

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, May 17, 1956.

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

APPROPRIATION ACT (No. 1).

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

QUESTION.

MARINO LINE DUPLICATION.

The Hon. E. ANTHONY—Has the Minister of Railways a report from the Railways Commissioner in reply to my recent question regarding the completion of the Adelaide-Marino railway line?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—Following discussion the Commissioner informs me that there is no intention to continue the duplication of the line to Marino from Brighton.

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. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL (Central No. 2)—I am conscious of the honour bestowed upon me in being invited, as a new member, to move the adoption of the Address in Reply. Our Government, to whose Party I am proud to belong, has never been lacking in that great quality of political courage, and I feel that their placing this motion in my inexperienced hands is perhaps yet another example of this. Although His Excellency the Governor returned from his vacation some time ago, I welcome this opportunity of saying how glad we all are that he is back once again in the State of South Australia. I have always had a profound belief in the appointment of imperial Governors as being a real bond between the Throne and Her Majesty's subjects in this loyal part of the British Commonwealth. His

Excellency has been untiring in his work for the State, and his many visits to the outback have been very much appreciated. Could I also mention the wonderful support given to him by Lady George. I feel I am in a position to know and appreciate just what it means to have such help in a public office.

May I be permitted to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your re-election to your distinguished office. Members have already spoken during this session of the dignity, impartiality and efficacy with which you carry out the business of this Chamber, and in the few days I have been here I also have been in a position to observe these things. Of course, I was conscious of this long before I became a member because your fame in this regard is not confined to this Chamber.

I add my regrets to those already expressed in respect of the deaths of the Hon. A. W. Christian and Mr. H. D. Michael. Both gentlemen served their country as soldiers and as members of the Parliament of South Australia. Their abilities and personalities will be sadly missed.

I have been very pleased to observe that the Chief Secretary, Sir Lyell McEwin, is about to take a trip overseas. Such things can only be of great advantage to our State. I would like to congratulate the Government, firstly, on the wonderful work it has done for the State for so many years and, secondly, on its recent re-election. These two things might, in a sense, be regarded as synonymous, because the Government stood upon its record in the election and the people expressed their appreciation of its service in no uncertain manner. During the regime of the present Government and of its Liberal and Country League predecessor the State has made amazing industrial expansion such as might not have been dreamt of 30 years ago. From being, practically purely and simply, a primary producing State we have become, I believe, a State that has great wealth and is rapidly being developed. In addition to this, our Government has kept pace in the difficult times in this regard since the recent war with the expansion of services and amenities so necessary to the public. I think its efforts in this regard can be more than favourably compared with those of perhaps any other State of the Commonwealth. If I may refer to the terms of the Governor's Speech, it reads to me first of all as a true success story. Whatever is mentioned there—whether it be water, schools, hospitals, forests, roads, housing, health, education, or electricity—all tell the same story of

achievement. We have a Government that looks forward; it has looked forward and is looking forward, and it has given its assurance that the progress it has made will be continued.

I congratulate the Premier on the successful conclusion of his negotiations with the Commonwealth regarding the cost of transport of Leigh Creek coal. I doubt if the general public realizes to the fullest extent just what the agreement that has been reached really means to the State. Regarding other legislation foreshadowed, there is not a tremendous amount of detail in the Governor's Speech. One of the most important things, of course, is the proposal to continue the legislation regarding prices and rents. I am a great supporter of the Government, and with most of its policy I am heartily in accord. However, my feelings with regard to price control are at the moment against its continuance. It was brought in as a war-time measure. I believe that no one would have countenanced such controls in the days of peace before the war; but the war has been over for 10 years, yet it is still continuing and it is proposed that it shall further continue. If it is not ended soon one may suggest doubts on whether it will ever end. I am a believer in the laws of supply and demand, although naturally when there is an emergency such as a war things like price control are necessary. I think we have yet to find a suitable substitute for the law of supply and demand, and now that most goods are in full supply it is my opinion that those laws should operate because, if any one makes a good profit, he has many competitors and prices are kept down. All these things are healthy in my opinion.

