

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 26, 1957.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**STATIONARY SEMI-TRAILERS.**

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Last year I asked the Minister of Roads whether he would consider making it compulsory by regulation for semi-trailers when stationary to have some form of warning, either a flare or a red triangle, situated a certain number of yards behind the trailer. The Minister promised to take the matter up with his department. Has he now any further information?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The Government is in favour of some form of protection to the public and an indication that these big vehicles are stationary on highways. One of the problems with which we are faced is to get uniformity between the States, and that is why it has not yet been carried out. The honourable member will realize that that is desirable.

I can assure him that at the moment drafting is being undertaken with a view to getting a reasonable regulation.

TRAFFIC CONTROL NEAR AERODROME.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN—Now that the West Beach Aerodrome has been completed there is considerable traffic on the new roads giving access to it. One road has been built parallel with the aerodrome from Tapley's Hill Road to Hilton and is known as Burbridge Road. Another road extends from Henley Beach Road direct to the entrance of the aerodrome and I understand it is known as Airport Road. The junction of these two roads is immediately adjacent to the entrance of the aerodrome. The view of motorists is obscured at this point, but they are expected to adhere to the rules of the road and give way to the vehicle on the right. There have been numerous accidents at this junction. Vehicles often travel at excessive speed, and the approach of traffic from Henley Beach Road is often obscured to that approaching from east to west; and the former traffic when it has moved further out on to the roadway is often confronted with a vehicle travelling on the other highway and accidents often result at this corner. Cases

have occurred where a motorist who has been using the Airport Road with direct access to the aerodrome has been charged with failing to give way to the man on the right and has been penalized. There is no traffic warning or any special signs at the corner, and because of the obscurity it is hard to see whether any traffic is approaching. Can the Minister say how many accidents have occurred at this corner, and will he consider the provision of adequate safety measures? I feel that something should be done to prevent these accidents.

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—I will ascertain the number of accidents that have occurred and advise the honourable member. The question of greater safety precautions at the corner is already under consideration.

RESITING OF MOOROOK.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Has the Attorney-General any information concerning the resiting of the township of Moorook as a consequence of the recent Murray floods?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—The Minister of Lands has approved of the expenditure of £300 for the purchase of land at Moorook to enable the township to be resited. Instructions are shortly to be given for its subdivision and when that is done applications will be called from those who may be interested in the purchase of blocks, and if there are sufficient applicants the question of a water supply will be decided.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TOWN PLANNING APPEALS.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General) moved—

That, pursuant to Joint Standing Order No. 1, the Legislative Council request the concurrence of the House of Assembly in the appointment of a Joint Committee with power to adjourn from place to place, to inquire and report what action should be taken in respect of any report of the Town Planning Committee laid before both Houses of Parliament pursuant to section 13a of the Town Planning Act, 1929-1956.

That, in the event of the Joint Committee being appointed, the Legislative Council be represented thereon by three Members, two of whom shall form the quorum of Council Members necessary to be present at all sittings of the Committee.

That a message be sent to the House of Assembly transmitting the foregoing resolutions.

That the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, Sir Arthur Rymill, and the Attorney-General be representatives of the Council on the said Committee.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:—

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 the announcement of the extension of your term of office has given us very great satisfaction.

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

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

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—Since I was elected a member in 1948 this is the first time I have had the honour to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, although that year I was privileged to second the motion moved by the Hon. C. D. Rowe. It is a great honour and privilege for any honourable member to be invited to reply to the representative of Her Majesty the Queen. The provision of a band and a military guard of honour outside Parliament House yesterday added to the dignity of the opening of Parliament. The manner in which the troops were turned out for the occasion is highly to be commended. His Excellency the Governor displayed dignity and grace. It is not easy to read a lengthy speech, as the Governor had to do, but members appreciated hearing of the activities of the Government during the year.

