

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 27, 1954.

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

ASSENT TO ACTS

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

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT (No. 2)

The PRESIDENT—I draw the attention of the Council to a proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, dated June 24, 1954, notifying Her Majesty's assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act (No. 2) which had been reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon.

QUESTIONS.**QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—On June 3, in reply to my question, the Chief Secretary stated that it was expected that the contractors would have finished their work and that the first portion of the Queen Elizabeth hospital would be available about the end of the month. Has any difficulty been experienced in securing honorary and other staff to permit this hospital to be opened and, further, would he care to comment on recent press criticism of hospital accommodation generally?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The honourable member's question involves three points; firstly, when the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be opened, secondly, the position as regards hospital staff and, thirdly, whether I desire to reply to an article, built up on anonymous information, that was published in a weekend paper. I am unable to state the exact opening date of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital because there were certain things which had to be finalized by the contractors in order that the hospital could function efficiently, and until we have definite information as to when the hospital will be ready to function it is not possible to conjecture as to when it can be opened, although I am expecting it to be at an early date. There are shortages of staff, of course, in all our hospitals, including Royal Adelaide and all subsidized hospitals, and that is probably reflected in private hospitals. However, the essential nucleus of staff, to the number of 19, for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital has already been engaged and no doubt sufficient trainee staff to make up the

requisite number of between 60 and 70 will be available to enable the hospital to be gradually brought into effect. As regards the honourable member's third question I would suggest that he put it on the Notice Paper. I am prepared to give information touching upon the matters raised in a feature article in the week-end papers, but that of course would have to be with the approval of the Council because it would involve more than a simple answer to a simple question.

NON-RATABLE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Has the Minister of Local Government a reply to the question I asked on June 9 relative to non-ratable Government property at Port Adelaide?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I have a reply and will see that the honourable member gets it at the earliest moment.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table reports by the Public Works Standing Committee (together with minutes of evidence) on the following projects:—Cowell water supply improvement, Kingscote port improvements, Plympton infant school, and Hectorville and Dover Gardens primary schools.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. SIR LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:—

May it please Your Excellency—

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

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

3. We earnestly join in the prayer of Your Excellency for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the Session.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON (Northern)—Although my turn to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply has come round by rotation, I feel privileged to move it. It follows upon the second Session of the Thirty-Fourth Parliament, which will be long remembered and go down in the records as the first time on which the Parliament of South Australia had been declared open by a

reigning Monarch. We at that time were celebrating the first visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, and we remember the very gracious and stately manner in which the ceremony of opening of Parliament was performed. I believe it made a profound impression upon all those privileged to be present. This visit also enabled the people of the State to show in no uncertain manner their loyalty and esteem to Her Majesty, and as a result of the visit the bonds of Empire have been welded together even more than before.

To you, Mr. President, I convey congratulations for the thorough and proficient manner in which you carried out your part of the ceremony. No thought or attention to detail was spared in making the visit a very happy occasion. Congratulations are also due to the Clerk of Parliaments, Mr. Ball, for his unremitting diligence in the preparation of details, to Black Rod, Mr. Drummond, who carried out his part with distinction, and also to all other officers and members of the staff who combined so well to make the visit such an unqualified success. On June 3 we were again called together, and we acknowledge the speech with which His Excellency the Governor opened Parliament. I am sure members would desire me to say how we appreciate the way in which His Excellency and Lady George are entering into the life of the community. By their kindly interest they are earning the goodwill and affection of the people. As a representative of the Northern district I express my appreciation of the visit of His Excellency and Lady George to the Mid-North recently, and especially to His Excellency for his visit to the North-West—to the outposts of this State where the people are playing such an important part in our economic life which could be overlooked. I am sure that this visit was much appreciated by the people in the area.

