

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, July 23, 1958.

The Council assembled at 2.15 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The Clerk having announced that, owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, it would be necessary to appoint a Deputy President,

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) moved that the Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore be appointed to the position.

The Hon. F. J. Condon seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the Chair and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.**COUNTRY HOUSING.**

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—In South Australia we have a number of State instrumentalities, especially in country districts, such as the South-East, where a big timber project is in operation. We also have Leigh Creek Coalfield and Radium Hill. At these places it is customary for the department concerned to supply homes for the employees on a tenancy basis, and when an employee's services terminate the department secures the home for the employee taking his place. Also, there are employees who have settled in a job over a number of years and have reared their families locally, with the children eventually getting married and going their own way. When an employee reaches the retiring age after living practically all his life in a district he must vacate the departmental home in order to make it available for the employee replacing him, but he may not desire to leave the district because of family interests and the friends he has made. Can the Chief Secretary say whether the Government will have a survey made to show the number of employees who come within this category to see if types of small homes could be built by the Housing Trust in the locality, with the rent fixed by the trust, thus obviating the ex-employee having to obtain a house in the city or outside the district where he was employed?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I am not sure whether it is practicable to learn the

number of employees who will require homes when they finish their life's work because they have not made provision for them. Under the Homes Act people can purchase their own homes on a small outlay, and a large percentage would have taken action under the legislation. Not a great deal of capital is required to provide a person with a permanent home during his working life-time. In the industries mentioned by the honourable member houses are provided because the men are more or less in temporary employment in the area and often move from place to place, thus making it impracticable for them to obtain their own home. If it is possible to obtain the information desired by the honourable member I will see that it is done.

IRRIGATION SCHEME NEAR RAMCO.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. R. STORY—Recently a committee of fruitgrowers and businessmen was formed in the Waikerie area under the auspices of the Waikerie district council to investigate the possibility of setting up another irrigation scheme in the vicinity of Ramco. The committee has done an immense amount of work in preparing estimates which have been submitted to the Lands Department and other departments for checking, and the scheme seems to be practicable. The unit of land decided upon is 5.7 acres and the blocks will all be under spray irrigation. Therefore, a man could purchase up to five units if he desired in order to give him a living area. Can the Attorney-General arrange with the Minister of Lands to investigate the possibility of settling four approved applicants for war service land settlement on the Ramco Extension Irrigation Scheme, under similar conditions to those existing in other war service land settlement schemes, and within the provisions of the Act?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE—I shall be pleased to take up the matter with my colleague, the Minister of Lands, and let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. A. J. SHARD.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON moved—

That one month's leave of absence be granted to the Hon. A. J. Shard on account of his absence from Australia on public business.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 22. Page 86.)

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—Mr. Deputy President, in contributing in some small degree to the Address-in-Reply debate I support what the previous speakers have said with regard to His Excellency the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Mellis Napier, who opened this session of Parliament. Both these gentlemen, particularly the latter, are held in very high esteem by the people of South Australia for the work they have done over a period of years.

A reference was made yesterday to the death of Sir Wallace Sandford. I first met Sir Wallace in 1915 when I was a member of the Prices Commission, and I also had dealings with him when he was a member of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. He rendered very valuable service not only to this State but to the Commonwealth. He was a member of this Council for 18 years, and was well liked and respected by all members, both past and present. On behalf of the Opposition I extend to Lady Sandford and the other members of the family our sincere sympathy. I hope that his work for this State will never be forgotten.

Reference was also made to Sir Malcolm McIntosh, who was a Minister for, I think, longer than any other man in Australia. I first met Sir Malcolm long before I entered this House. He was most enthusiastic in his work, and assisted by providing all possible information to every member who sought it. Although he is not in the Ministry now I am very pleased to know that he occupied a seat in the House of Assembly yesterday, and I wish him the best.

Yesterday we heard two very good speeches. My memory goes back to July 11, 1933, when you, Mr. Deputy President, made your maiden speech in Parliament. I remember well the things that you advocated. You referred to the pressing burden of taxation. Has it altered in the meantime? Is not that burden of taxation still with us? You referred to too much spending on education, but look at the cost of education today compared with 1933. You also said that you regretted that no reference was made to a Public Accounts Committee. You went further and said that if industry were to prosper in South Australia we must reduce expenditure further. Whether expenditure has

been reduced during that period can be left to honourable members to consider.

In 1933 I followed you, Sir, when you were the mover of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, and it is my privilege and, may I say, honour, in following you today. Your speech was a very good and reasoned one from your point of view, and delivered in an excellent manner, but I think you somewhat spoilt it by attacking the Labor Party. There is no man in this Council who has a higher regard for you than I have because you have always been a fair fighter. You have given some very hard knocks but to your credit you can always take it. I regret that you are leaving this Chamber after this session of Parliament, because you are a man that we can ill afford to lose. For today you occupy the position of Deputy President, and that is a tribute to the work you have done for this State. If I were to speak at greater length I could do no more than say that you are loved and respected by all those who are in a position to judge.

