[COUNCIL.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 21, 1959.

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

ASSENT TO ACTS.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated the Governor's assent to the following Acts:—Appropriation (No. 1); Public Purposes Loan (No. 1); Supply (No. 1).

QUESTIONS.

AMENDMENT OF LAW OF PROPERTY ACT.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER—I ask leave to make a statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER-In 1956 the Local Courts Act was amended and the jurisdiction of local courts increased from £750 to £1,250. Although that amendment has worked satisfactorily, section 105 of the Law of Property Act provides that questions between husband and wife as to the title or possession of property can be dealt with by a local court only if the value of the property does not exceed £750. I ask whether the Attorney-General will consider increasing the amount to £1,250 to accord with the general jurisdiction of local courts. As the Minister promised last month to refer a question concerning the Law of Property Act, will he refer this question to the Parliamentary Draftsman at the same time?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—I will refer the honourable member's question to the acting Attorney-General.

ADJOURNMENT OF ADDRESS IN REPLY DEBATE.

The Hon: F. J. CONDON—Does the Government intend to complete the Address in Reply debate next week and then to adjourn and, if so, for how long?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—It is the intention to continue with the Address in Reply debate, the usual procedure being that, after the moving and seconding, the adjournment is secured by the Opposition. Then there will follow the general debate for the remainder of this week and next week. It is expected it will be completed and that the Address in Reply will then be presented to His Excellency. It is not easy to indicate for how long the Council will adjourn but, depending on what happens in another place, this House may adjourn for one or two weeks.

ADELAIDE TEACHERS COLLEGE ADDITIONS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table a report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on additions to Adelaide Teachers College.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

May it Please Your Excellency:

- 1. We, the Members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session of Parliament.
- 2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.
- 3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The Hon. JESSIE COOPER (Central No. 2)-It is my pleasure and honour to move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I am sure that all honourable members shared with me the pleasure of seeing His Excellency the Governor again with us for the opening of Parliament. Throughout his term of office His Excellency, with Lady George, has entered into every phase of South Australian life. They have both endeared themselves to the people of this State and, by undertaking arduous tours of country areas, have familiarized themselves with a variety of Australian country conditions. They will, I feel sure, always be true ambassadors for South Australia and we will remember them with pride and affection.

Honourable members will realize that I am indeed humble today, remembering the honourable members who have performed this duty so capably in the past. I think particularly of one, most revered and honoured, who last year moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, namely, the Honourable Sir Collier Cudmore. For 25 years he distinguished himself by brilliant speeches, great wisdom and unfailing determination and courage. I would that I had at this moment one particle of his knowledge and experience. I think too of other honourable members who have retired—the Honourables Ernest Anthoney, J. L. S. Bice and J. L. Cowan, all of whom gave

many years of wonderful and faithful service in the Legislative Council.

Bless and praise we famous men For their work continueth And their work continueth Broad and deep continueth Great beyond their moving.

I am greatly honoured in being a member of this Chamber and thank all honourable members for the way they have received me and for their kindness and assistance. May I refer with regret to the absence of the Attorney-General (the Honourable C. D. Rowe) and express the wish that he shall make a speedy and complete recovery from his illness.

I crave the indulgence and patience of the House while I make a few remarks. In his speech His Excellency the Governor referred to the cold, dry spell last June and July. feel I must refer to the colder, drier and frostier spell we are experiencing this year. A few days ago I drove to Burra and in all that long drive through country that at this time of the year is usually a most verdant, beautiful landscape I saw not one blade of I doubt, if Dorothea McKellar had been with me, she would have written so happily her poem "I Love a Sunburnt Country." A sunburnt country is beautiful in summer, but not in mid-July. This was a brown menacing country-one felt the desert very close.

Not only did I think of the anxieties of the country people but I thought of the very dangerous position that many city people would be facing today had it not been for the vision and foresight of the Premier and his Government in supplying water by means of the Mannum and Morgan pipelines. Today we might well have been sitting here waiting to join the exodus of other desiccated Adelaide citizens, all on the way to the River Murray. Instead, despite the abnormal dryness of the season and the fact that South Australia is the only dry State today, we are still leading normal lives with adequate water supplies. think all honourable members will join me in paying an enthusiastic tribute to the Premier and his Government not only for this, but for what His Excellency the Governor spoke of in his opening speech-the continuation, extension and improvement of these water supplies. Considering that so much of South Australia is naturally dry country and that we have no black coal nor, as yet, oil, the success of the Government in keeping almost the whole of the State supplied, not only with water but with electricity, is remarkable. The extension of electricity supplies in South Australia is phenomenal. It is patently obvious that if we are to have any measure of decentralization of population and of manufacture the basic requirement before that can be brought about in any great measure is to have roads and water and electricity supplies made available throughout the State in all areas of potential development.