I remember not long ago, when pegging in tenancies and rent control of commercial premises were abolished, there was a rather gloomy outlook as to what would happen. Of course, a few people have suffered—you cannot avoid that—but generally speaking the abandonment of these things at that stage has been of wonderful benefit to this State and one has only to look at all the new buildings going up around the city to realize what it has meant. Compare our city with capital cities in States where rents are still controlled and see the difference in building activities. I never like to prejudge, but I would like to say at this stage that I will need some convincing before I will find myself capable of supporting the price control measure.

There are a number of matters of miscellaneous legislation referred to in His Excellency's Speech. A noticeable absentee is traffic, which I notice by reading *Hansard* and otherwise is a hardy annual in this Parliament, but no doubt some amendments will come along later. I am one of those people who believe that our traffic code is too rigid. We hear a good deal said about courtesy on the roads. I think courtesy and a completely rigid traffic code are almost incompatible. One tries it under our code and one finds oneself in danger immediately because we have laws that require one to stand on as well as to stop. I have had some experience in these matters in the traffic courts, in which I was a regular attendant for some years, and also from observation overseas, and I think that our right hand rule could well be looked at again. In England, where I believe the best driving in the world takes place, there is no such law, and everyone is consequently careful and most people stop when entering any intersection as a matter of ordinary, sensible practice. In France there is a slightly different rule; in the cities they apply the right hand rule, but in the country they apply the main road rule. I mention these things because it is not necessary to go the whole way in taking away the right hand rule, but rather it could be modified if that were found necessary. I believe that our traffic code does not in many instances comply with the ordinary common-sense of the situation and if that is so there is always trouble.

Recently there has been further talk about the establishment of another green belt around Adelaide. I think there is a good deal of misconception as to what a "green belt" actually means, because we have had the parklands with us ever since the State was founded and we are inclined to think of green belts in that sort of relationship. I do not think a second green belt of that nature was ever an economic proposition, because even when the Government owned all the land and could have retained it as public land there were difficulties of costs of transport through such a belt—unpayable transport. It certainly is not an economic proposition today in that way. What I understand is meant by green belts by town planners these days is a question of reserving a minimum area on which houses can be built and that is what I think we have in mind in this State. In this connection I quote the following from a statement I made in the Adelaide City Council almost exactly four years ago:—

Today we see houses beginning to creep, apparently unchecked, beyond the foothills,

starting to cover the slopes themselves of the Mount Lofly Range. If this continues I believe that even within our lifetime we will see the beauty of the hills, which Light called enchanting, marred by a close settlement of dwellings, and the remedy seems at the moment so easy—to provide by law that any residence on the western side of the upper hills must have a minimum acreage of land surrounding it just as our present Town Planning Act requires a minimum area in terms of yards and feet in the metropolis.

The Adelaide hills at the moment form a green belt and I believe we must preserve that. I hope the newly formed Town Planning Committee will not only consider that matter, but other reservations of the same nature where the position is compatible with the interests of building owners. I know that the Government is and has been for some time buying land for this purpose. I applaud this action and hope not only will the Government keep on with that policy, but will augment it.

It is with a feeling of great pride that I have taken my seat in this venerable and historic House. Early this session honourable members mentioned that a centenary is to be celebrated next year. That, of course, is not the first centenary of this Council, because it is as old as the State, but it is the centenary of this House as a fully elective House, as well as the centenary of another place. There are several dates which might be celebrated. One has passed, because the Constitution Act giving self-government to South Australia was reserved for the Royal Assent on April 4, 1856. It was proclaimed on October 24, 1856. This House ceased as a partly nominated Chamber on February 2, 1857 and an election was held on March 9, Parliament assembling on April 22. So, there is an admirable choice of dates for celebration. I trust and I feel sure that the Government will arrange for a suitable celebration of this important event on an appropriate date, but which date it selects might present a difficulty.