Early in his speech His Excellency referred to Her Majesty the Queen extending his term for another two years. I feel sure that I speak for the people of South Australia when I say we are all pleased that His Excellency and Lady George will be with us for the additional term. The manner in which they have associated with the public and travelled to practically all parts of the State is appreciated by country people, many of whom would otherwise not have the opportunity to meet them. I hope that the extended term of office will be as enjoyable and pleasing to the people as it has been in the past. Lady George, too, is a great help to His Excellency. She has carried out her duties as a Governor's wife should, not only socially, but in the life of the people, and measures up as a good representative of Her Majesty.

When the New Year's Honours were announced this year and it was known that our

Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, received a knighthood, this met with approval throughout the State and the whole of Australia. He had conferred on him the high honour of G.C.M.G., and later His Excellency the Governor-General invested him at Government House. The Premier has a marvellous record and I think we should not let this opportunity pass without saying that he has done a magnificent job for the State. He has displayed wonderful leadership in every sense of the word and he has been a big help, not only to this State but also to the rest of the Commonwealth, particularly at Loan Council meetings.

I feel that we will learn a lot from the overseas visit of Sir Lyell McEwin when he returns in, I think, November. He is a man who learns a lot as he travels. His visit will be of great value to this State because he will no doubt come back better equipped with knowledge for his job as Chief Secretary, as he will have the opportunity to investigate conditions overseas, particularly in hospitals. According to the press he claims that South Australian hospitals are second to none. We are looking forward to his return, but in the meantime his important duties as Chief Secretary have been entrusted to the Attorney-General, the Hon. Colin Rowe, who I am sure will acquit himself with credit in that office.

You, Mr. President, are the father of this Parliament. You joined in 1918, and have been a member for 39 years, for 13 of which you have been President of this Council. Yours is a wonderful record, and I extend to you my personal congratulations on the very excellent manner in which you have carried out your duties ever since I have been a member. Long before I came here I had heard of your work as a member of this House. You have the confidence of members, and when there is confidence there is harmony. Your rulings are very rarely disputed, and only on very few occasions do you have to refer to Standing Orders because you have such a thorough knowledge of your work. We hope that your good health will stand by you and enable you to carry on your very dignified work for a long time.

My colleague, the Hon. W. W. Robinson, is overseas still. He has written to say that he has spent a considerable time investigating markets and primary industries in other countries. He will return in about the middle of July, and I am looking forward to his return. He left his correspondence for me to attend to, and from this I have been able to see how hard he works for his district. The late Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ivor Green, who died

recently, lifted the police force to a high level. Great credit is due to him for the manner in which the police carried out their duties during the Royal Visit.

Recently we celebrated the centenary of responsible government in this State, when we had the opportunity to entertain many visitors from overseas and the rest of Australia. It was a wonderful celebration which I think advertised this State not only to the rest of Australia but also to other parts of the world. The preparation of the Governor's Speech must have required much work. The speech contained 32 items, and I believe the information contained in it is supplied by officials from the various Government departments, whom he refers to as his advisers. I pay a tribute to them for a very unbiased report of the work of the various departments.

This season is one of the most unusual I have known. Last year we had the heaviest rainfall on record, with floods in other parts of the State as well as the Murray, followed by a drought that lasted for nearly nine months. This was most extraordinary, but I think Nature has stepped in to teach us some lessons. The drought must indeed have been a warning to primary producers in particular. We found there was a very limited quantity of reserve fodder, because we have had so many good years that producers did not realize that the good seasons would not always be with us. Many producers were without feed; the price of oats increased by about 15s. a bag, and baled fodder was worth about three times as much as it was two months ago. This should be a lesson to producers not to rely on the Government to have reserve fodder as they expected when we had leaner years and thousands of tons of hay were bought.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—That was the trouble. That Bill put everyone off saving fodder for themselves.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—In 1946 I was asked to purchase on behalf of the Government 6,000 tons of hay, which I bought at £5 17s. 6d. a ton. Very little of the hay was used, and most of it had to be burnt later. The lesson farmers should have learned is that they should look after themselves and not depend on the Government for supplies of fodder.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Are you saying that £30,000 went up in smoke?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Very little of it was used. It was flooded on one occasion, and finally deteriorated to such an extent that it could not be used. The floods on the Murray will, I think, produce speeches from other