The seconder of the motion, Mr. Bice, has occupied a seat in this Council for many years and, like his father before him, has rendered valuable service to this State. He made a very good speech, and I can understand that because I have been associated with him on the Public Works Standing Committee for a number of years. I know his value and what he has assisted us to accomplish in the interests of the government of this State. I also regret that both you, Mr. Acting President, and Mr. Bice will not seek re-election to the next Parliament.

I understand that it is about to be announced that other members will be leaving this Chamber. They will do so with the goodwill of everyone here this afternoon. They have endeavoured, as they see things, to further the interests of this State. It is not always easy to please everybody but, if you try to do something in the interests of those whom you represent, you have at least accomplished something of which you may be proud.

That is complimentary and anything I may say I want honourable members to accept in the spirit in which it is offered. We have our own opinions. This the place in which to express them and, in so doing, always let us remember that the other man is entitled to his views too. I disagree with the mover of the reply to the Address when he says "This is a House of review. The people have the final say." I say that the people have not.

It is moonshine to say that this is a "House of review." Do not let us fool ourselves. If ever there was a Party House in the Commonwealth, it is the Legislative Council of South Australia. Nobody should be ashamed to admit that he is a member of a Party. It is misleading for honourable members to say that this is a House of review. How many years is it since we altered the franchise of the Legislative Council? Any legislation that we may agree to is only brought about by representatives of a section of the people of this State. In all seriousness I maintain that, if we want to stop losing the faith that the people may have had in the Legislative Council, then let us introduce as the first step adult suffrage.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Rymill—Why is adult suffrage a religion?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I have been here quite a long time. The mover of the Address in Reply said he had been here for 25 years. This is my 34th year and in the time I have been here little alteration in the franchise of the Legislative Council has taken place. My Party and I are prepared to give the people an opportunity of saying whether or not the franchise should be altered. I have introduced Bills here to give the Council the opportunity of deciding this matter. My Party has been defeated on some occasions. I am prepared to accept majority rule but this Council will have the opportunity, God willing, during this session of Parliament to say where they stand on these matters. All we have to do is look around to see what happens in this Legislative Council. Whatever the future may be whilst this Council is in operation, my Party and I will always act constitutionally because I recognize that a departure from constitutional practice gets you nowhere.

Therefore, I regret to say that this House is the same Party House that it was when I entered Parliament. We still have with us a conservative section whose opinions have not changed for many years. I am not objecting to that in the least, because that is their right, but I am endeavouring to point out that we have not changed in any way. Following on the remarks yesterday of the mover, when he suggested that the House of Assembly should comprise 60 members, what about the 20 of us going over—because we are supposed to be superior—and reviewing legislation there? We may be able to do some good there.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Why not stay here and review it?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I notice that prominence has been given, and rightly so, to the speech of Sir Collier Cudmore. I thought the press had forgotten there was a Legislative Council, but it is pleasing to know that recently it has been recognized. Often not a word is said about proceedings in the Council. I suppose the press thought we were not important enough, but suddenly we become very important. With our alleged superior ability and intellect, we might transfer to another place to level things up a bit. We must admit, and we should not be ashamed of it, we are Party men, and that is all the better for the State.

We are told that the present Government is a wonderful one. I do not want to take away any credit for what it has done, because I am indebted to it for many things it has achieved. However, I believe that if other people had the responsibility of running the State's affairs they might do even a better job. It is all very well for any honourable member to belittle the Opposition by referring to dictation by the Trades Hall or anyone else. I have never been dictated to by the Trades Hall. What right have I to interfere with the internal workings of the Liberal Party, and what right have members of that Party to interfere with the internal workings of the Labor Party?

The Hon. E. Anthoney—There is no harm in being a little critical sometimes.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so, but one should be sure of his facts. When the Liberal Party calls for nominations for a vacancy the numbers applying equal a cricket team. However, for one job I have in mind I understand that the number of applicants will not equal a cricket team, but a football team. Whether we are Liberal or Labor, the sooner it is realized that an Opposition is an acquisition to Parliament the better for everyone. I am never ashamed to sign a Party pledge, and will rat on no-one who sent me here. Perhaps I had better say no more on that. I admire a man who sticks to his principles, and that is what I admire about Sir Collier Cudmore. Any man who sticks to his principles will always be respected.

Why does not the Government treat workers better? The South Australian industrial legislation is the worst in the Commonwealth. I have in mind the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Industrial Code, the Factories Act and the Superannuation Act, and I could refer to many others. We are lagging far behind the other States. What about our standard of living?