Reference was made in His Excellency's speech to the appointment of additional Ministers as provided in the Constitution Act Amendment Act. This has met with general approval. Before proceeding with this aspect I deem it my duty to convey to the Premier and his five colleagues in the previous Cabinet our appreciation for having carried such a heavy task during the post-war years. Mr. Playford has performed almost a superhuman task in the development and progress of the State and in the interests of the welfare of his people in providing homes and employment, in encouraging industries to establish themselves in this State, providing electrical power to keep the wheels of industry going and developing

our coal and uranium deposits. Those of us who attended the opening of the Port Augusta power house recently could not but help feel proud of the establishment of this power station in an unpopulated part of Spencer's Gulf. The sending forth of its smoke indicated that the project had been brought to a successful conclusion. The Premier must feel a great deal of pride and pleasure to see the realization of his dream for the development of Leigh Creek coal to provide electricity throughout the State. As a representative of the northern districts it gives me very great pleasure to know that these sparsely settled areas are now paying to a great extent the same power charges as the metropolitan area. This will go some way towards decentralization. It is the first time in the history of this State, and I believe in the history of the Commonwealth, that country people have been so privileged. Mention was made in His Excellency's speech of a similar project to be undertaken at Mount Gambier to provide that district with cheaper electricity. This will go some way at least towards the establishment of industries in that area, and will bring about decentralization. South Australia leads not only in the discovery, but also the treatment of uranium, and the Premier has made a special feature of uranium development because he realizes it is the power of the future.

The Premier's visit with the Minister of Agriculture to the wheat conference yesterday has been of considerable benefit to two sections of the community—the wheatgrowing and flour milling interests. The press report of the conference indicates the very important part the Premier played in bringing about agreement between State Premiers. This is an important move for the industry because a stabilization scheme can be submitted that will be a boon not only to wheatgrowers but also to the rest of the State. It will keep the industry on a safe footing unlike previous periods when wheat prices tumbled and primary industries were jeopardized as a result. Wheatgrowers have been paying into the stabilization scheme for many years, and it will enable the industry to be kept on a safe footing. I pay a tribute to Mr. Condon for the way in which he has put forward the claims of the flour milling industry at all times, and his efforts, combined with the attention given by the Premier, must bring about a lot of good.

Sir Lyell McEwin, as Minister of Health, has given sincere attention to the health of the

people and has provided additional accommodation in our hospitals, especially for nurses. There has been a marked decrease in the incidence of infectious diseases and most satisfactory results in the control of tuberculosis and the immunization of children against disease. The efforts of the Minister are to be highly commended in this regard because prevention is the best approach to the problem. It is pleasing to note that the infantile death rate in this State is one of the lowest in the world. Recently there has been grave criticism of conditions at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and in the *Mail* of Sunday last an article appeared on the subject, written by Cyril Burley. The preamble set out the attention given to the provision of nurses' quarters and then mentioned that £700,000 more could have been spent if the contractors had been available to carry out the work. The article continued:—

"A vastly increased number of nurses living on the premises has to be employed," Mr. McIntosh said. "This is because of reduced working hours and the accommodation problem generally. There is only one way to guarantee there will be sufficient staff, and that is to provide staff quarters. For this reason, the biggest buildings erected under the hospitals programme recently have been nurses' homes."

Mr. McIntosh gave these details of hospitals activity and expenditure:—Parkside Mental Hospital: New nurses' home of four floors to accommodate 82 is nearly finished. A contract has been let for a tuberculosis patients' ward, a block for female patients is under construction, and various additions and renovations are in hand. Estimated cost is £350,000.

Northfield Mental Hospital for 40 female patients under construction, steam generating plant and boiler house costing £108,000 being built, and almost ready for occupation are two big prefabricated buildings, one for patients and the other for nurses. Estimated cost £300,000.

Royal Adelaide Hospital—£330,000 nurses' home nearly finished, and now partly occupied. This building has seven floors and will accommodate 336 nurses.

A new boiler house has just been completed at a cost of £137,000 to replace old and inadequate equipment. About £50,000 is being spent on remodelling wards.