members during this debate. Last year's flood was one of the worst disasters this State has ever known. Some of the river towns are in the Northern District, so I visited them when the flood was at its worst. I will never forget my visit to Renmark at the peak of the flood, when people did not know from one day to the next what was going to happen. I pay a tribute to those who put up such a gallant fight to save the situation. I do not think it wise to mention any particular names, but I pay a high tribute to the leaders of the committees that were formed, to the volunteers who went to Renmark from all over the State and to the women who provided food for the men. At one time there were 600 men to be provided for. The fight that was put up to save Renmark will go down in history.

The rehabilitation of the people affected by the floods will be a problem. The Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Appeal, to which the public responded in a very excellent manner, will not go very far towards helping sufferers. I believe the money from this fund will be used only in cases where hardship can be proved; the problem confronting this State is the reconstruction of the affected areas. It is pleasing to know that the Commonwealth Government will subsidize on a pound for pound basis the money spent on this work. At the lower end, such as on the Jervois Flats and other places, although damage was done to property, now the flood waters have been cleared, it can be seen that land will benefit from silt deposits. Nature has given us a lesson here as well. Practically all the country along the river that was flooded belonged to the river at one time, but levees and banks were put up to safeguard the properties. However, Nature with her mighty power showed she is boss, claiming back all the land. Some people believe that individuals should re-instate themselves in production, but we know that the fruitgrowers have not been receiving good returns for years and that last year they did not make anything, so they must have assistance. I can assure them they will have my support in this.

We have heard a lot recently about rain-making, which is a contentious subject. Scientists have achieved so much, particularly in the last few years, that it would not be fair for me to say that I do not believe they can make rain. It has been proved that they must have certain clouds to carry out seeding. Whatever the effect of rain-making, it is an interference with Nature, and as a primary producer I can visualize many problems for the

man on the land, because often some want rain while others do not. I can see that there might be compensation required by some producers.

The Governor's Speech indicated a record in all lines of primary production. I do not intend to quote the figures but will say only that it was an excellent year, not only because of the good season but from the assistance we have received from scientists in recent years and from mechanization.

Special reference was made by His Excellency to water supplies, which is the greatest asset this country can have. The Mannum-Adelaide and the Morgan-Whyalla mains have proved their value and the Government showed much wisdom in deciding to lay those mains in critical times. What sort of mess would we have been in this year in the metropolitan area, as well as the country districts, but for the River Murray water.

The Hon. A. J. Shard—You could have done it for one-tenth of the cost a few years ago, but refused to do it. Now you are claiming all the credit.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I know from experience that any Government-supplied water is much cheaper than an individual can provide. To put down a bore to, say, 130ft. and equip it costs not less than £600, so one could pay high rates for a good many years before reaching that sum, leaving out of account the maintenance of any private scheme over that period. It is claimed that 95 per cent of property owners throughout the State can turn a tap and get water from a Government scheme, which is a great tribute to our Government.

Markets have been good indeed for many years. Wool in particular has risen again to a very payable price, but I shall refer chiefly to wheat because I specialized in that rather more than other lines whilst actively farming. The chairman of the Australian Wheat Board stated recently that the acreage sown to wheat should be reduced because of the difficulty in selling our grain overseas, but I think we have only ourselves to blame for that worry which has always been associated with wheat growing. Nothing fluctuated more than the price of wheat until wheat pools were introduced. The Federal Government recently passed legislation to provide for a research fund in respect of wheat, and I think it will go down in history as one of the greatest benefits to the industry. Under this proposal a farthing a bushel will be deducted by the board to establish the fund, and in an average season this should provide £100,000. Last year,

with a record crop, it would have been £125,000. This money will be subsidized by the Government and should provide an excellent sum from which to pay a premium to those who grow better quality wheat. These producers in the past have suffered by getting nothing extra for growing high quality grain.