The Hon. C. R. Story—It is amazing how many people stay here.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Many people have to come to the metropolitan area from the country, and when they get there cannot be housed. The standard of living in South Australia is the lowest of any State.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—The standard, or the cost of living?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—As to the cost of living, that is where our working community is handicapped. We speak about price control and the control of rents and other things, but in many respects price control is only a farce. Although the Liberal Party claims that price control should have been removed long ago, the Attorney-General, among others, is not game to stand up to the policy on which he was returned. South Australia is supposed to be a prosperous State and our legislation superior to that of the other States, but in my opinion we are far below them. Although we boast about there being no industrial troubles in South Australia and that we have harmony and prosperity, why should the Government not give more consideration to those who make the State prosperous and avoid industrial trouble? Workers in this State are entitled to more consideration. Time does not permit me to give illustrations of how our industrial legislation lags behind that of other States. I believe in arbitration and round-table conferences. If South Australia is to prosper and if employees are to be contented there must be these round-table conferences and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred disputes will be settled. This applies not only to workers on the basic wage but to those a little above it. Harmony in industry brings prosperity to the State more than any other way.

Recently the price of butter was increased to 4s. 8½d. a pound. The Commonwealth Government pays a large subsidy to help the dairy-ing industry. I do not object to the price being increased, but why not give similar consideration to other industries? After a certain date margarine cannot be manufactured. I do not know of any other article where Parliament says that only a certain quantity can be made. I would repeal the Margarine Act and give the manufacturers a fair go, but if Parliament will not do that it should allow an increased quantity of margarine to be produced. Why compel manufacturers to close their business for a period each year so that another industry can be assisted? Some people cannot afford to pay 4s. 8½d. a pound

for butter. If it were fair to increase the margarine quota because of the greater population two years ago it is just as fair to increase it now to meet the present population.

The man on the land should get reasonable costs of production. Where would Australia be without him? Greater production is needed. Industry in South Australia is facing a period of unemployment and the position will become worse. Unemployment has increased by 33½ per cent in the last two years in the flour milling industry because the Commonwealth Government does not realize the importance of secondary industries. I am indebted to the Premier and his Ministers for the way they have tried to improve the position. I need their continued support because a just case can be made out. The unemployment position is worse than is realized because many men do not register at the bureau as unemployed. Members have to represent an industrial district to find that out.

The Hon. C. D. Rowe—It is still better here than in other States.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so, but it is still here, and I am trying to point out where it could be overcome in some respects.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Why don't these people register for unemployment benefits?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—I do not know, but I know they do not. We repeatedly ask people if they have registered and they say that they have not and are not going to do so for certain reasons. It is their business, and not mine. Unemployment does tremendous injury to industry, particularly the flour milling industry. A shortage of bran and pollard is a serious matter to the dairyman, the pig man, the poultry man and other allied industries. It is caused simply because a three-shift industry has become a one-shift industry. The demand is there but the supply is not, and other industries are suffering as a result.

The Hon. J. L. S. Bice—Ceylon was a bit helpful.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—People do not understand when they say that Ceylon was helpful. I admit that Ceylon may be a means of opening up a market, but what does that mean? It represents a total of 20,000 tons of flour over six months which has to be split up amongst three States, and South Australia's quota is 5,000 tons, which one mill could handle. All Ceylon is doing is probably keeping a few more men in employment that otherwise would be put off. I hope this is a forerunner

of something else. I have repeatedly referred these things to Federal Ministers and to the Prime Minister, and to the Minister of Agriculture in this State, but I do not think we get the help we are entitled to from the Ministers of Agriculture in other States.

I compliment the Government of this State because it recognizes the importance of the position, but unfortunately in this Commonwealth there is a one-way traffic and only one section of the people are considered; the other section—the manufacturing side—is overlooked. Private enterprise worked up a big flour-milling industry over a period of many years, but that industry has been lost because the Government will not assist it. I remind members that there is a Wheat Stabilization Bill coming before us this session, and I want to remind them of a few facts so that they can consider them before making up their minds on that Bill, which I will oppose unless some protection is given to the manufacturing side. The overall drop in Australian flour exports in 1956 was 55 per cent. We lost 96 per cent of our trade to Ceylon, and 85 per cent of the trade to Indonesia, mainly due to heavily subsidized flour from France, Germany and Italy, and this cause has also seriously affected Malaya and other markets. The percentage loss in Malaya is 26 per cent. We have lost the whole of the Sudan market. In 1956-57 we sold 72,718 tons to Great Britain, but in 1957-58 we sold only 27,000 tons.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Why?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Because she is buying it from other countries, some of it from these foreign countries.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—It is cheaper elsewhere, I suppose.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That is the position. Is the Federal Government, or any Government, going to sit back and allow a trade worked up as this one has to be fleeced by unfair methods? The reason for this is subsidized markets. Honourable members will recall that at a meeting of Agricultural Ministers recently it was agreed that the price of wheat for home consumption would be fixed at 14s. 8d. a bushel, but the Wheatgrowers' Federation is not satisfied and is asking for 16s. 6d. Honourable members will realize that that will probably mean an increase of one penny on a loaf of bread. That is not much, but why subsidize one section and not the other? If the price of wheat is fixed at 14s. 8d. or 16s. 6d., the people in Australia who are consuming

bread pay for it, and when the miller wants wheat to enable him to export flour he has to pay the 14s. 8d. or the 16s. 6d. and yet the price overseas may be only 12s.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—We want free trade.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—What chance has the local manufacturer in competing with those other countries?