Discussing country projects, Mr. McIntosh said works in hand included a new children's ward at Mount Gambier, to be officially opened by the Health Minister, Sir Lyell McEwin, on August 6.

It was also planned to spend more than £1,000,000 on a new Mount Gambier hospital.

At Port Pirie a big building for nurses' quarters was nearing completion and contracts had been let for a men's block and an operating theatre.

Jobs in hand at other country hospitals included improvements to Barmera, Port

Augusta and Wallaroo hospitals, and additions to the maternity block and domestics' quarters at Port Lincoln.

"Completion of these projects will depend on the progress contractors and architects can achieve under present difficulties, but there is no doubt this year's expenditure will be a record," said Mr. McIntosh. He added that on the long range aspect sketch plans had been prepared and were being considered by the Hospitals Department for an 11-story casualty block, a women's hospital, and a radiotherapy block at Royal Adelaide Hospital. At Morris Hospital a new male and children's tuberculosis block and a chest clinic were planned.

I think the best test of the general opinion of the Royal Adelaide Hospital was the comment of one of our leading surgeons who said that no patient suffering serious disability had been turned away and no single death had occurred as the result of lack of accommodation. Far and wide we hear of ex-patients expressing highest admiration of their treatment in that institution. In the Mines Department the progress made in the last few years has been the greatest in its history, and this year the estimated production of mineral wealth will be over £6,000,000. It is to this department that we owe much of the credit for the discovery of radium, and the advances made in the development of the Leigh Creek coalfield.

In recognition of the Chief Secretary's services as a very able Leader in this Chamber and as a capable and fearless administrator he has had the honour of a knighthood conferred upon him by Her Majesty. I offer my congratulations to Sir Lyell and Lady McEwin and trust that they may be spared many years to carry on their good work for the State. The Minister of Education had a colossal task in making up the leeway in school buildings and in providing for the increasing numbers of scholars brought about, in part, by the growth in population through immigration, especially when we realize that attendances have increased by 47 per cent in the last five years. Since 1945 twenty-seven large new schools have been erected and, although it is not possible to give the total number of classrooms, the building division of the department, established in 1949, has fabricated and erected over 760 wooden classrooms at various schools. From 1945 to 1953 expenditure upon education buildings, repairs and sites totalled over £6,000,000.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Nearly all that work was recommended by the Public Works Committee.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—Quite so. Enrolments in primary schools increased from just over 60,000 in 1945 to 103,000 in 1954, and in secondary schools the numbers rose

from 11,300 to 17,600. The Government has also succeeded in securing more teachers. In recent years there has been an increase of about 25 per cent in the number of trainees at the Teachers' College, and this progress is expected to continue. Allowances to trainees have been increased with good results and the last administrative act of Mr. Rudall as Minister of Education was the reclassification of teachers, which has brought much satisfaction to the profession. We regret that he is absent today through illness and offer him our sympathy and hope that he will soon be restored to health and able to occupy his usual place in this Chamber.

The Minister of Lands, who, as Minister of Repatriation, had the task of providing for ex-servicemen who desired to go on the land, had a very great responsibility, but he has succeeded, with the Lands Development Executive, in providing about 500,000 acres in the South-East, on Kangaroo Island and Eyre Peninsula as well as irrigation blocks on the River Murray for the settlement of 778 soldiers who, with few exceptions, are making good and adding wealth to our economy. The rapid methods of bringing land under cultivation with large capacity machinery enables settlers to reap the benefit of the prevailing high prices instead of spending many years in developing their own blocks with very little income during that period.

The Minister of Works' greatest achievement, I consider, has been the development of the Uley-Wanilla water scheme which provides an ample supply of water for Port Lincoln as well as supplementing the Tod River supply and enabling an extension of 250 miles of main up the eastern coast of the Peninsula. All this has brought untold blessings to Eyre Peninsula because this basin, which is perhaps unique in that it is of limestone and completely covered, thus obviating evaporation, has been the salvation of the people of Eyre Peninsula.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—The honourable member must not forget that Parliament had the last say.