The installation of bulk handling facilities is making wonderful progress and I understand that the work is two years ahead of schedule. One sees huge silos being erected at the various receiving points, and the way in which the producers are showing their appreciation is a tribute to the legislation which enabled bulk handling to be undertaken. Our existing methods of handling grain have become obsolete and, in addition to providing modern facilities, I believe that bulk handling will assist in providing better quality.

The extension of electrical power supplies has made rapid progress. The consumption of one thousand units last year shows how popular electrical power has become. The trust's programme provides for a second power station at Port Augusta which will cost £30,000,000 and this will be in operation by 1960. Another power station is to be established at Osborne estimated to cost a similar amount. These are very big undertakings, but the trust must keep pace with the progress of the State, and to this end electricity is an essential commodity. The Government showed much wisdom in providing for the future in this important respect.

War service land settlement is a national achievement. The bringing of new land to a productive stage created many teething problems, and many complaints came in from the settlers of the hardships and difficulties they were suffering. However, I am a member of a committee associated with land settlement and few complaints have been received during the last 12 months, proving that the settlers must be becoming satisfied and that they are overcoming their difficulties. Land is still in great demand, and I am informed by the Minister of Lands that 170 applications have been received for the area which has just been opened up near Meningie. The war service settlers who were fortunate enough to get blocks under the scheme no doubt have something worth while in return for the service they rendered their country.

Last year His Excellency referred to footrot in sheep, and within the last week or so this has been proclaimed a notifiable disease. It has been particularly bad in the southern part of the State, but it is extending also to the

lower north and it is now becoming quite prevalent there. It is an awful thing to see sheep affected as they are unable to put their feet to the ground and quite often crawl along on their knees. On a small property that I supervise for the Deaf and Dumb Society I have seen 10-day-old lambs affected because the germ was in the ground to attack them. By proclaiming this a notifiable disease its spread will be largely prevented. It may be a penalty on those whose land is infected, for I do not believe the claim that if paddocks are rested for three weeks they become clean. It is mainly the dealers in sheep who have caused the spread of the disease further northwards. They buy disease-infected sheep and introduce them to clean properties, and in no time it attacks animals, even without wet conditions. Recently I saw a number of sheep that were so affected and flyblown as well, so I welcome this proclamation.

I note that a Bill is to be introduced to deal with the marketing of eggs. The poultry industry is facing disaster. It has not been profitable for some time, but now that Australia has lost the English market this important industry has no export market. The industry has had a raw deal. Last year there was much inferior wheat about; I weighed some of it and it went only 56 lb. to the bushel, showing that there was no body in the grain, but no reduction was made in the price of that class of wheat. The grower suffered a heavy dockage, but the poultrykeeper had to buy it at f.a.q. price. This is something that the Wheat Board must surely look at. If the producer is docked surely the consumer should get the benefit. Unless we find a suitable market to replace the English market we face real disaster. England, I believe, will buy her eggs in future from Denmark because she can get them much cheaper there. The freight haul to England is shorter than from Australia.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—England buys flour from France, Germany and other places.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—The United Kingdom purchases her wheat from cheaper countries, so she should not complain about us purchasing textiles from cheaper countries. Surely the production of wheat in this country is worthy of being maintained.

I make a brief reference to hospitals because I know a little of the problems associated with them. Many people still say that we would have better hospitals if we had a lottery, but I do not agree. The Chief Secretary has stated that the hospitals in this State are as good as anywhere overseas, and I think they

are as good as other places where they have lotteries. People in the country, in particular, do a magnificent job in regard to hospitals, and they are always well supported by local finance and labour. All realize that hospitals are a necessity, and that the Government cannot do everything that people would like in financing them. Progress has been made with the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Mental Hospitals and the Elizabeth Hospital. I understand that the large hospital at Salisbury-Elizabeth will cost in the vicinity of £250,000. That is a big undertaking and a big expense to the Government, but the sick must be provided for. I feel sure that the people appreciate what has been done with regard to hospitalization.

