covers the cost of living for domestic staff and teachers' lunches); fuel, power and light £294 2s. 10d.; rates (municipal and water) £650; bank interest on loans £438 0s. 10d.; printing, advertising and office expenses £348 10s. 8d.; sports apparatus and prizes £290 3s. 4d.; and maintenance, repairs, replacements, school furnishings, library and science apparatus £1,930 15s. 3d., a total of approximately £10,000.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—The teachers are paid an average of £200 a year?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—There are five teachers, and they are not necessarily full-time at the school. They are permanent in as much as they teach a particular subject on a particular day for a particular class.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Do you realize that the only Government which dealt with this problem was the Menzies Government?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I do not know what the Menzies Government has done to subsidize private schools.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—It has provided relief from taxation.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Yes, to parents of all school children and not only to parents of children attending private schools.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—But State schools are free so what is your deduction?

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—This State is already spending more on education judged by other standards in Australia.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I am not criticizing the Government's expenditure on education for I realize it is enormous, but the Government subsidizes school committees and parents' organizations associated with Government schools on a pound for pound basis whereas similar bodies associated with private schools which are wholly maintained by the parents of the students enjoy nothing in this direction. Surely it is not asking too much of the Government to put them all on the same basis.

The Hon. L. H. Densley—But one belongs to the Government and the other to private institutions.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I agree but it is the taxpayers as a body who make it possible for the Government to carry on its educational activities. These things have been recognized in other countries for a long time and Acts of Parliament are in operation in Great Britain, Ireland and Holland which provide, not only for the same subsidies for all classes of schools, but in some instances for the whole of the maintenance of the school.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—You are talking about church schools. Why don't you say so straight out?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—There are private schools other than the denominational schools and they are all worthy of consideration as they are materially assisting in the education of children. Some of our best citizens received their education from the schools to which I am referring.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—What schools?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Prince Alfred College, St. Peter's College, Rostrevor and Christian Brothers' Colleges, none of which receives any help from the Government, and I think it is time the Government awoke to its responsibilities by assisting the parents of those students in the same way as it helps organizations associated with Government schools.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—They are all participating in the free books scheme, are they not?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—That is news to me. The only concession I know of is the Commonwealth Government's book allowance of £3, but how far does that go? I have three children attending a private school—

The Hon. N. L. Jude—They get a boarding allowance.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—My children are living at home and will continue to do so

while I am capable of maintaining them. I am able to claim the magnificent sum of £3. My eldest child is now doing Leaving Honours, but the £3 would not pay for the books of my eight year old, and even that £3 is not met by the State Government.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—You believe in uniform taxation, I take it?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Yes.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—And where does the State Government get its money?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—The question of housing has agitated my mind for some time. His Excellency referred to the work of the Housing Trust and informed us that the trust has built 17,300 houses to date. In that memorable address the following passage occurred:—

In order to avoid the necessity for increasing the rents of trust homes by reason of the recent rise in interest rates, the trust will, during the coming financial year, carry out its rental housing programme under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement. Under that agreement money is made available by the Commonwealth at an interest rate of 3 per cent, and this favourable rate will enable rents of new houses to be much lower than would otherwise be the case.

That paragraph seems to be in conflict with recent actions of the Housing Trust in raising rents irrespective of the year in which a home was built and notwithstanding the limitations of private landlords to an increase of 22½ per cent under the amendment of the Control of Rents Act. In 1939 the rent for a three-roomed cottage near Bowden was 11s. 6d. a week. It was increased to 12s. 6d. in 1942, to 13s. 6d. in June, 1943, to 16s. 6d. in July, 1948, to 21s. in June, 1951, and the tenant has now received notice of a further increase of 4s., bringing the rent to 25s. 6d. a week, or more than 100 per cent increase. After due deliberation we passed an Act limiting the private landlord to an increase of 22½ per cent, but the trust is allowed to increase its rents by over 100 per cent yet the Government claims that it is taking all steps to curb inflation. I have the letter from the tenant concerned in this instance and members are at liberty to check its authenticity if they desire.

The Hon. R. R. Wilson—What causes these steep increases?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—If we take notice of some members the building worker and the worker producing the raw material are to blame, but never anyone else. Only this afternoon the position on the waterfront was

mentioned. We cannot heed the press reports on this matter because they are incorrect. The trouble has not been caused by the worker on the waterfront, but has been deliberately caused by the shipping companies—

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—That is a very strong statement.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—The worker cannot be blamed for the exorbitant cost of homes today; it is attributable to other factors and the present Commonwealth Government itself has avoided its responsibilities in this matter because production of some of the raw materials are not beyond its control.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Despite these hold-ups, of which I do not approve, many companies are still making increased profits notwithstanding all their crying.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—They are putting thousands of pounds into sinking funds and still paying 16 per cent, 18 per cent and 20 per cent dividends.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—Quote some.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Mr. Clyde Cameron mentioned some in his article in the *Advertiser* recently. What about General Motors-Holdens? After making provision for taxation and depreciation—which amounts to a cover-up in most instances—they still made a profit of over £3,000,000.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—What was the rate of profit?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—It would be well over 15 per cent, but this is quite legitimate and I am not criticizing them. If it is possible because of our methods of administration good luck to them, but do not criticize all the time the man who is making it possible.

The Hon. Sir Wallace Sandford—But you are criticizing them.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—I am criticizing the attitude which has been adopted by some members.

In respect of water conservation, His Excellency said:—

The geological investigations for additional reservoirs at Kangaroo Creek, Clarendon and Myponga are continuing.

This reminds me that we were told that when the Mount Bold reservoir was completed there would be no further need for water restrictions. We have had them ever since.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—What has the Myponga scheme got to do with restrictions in Adelaide?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—What has Clarendon or Mount Bold to do with restrictions? When Mount Bold was completed we were told water restrictions would cease as we would have plenty of water for the next 50 years. We were told we suffered water restrictions during the last few years because of the corrosion of the mains. Bore water was pumped into the system to boost the pressures, but during the last summer residents in the western districts had to leave their taps turned on for some minutes before even a trickle came through. I realize much more water is used in the summer than in the winter months, but we still had restrictions despite the bore water used to supplement the supply. Is there any necessity for water restrictions if there is plenty of water in the reservoirs, irrespective of the condition of the pipes?

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—Yes, because some levels would get all the water and others none.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Will restrictions overcome that? Restrictions are not the answer. I am allowed to use all the water I want in the winter, but not in the summer, but would I get any if it went to the higher levels?

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Don't talk rot! Water does not run uphill now any more than it ever did.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—The honourable member says "Don't talk rot," but I am only answering interjections. Water restrictions became necessary because we did not have adequate water conservation in this State. Until we have greater supplies we shall suffer restrictions. I hope the South Para reservoir and Murray pipeline will be completed soon to assist supplies for the metropolitan area and near country districts. Those projects prove we have inadequate supplies. It is only trying to fool all the people all the time to say that the cause of restrictions is corroded pipes. I pay a tribute to the Governor and Lady George. I am sure the traditions established by our former Vice-regal representatives will be nobly upheld by them. They are already dearly loved by the people of the towns they have visited and I am sure the longer they stay the more beloved they will become. I hope their sojourn in South Australia will be a very happy one.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 29, at 2 p.m.