

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Wednesday, June 1, 1955.

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

**SALISBURY NORTH SCHOOL.**

The PRESIDENT laid on the Table the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the Salisbury North Primary School, together with Minutes of evidence.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY.**

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from May 31. Page 105.)

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE (Southern)—I desire to take this opportunity of being associated with those who paid a well-earned tribute to the late Honourable Reginald Rudall. As everyone has said, he gave tremendous service to this State not only while in this Chamber but also in the House of Assembly, and I am sure that we could not really do justice to the value of his work, firstly as member for the Barossa district in the House of Assembly, and later as a representative of the Midland district. I also pay a tribute to the work of Mr. Stephen Dunks in the House of Assembly. The death of both these men was a sad blow to the State.

I join with the members who made references to the Lieutenant-Governor and the mover and the seconder of the Address in Reply. The Honourable Mr. Story is to be congratulated on his maiden effort in this Chamber and I am particularly gratified that a fruitgrower has at last been elected to this august Chamber. I have always felt there should be a fruitgrower in the Federal Senate because these people need somebody there to deal with their difficulties. Although I have been engaged in agriculture and not fruit-growing, I enjoyed listening to Mr. Story because I was associated with soldier settlement after the first world war and had some knowledge of the problems connected with that work.

I was rather amused when Mr. Cudmore mentioned that he was associated with an organization that knew something about the troubles experienced on soldier settlements, when people were pushed into irrigation channels, because I also have some knowledge of those troubled times. Although the figures given by Mr. Story were rather staggering, my mind went back to 1921 or perhaps a little

later when I investigated soldier settlement difficulties in the Barossa district and found that it was costing them £22 a ton to produce sultanas and raisins for which they were receiving only £25 a ton. We all know that during recent years fruitgrowers who have been fortunate enough to own mixed holdings have done very well. Citrus growers have had excellent returns, but I can remember the time when a wheat bag of oranges could be bought at packing sheds for 4s. 6d.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—You would not like those times to return, would you?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—No, I would not; that would not do anybody any good. The advent of fruit drinks has absorbed a large quantity of second grade fruit, much of which is sent to Victoria. This has been a very good thing, and I understand that Berri is doing an important job in this direction.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Who makes the profits out of that?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—Perhaps if the honourable member visited the river settlements, inspected the packing sheds and discussed with the management the difficulties associated with fruitgrowing it would do him a tremendous amount of good.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—I want to know who makes the profit?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—And I am telling you how to get that information. I can assure you that personal investigation is a marvellous way of finding out.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—I thought perhaps you knew.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—I also pay a tribute to my colleague, Mr. Densley, for the way in which he seconded this motion. We can always expect something worth while from him on agriculture. His knowledge of the district in which he has been fortunate to live has been of great value not only to himself but to the State, because he has been able to provide information from 1929. I wish to touch briefly on the work accomplished after World War I in respect of soldier settlement. Mr. Edmonds said a good deal about it yesterday, but, having a rather long and involved experience of soldier settlement, I thought it might be wise for me also to add a few words. I was one of the original inspectors of soldier settlement appointed after World War I; unfortunately, on account of disabilities, I could not go back to the farm I held. A new department had been created and it was very difficult to get experienced staff. Finally, however, I think

we accomplished something because, as Mr. Edmonds said, quite a number of those earlier settlers made good. Although it put the State to rather heavy expenditure, by and large I believe it has been of benefit to the State, and those responsible for the settlement of soldiers after the second war had that experience available to them and were therefore able to avoid some of the mistakes we may have made.

In the main the first soldier settlement scheme was accomplished by the purchase of improved properties; Mount Remarkable Estate, the Hummocks Estate near Snowtown, and several properties around Farrell Flat were purchased and subdivided, and most of the soldiers put on those holdings achieved sound results. We also had quite a number of soldiers settled on mallee lands near where Mr. Edmonds lived during his farming life at Wudinna, and in the Murray mallee lands. I would like to mention here that the same man who has been largely responsible for the development of unimproved lands in this present scheme was the man who recommended certain mallee areas as suitable for soldier settlement after World War I. I refer to Mr. Rowland Hill. On his recommendation certain areas were thrown open for application and allotment by the Land Board and the applicants, having stated their case and inspected the properties, were put on them. Unfortunately many of them experienced unsatisfactory climatic conditions and that is where the trouble started, although most of them were local men.