With the increase in production, transport in this State naturally becomes a problem, particularly with roads. We have more constituents complaining about roads than anything else, and that will always be associated with progress. As mentioned in His Excellency's Speech yesterday, the Government's aim is to extend bituminous roads. On Eyre Peninsula there is very little bitumen road. I pay a tribute to the Minister of Roads, who has always gracefully received any deputations with which I have been associated, and while he has not been able to give all that he has been asked he has always been interested in what people have had to say. I feel sure it is his intention to help in this very vital matter.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—I remember him saying some very hard things about roads before he was a Minister.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Looking after the roads in this State is a big job for any Minister, and I feel sure he is doing his best in that direction. I understand that the railways are doing much better through the operation of diesel engines, but we have some problems in the district which I represent. I refer particularly to the Commonwealth line from Stirling North to Leigh Creek. That line will be of great benefit to most primary producers when it is properly organized, but the change over has created many problems. Those transporting stock say that it is already a big advantage to them, but those who are receiving goods say the opposite. There is a Commonwealth train running from Quorn to Hawker and State trains running to Quorn conveying perishable goods to that part of the State. I do not know why those services are not co-ordinated, but one train certainly is not, with the result that people do not

get their supplies as quickly as they did in the past.

I have been on the committee of Angorichina Hostel for many years and know the value of it. We have 848 men suffering from tuberculosis as a result of war service, and throughout Australia the number is 8,558. Most of these men were discharged thinking they were medically fit, but the rigors of war and the hardships they had endured during their service was followed by this dreadful disease. Great progress has been made in the treatment of tuberculosis, but not with men of that age, and the hostel was established to provide a winter home for them. It has been patronized well ever since. During the last 12 months in particular the men there have not been able to exist in the comfortable conditions they enjoyed in the past. They used to get their food supplies from Hawker in a carriage that was louvred and equipped to keep foodstuffs fairly cool even in very hot conditions, but now their goods must go *via* Stirling to Leigh Creek. I admit that the line passes through Parachilna, but the carry-over and consequent delay in the delivery of the goods has meant that these people suffer a good deal. I am hoping that both the State and Federal Railway Commissioners will see that the trouble is overcome in the very near future.

I am honoured to think that my esteemed colleague, the Hon. John Cowan is to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. He and I served in the same regiment in the first war, and we were sworn in in this Chamber on the same day. I feel sure that in his address he will deal with any matter which I have overlooked.

The Hon. J. L. COWAN (Southern)—Mr. President, it affords me very great pleasure indeed to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by my colleague and friend, Mr. Wilson. In seconding this motion I heartily join with him in regard to the extended term of the office of His Excellency the Governor as Her Majesty's representative for another two years. I am sure this announcement has received the whole-hearted approval of the people throughout this State, and we rejoice to know that His Excellency and Lady George will remain with us for a further term.

Since Sir Robert George was appointed Governor in August, 1952, he has probably seen more of South Australia than any previous Governor, and has personally shared the disasters and the loss suffered by many in the

disastrous hills bush fire in 1955 and the State's worst earthquake in the previous year. The Governor and Lady George have travelled thousands of miles and have met thousands of people from all walks of life in their enthusiasm to learn more about this State. During their tour of the stricken areas at the height of the River Murray flood last year they gave inspiration to weary men and women battling to protect their homes and property, and in general they have won the esteem and goodwill of people everywhere by their friendly approach and kindly interest. I am sure we all wish them well for the remainder of their sojourn with us.

This is the first session of Parliament that has been opened for many years without the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin being in his customary position as Leader of the Government. We certainly all miss his presence here, and at the same time hope that he and Lady McEwin are enjoying to the full their well-earned trip abroad and that they will return later in the year feeling better for their holiday. I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating the Premier on the high honour conferred on him by the Queen early this year. Every South Australian, irrespective of his political opinions, has full respect for Sir Thomas Playford as a citizen and public administrator. Everyone recognizes that he has placed State before self and has not permitted politics to cloud his conscience. Indeed, the people of Australia have given our Premier their applause, and those who travel in other States know how acclaimed is his work. Federal and interstate political leaders have always had a healthy respect for him and his approach to national problems. His presence in the Australian Loan Council over a long term has helped to mould the outlook of this important authority, and citizens of South Australia, in the post-war years particularly, have unequalled satisfaction in knowing that their State has been properly governed. We are the envy of all other States politically, and much credit for this highly satisfactory state of affairs goes to Sir Thomas Playford, our Leader. South Australians, as well as congratulating Sir Thomas and Lady Playford on their high honour, hope that they may live for many years to enjoy it.