I believe from my comparatively short experience that this Council is an outstanding example of a true and effective house of review. The underlying reasons for this are threefold—first, the franchise, secondly, the methods of the House and thirdly the Party methods that are adopted. It is a truly wide franchise and, as has been said many times, it ensures a fully responsible vote. The first qualifications for the House 100 years ago, or even more possibly, were the ownership of freehold property of £50 value, the occupation of a dwellinghouse of £25 annual value, or a lease of three years at £20 per annum. One had to be 30 years old at

that stage and been resident in the State for three years. That franchise has been widened, admirably so, by the inclusion of returned soldiers and volunteers as qualified persons. It has also been widened by non-interference, which I believe is important, because although the purchasing power of money has diminished by many times in that period of 100 years the qualifications remain the same, and one could say without fear of contradiction that it is within the hands of any person within the State to be qualified as an elector for this Council, because who is there today who could not afford to buy land at the price of £50? It would need only a very short period of self-sacrifice at today's wage levels to save that amount. An important factor in the franchise is not only the qualification for being an elector, but the fact that one must accept responsibility. That argument goes for voluntary enrolment and voluntary voting as well. You have to accept your responsibility and show that you really want to be a responsible member of the State. I have always been a believer in the franchise of this Council, long before I was ever qualified for it, and I remain firmly entrenched in that belief.

It has become obvious to me since I have been here, although I knew something of these things before, that both the members of my own Party and the other Party in this Chamber retain their freedom of voting according to the dictates of their consciences, which must of course necessarily make this a proper house of review, and the same thing happens at least in our Party room. We reserve our freedom, and thus we are a true house of review and not what it might otherwise be by the adoption of other methods, merely an echo of another place.

We are living today in changing times. I believe that never in the history of mankind have there been such changes in such a short time. Consequently, never has it been more necessary for people like ourselves to keep our minds flexible and move with the changes of the times. One has only to look back to the turn of the century to realize what vast changes there have been. I suppose that in 1900 the accepted form of transport was the horse, and possibly the galvanized iron bath was the acme of household amenities. The internal combustion engine, of course, was then in its infancy, but what vast changes has that machine alone made. Then we have the aeroplane and fast road transport. In that same period we have suffered two world wars and a depression. What a sandwich to

swallow—two wars with a deep depression in between. But we have come through these changes, and in my view many things are better today than they were before.

We have seen a rise in the general living standard, and who is there in this House who would not applaud and say that the standard must be as high as possible? The natural laws still operate and they still regulate those things. Those are things which Socialists cannot change by Act of Parliament. We are learning things that were thought of differently in previous years, and I think there is becoming an increasing awareness that we cannot have more than we produce, a growing awareness that the often thought of manipulation of money cannot be done in the wonderful ways expressed by many people and, indeed, that money really only represents the fruits of production.

There must be balance in all things, and one cannot progress all the time without taking stock and reassessing the situation. There has been progress in real living standards since the second world war, but I believe that we are at the stage where we must consolidate before further desirable progress can be made. Even at this moment times are still changing rapidly. A thing very much in the news today is this newly coined word "automation," not nearly as objectionable a word as most of the recently coined ones. There is also running alongside it a resurgence of "do it yourself." Those two things might appear to be contradictory, but really when you analyse them they are not. Automation is a new thing, but probably not quite as new as it is being held out to be. It is a new word, and people therefore think it is something entirely new. I have heard it described as being automatic machinery that thinks for itself. I do not think there is very much difference between that and automatic machinery that does not need to think for itself, examples of which we have seen in our factories for many years. We have seen the ordinary semi-automatic machines develop into fully automatic ones, and automation is merely a further development of that process. I am one of those who believe that a proper application of this increasing automation will mean that we can raise living standards still higher, and that it is not going to be a detriment to us. I think that, properly applied, it will be of great benefit. It is quite obvious that we will have to go through growing pains with it, and we have seen an example of that recently in England where a sudden impact was made by "automation." It is up to Parliaments to

see, as I have said before, that they keep their minds flexible in these matters and legislate so that any hardships occurring during the growing period will be made as light as is humanly possible.