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—At one time we got 6s. 8d. a bushel when it was 21s. overseas.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—That may be so, but two wrongs do not make a right. I know my friend knows more about wheat than I do, but he must admit that the flour-milling industry should be protected. I am not objecting to the farmer getting all he can, but there are other people who should be protected in some way when it is a question of losing an industry.

The Hon. W. W. Robinson—I agree.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—The present basis on which wheat is supplied to millers for flour export is somewhat complicated. It is only complicated at present because there is no set formula for fixing export flour wheat prices and there is a wide variation in prices in markets as fixed by the Wheat Board to the detriment of the millers, who are not asking for any variation in the procedure of sale but desire to be placed on an equal footing with overseas buyers of Australian wheat as regards the price of export flour wheat. Is there anything wrong with that? They do not ask for better terms but as an Australian industry persist that legislation should not be passed placing foreigners in a better position than Australians.

If a miller wants to complete an export order, he goes to the board and they charge him home consumption prices or the overseas prices or they may send some wheat overseas and other countries can buy it more cheaply than the local man can. We object to that and so does the milling industry. The world wheat crop for the year to July 21 this year could easily exceed that of last year. The U.S. crop was 43 per cent higher than last year, yielding 24 bushels per acre. China is exporting a bumper crop and Russia may export this year. The Australian Agricultural Council has agreed to guarantee a return of 14s. 6d. a bushel to growers on up to a hundred million bushels exported from the 1958-59 crop. The two main points are, first, the subsidy and, secondly, that the Australian miller should receive the same consideration and pay the same price for flour wheat as that which is sold

overseas. Is there anything wrong with that? That is all we want; we are not asking that it should be a shilling cheaper here than overseas. They may have done a good job but on the Australian Wheat Board there are nine farmers out of 13 and they are doing other industries an injustice.

I speak now of two or three years ago before the International Wheat Agreement. For some of that wheat they could get 18s. 6d. a bushel. For a matter of 5d. they would not come down and the United Kingdom would not come into the International Wheat Agreement. That is where the trouble started. In 1956 we exported to Ceylon 133,901 tons. In 1958 it was down to 6,000 tons. The reason is subsidization of French and German flour. In the case of Malaya it was 113,000 tons, which dropped to 84,000 tons. In Indonesia it was 145,000 tons which dropped to 21,000. That was due to subsidization of Italian and French flour. These countries are getting into the other markets, because they can supply flour more cheaply through being subsidized. It would not matter much if the subsidy was 2s. or 3s. but the average is £4 a ton and in some instances £8 per ton. We also lost markets on account of American subsidization. In the 12 months of 1956 we exported to the countries mentioned and a few others 659,000 tons. This year for the last 12 months the figure went down to 293,000 tons, so that Australia depends on 50 per cent of her flour manufactured being exported. You can see what a severe blow it has meant to the industry of the Commonwealth.

Whilst I appreciate what has been done I suggest that the Attorney-General should endeavour to bring pressure to bear, as the Premier has done, upon the Federal Government to make them realize the importance of the flour export trade. If we do not, then we shall lose that trade which we have held since long before I was born. I am putting forward a plea for the industry with which I have been connected for 53 years and which never has had any industrial trouble. It is worthy of some consideration. It does not want any favours, but only equal consideration with other countries. We held the market before and we could hold it today with fair competition, but what chance have we when growers in other countries are subsidized to the extent of £4 or even £8 per ton? It is impossible. I say, "Reduce your price of wheat so that we can compete." I am not saying that so that the farmer can get it at a profitable price.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Does it pay these countries to subsidize that commodity?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—Everybody knows it does, because they have a surplus and they want to get rid of it. That is the answer. Honourable members are entitled to know these facts.

As you, Sir, said yesterday afternoon, you have been in this House for 25 years. I have been a member of the Public Works Committee for the last 30 years, and have been proud to be associated with the work carried out by the Government of South Australia. I have dealt with these questions. It is impossible to carry out all the work desired because the money is not available. The quicker we pick out by priority those things that can be done and say "We cannot do the other things" the better.

Mr. Story is not here now but I want to give him some information on the question of a new bridge over the River Murray, because this has been a question of great importance and controversy. It is all very well to be a private member of Parliament and criticize or ask questions, as one is entitled to, about this, that and the other, but you have to realize that in the case of any big project there is nearly always a diversity of opinion and you have to weigh both sides. In connection with the Blanchetown bridge there were 67 witnesses and six or seven sites were suggested. In the end it boiled down to a choice of two—Blanchetown or Swan Reach. What was the position in both those places? The bridge at Blanchetown would cost £33,000 more than the one at Swan Reach. There is, of course, a highway at Blanchetown but, apart from the potentialities of each bridge, we were faced with the prospect of another £1,000,000 being needed to make approaches to Swan Reach from the eastern and western sides. The function of the Public Works Standing Committee is to consider the economics. Could the Government find £1,633,000 more easily than it could find £666,000? Those things had to be considered. The potentialities of the Loxton district was another question. The experts must be heard and therefore the committee is governed by evidence submitted. No matter what is said in this House, the committee is a non-political and judicial body and every member of it desires to do the best he can for his State.