His Excellency's Speech refers to the continuance of the prosperity, development and progress which this State has enjoyed during recent years. This of course has been due to a combination of factors, but by no means least of these factors which has contributed so much

to our favourable living conditions and our sound economic position has been the continuance of stable government in our State. There is in South Australian an atmosphere of stability and enterprise which is of incalculable value from a practical business point of view. This is the very best atmosphere for healthy growth, and one which has attracted outside capital and stimulated internal activity. South Australia has not shared in the slowing down of industrial expansion which has taken place in other States. On the contrary, there has been a steady increase in the number of factories and the number of employees, and there is every indication that outside capital is available for investment in this State.

Despite this intensive industrial development, agriculture in South Australia has maintained its place as the principal source of overseas income. With improved methods of primary production and the application of science, all avenues of primary production have reached record figures. At present vast areas of virgin country are being cleared and sown to pasture, and this is a sure indication that the numbers of livestock carried and primary production will increase greatly in the near future.

I congratulate the Government on its persistent campaign to eradicate fruit fly from this State. Although considerable expenditure is involved, it is still infinitesimal compared with the losses that would occur should the fruit fly gain a hold in the commercial fruit-growing areas in this State. I understand that owing to export restrictions caused through fruit fly in the Mildura area last summer, a record total of 50,000 cases of citrus fruits is expected to be consigned from Renmark this season. This fruit is being exported to countries which will not accept fruit from infected areas. Therefore, it is essential that every precaution should be taken to keep our State free of this dreaded pest.

I pay a tribute to the very valuable work being conducted in the interests of the State by the Urrbrae Agricultural High School and compliment the head of that organization. This worthy institution has made spectacular growth in recent years, evidence of this being that the attendance in 1951 was 100 scholars, in 1952 it was 150, in 1953 it was 250, in 1954 it was 320, in 1955 it was 420 and last year it was 520. The aim of the school is to provide a sound general secondary education and give a sound grounding in elementary theory and practice of agriculture, and above all to encourage boys to take up agricultural pursuits

as a means of livelihood. It is interesting to note that 95 per cent of all boys who leave Urrbrae actually engage in agricultural occupations, and without exception boys from the country happily return to their father's farms. In addition, an increasing number of city boys have gone to farms when they leave the school. This is of great importance to the State's rural industries, and also assists in the policy of decentralization.

This school needs greatly increased accommodation, particularly for boarding scholars from the country who at present have to find accommodation wherever it is available. This is not in the best interests of the scholars, nor of the school. I trust that the necessary building will be provided in the near future. I understand that the Government has prepared plans and that possibly the necessary accommodation will be provided as soon as it can be erected.

One part of His Excellency's speech referred to the excellent standard of public health that is being maintained in this State. This is largely due to the very efficient system of public hospitals and country subsidized hospitals and to the efficient working of the Central Board of Health and local boards of health. The infantile mortality rate is still very low in South Australia and compares favourably with that of any other country. This is something of great importance.

His Excellency also referred to the considerable cost incurred by the Government in restoring the damage caused to properties because of the disastrous Murray flood last year. It was the greatest flood in the living history of Australia. Perhaps there will not be another like it for another 100 years or more, but those who have lived on the river for most of their lives and taken particular notice of high water marks and other indications know full well that there have been higher floods. Therefore, it is not possible to save all properties from floods. When nature decides to do things, such as happened last year, mere man is helpless to do much to arrest such a huge body of water. In fact, the more that is done in this direction, the greater the danger of flood damage and further trouble.