I feel that in this State, and indeed in this country, it will be some time before automation makes its full impact. Anyone who is in any way concerned with industry will realize that these expensive machines need tremendous production to warrant their installation. That might be an advantage, because if we have automation coming in gradually we will probably find it easier to cope with than if it came in suddenly, as it has done, for instance, at the huge Standard works in England.

Leading industrialists in America recently forecast that in 10 years' time the country would need 40 per cent more output with only 14 per cent more labour force to cope with it. That seems to line up with the trend of automation, as also does the higher education in which we have been indulging for so long. Those figures I have quoted from America are no doubt world trends. Similar figures are not available in Australia, but I think they are correct and one might find them to be roughly the same here. I do not think we need to be frightened of automation. On the contrary, I think we should regard it as something that could work to the great benefit of everybody in this State. I noticed a report on this matter in today's *Advertiser*. It is an official Government report, and reads:—

The introduction of new and advanced types of machinery will create serious problems, but none of them need be disastrous if approached in the right way.

That is a fairly passive statement. It is probably only an extract, and I do not know whether it gives the proper view of the report. I prefer to say that it can be a tremendous virtue if approached in the right way. I believe it will be a tremendous virtue, in the same way as the machine which has enabled us to raise living standards as we have done.

I mentioned another trend which is running concurrently with automation, and that is, "do it yourself." Those two things are apparent paradoxes, but, as I have said, when you analyse them they seem to be perfectly logical in the light of present day conditions. With the rise of real wages in relation to machinery, we have found, for instance, that hand-made goods and repairs are infinitely more expensive than they used to be compared with one's income. Many people are finding that they have to be self-dependent in those things.

Then again we are becoming accustomed to higher levels of taxation. I do not want to get into that realm now, or express any views on it, but that is the position today. Higher levels of taxation reduce the effective spending power of income. Another factor is that with shorter working hours there is more leisure, and all these things add up to this trend of "do it yourself." In America it is said that last year 75 per cent of all interior paint and 42 per cent of all plywood were sold to amateurs, that is, people who were going to use those things themselves. There are statistics in Australia to the effect that in the last five years more than 35 per cent of all homes were built by their owners. Those figures are surprising, but they indicate undeniable trends which we as legislators must be aware of and must consider.

At the same time we must not forget the lessons of the past. For some time I have observed a tendency in the modern generation to fling overboard the accumulated experience of hundreds of years and to think that our ancestors were not equipped with very much brainpower. This is a very bad trend, because we all know the virtue of experience in any field. We must be aware of this accumulated wisdom. The fundamentals of human nature remain the same, and it is for us to adapt this experience to the changing needs of the modern world. Henry Ford is alleged to have said that the only constant thing in life is change. That was one of those smart epigrams which sound very nice, but I doubt if it is altogether true. I believe the real constant in life is human nature and, as I have said, you cannot change it by Act of Parliament; and if you could it would not be a matter of minutes or hours or days, but a matter of centuries. That is my fundamental argument with Socialists.

I recently returned from a trip overseas. I mention this matter because in common with others I found it a most broadening experience. I found in particular that one not only sees the latest developments but sees one's own country in a new perspective. One gets a much clearer view of one's own country by regarding it from a distance and from a different environment. I came back to this State realizing what a wonderful country we are living in and what boundless opportunities we have here, far, far greater than in any other country I visited. I am proud to have the opportunity of serving my country and its people in this honourable House, and I conclude by expressing the hope that I may be

able to make some worthwhile contribution to its processes. I have much pleasure in moving that the Address in Reply, as read, be adopted.