I repeat that during my 30 years on that committee I have never heard the word "politics" uttered. I say unhesitatingly that

all try to work together in the best interests of the State. The conclusions reached on the Blanchetown bridge were (1) that the upper Murray areas offered considerable scope for expansion. (I am sure my honourable friends will agree with that.) (2) That in a period when road transport is forming an increasing part of the economic structure a ferry on the route of a main highway is a barrier to development. (3) That the direct benefits that would derive from the proposed bridge are substantial. (4) That the indirect benefits are probably of greater value than the direct benefits.

The Hon. E. Anthoney—Did the committee provide for a toll?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—No. (5) The benefits most likely to accrue will more than offset the cost to the community of constructing and maintaining this bridge. The committee recommends the construction of a new bridge over the River Murray at Blanchetown at a cost of £666,000.

These decisions cannot be arrived at lightly because once a bridge is there, it is there for all time. That was the difficulty we had in deciding the site of the bridge. There was quite a controversy about it. I think that the collection of a toll would cost too much. Once a toll is imposed for one bridge, I suppose it would have to be introduced everywhere. The Public Works Standing Committee was told by one witness that he would have to close his fish and chips shop at Nuriootpa if traffic was diverted to Swan Reach. That is the kind of evidence we have to listen to.

An aerial survey was made of various sites, and the possibilities of a bridge at Swan Reach were seriously considered. Evidence was given that if a bridge were placed there, increased production in the surrounding dry agricultural areas would be considerable. It was also said that a road entering Adelaide from the north-east would provide a shorter route to the city and lessen congestion on the Main North Road, and that a bridge at that site might obviate the need for a second bridge at Kingston or elsewhere to link the roads north and south of the river. I suggest that all reports by the committee should be carefully studied by members.

It is impossible for the Government to implement all the works mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. It would be far better if the programme was narrowed down, otherwise the Government only builds up the hopes of people that certain work will be undertaken, when actually there is no chance of this being

done. I compliment the Minister of Health on the work he has achieved in the interests of the general public. It is our duty to assist him. Often the estimates of proposed works are greatly exceeded, even doubled. I have in mind that in 1948 the Public Works Standing Committee recommended the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at a cost of £1,333,000 but the figure was considerably exceeded. If expenditure is exceeded on one job, obviously money cannot be available for other work. The Adelaide-Mannum pipeline was estimated to cost £4,000,000, but I understand that it has already cost about £11,000,000. When additions to the Supreme Court building were recommended in 1956 the estimated cost was £88,000 but it is now expected to cost £130,000, although this figure includes two extra storeys, which were not originally recommended. I could give many similar illustrations.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Do these works have to go back to the Public Works Standing Committee each time?

The Hon. F. J. CONDON—No. From the time a recommendation is made until the work is actually started, costs may sky rocket. As a result, other projected works cannot be undertaken. I also draw attention to the high cost the Government pays for land for its institutions. The committee has been inquiring into a school for Mount Gambier and the land, which is not level, cost £800 an acre. The Government should take a firmer stand in these matters and see that it is not fleeced, as it has been recently. It is considering the building of 15 additional schools, many of them in country areas. It is also faced with building a prison farm at Cadell, providing a sewerage system for Taperoo and Swansea, additions to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, enlargement of the Elizabeth water supply, provision of drainage at Cooltong, a new Jervois bridge, a stormwater drainage scheme for the south western districts, and a water supply for Millicent.

A considerable amount has already been spent on works along the Murray to deal with the serious problem of seepage. Cooltong is only a recent settlement compared with the others, but the seepage problem is increasing. Probably the Government will be called upon to spend large sums to try to prevent land going out of production. As to the Millicent water supply scheme, the department concerned submitted certain propositions, but now new industries are to be developed and

the proposed scheme will not meet requirements. This involves an enlarged scheme, which will result in delay.

If we want the public to have faith in the continuance of this Council, we will probably have to alter our Constitution. I hope I have been able to give members information which will be of benefit to them.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—First, I express sorrow at the absence of our President. Sir Walter Duncan has become part and parcel of this Chamber, and his courtesy and ability are missed. It is to be hoped that before long he will be able to continue in his very important office. I congratulate Sir Collier Cudmore and Mr. Bice, the mover and seconder of the motion, and also the Leader of the Opposition, for their excellent addresses. I could have listened to Mr. Condon much longer. It was one of his many fine speeches in the Chamber, and is greatly valued.

This is an opportune time to place on record in *Hansard*, and I know of no better record, our appreciation of the services of Sir Collier Cudmore. I was pleased to see that his speech was given much prominence in the *Advertiser*, and it should convey to the public something of the importance of the Council, of which he has been a member for so long. It indicated to the public what this House does for the people. Sir Collier has given great service to the South Australian Parliament and to his State. It is to be regretted that we shall not hear him or Mr. Bice in any more Address in Reply debates. We have become a very united family in this House. These two members have decided to retire, and their speeches yesterday are worthy of record.