I feel that this is the sort of information which should be passed on to members, because one hears such a tremendous amount of ill-informed criticism of soldier settlement; many of the critics appear to have not the smallest notion of the problems about which they are speaking. From my observations—and I had ample opportunities to make them—far more trouble arises from putting a man on the land who has no capital of his own and providing him with everything than is the case where a man supplies most of his own finance. In those early days the State had to supply all the finance for the scheme and it was limited to £3,000 for each settler. Naturally the State found considerable difficulty in financing the scheme, whereas today the Commonwealth Government is bearing a very large proportion of the cost. Under the arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States a final valuation of soldier settler properties will ultimately take place and there will be a writing down of amounts in excess of the assessed productive

value. Of this writing down the Commonwealth will bear three-fifths and the State two-fifths. Just what the final capital value of these properties will be is anybody's guess today for, as I understand the situation, values will be fixed on a long-range view of the productive potential and not upon recent good seasons and high prices.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Would not the capital value be based on the improved value?

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—There are many problems associated with it. The honourable member was in this Chamber when the arrangement with the Commonwealth Government was agreed to and at that time it was freely expressed, and I believe it is provided in the Act, that the valuation shall be based on the productive capacity of the property and not necessarily on the high prices of recent years. Mr. Cudmore made another point yesterday which should always be considered, namely, that the returned soldier who simply resumed his former occupation was not on the same footing as the man who took up land. Some had assistance in acquiring businesses, but in a general way a large proportion of the soldiers returning from both the first and second wars have not received the benefits that have accrued to the man who took up land.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Don't you think it would be a good idea if the men who have been given blocks were warned that they should now be making preparation to pay off something? They have to meet their commitments some day, and not many are thinking of it.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—If that is so it is a sad state of affairs. I cannot understand a man who has been getting as much as £5 for a sheep not making provision for the time when he must meet his commitments. These men are experienced farmers—

The Hon. E. H. Edmonds—Not all of them.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—They must have been or they could not have got their blocks. They had to satisfy a committee that they were qualified to manage a property.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Qualification does not connote experience. They get experience after qualification.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE—That is so. They had to satisfy a very able classification committee, who assessed their knowledge. Mr. Cudmore's suggestion is a very sound one. These people should accumulate a fund so that they can later meet their obligations when

they become due. After the first world war settlers did not receive £100 or £75 a bale for their wool, but more like £18 or £20. Settlers would be well advised to create a nest egg which could ultimately serve an excellent purpose.

As a member of the Public Works Standing Committee I had the privilege recently of again inspecting the Port Adelaide wharves, the condition of which has greatly improved over recent years. I pay a tribute to the Harbours Board for the work it is doing. It might be wise for it to consider the possibility of including another member on the board, one with sea-going experience. Port Lincoln is another port which should receive the board's close attention. Some 18 months ago the Public Works Standing Committee visited this port and it was considered urgent that it should be modernized. At present it has under consideration a report on improvements to this port.

Another problem which has been causing the committee much thought is the need for increased accommodation at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Much evidence has already been taken on this subject. I pay a tribute to the Minister of Health for what he has done in the interests of hospitals throughout the State. His is no light task. The hospitals have been faced with many problems, among them shortage of staff. The Minister has always given the utmost consideration to any person who has a real work to do with the hospitals throughout the State. I support the worthy tributes paid to our friend Mr. Rowe on his elevation to the Ministry. I am sure he will perform very useful work there. I also compliment our friends, Sir Frank Perry and Sir Edgar Bean, whose knighthoods were well deserved. I support the motion.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I acknowledge the attention honourable members have given to this motion and hasten to join with other speakers who have complimented Mr. Story on his maiden speech in moving the motion. It reminded us all of the time when we first rose to speak here. Whoever makes his first utterances in this Chamber always enjoys the sympathy of other members. On this occasion we were encouraged in rendering the normal sympathy and encouragement that everyone likes to give to a new member by the excellence of his speech, particularly in view of the circumstances under which he made it. I would like to add my tribute to what has been said and to join in the confidence expressed by other members that in

Mr. Story we have a new member who will be an acquisition in discussions that come before this Chamber. We can always rely upon the seconder of the motion, Mr. Densley, to give a quiet, suitable and sound approach to the problems that he discusses, so on this occasion he must be the victim of my saying that he has once again equipped himself as we have become accustomed to his doing. We thank him for his contribution.