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I am simply pointing out that all this work has been done under the administration of our Ministers who had the trouble of examining all these schemes, and although we admit that Parliament finally determined the question, these schemes had to be developed on the advice of the departmental officers concerned. The Auburn-Clare-Jamestown reticulation scheme is nearing completion and the Mannum-Adelaide main is

making good progress and we should be able to look forward to relief for this source during the coming summer. Also good progress has been made with the construction of the Yorke Peninsula supply.

The Railways Department, with the introduction of diesel locomotives capable of hauling heavier loads, has achieved great economies in fuel and manpower, and last, but by no means least, the Department of Agriculture, under Sir George Jenkins, has been placed on a very sound basis. The Soil Erosion Branch under Mr. Herriot has accomplished a great deal in combating both wind and water erosion and 100,000 acres have been reclaimed. The appointment of two Sheep Husbandry Advisers, Messrs. Read and Muirhead, who have given excellent service to the sheep and wool industry, and the Rural Youth Movement under Mr. Peter Angove, designed to stimulate an interest in and a love of the land, are only some of the achievements of the department under Sir George's administration. He has now seen fit to retire and enjoy a well-earned rest, and on behalf of members here, as well as the men and women on the land, I express appreciation of the great service he rendered to the State. His untiring zeal, sound judgment and practical approach to all problems endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

We are deeply indebted to our departmental heads and their staffs for the great progress that has been made in recent years. During a period of difficulties and shortages I am sure that the Ministry will acknowledge the co-operation of the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Frank Condon, and I desire to congratulate him on the honour bestowed upon him by Her Majesty. His willingness to co-operate and the attention to detail and the thoroughness with what he carries out his work commands the admiration of members, and we hope that he will be spared for many years to carry on his work for the State.

I offer congratulations to Mr. Jude on his elevation to Ministerial rank. He is a comparatively young man with plenty of energy and I thought that in our opening Session he made quite a notable contribution to its success. Mr. Baden Pattinson was the logical choice as an additional Minister in another place. He brings a wealth of Parliamentary training to his aid and we feel that the important Department of Education will be well served by him. Mr. Christian, as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, showed great ability in dealing with the

many problems brought before that Committee. He has a practical knowledge of land problems and I am sure he will do credit to himself in his new position and be of great benefit to primary industries.

We look back with pride on what has been accomplished, but if we are to hold this country we must not rest on our laurels. We have established many secondary industries and are still attracting more. Today we are employing about 847,000 people, which is an increase of 25 per cent since 1946. With great foresight and planning of power supplies this development should continue. In primary industries a memorable development has taken place and still is increasing. As I said earlier, 500,000 acres have been developed by the Lands Development Executive and 778 ex-soldiers placed on the land. The Australian Mutual Provident Society holds about 500,000 acres of which 150,000 are in the course of preparation and 75,000 acres have been seeded. The number already settled on this area is three and it is hoped to settle another eight this year and 18 next year. The area developed by the Lands Development Executive, the Australian Mutual Provident Society and private enterprise amounts to about 1,500,000 acres. This will add to the sheep population of the State between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 and increase the number of settlers by 200 to 250. I was also pleased to notice that 71,000 acres have been favourably reported upon by the Land Settlement Committee and that 260,000 acres are being effectively drained in the South-East. I trust that we shall go on in this land development. According to a report by Dr. Davies, chief of the Soil Division of the C.S.I.R.O., there are 340,000,000 acres in high rainfall areas in Australia still undeveloped. Figures I have obtained show that the land under cereals and improved pastures in Australia totals 100,000,000 acres. The additional areas will go a long way toward increasing our production. I estimate that between 35,000,000 and 40,000,000 people can be supported by the land if those figures are correct.