I congratulate Sir Collier Cudmore on having his services to the State recognized by the Queen. He is the fifth member of this Council to be knighted. That must be a record and it is a great honour to the Chamber. No man has done more for his fellow ex-servicemen. I have learned from minutes recorded years ago that he became a member of the Returned Soldiers League on June 5, 1919, and has been a continuous member ever since. We would have seen him in Parliament earlier had it not been for the work of which he was so fond and which he wanted to carry out, as well as to promises made to men whose remains now rest in foreign lands. Both Sir Collier and Mr. Bice have suffered severely from war wounds, yet they have seen fit to work in

the interests of men less fortunate than themselves. Sir Collier was a member of the old soldiers' fund. In 1936 when the Soldiers and Sailors Distress Fund was formed he was a member of the original Board of Trustees. He was the instigator of the Anzac Day charity meetings held by metropolitan racing clubs and the South Australian Trotting Club. When he first approached them these sporting bodies were in favour of giving two-thirds of the proceeds to the Soldiers and Sailors Fund and one-third to other charities, but Sir Collier fought back until they decided to give all the proceeds to the fund. Today these sporting organizations provide most of the money received in the Anzac Day appeal, which amounts to over £20,000 a year and which is used to assist deserving cases. If it were not for the fund I do not know how these unfortunate people would fare. The South Australian Football League gives half its proceeds to the appeal and the speed-boat racing people give all their proceeds. All this is due to the efforts of Sir Collier Cudmore.

Yesterday Mr. Bice said that he had been interested in politics since he was nine years of age but that was probably due to the fact that his father rendered great service to the State. What he did is well-known to everybody. The name of Bice will be found in *Hansard* for all time. It is a name that has always been respected and its absence from future Parliaments will be regretted. Mr. Bice has also been active in the interests of fellow ex-servicemen. He joined the League in 1918 and has been a continuous member ever since. He held an executive position in the Soldier Settlement Department for nine years and rendered excellent service. In those days when I took up a block of land Mr. Bice was my boss. I am sure he will cherish his association with Parliament. He is fond of speaking about the work of his father, but since he joined this Chamber in 1943 he also has rendered good service. Both Sir Collier and Mr. Bice will be missed considerably from this Chamber.

The year 1958 will be one to remember because of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Everywhere she went she was popular and won the hearts of all people. Members were privileged to meet both the Queen and the Queen Mother. The visits of both these ladies have meant much to Australians and their allegiance to the Throne.

This session was opened by the Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Collier Cudmore referred to Sir Mellis Napier and we are indeed fortunate

in having such a man to take the place of Sir Robert George, our Governor. Sir Mellis has carried out his duties with much credit to himself. I congratulate the Honourable David Brookman on being appointed Minister of Agriculture. I have heard a lot about the work of his father when he was a member of this Chamber. I have also read in *Hansard* of his great work. The new Minister has that in his favour and he has a Rose-worthy diploma. He follows in office the Honourable G. G. Pearson, who has been promoted to the important position of Minister of Works, and prior to that the Honourable A. W. Christian and Sir George Jenkins. These men lifted agriculture in this State to a high point never known before.

Sir Malcolm McIntosh is about to retire from Parliament. We must pay our respects to him for his excellent work as Minister and member. I saw him in the corridor yesterday and he did not look well. We all wish for him better health than he has had for some time. I well remember the late Sir Wallace Sandford. On one occasion Sir Walter Duncan was absent from the Chair and Sir Wallace took his place for the time being, and attended to the swearing in of the Hon. John Cowan and myself. He was a lovable man and easy to approach. He had a great knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and his passing, at almost 80 years of age, is regretted. He has left a mark which is a credit to him. We pass on to Lady Sandford our best wishes for the future.

The 1957-58 season was not a good one because some areas of the State were extremely dry. In some parts there were complete failures. Very little fallowing was done and when the bad times came many farmers were caught unprepared. Wool production last year was down about 8 per cent and there was a fall in wool prices. The cost of production figure is neared when the price of wool is 58d. a lb. Synthetics have been playing an important part in world markets, but I was pleased to note only a day or so ago that wool is likely to come back, and that synthetics will never completely take its place. Because of the dry season in parts of the State this year we will not have a large wool production.

In his Speech the Lieutenant-Governor said that secondary industries stabilized the economy of the State last year. It is important to encourage secondary industries. This year we had no rain until the early part of May when good falls were received in most parts of the State. They were followed by the worst frosts

in history. The little growth that appeared was retarded by the frosts but because of the recent rains those frosts may have been a blessing in disguise. Up to the present the northern part of the State has suffered badly from weather conditions. In the areas from Clare northwards there had been less than two inches of rain until the recent falls. No green crops or pasture were to be seen. These are early districts and although they have had fairly good rains in the last week or so it seems that they came too late to produce good cereal crops. Good spring rains are needed if satisfactory crops are to be obtained. Sheep from these areas have been unsaleable and in consequence there is stocking far beyond the feed available. That does not apply to other parts of the State where conditions are good.