This part of the planning for decentralization has been carried out most effectively by the Government in recent years and now conditions are right for the establishment of new communities. It is refreshing to see that in this State, which virtually is without any natural resources of first quality timber, the Government is extending soft wood afforestation and successfully bringing to full production a large proportion of the land suitable for that purpose.

I am sure it was pleasing to most honourable members to learn from His Excellency's speech that almost £11,000,000 was to be spent on education out of revenue during the current financial year. To all of us who know what serious decisions will have to be made in this field during the next three or four years, that statement gave great food for thought. It is the ill-advised and ill-informed critic who accuses the South Australian Education Department of lack of foresight and vision, unless, of course, that critic refers to the beginning of this century when the official and unofficial attitude towards education was very different. We have come a long way since the time when a South Australian school inspector said to a Parliamentary committee, "What South Australia needs is rainfall, artificial manure and cheap labour. Education can wait."

The first problem in education today stems from the rise in our population. So far, the primary schools of Australia have been most hard hit-I say "of Australia" because this is an all-Australian problem, even if it is a State responsibility. Even before the high birth rate of the 1940's and the intake of young migrants, Australia had never had what one might call a surplus of teachers, buildings or equipment. In fact, although millions of pounds had been spent on education, the supply had, as it were, barely kept up with demand. What is the picture today? We are facing a crisis in the whole of the secondary school system in Australia. These are real and living figures with the children actually in primary schools and not just statistics. In 1955 in the 10-14 age group there were 740,000 children in primary schools in Australia and most of these entered secondary schools in 1957. In 1960 the population from which our

secondary school children will come will be that population and 1964 by will be more than 1,000,000. So, in seven increase years there has been anone-third in secondary school enrolments. How are we to meet these demands? Obviously, need is for more In fact, that is the only long-term solution and it is one that the South Australian Education Department has planned and worked for during the last 10 years with a great measure of success. No solution, I assure the Council, can be found by increasing class numbers. Educationists everywhere agree that the ideal maximum in the primary school class is 30 and in a secondary school class 25. Throughout Australia classes are twice that size already. No solution can be found in decreasing the time of the training for teachers. Temporary teachers have been used in South Australian primary schools, as members know, and I can assure honourable members that we in South Australia would have been in a sorry plight but for those temporary teachers and but for the policy of the Education Department in employing them.

However, whereas short courses of training are possible for primary school teachers they are virtually impossible for secondary school teachers. The qualifications for the latter must be of a very definite, impeccable standard. No solution can be found in an idea expressed from time to time of shift work and overtime for teachers, because teaching is a profession that makes great demands, spiritual, mental, and physical, on the individuals, and whereas one can have the wear and tear on buildings and equipment repaired and replaced, the wear and tear on teachers is different. exhausted teacher cannot teach. Again, solution can be found bv reducing each child spends atwhether we raise the entrance age and lower the leaving age-which honourable members can see ultimately defeats its own purpose because then there are less and less children staying on for matriculation and so less and less teachers coming forward-or whether we suggest that perhaps the children attend in shifts as they have done in South-East Asia where the need and hunger for education is very great and almost overwhelming.

Of course, we are living in a new age of science, and in time there may be a change in the whole basis of education. From the earliest history of education we have got used to the idea of the teacher and pupil relationship, and we think of it as essential and ideal.

World-wide authorities, however, are now investigating what is known as the group method of education whereby a single teacher sets up a series of discussions in groups and acts less as a teacher than as an adviser and counsellor. This may have good points and it may do a great deal to bridge the gap that exists between secondary and tertiary education. It may give the secondary school child confidence and help him adjust himself to tertiary forms of training. The school library system comes into its own in this system, and the school librarian has a very important part.

Again, modern mass methods of education come into it-television, radio, and filmsand these have come into practice already in a modified way in Australia. However, I think we may well sympathize with the child who recently refused to be turned away from his school books to look at a television programme. As he explained to his surprised parents, he was interrupted so much at school all day by visual education that he simply had to be allowed to continue looking at his books at night. The only solution is to recruit more teachers. The present policy throughout Australia is to employ graduates as secondary school teachers. Thousands of students attend every University and yet the percentage turning to teaching is not enough to meet demands. There are not enough students from the various teachers' training colleges of Australia attending universities to meet next year's demands. The position of science graduates is one in point. Through all the universities of Australia the number of science graduates each year is only about 500, and that has to serve every profession-teaching, research, industry, everything, and yet the Commonwealth Office of Education says that we require about 450 mathematics and science teachers next year.