Recently I noticed a statement by an English importer of meat that there is the prospect of improved prices for our lambs this year. I understand eight or nine of these importers from Great Britain are over here endeavouring to develop the lamb export industry. Over the years the English people have been eating indifferent quality meat, and are now desirous, with the abolition of restrictions, of getting better quality. We should do everything

possible to see that our treatment plants are in the most efficient condition so that the lambs can be exported in the best condition. I am disappointed that no progress has been made in the establishment of abattoirs at Kadina. Everything should be done to encourage the company to go on with its project. With our 12,000,000 sheep in the State, disastrous results could occur if we experienced a dry spring. I express my appreciation to employees of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs for their efforts last year, and trust that those conditions will continue. It is a travesty that any serious hold-up should take place during the height of the treatment season of lambs. Lambs deteriorate if held in the paddocks too long. I believe that the early season in the South-East will enable large numbers of lambs to be produced from that area. The broadening of the railway gauge to Mount Gambier has been a great boon to the people in the South-East and, with the elimination of the break of gauge, I believe many lambs will come this way to be treated instead of going to Portland.

Reference has been made to the establishment of a Metropolitan Public Transport Council to deal with the co-ordination of the various forms of public transport. This meets with my approval; everything should be done to avoid overlapping. With the Government contribution of about £600,000 to the tramways last year, and an additional £100,000 provided in the Supplementary Estimates, our attention has been focused on this important problem. Where a district is served by the railways, the tramways and a bus service there can be much overlapping. Elimination of competition will help to place our tramways on a more payable basis. Our new Minister of Railways (Mr. Jude) and the new Railways Commissioner (Mr. Fargher) should strive to provide the public with an efficient service. In saying that I am not being critical of what has happened in the past, because then we suffered from shortages of rolling stock and manpower, but I believe the time has arrived, with the introduction of diesel engines and with the release of much rolling stock from the carrying of coal from Terowie to Adelaide, for a special drive to see that our railway services are more efficient.

The question of freight rates should be carefully studied. During the Address in Reply debate last year I suggested that they should be reduced, and it was indicated by interjection that I was making the plea

on behalf of primary producers. It was nothing of the kind; I was thinking of the matter from a State point of view. The Government should consider a reduction so that many of our primary products can be carried on the railways and not by farmers in their own lorries. In the country one sees many primary producers carrying their own wool to the city. Not only is that a loss to the railways, but it also creates additional road problems. If rates were reasonable, all that produce could be diverted to the railways and with the increased quantity available it could be dealt with more economically. Whereas now there is only the spasmodic patronage of a few bales of wool here and there, the railways could be loaded to capacity. If all the produce were attracted to the railways, it could be handled with the same number of men.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Are the railways able to carry the freight offering today?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I consider they could easily cope with it. No doubt Mr. Jude is well aware of these facts. Not only do farmers carry their own wool and other products to the city, but also take back their requirements; this is a direct loss to the railways. I was pleased to notice that the new Railways Commissioner is visiting the various railway centres and believe this is the first time this has been done by a Commissioner for about 15 years. In this way he is gaining personal knowledge of conditions. I suggest that the Minister of Railways should also use the railways and thus become familiar with the problems.

I was pleased to notice in the Governor's speech that the Government was approaching the Broken Hill Proprietary Company regarding the establishment of steel works at Whyalla for the treatment of our iron ore supplies. This would go a long way towards developing that part of the State and would provide much required steel for our industries and building projects. Although Newcastle is producing large quantities of steel, I understand that South Australia does not get its full quota.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—It is not a question of production. Is it not a question of transport?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—The main hold-up is loading of ships. Sometimes supplies are banked up and are not allowed to be loaded on the ships, and instead go by

rail to Queensland and New South Wales. Although the control of shipping is not within the function of this Parliament, I suggest that the Minister of Railways take the matter up with the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and see if a more efficient method of loading and unloading can be adopted. About 10 or 15 years ago ships spent two weeks at sea and one week in port, whereas today they spend one week at sea and two weeks in port, and when in port they are not earning money, but have to pay harbour dues. In the last 10 or 15 years freights have increased about 400 per cent yet today shipping companies are making smaller profits than under the old system.