Although the Federal and South Australian Governments have subsidized funds on a pound for pound basis, none of this is being used to help private individuals directly. The only avenue from which they will benefit is the amount of about £500,000 contributed to the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Fund. Although the response to this appeal was magnificent,

the amount will not go very far to meet the damage and losses incurred by private individuals—it will amount to no more than a few shillings in the pound. Many of them suffered much loss and personal hardship as a result of the flood, and those who suffered most were those who completely lost their homes, which will not be again habitable, and other buildings. Those who lost orchards in production also suffered very heavily. On the lower Murray, where the swamps were flooded, considerable hardship resulted to dairymen, who had to shift their complete herds to other areas and arrange a system for the milking of their cows and the marketing of their produce under the most difficult and primitive conditions. The redeeming feature on the lower Murray is that over the flooded areas has been deposited silt to a depth of about two and a half inches, and in some places it is even much thicker. It has been analysed by agricultural experts and has proved to be very highly fertile, containing all the elements required for high production. Therefore, I believe that in a few years these swamps will be so much more productive that the people will be happy that the flood actually occurred, but for the time being they are suffering considerable loss.

A redeeming feature of the whole flood trouble and all it entailed was the magnificent response from the voluntary workers from all parts of the State who aided the flood victims in their time of strife. People came from far and wide and worked day and night, sometimes continuously; and then there were others who would come up at week-ends and work day and night, return to their ordinary occupations, and come back the following weekend. This went on so long as the battle lasted against the flood. Those who could not assist in this way helped by collecting bags for the construction of levies, and there were still others who, although they could not aid directly in this way, contributed to the Lord Mayor's Relief Fund.

A considerable amount of irrigation has taken place along the Murray, mostly under Government control, but there has been also a certain amount of this work done by private individuals on their own holdings adjacent to the Murray, and there is still much scope for this type of irrigation on the nearby highlands. Often a private person has not the funds to undertake these irrigation schemes. It costs from £150 to £200 an acre to install a sprinkler system, and because of the expense involved this cannot be availed of by all. The

private irrigation being undertaken at Paringa, opposite Renmark, is proving highly satisfactory and economical. So much more efficient are present-day pumping plants in the raising of water that it is now economical for water to be lifted 200ft. for irrigating pastures, orchards and the growing of vegetables. It is to be hoped that this system of private irrigation will extend right down the Murray on either side until such time as we are utilizing a much greater quantity of the water set aside for South Australia by the River Murray Commission.

Under the agreement between the Governments of the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, this State is entitled to receive a certain monthly quota of water throughout the year, but at present we are using only about one-third of that quota, the remainder flowing to waste to the sea; and this despite the fact that there are vast areas, particularly between the lakes and Strathalbyn, capable of intense agriculture under irrigation. Most of this land could be economically irrigated because of the low lift. It is hoped that the Government will help to finance private enterprise in establishing irrigation along the Murray.

There is a lack of proper sewerage in a number of our larger country towns. This does not leave room for any complacency from a health point of view. A number of these schemes have already been investigated and approved, but no further progress has been made in their establishment owing to the lack of finance. I understand that the Government is prepared to subsidize these schemes to a certain extent; the remainder of the money required will have to be found by local councils. Although we passed legislation recently to enable councils to increase their rates for sewerage purposes, I do not think that any has yet availed itself of that provision, nor is it likely that they will because of the cost of installation. I have in mind particularly Mount Gambier, where there is a lack of proper sewerage. When I was there recently I was approached by the town's medical officer, who expressed fear of what might happen there any day.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—That scheme was recommended years ago.

The Hon. J. L. COWAN—That is so, but it has not been proceeded with. It is remarkable that there has not been an outbreak of fever and disease because of the unsatisfactory position. Even if a complete scheme could not be carried out in any town, perhaps the centre

of a town like Mount Gambier could be sewerred, and thereby safeguarded to a great extent against any outbreak of an epidemic. This is a matter of vital importance which could affect the public health of the whole State.