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS (Northern)—I appreciate the privilege of seconding the motion and would like to preface my remarks by congratulating you, Sir, on your election once again as President of this Council. Your election to that high office synchronized with my entry into this House 12 years ago. In consequence of that I have little knowledge of the services rendered by those many estimable citizens who have occupied that position in the past, but I have no hesitation in saying that in no instance could the deliberations of this Council have been conducted more efficiently or more impartially than under your regime. I trust that your present term of office will be a happy one, and I am sure it will continue to be to the benefit and advancement of the deliberations of this Council.

I associate myself with His Excellency's expressions of sympathy to the relatives of the honourable members who recently departed this life. I am prompted to do so particularly because of my personal association with the two gentlemen concerned. I was privileged to have a long association with the Hon. A. W. Christian after his return from World War I, particularly in those activities associated with the pioneering of new areas. I was associated with him in local government, the establishment and administration of medical services, and many other incidental activities. As a result of his undoubted ability and his loyal support in general of these services he created in us the highest esteem for his qualities. It is to me a matter of personal loss that one of such undoubted ability should be taken from us and under such tragic circumstances. To a lesser degree I was associated with Mr. Michael, who as chairman of the Parliamentary Land Settlement Committee, gave valuable services to Parliament and the State. I was in a position to appreciate just how valuable those services were and I have no hesitation in saying that his death has been a loss to the State.

It has been the established custom that the privilege of moving the adoption of the Address in Reply should be entrusted to one of the newly elected members, and today we have heard a most interesting maiden speech from Sir Arthur Rymill. I would like to congratulate him upon it, for it seems to me that we have in him one who will make a valuable contribution to the deliberations of this Chamber. Sir Arthur's association with the civic affairs

of this State are well-known, and his record in that regard has been much appreciated. His associations with the civic and commercial life of this community will, I am sure, add to the value that he will be to this Parliament and the State.

The speech with which His Excellency the Governor was pleased to open Parliament followed the usual lines of such speeches. As a rule they give a resume of the Government's activities and what it has done under the authority given it by Parliament. They conclude usually with a brief preview of legislation that we may expect to have before us in the future. One of the outstanding features of His Excellency's Speech, was his references to the undoubted prosperity, stability and advancement in every sphere in the State, and viewing the picture as a whole it seems to me that South Australia has enjoyed a period of prosperity unprecedented in its history. There are many reasons for this, but I think it would be well for us to admit that one of the main factors has been the unprecedented series of favourable seasons for primary production, with their resultant good yields in our agricultural industries. His Excellency gave some specific figures with regard to cereal production, sheep population and those other incidental matters which go to make up the agricultural wealth of this community. However, I sometimes wonder just what the result would be were we suddenly to get a run of unfavourable seasons and whether we could carry on our development as we have been doing without some reduction in costs. Had I been called on to make my contribution to this debate a week ago I would not have been optimistic regarding the seasonal prospects. Fortunately, during the last 48 hours the State seems to have been blessed with an excellent general soaking rain over the agricultural areas, and for the time being at least that engenders in one's mind an optimistic outlook for agriculture. As a practical agriculturalist I realize the advantage that an early break in the seasonal conditions means in the preparation of land for the sowing of crops and for the provision of pastures for sheep and lambs. We have had that early start in the last few days and the whole picture has been altered. We can only hope that these conditions will continue and prevail throughout the season.

Many matters were mentioned in his Excellency's Speech upon which one could speak on an occasion such as this, but I have made it a practice, as I think most members have, of referring to matters of particular interest to

the district I have the honour to represent, and that is my purpose today. The favourable conditions I have mentioned were in evidence in the pastoral country in the early part of the year. Bounteous summer rains were followed by quite favourable rains in the autumn and in consequence the pastoral lands are in excellent condition. Although the outside districts benefited from those early rains, unfortunately they had a detrimental effect upon our fruit-growing areas, as a result of which many of our people on irrigation areas have been hard hit by considerable losses during the fruit drying season.