Although I cannot find reference to this matter in His Excellency's Speech it is suggested in the press that we are going to deal with the Landlord and Tenant legislation. The time is ripe for us to make some concession to landlords because reports from property owners indicate that their returns are so low that they cannot keep their properties in proper condition.

We must not lose sight of the fact that our income from exports has fallen, and during the last three months our overseas balance has declined by £43,626,188, primarily due, no doubt, to the lack of sales of wheat and the falling off in returns from exports. We have had an excellent run of good prices but now we are facing a buyers' market and much lower returns for such commodities as wheat, barley, oats, dried fruits, eggs, butter and honey—in fact, all our primary products except wool and export lambs. This falling off must be reflected in the income of this State.

Recently, very sound advice has been given in the press in leading articles and by prominent men that farmers should adopt sound business methods and economize wherever possible, a principle that should always apply, not only to farmers but to every section of the community. The prices being paid for land are too high, and this increases the cost of production. High prices are also being paid for city dwellings and other buildings. After the first world war, when export prices fell to a low level, the banks increased interest rates on overdrafts to 7½ per cent, stock firms introduced yard fees at all country markets, a surcharge of 25 per cent was placed on water rates, and railway freights were increased by 22 per cent. However, the banks are adopting a sounder policy on this occasion and it behoves everyone, in primary production, industry or employment,

to adopt proper business principles and exercise economies. As the Governor-General said recently, "We cannot take more out of the financial pool than we put into it."

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Does the honourable member think it is wise to become too dismal about these things?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—I believe that we should take stock and find out what we are doing. I deplore the amount of money being spent in hire purchase, particularly on motor cars.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Would you deny the housewife the right to purchase a washing machine on terms?

The Hon. W. W. ROBINSON—We should avoid the pitfalls we fell into last time and if we as a people play our part in the light of experience gained it will tide us over. Although our income will be lower, that will not be to our very great disadvantage because we can have too much money as well as too little. If we all play our part we will get through this trying position well. The Government can plan wisely and use every care in administration but the success of the nation depends on the combined efforts of the people in carrying out their daily tasks. We believe that the growth of this State requires more people, increased rural population, an assured population in the good rainfall areas, profitable employment and investment alike, the encouragement of free enterprise and the retention of the immortal pioneering spirit, and if we do this I think we can look forward to the future with confidence. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY (Central No. 2)—I have pleasure in seconding the motion. All members will agree with the remarks made by Mr. Robinson relating to the visit to this State of Her Majesty the Queen. The direct and personal association of Her Majesty with our Parliamentary procedure gave the hallmark to our form of Government and the pageantry and dignity displayed will have left members with a greater sense of the responsibility that their election to this Chamber entails. I pay a tribute to the President of the Chamber and his officers for the arrangements made for the reception of Her Majesty by this Parliament. We are considerably enriched as a State by the actual visit and the memory of it.

Mention has already been made in this House of the well-deserved honours bestowed on two members, Sir Lyell McEwin and the

Hon. Mr. Condon, but I desire to express personally my congratulations to those gentlemen. As members of this Chamber we are particularly competent to judge their work in the interests of the Government and the people, and their recognition by Her Majesty has our warm approval. Another member of this Chamber, Mr. Jude, has assumed new responsibilities since our last working session in his appointment as Minister of Local Government, Roads and Railways. I congratulate him, and feel sure that his energy and enthusiasm will enable him to carry out the duties of his office with satisfaction to himself and to the State.