It is pleasing to know that we have come to a very favourable settlement with regard to the Snowy waters, a subject which has been a very live one for so many months. The River Murray is the lifeline of this State. It is the only river we have, and we depend on it for our water, and quality water too. Last year quite a lot of salt appeared in the river, and therefore if we do not get the supply into the river we will suffer financially because of the reticulation that is taking place at the cost of many millions of pounds.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Didn't the Labor members in the Federal Parliament make the Menzies Government capitulate in regard to the agreement?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Not to my knowledge. I pay a tribute to the work being done for agriculture by the C.S.I.R.O. No-one can assess the value of the work of the scientists. Many who do not believe in them reap many direct benefits from their work and yet fail to give them credit for it. I venture to say that increased production in recent years is not only due to good seasons but to the help that has been given by our scientists in agriculture. I refer particularly to the introduction of lime in sandy soils, which has revolutionized production from sandy country. We know from experience that lime is not very helpful in certain soils, but it is the correct thing to use where there is excess acid in the soil. I fail to understand why so many primary producers do not take advantage of the Department of Agriculture, which will analyse any soil that any person shows to its officers and give information on what is required. Agricultural lime need not be detrimental to certain trace elements, and people can get that information if they approach the department.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Agriculture has used lime since Adam was a boy.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I know. It has been used mainly to break down stiff soil, but only in recent years has it been found to be so helpful in the sandy country in the South-East and in other parts. From my own experience I can say that it has had remarkable results, and if it were not for the C.S.I.R.O. we would not know of these soil deficiencies.

We have been taught a lesson so often in recent years that quality in agriculture is our chief concern. After the war many countries were badly knocked about and had to rehabilitate themselves. They have done that, and are now producing. We must produce what the consumer requires, and it is no use trying to do otherwise. Consumers will buy the best quality that is available, irrespective of cost, and unless we pay more attention to lifting quality we will go further down on the world market than we are today. Ever since I have been in this Chamber I have pointed out that the quality of our wheat has been on the down-grade. Now we know what the position is, and unless producers give up growing high yielding wheat and sacrificing quality our position on the world market will deteriorate because other countries are concentrating on quality.

Fruit fly control is something that has come under our notice in recent years. According to the press 70,000 bags of fruit have been dumped in the sea, and that represents a very large amount of money in compensation. However, I compliment the department on taking the stand that it has done. We realize the value of the fruit industry in South Australia when we know what goes on in other States. Coming from Port Lincoln last Saturday and within a half a mile of Port Augusta I saw a road block ahead with drums set up in the centre of the road, leaving traffic to go one side or the other. A man standing out in front of the lane left for traffic stopped me and asked me where I had come from. Not knowing who he was I asked him what that had to do with him, and his reply was that he was representing the Department of Agriculture on fruit fly. He showed me a notice to that effect, but I maintain that there should be a notice which can be seen by approaching vehicles, the drivers of which would then know why they were going to be stopped. We know what happens on highways when strangers stop people. The officers who are doing that work should have some distinctive marking or a uniform because one is apt to drive past a man if

he thinks he is being stopped for any other purpose. I think that is something the Department of Agriculture could pay attention to. I congratulate the department on the work it is doing; people who come from Western Australia have their cars searched, and I think that is something that is overdue.

I understand that the War Service Land Settlement Scheme, so far as the Commonwealth is concerned, is to terminate in June of next year. It is to be regretted that we have so many applicants who have not been given the chance to get a block of land, but on the other hand we realize that there must be a time when that scheme must end. It is very pleasing to note that the State Government intends carrying on the single unit properties and giving those unsatisfied applicants the first chance, I understand, to get a block.

We are told in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech that we have 1,000 settlers and 750,000 acres under the scheme, and that is quite good from the State aspect. When I was in New Zealand last April I met the members of the committee which had been administering the War Service Land Settlement Scheme there, and found that in that small country they had settled 13,000 ex-servicemen on the land, with a cost similar to that entailed in this State. Without being harsh or critical, I think there have been many delays here which could have been avoided. Consideration of certain propositions in regard to lands which were recommended to the Commonwealth, which had to approve the land and provide the money, were delayed for many months, and this also applied to single unit properties. It was a case, if I may use the words, of passing the buck from one Government to another. Those who received their blocks are doing particularly well, and I think it has been a great scheme. To my knowledge we still have from 30 to 50 applicants for irrigation blocks and 150 for dry land, and we all hope that they will be satisfied before many more years expire because those men are getting on and if they do not get their land now it will be no use to them later.