I was glad that Mr. Cudmore referred to the New Year's honour that was conferred upon the Hon. Sir Frank Perry. As it was conferred during the recess, I was anxious to refer to it. Those who have spoken have said that they overlooked it because it occurred during the recess, and naturally they wish to support the sentiments later expressed by Mr. Cudmore. I think he dealt with the matter very fully, but as Sir Frank has covered such a wide range in local government, in manufacturing, in his services to his country and as a legislator, it would not be amiss if I were to mention the full activities with which he has been associated. He has been and still is one of the leading industrialists of South Australia in that he is managing director of the Perry Engineering Company, the only South Australian firm that has been developed to a really major institution. The contributions of that firm to our industrial development can be found all over the State and all honourable members well remember the magnificent landmark in the head frame over the shaft at Radium Hill, which is but one of the contributions this firm made to the development of South Australia. From 1933 to 1938 Sir Frank was a member of the House of Assembly and since 1947 he has been a member of this Chamber. During World War II he was director of the Board of Area Management for South Australia in the Ministry of Munitions. He also served on the Advisory Panel on Industrial Organizations in the Defence Department. In these connections he rendered very valuable service towards the war effort. Sir Frank Perry has always been a very active member of the Chamber of Manufactures, having been president of the South Australian Chamber in 1940 and 1941 and president of the Associated Chamber of Manufactures of Australia in 1942. He also served as president of the Australian Metal Industries Association, the Metal Industries Association of South Australia and the Iron Trades Employers Association of South Australia. For 10 years he was a member of the St. Peters Council and

served a term as mayor, and he has also rendered outstanding public service on several committees appointed by the Government, namely, Afforestation and Brickmaking. He has also served on the council of the Memorial Hospital and on the State Committee of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. I think this record of service is one that well merited the honour and we all congratulate Sir Frank on having received recognition for his very valuable services. I would join with others who have referred to my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Rowe, whose services to this Chamber are well-known and whose elevation to Cabinet rank I am sure was no surprise to anyone. I can say from my close association with him in Cabinet that he will distinguish himself in the capacity of Attorney-General and the opportunity to serve in the wider field available to him will, I feel sure, be an opportunity for him to live up to the qualifications that we are all ready to attribute to him. I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition is temporarily indisposed and is not present today, but I know that his colleagues will assure him that every member of the Council has missed him. We appreciate his contributions to our debates, and his contribution on this occasion was perhaps a little more temperate than usual because of the nature of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech. Nevertheless, he equipped himself with the usual talent that only he possesses.

I think it has been evident from the remarks made by every speaker that the speech with which the Lieutenant-Governor opened Parliament this year was one of the best that we have heard. Firstly, I join with honourable members in paying a tribute to the Lieutenant-Governor for the services he has rendered to South Australia. The opening speech was in very good hands, and it gave a very good story to Parliament, revealing a story of great progress in both primary and secondary industries. Any sensible individual, and I think we can all claim to have achieved that qualification, would not have overlooked the fact that over the last decade we have enjoyed a period of good seasons and really good prices, and it would indeed be no credit to any Government if the State did not progress under such favorable conditions. But I think it can be admitted, on the information given by the Lieutenant-Governor, that the administration of the State has made a very great contribution to the development that has taken place over that period, both to the advantage of State and to the individual citizen.