Two yearly statements submitted to Parliament by the Government should be of outstanding interest to members and to the public—the speech made by His Excellency the Governor outlining the policy of the Government for the Session, and the Budget. There is a declining interest in these statements by the general public, and this is to be regretted. It may be that the importance of Federal politics and our financial dependence on Federal grants are unconsciously influencing the Government and public to the detriment of State politics, or it may be the way in which these statements are presented. Government policy is of vital interest to the people of this State in whatever walk of life they are engaged, and I should like to have seen a little more of the broad basic facts or even theories mentioned, also the trends and the hopes on which the policy is based, as a guide and influence to the general public and even to members of this House. This is a mild criticism but is, I think, justified, for what is wanted in politics today is the whole-hearted co-operation of the people in the aims of Government and not the seeking of personal or individual advantages at the hands of the Government. The welfare of all sections of the people is of paramount importance, above Party politics, which are the means by which people of varying political thought seek to establish this welfare. The facts disclosed by His Excellency's speech reveal a period of prosperity for South Australia which has perhaps never been equalled, and I emphasize some of the more important factors.

A record number of sheep is now depastured in South Australia—12,000,000 compared with 9,500,000 five years ago. Cattle population has increased by 15 per cent, and the number of dairy cows has also increased. Wheat production, of course, is down to 29,000,000.

bushels, but barley production is 28,000,000, making a total of 57,000,000 bushels of cereals produced last year. Government activities revealed by the Speech show a definite advancement. There has been a large capital expenditure on railways, and we must all admit that this has shown up to advantage because the newer type equipment is providing a good service. The Electricity Trust has increased its supply of power to industry by 20 per cent. The Leigh Creek coalfield is paying its way and the Radium Hill mine is nearing production. The Woods and Forests Department has had a record output and in the services, such as water supply, hospitals and housing, very large capital sums have been expended.

No reference was made in His Excellency's speech to secondary industries, except perhaps two inferences, namely, that unemployment is one quarter of one per cent, and that industry is using about 20 per cent more electric power than last year. All these facts indicate that South Australia and its people are in a very satisfactory position, and the Government has a right to view the coming year optimistically and take its share of satisfaction from the results achieved by the State and its instrumentalities. If we look for the reasons for this prosperity I think that, besides competence in Governments, both State and Federal, and good seasons, they will be found largely in the very satisfactory results of our wool sales. South Australia exported wool to the value of £35,100,000 for the 11 months ended May 31, whereas the total exports for the same period amounted to £101,900,000. This shows that wool accounted for about one-third of our exports. Of course South Australia's figures are inflated somewhat by the Broken Hill ore trade which amounts to about £22,000,000 a year, and when we take this into account our wool figures represent practically half our exports. Figures for the whole of the Commonwealth reveal the same comparison, namely, £386,900,000 for wool out of a total of £773,000,000. Another reason is the large expenditure by Governments, and also a factor which I think some members and the general public may lose sight of is the large influx of overseas investments amounting to practically £60,000,000 a year. A further factor is that mentioned by Mr. Robinson, namely, the growth of the time payment system in the last few years. There is now an investment of approximately £125,000,000 in public companies which have been floated for this purpose,

and if we take into account all the other lay-by and time payment systems operated by firms I would not be at all surprised if there were £200,000,000 involved in this type of business.

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—Are they South Australian figures?

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—No. Only Commonwealth statistics are available on this. All these things show confidence in Australia, as lenders do not lend without confidence in the future. I believe, however, that the rapid growth of the time payment system should be carefully watched both from the buyers' as well as the manufacturers' point of view, for I think the manufacturer may be supplying at present what should be, in some cases, his future market. Loans can be too readily accepted in times of prosperity and I commend the action of our State Government in not pressing the loan market too heavily and in complying with the judgment of the Federal Government as to the amount of money which that authority thought should be the overall loan expenditure for the Commonwealth and States this year. The programme of legislation to be introduced as outlined in His Excellency's speech does not appear to be heavy and most of the items which have been amplified should be desirable legislation, but I express the hope that the Prices Act will be more liberally administered, for surely most items in everyday use are now in plentiful supply.