I was particularly disappointed to know that the Commonwealth did not approve of the Lyrup area which was recommended by the State for irrigation purposes. I have seen that land, and I think it is most suitable, particularly for stone fruits. It was a grave mistake to miss the opportunity of getting that piece of land. I know some members of the Land Board are not keen about it, but we are building this expensive bridge over the river leading to these irrigation towns and we have a

cannery—a tremendous undertaking—being established at Berri. The measurements of that cannery are 1,500ft. by 600ft. overall. It will provide work for 540 employees, and what is more it will provide better quality fruit. Fruit has had to be picked three days before it should be and while it is fairly hard, and when it is canned under those conditions it is not palatable or acceptable to the consumer, and therefore the market suffers. It is pleasing to know that the bridge may be erected before very long, and with the big cannery to be established the Government should consider buying more land along the river. The potential there is tremendous. Nature has put a stream of water there and it is up to us to take advantage of it.

The extension of water supplies has been very great. In my own district experiments and investigations are being made at Port Lincoln, much closer to the town than the Uley-Wanilla basin. The peninsula is increasing in closer settlement and production and therefore more water, the first essential in all things, must be provided. I believe that we have, with the addition of the underground waters near Port Lincoln, a service that will last for quite a long time.

Electricity extensions have also been great. Last year there were 10,800 new consumers, of whom 4,000 were in the country. That is a wonderful achievement, and it has been made possible by the vision of Parliament. Natural resources were the first thing, and in that regard Leigh Creek was responsible for practically all of it. A report discloses that this year's saving in coal alone, in comparison with buying it at current rates from Newcastle, is £350,000. Electricity has been made available at a very reasonable rate. At present 13,000 tons of coal a week are coming down from Leigh Creek. The "A" power station at Port Augusta has been completed at a cost of £11,000,000, and the "B" station, which is expected to be completed and in operation by 1960, will cost considerably more. However, that is Government expenditure which is well worth while; it is paying and will pay great dividends to this State.

It was most pleasing to know that the steel industry which has been asked for for many years is at last coming to Whyalla. It is to cost £30,000,000 during the next 10 years, but it will be a benefit not only to industries but to primary producers. I congratulate the Minister of Mines for his excellent work over so many years, some of which

has been carried out without the knowledge of many people. Before any industry can be started, natural resources must be available; otherwise, a firm or company could start a steel industry costing an amount of money without being assured that those natural resources were available.

Referring now to Cowell and Whyalla and the Middleback Ranges, it is like war-time, as there are trenches around the hills where experiments have been carried out. I believe they are favourable. It will mean a great benefit to the transport of the Peninsula. A railway is to be commenced from Port Augusta to Whyalla. There is already a railway line from Whyalla to Iron Knob (which of course is owned by B.H.P.). I hope that the gap from Iron Knob will be linked up with Kimba. It will also hurry the projects about which the northern people are so concerned—that is, the duplication of the pipeline from Morgan to Whyalla. It will bring about the laying of another pipeline before many years because once again that is the first essential.

I passed over the road to Port Lincoln last week, and noticed that there were 40 miles of road repairs between Cowell and Whyalla. I understand it will be sealed before the end of this year. Twenty-five miles a day is anticipated, so it must be by the stabilizer method. The Minister also told me yesterday that the whole of the road will be completed and sealed by 1960. That is pleasing because the Port Lincoln Highway is important. When that is completed we hope to see a move made about the Eyre Highway which is essential also for not only primary production but for defence purposes.

The value of uranium produced in this State last year amounted to £2,800,000. When the project was first introduced, it was much criticized. Port Pirie, which has the plant, carried out extensive work with the best experts available. That £2,800,000 worth now being produced is a great credit to the Mines Department. Education too has made great headway during the last 12 months. Without introducing politics, I heard over the air a fortnight ago that the Government were falling down on their undertaking about education. I do not agree with that. We must look at the position fairly. In 10 years the number of scholars has doubled. Ten years ago, there were 2,700 teachers; today, there are 5,000. The magnitude of the amount of money spent on schools, increased salaries and in every way to the benefit of education is to be admired. This Government has done an excellent job.

To say that it is falling down on education in this State is harsh criticism. The Government realizes, as everybody does, the value of education. It is a first essential and the greatest of assets. Without education, where do we get to in life? That will apply even more so in future in the scientific world into which we are entering.

In conclusion, I want to make some reference to the cry of decentralization. I purposely referred to industries in South Australia. After all, can anyone dictate to an industry where it shall go? The first three things it needs are water, power and transport. Those have been established as far as funds allow. The Government is seeing to that and I know that an industry will be more interested than ever in extending where those commodities are available. I do not subscribe to the cry about decentralization.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—We are as entitled to explain our policy as you are to explain yours, and not cry about it.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I am not crying about it; I am pointing out that the Government has done well to encourage it.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—We say that as a Party it has not done so.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I maintain that with the finance available the Government has done well. It is necessary to have people living near an industry. Therefore, I congratulate the Government on what it has done in that direction.

I think I, too, have been on a bit of a walk-about this afternoon. Nevertheless, I think this debate gives members an opportunity to voice their opinion and show their appreciation of the wonderful work done by the Government over so many years.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.23 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday, July 24, at 2.15 p.m.