As the result of the rearrangement of electorates the important irrigation areas north of the Murray River have now come into the Northern Legislative Council district which I, with my colleagues, have the honour to represent, and we now have to deal with branches of agriculture of which I admit a mere elementary knowledge. Therefore, any remarks I may make in this regard must be taken, not so much as the expression of firm opinions, but rather in the nature of questions from one seeking knowledge. I have noticed that the established custom in the fruitgrowing districts is to take the fruit from the trees or vines and place it upon racks for drying, and as a mere layman in these matters it has occurred to me that losses might be reduced if new methods of drying fruit were adopted. I am told that it can be done by the process of dehydration while the fruit is completely under cover. This is a matter which offers an avenue of investigation by such a body as the C.S. & I.R.O. Having regard to the amount of loss sustained it seems to me that it would be well worthwhile if something on those lines were attempted with a view to reducing the periodical hazard over which the people concerned have no control.

During the last session one of the most important Bills before us was that which provided for the setting up of a bulk-handling system for our grain. It will cost a great deal of money and take a long time before the facilities are completed, but in the end I think we will reap considerable benefits by the alteration in the system of handling our grain. Unfortunately, the process of installing the apparatus seems to be slow. I cannot put my finger on the reason why the plant has not been more expeditiously provided, although no doubt there is a valid reason, but even although it may take some years to set up the complete installation the State will benefit ultimately.

I appreciate, too, that a satisfactory arrangement has been made for the continued haulage of coal by the Commonwealth Railways from the Leigh Creek field at a figure that is economical to the Electricity Trust. I never subscribed to the rather scare outlook that some people had in regard to the prospects for this. It seems to me that they were rather inclined to make political capital out of it and look upon the black side of the problem, but I thought it quite ridiculous to talk about having to abandon a project of such magnitude and of Leigh Creek becoming a ghost town. As a practical man it seems to me that after all the Commonwealth Railways is an undertaking that has to come somewhere near paying, and I cannot see why or how such an institution should escape the incidence of rising costs any more than any other industry, which is all that has amounted to. I could not blame those in charge of the railways for seeking to review the freights paid for the transport of Leigh Creek coal. From our point of view it was just a matter of making the best possible bargain, and I am glad that the Premier and Cabinet have arranged prices that will enable not only the continuance of that important project but its expansion throughout the State.

In the Governor's Speech mention was made of the number of new consumers who have been added to the trust's business over the period dealt with. I have had rather a disappointing experience when I have attempted to get electricity services for people, and although I have not had the opportunity to examine closely the figures presented, it seems to me that a number of those mentioned were residents of bigger centres where locally controlled supplies have been taken over by the trust. I have no knowledge of a very great number of individuals being connected to the trust's mains. When this very controversial matter was before us several years ago one of the hopes I had was that it would make very desirable amenities available to country residents, but that hope has not been fulfilled. If an individual landholder along the supply line desires a supply of electricity to his home it means the installation of a transformer, which is a pretty costly undertaking, and it is only where groups can be formed that it becomes anything in the nature of an economic proposition. We are still hoping that as time goes on those difficulties may be overcome and that the cheapening of production may make amenities available to those who are so desirous of having them.

I doubt whether there is any other matter that comes under the control of local government that has more consideration at practically every council meeting or conferences between councils than the construction and maintenance of roads. Wherever one goes one is asked when there will be some improvement to our means of road transport. As I have said before in this Chamber, roads, particularly arterial roads, must be dealt with on a national basis. Councils have had to go along from year to year not knowing far ahead what funds would be available, and in consequence it has not been possible to have any comprehensive plan to have roads completed expeditiously. Under the present set-up the roads that have not been sealed are wearing out, and a considerable amount of money is needed for maintenance which, if added over a period of years, would go a long way towards financing the construction of permanent roads. I am interested to know that a movement is on foot for the setting up of a bigger road fund under national organization. Operated over a number of years, with a larger amount of money made available annually, that would have the advantage that contractors could tender for long term jobs. From observations I have made roads constructed under contract have been completed more expeditiously and more economically than others. I do not wish to decry the efforts of the Highways Department. We in this State have reason to say that, having regard to the money that has been available, our roads compare favourably with those of other States, but progress has been far too slow. If we had an overall national scheme, with national loans to provide the necessary finance, in 10 or 12 years we would have much better roads than we will have under the present set-up.