The Governor referred to the further drainage of certain areas in the South-East that become over-wet in winter and therefore cease to be productive. Those areas that have been drained have become highly productive and are carrying large quantities of stock, whereas previously they were unproductive. It is interesting to note that the South-Eastern Drainage Board is extending its operations to further areas in that district which will eventually become productive and carry many more people and large numbers of stock.

By far the biggest percentage of people in this State now have water from Government-reticulated schemes. The money spent on the Morgan-Whyalla and Mannum-Adelaide pipelines and on important reservoirs and conservation schemes is money well spent in the interests of this State. Adelaide and its suburbs are the only metropolitan area in Australia that have not had water restrictions in the last couple of years, and it is not likely that we will have restrictions because of the large amount of water we are getting from the Murray. Many people in other parts of the State will also have water available from the Murray.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Pipes were a problem in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. J. L. COWAN—That happened in other States. The mains were laid to provide for a certain number of people, but with the rapid increase in population they have not been adequate. However, from time to time they are being relaid or reconditioned.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—Tell us something about the Burdett scheme.

The Hon. J. L. COWAN—Recently the Public Works Standing Committee recommended a scheme for part of my district, and I am sure that when it is carried out the people who receive water from it will be in a much better position to carry on in an economic manner, and their wives and families will be much happier through having a water supply.

I wish to refer to the timely rains that have just fallen throughout the State. Although some of them were on the light side, they have changed the whole outlook for the State. It only needs good follow-on rains for us to have another good season after so many good

seasons. One wonders how long these good seasons can continue and how people will meet poor seasons which are sure to come, because nature has a habit of repeating what has happened before, and we have had very dry seasons in the past.

The Snowy Hydro-Electric scheme is the greatest national scheme ever attempted in Australia. This system is, of course, some considerable distance from this State, and its ultimate object is to generate electricity. The undertaking will cost over £400,000,000, and when completed will produce 100 per cent more electricity than is at present generated in all thermal stations throughout Australia. Although it is being financed from public funds and the taxpayers of this State contribute some of the money for the scheme, the intervening space is so great that probably we will never benefit from the electricity. However, after having produced the electricity, the water will be available for irrigation, and that is our concern now, as it is not certain that we will receive any share of the water. Discussions are now taking place and our Premier is endeavouring to look after this State's interest in this regard. It is true that the greater part of this water will not be part of the share that South Australia is entitled to receive under the River Murray Agreement, as it is water from the outer watershed that once went down to the sea. Although it was never available to South Australia, that is no reason why we should not put up a case to get some of it for our own use so that when more water is needed for future irrigation schemes along the Murray, we will be able to obtain it.

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1)

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

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)
—I move—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill provides for the appropriation of £7,000,000 required to carry on the public service of the State during the financial year ending June 30, 1958. Further supply will be required towards the end of August pending passing of the Appropriation Bill for 1957-58. Clause 3 provides that payments shall not be made in excess of amounts provided for 1956-67, except for the payment of increases in salaries or wages prescribed by wage fixing tribunals.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Central No. 1)
—As it is my intention to speak tomorrow on the Address-in-Reply, I do not want to take up unnecessary time in speaking to this measure. It is the usual Supply Bill; and one could offer some criticism, but as I shall do so on some other occasion, I therefore support it.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2)
—This is the usual Supply Bill that we have at the opening of Parliament, and before June 30 as a rule, and is for the same amount and in exactly the same form as the Bill we passed last year. It is a matter of essential services being carried on, and I see no reason to criticize it or delay it, so I therefore support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—“Issue and application of £7,000,000.”

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I noticed in the press this morning that a Bill for £7,000,000 was passed in the House of Assembly in five minutes. As we know, the House of Assembly sat until after dinner last night dealing with this Bill, and I do not think it is fair to create an understanding outside that the expenditure of such a large amount was approved in five minutes without debate.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (3) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

A message was received from the House of Assembly notifying the appointment of Sessional Committees.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.47 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, June 27, at 2.15 p.m.