There are some departments on which I may be competent to offer some comment, and I would refer firstly to the activities of the Mines Department. Only this morning I was able to peruse a letter from an overseas visitor, a man of high standing in the mining world. Having seen the activities of the department and the general development which has taken place he referred to it as a huge department and congratulated everyone associated with it on the work being done, the efficient service provided and the co-ordination of the whole organization. That was, indeed, comforting to me, because a department which has grown from a staff of 20 professional officers to over 300 in 10 or 12 years is something that is rather frightening to the person who has to assume the responsibility of administering it; he wonders whether he is keeping all the ends knotted in the right place or whether the organization is not developing a little too speedily. Of course the development of this State has been such that the organization just had to be developed to keep pace with it, and it is comforting to hear from those who, by virtue of their wide experience in bigger countries and much greater organizations, are competent to express an opinion and who say that we have developed on sound lines.

We know something, of course, of the work of the department, for many of the members of this Council have had opportunities to travel and see its various activities. First, in the early 40's the development of Leigh Creek coalfield, which was the saviour of this State industrially, was undertaken. The rate of development of the Electricity Trust in consequence of the development of the coalfield has made it possible to spread the trust's activities outside the metropolitan area, and so one could run through all the activities of the department, including Radium Hill and the treatment plant at Port Pirie which will be thrown into operation at an early date. In respect of uranium ore the department had to start from scratch and work out its own methods of treatment, for uranium is not like gold, the treatment of which has been known for many years and has altered but little; almost every uranium mine throughout the world demands different treatment, so the peculiar treatment needed for Radium Hill ore had to be worked out and it had to be done very quickly. Evidently, if we are to be influenced by opinions expressed by visiting Canadian and American authorities, the department has carried out the job very successfully and with great credit to all concerned; so

much credit, indeed, that their knowledge and experience is being readily drawn upon, and has been generously given to others who are attempting to solve their own problems in other fields.

Mr. Bardolph referred to the company which has gone into operation at Nairne for the production of pyrites, and said that the Government's contribution was limited and began and ended with guaranteeing a loan. I feel called upon to correct that statement, which was not a true expression of the facts. Large undertakings like that do not come into existence by accident, and following the honourable member's remark I took the trouble to peruse the Mines Department's bulletins to refresh my memory. I find that it was something that had been under consideration for a long time. The investigation and exploration and the necessary proving of quantities in order to justify putting a mill into operation had to be gone into very thoroughly. That early work was done, as the honourable member should have known as he is a member of a Committee which deals with investigations when the Government is brought into any financial undertaking—

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—That is the very point I made. If the Committee's report had not been favourable it would not have been established.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—The honourable member suggested that the Government had no relation with the matter beyond guaranteeing financial assistance, and I am simply trying to give him the information which he apparently lacks.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—That is unfair.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I am only taking the words the honourable member used and replying in my own way in order to make him aware of some of the things that, apparently, he is not now aware of, because, by interjection, I received a second assurance from the honourable member that he did believe that that was the beginning and the end of the Government's obligation. I shall therefore make the information available to the Council, for we have at least one new member who has not had the benefit of it and I am sure he will appreciate the story. The Nairne pyrites project originated from the results of detailed investigations carried out by the Mines Department early in 1949. At that time the Director of Mines reported that

the deposit contained 50 million tons of ore with a sulphur content of approximately 8 per cent, that the deposit could be worked by cheap open-cut methods and, being located near Adelaide, had prospects of supplying the needs of fertilizer manufacturers at reasonable cost. The Government approved a drilling programme and also authorized the Department to seek the assistance of the Zinc Corporation in the planning of the mining operation.

The Zinc Corporation ultimately pegged claims and financed the detailed drilling work. After six months of intensive testing this company decided to surrender the claims to the South Australian fertilizer interests. The withdrawal of the Zinc Corporation was followed by further investigational work by the Mines Department, especially in relation to the development of a treatment process for the ore. Finally, successful negotiations conducted by the Premier with the fertilizer companies resulted in the establishment of Nairne Pyrites Limited, the operating company which has been given financial backing by the Government. These negotiations involved the agreement of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited to accept the responsibility for the mining operation.