It is gratifying to know that experiments have been made into certain aspects of the fishing industry. I congratulate the Government for having enlisted the aid of overseas experts, the Jangaard brothers, who were brought here to instruct those engaged in the industry. The most encouraging results were those achieved in tuna fishing in waters adjacent to Port Lincoln. It appears that there is an opportunity for wonderful expansion in this branch of primary production. The Commonwealth is going to make considerable funds available to assist in the development and research of the fishing industry.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Is tuna all canned, or is it sold fresh?

The Hon. E. H. EDMONDS—As far as I am aware, the greater part is canned. In the current issue of the *Fisheries Newsletter* is an article dealing with the funds that will be made available by the Commonwealth as a result of the sale of the Australian Whaling Commission's fleet in Western Australia. The article states:—

The Commonwealth Government is selling the Australian Whaling Commission enterprise at Carnarvon, W.A., to Nor'-West Whaling Co., which operates the Point Cloates station, for £880,000. The sale will make possible the biggest move in Australia's history for the development of the nation's fishery resources, for the surplus from it, which may amount to £750,000, will be paid into a new Fisheries Development Trust Account for that purpose. From that it can be seen that at least a very important industry is getting substantial financial assistance from greater research which is developing it and placing it on the scale that it warrants. The article further states:—

In the United States tuna fleets travel up to 2,000 miles to their fishing grounds, but with adequate fishing and storage equipment are still able to operate economically. On the other hand we have abundant supplies of tuna in close proximity to our coast, but the equipment required for an efficiently organized large scale tuna venture has been beyond the financial resources of the existing Australian fishing industry. Until the industry is established on a reasonable scale, venture capital will not be attracted from conventional avenues of investment in the amounts required. It is the purpose of the Trust Account to give sufficient backing to private industry to make these developments possible.

I have every hope that we will see a definite advance in our fishing industry. As far back as when the Industries Development Committee was considering the question of a Government loan to assist in the building of a fishing boat which was to be brought to South Australia, it was suggested that expert opinion should be obtained on the catching of tuna. Then we did not know anything about the latest development of catching these fish with rods and unbaited hooks. The committee was more concerned with the purse seine net system of catching tuna and other fish.

It was recently stated in the press that there had been an alarming decrease in the

number of rabbits killed as the result of myxomatosis. Whereas the percentage killed previously had been as high as 90, it had now decreased to only 50 per cent. The enormous increase in our primary production, such as wool and sheep, had been achieved to a great extent because of the almost total extermination of the rabbit in many districts. However, the pest is becoming immune to this form of destruction, and therefore we must sit up and take notice or we shall return to our previous unfortunate position when a great proportion of our pastures were devoured by rabbits instead of by stock. A drive should be made by councils to see that all landholders shoulder their responsibilities in controlling this pest. Over the last few years while myxomatosis has been effective there has been a tendency by some landholders to become apathetic. In districts where people had not taken that view and had continued with their destructive measures as in the past by poisoning, trapping and ploughing in the burrows, the numbers had been kept down appreciably, or the pest cleared right out. The Government has encouraged landholders to go on Crown lands and eradicate the rabbit by supplying them with poison materials. That practice might be extended by the Government granting assistance in the form of a subsidy to encourage landholders to use ripper ploughs and such methods of destruction. If that were done we would not have such a fear of an increase in the rabbit population. This would be particularly useful in years when feed was not abundant. I appreciate the opportunity that was given me to second the motion.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH secured the adjournment of the debate.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Received from the House of Assembly and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.25 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, at 2 p.m.