I want to refer particularly to one item in the Governor's Speech, namely, his reference to negotiations with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company regarding the establishment of the steel industry at Whyalla. I am pleased to see that this matter has been discussed and I wish the Government every success in its negotiations. As a State we have, or had, a very valuable asset at Iron Knob in a very rich iron ore deposit. Parliament, in its wisdom, gave certain concessions to the B.H.P. Company which, in the course of time and circumstances, have proved to be of considerable advantage to the company but of little comparative return to the State. When the royalties of 3d. and 6d. a ton for iron ore were fixed in 1937 the basic price of steel was under £10 a ton whereas now it is over £30. I have every respect for the B.H.P. which has pioneered the steel industry in Australia and still produces the cheapest steel in the world, but some elasticity should be shown by the mutual consent of the contracting parties and a new royalty fixed in view of the changed circumstances in the value of money.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Australian steel is sold at pounds a ton cheaper than imported steel, so the company is giving it back in that way.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—My point is that South Australia, which owns this deposit, is not getting as much benefit from its heritage as it should.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—We are getting the benefit of the lower cost of steel.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—That is enjoyed by the whole of Australia and at most South Australia uses one-tenth of the total steel output.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Steel works are a national project and the honourable member should not look at it from a parochial point of view.

The Hon. F. T. PERRY—I feel that the matter should be ventilated and that it should be possible by mutual consent to make some alteration in the basis of the royalty. I am also pleased to note the vote of £300,000 to religious and benevolent bodies for homes for aged persons. I approve of the Government's action and I hope it will be possible for further advances to be made on this line in the coming years. His Excellency's speech also referred to the fact that inflation had been halted, for the time being at least, and I am pleased that the steps taken by the Federal Government, although exceedingly unpopular at the time, have been justified by results.

Like most self-governing countries of the world, Australia has built up its industries during the last two decades. This has been done by the efforts of its own people, the assistance of Governments and the investments by overseas companies. The result has been a remarkable growth in the number of factories, as the following figures indicate. In 1938-9 the total number employed in factories in Australia was 565,000, and in South Australia 43,370, or 7.7 per cent of the total. In 1954 the figures were respectively 980,000, 87,200 and 8.8 per cent., showing that South Australia had improved its percentage slightly. I mention these figures simply to indicate the importance that manufacturing has assumed, for it is now the greatest factor in our employment figures. As I have said, manufacturing industries have developed all over the world. In Australia we have built up an internal economy which has made some and will make more of our industries vulnerable to importations from overseas.

In the long run, I hope that these problems will be overcome by continuance of a steady improvement in manufacturing efficiency and productivity, and by taking advantage of the larger scale production which will be required by Australia's growing population and standards of living. Both now and in the years to come the progressive lowering of manufacturing costs is imperative. I suggest, therefore, to all sections of the community, especially those in positions of responsibility, that they exercise that foresight and judgment which will guard against the possibility of unemployment in our industries; that they will fight against any further inflationary tendencies and make every endeavour by greater effort to lower our costs of production.

I noticed a recent report of some remarks by Senator Spooner, Minister for Development in the Federal Government, which bear out some of the things I have said, and I quote part of his statement:—

Modern Australia is today an industrial nation by any standards. No longer valid is the traditional conception of us as a nation devoted largely to rural production. Our industries are growing at a rate equal to that of the United States and Canada and greater than the rate in the United Kingdom. More than a million people are now employed in our 48,000 factories, or twice as many as in all our primary industries put together. The typical Australian has become in his working hours a man in overalls—a man of industry.

Whether we realize it or not the internal economy of Australia is now largely influenced by the fact that so much of our manufactured requirements are made in this country. This has resulted because we could not obtain supplies from other places. The number of our factories has grown considerably and therefore it is necessary that our internal economy should have regard to this fact. One has only to consider what would happen to our overseas commitments if wool prices dropped very much. I am prepared to give credit to the Government for what has been achieved, as was enumerated in His Excellency's Speech. I feel sure that any programme of legislation brought before the Council will receive that careful consideration we promised to give it in our reply to that Speech.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.33 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 28, at 2 p.m.