It is clearly evident from this brief review that the successful establishment of this industry has resulted from the investigational work of the Mines Department. The State now has a source of sulphur which will supply its needs indefinitely into the future. It provides absolute security for the State's sulphur requirements and, in particular, the all-important sulphur element of the State's vital needs of superphosphate. The reports in Mining Reviews Nos. 95 and 96 give complete details of the development of this project. The whole of the work was the result of the enterprise of the companies concerned plus the assistance and information which the department made available, and I am sure everyone is grateful that the years of rationing, when superphosphate was not available and the fertility of our soil was being threatened, will not recur, and that whatever happens we are assured of that local supply in the future.

Mr. Anthony yesterday addressed a question to me soliciting information on the work which the department had done through the medium of aerial surveys and I have brought down for the benefit of members some general information on the work which has been carried out to date in connection with the search

for and development of our mineral deposits. Very satisfactory progress has been made by Adastra Hunting Geophysics Company in the matter of airborne magnetic surveys for mineral deposits. To the end of May, 1955, approximately 100 hours of the 400 hours contract have been completed and the areas covered comprise the southern portions of Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas. Preliminary maps have been prepared of southern Yorke Peninsula and the main feature of interest is an anomaly in the vicinity of Curramulka where a ground party is now making a more detailed ground magnetometer survey. Preliminary maps of southern Eyre Peninsula are in course of preparation and there are a number of features which warrant ground studies in the Port Lincoln area. The flying work will be resumed towards the end of June in the Radium Hill area after which it is planned to make further studies in the Murray Basin and north of Iron Knob. The Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources have advised that the work over the iron ore deposits and westward to Ceduna will be resumed in November and the department is making available airborne equipment to assist them in this work and also for magnetometer work elsewhere in Australia. It will be seen that the work of aerial survey makes it possible to cover large areas in order to ascertain any significant anomalies which may occur and, of course, they afterwards have to be mapped by competent people and followed up with ground work in order to ascertain their real significance. This work is of great importance; it is continually being developed and is not merely a matter of show but something fundamental to the important work carried out by the department.

The development of hospital and health services has been referred to in this debate and I feel it incumbent upon me to make a statement in appreciation of the magnificent work performed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department in assisting to provide more and more buildings for the accommodation of patients. The department was able to provide not only the first section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital last year, but to meet the many other demands in respect of various Government activities, and it has done a really excellent job in making up the leeway in several branches of our hospital service. The architectural firm which the Government engaged to relieve the Architect-in-Chief's department of some of its responsibilities by taking over the completion of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, has commended the

work which the department has done and is still doing; because, of course, the department is still co-operating in co-ordinating that work with other buildings and services in conjunction with the part already established and the part still being constructed under tenders already let by the department.

There has been a great deal of successful accomplishment in other phases of hospital work as is shown by the following list:—

- (a) New Nurses Quarters, Parkside—Completed and occupied.
- (b) New Female Treatment Block—Construction will be completed next month.
- (c) Northfield Mental Hospital Additions—Female Tuberculosis Wards (40 patients)—Construction is 80% complete.  
Staff Dining Room—Construction is 85% complete.  
Resident Medical Officer's Residence—Completed.  
New Kitchen—Tenders are due on 8th June, 1955.  
Senile Men's Wards (80 patients)—Tenders called on 17th May, 1955.  
Senile Women's Wards (80 patients)—Drawings and Specifications complete. Bills of quantities have yet to be prepared (by outside quantity surveyors) and are due to be completed by the end of July when tenders can be called immediately after.  
Boys' Wards (50 patients)—Drawings and specifications are complete. Bill of quantities will be completed by the beginning of July when tenders can be called.  
Girls' Wards (50 patients)—As for boys' wards.  
New Boiler House—Drawings and specifications are 80% complete.
- (d) Male Tuberculosis Block, Parkside (34 patients)—Construction is 45% complete.
- (e) Men's Admission Block, Parkside (60 patients)—The building contract was let on the 13th May, 1955.

These figures make a total of 400 beds which are either at a stage ready for tenders to be called or up to 85 per cent completed and in some cases even ahead of that. As members of the Public Works Committee who had the opportunity to examine the plans and specifications appreciate, these projects entail a terrific amount of work and it is only fair that I should express appreciation to the Architect-in-Chief's Department and the Works Department for what they have done in pushing on these works, which are urgent and necessary.

There is little else I wish to say except to refer to some urgent legislation for the institution of a grain bulk handling system which will come before Parliament at an early date.

This subject has been investigated by the Public Works Committee over a number of years. The difficulties and problems associated with bulk handling in South Australia are not common to all the States. One of the problems faced by the committee was whether it could recommend a scheme which would be economical in the special circumstances applying to the numerous South Australian ports and the quantity of grain to be handled. There is sufficient agreement between all parties concerned for me to say that this system of handling grain is necessary because the problems associated with marketing today are very different from what they were 20 years ago when the purchasing countries did not have the necessary facilities to handle bulk grain. That position has now been altered and it is necessary that we should come into line with the conditions prevailing. The matter must be dealt with promptly, and therefore members will be asked to deal with the legislation as expeditiously as possible. I express appreciation for the attention they have given to the debate, which provides them with an opportunity to raise matters of importance to their electorates. I assure them that their opinions will be considered.

Motion for adoption of the Address in Reply carried.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Second reading.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary)—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time. This Bill follows the usual form of Supply Bills, and the amount for which authority of Parliament is being sought for expenditure for the Public Service for the financial year ending June 30, 1956 is £7,000,000. This amount will be sufficient to carry on the services of the State for approximately two months. Clause 2 provides for the issue of an amount not exceeding £7,000,000. Clause 3 provides that no payment shall be made out of the moneys provided under clause 2 in excess of the rates voted for similar services on the Estimates for the financial year ended June 30, 1955, except that increases in salaries or wages fixed or prescribed pursuant to any award or determination may be paid. Clause 3 (2) provides for the Treasurer having the power to pay such increases out of the moneys voted by Parliament in this Bill.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)—As stated by the Chief Secretary, the Bill is in exactly the same form as those we have

passed over the last two or three years. The only alteration is that this year £7,000,000 is asked for whereas last year it was £6,000,000. We have commented from time to time on the gradual increase in the amount, but considering the increase in population and services which the public seems to expect the Government to render instead of paying for them themselves, they must be prepared to have these amounts provided to enable the Public Service to carry on. I support the second reading.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—The Opposition also supports this measure. I take this opportunity to mention one or two points raised this afternoon by the Chief Secretary, and I think I am in order in doing so because the amount of £7,000,000 covers payments to officers of the Mines Department who played such a prominent part in the development of the pyrites mine at Nairne. I do not wish to cast any reflection on those officials. It is quite true, as the Minister mentioned, that the work performed by these officers has been excellent, but I still stand by my statement that the work of the Government in connection with this project began and ended when it submitted the proposal to the Industries Development Committee. The Minister said I was lacking in facts concerning the proposal, but if what he said regarding it is correct, why did not the Government introduce legislation similar to that for the Leigh Creek coalfield and for the acquisition of the Adelaide Electric Supply Company and let Parliament determine the position? The Government submitted the proposal to the Industries Development Committee and the project would not have been undertaken unless this committee, of which I am still a member, was unanimous in its report that the project should be established. I do not want the false impression to be gained that members of that committee were not fully conversant with the submissions made to it and did not make all the necessary inquiries before signing its report recommending a loan.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Is it a matter of your injured pride?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—No. I am stating the facts and this is the place where any correction should be made whether a statement has come from a Minister or any honourable member.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—The Bill provides for an amount of £7,000,000 for paying the salaries

and other expenses in the several departments of the Public Service during the year ending June 30, 1956. It follows the usual form of Supply Bills. The amount sought is £1,000,000 more than was asked for last year and will be sufficient to carry on the services of the State for about two months. As members know, all costs and charges have risen substantially since the beginning of World War II, and the State population has grown from 600,000 to 800,000. It is interesting to note that just before the outbreak of World War II the Minister in introducing a Supply Bill said:—

The Bill is for the sum of £800,000, which is the usual amount asked for at this time of the year to carry on the public services of the State.

However, prices, costs and charges have increased greatly since those days of 17 years ago. Tremendous expansion has also taken place and the services must be maintained. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.16 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, June 14, at 2 p.m.