May I quote from the Murray Report on Australian Universities, section 31:

Unless the schools can be staffed with soundly trained graduates, it is obvious that the whole educational edifice is threatened, for the schools, and the quality of their staff, will determine largely the volume of the flow of students into the universities and of graduates into the community.

The South Australian Education Department has been well aware of this situation and has made a determined effort in the past 10 years to increase the numbers of secondary school teachers. As it is obvious that it is no use having more teachers while still lacking accommodation, the department has developed a full programme of school building and is to be congratulated on its plan to construct 70 new

large school buildings next year. I congratulate the Minister and the department on the part it has played.

There are, I consider, two main ways of getting more secondary school teachers. The first is the obvious one of paying such high salaries that teaching will be regarded as a most desirable profession. In that we include the allowances to students proceeding from the teachers' colleges to do degree courses at universities. South Australian teaching salaries have certainly taken a turn for the better in 1958, but it is in the statistics relating to students from the Teachers College to the Adelaide University that the success has been very great. In 1948, there were only 20 of these. In 1951, the figure was still only 21, but this year it is 162. In fact, the overall picture of Teachers College students is so good that I think I should mention it here. There were 679 students at the Teachers College in 1950, and this year there are 2,499.

The second way to get more secondary school teachers is to encourage more and more of our young people to take up teaching. The South Australian Education Department has succeeded in this endeavour to such an extent that whereas only 22 per cent of Leaving Certificate winners in 1950 became teachers, the percentage now is over 40 per cent, and that is higher than any other State in the Commonwealth. Again, in order to get more students to become teachers, it is obvious that more and more children must be induced to remain at school to Leaving Certificate and Leaving Honours standard. Taking an all-Australian figure, there were 60,000 children in the third year before matriculation in 1953, but by 1955 that same group, when they should have been at Leaving Honours standard, was reduced to 14,000; that is, 46,000 children were lost because they went out between the Intermediate and the final year. We might well consider whether more of the State's money that is devoted to subsidizing secondary and tertiary education might go into channels where it would encourage those who are prepared to serve the State's teaching organization rather than enter private professions. Actually, the position in South Australia has improved greatly. In 1944, 44 per cent of secondary school children remained for the Intermediate and only 14 per cent for the Leaving Certificate, but last year 66 per cent remained for the Intermediate and 26 per cent for the Leaving Certificate.

Summing up, the South Australian Government has established a very high standard

both in respect of the numbers being educated in secondary schools and in the quality of their education. The efficiency of the department mainly responsible for administering this field is without doubt impressive, but the immediate problem before us is to maintain the standard the Government has set. I think I have shown this afternoon that it can only be done by the expenditure of more and more money.

Briefly considering tertiary education, one finds that staffing and accommodation have been more acute. If the present demand for higher education continues, the universities will find themselves involved in a continual struggle to maintain their standards. The universities of Australia are coping magnificently with thousands of students in numbers undreamed of 20 years ago, and they are still performing their three main functions—as places of teaching and centres of knowledge and research, as well as maintaining their status as leaders of cultural standards.

Today, there is a fetish about education throughout the whole community, brought about by (a) Government precept, (b) industrial requirements, (c) peculiarities of our new social and economic order, and (d) increase in population. I believe that the increase in demand for tertiary education resulting from the first three items, (a), (b) and (c), is quite out of proportion with (d), our rising population.

I would sympathize with Governments beset on all sides by demands for finance, if it were not for the fact that Government departments themselves have greatly fostered the idea of tertiary education for all, just as much as business houses and industrial concerns have done. One has only to glance at Government advertisements to see applications being called for medium jobs carrying medium salaries, but all demanding a university degree. Similarly, our young people know that, if they wish to rise to key positions in industrial or business organizations, they must have university qualifications. They also know that in our new economic and social order today it is more profitable ultimately to be employed by a major concern than to struggle to build up a business, beset by high overhead expenses, heavy taxation and controls. It is becoming the general practice for all the highly paid jobs in industrial concerns to go to the specialist graduate.

We have, in a word, an enormous demand for university education, sponsored by all Governments but not as yet being met by them in terms of hard cash. We know what the universities require and what they have been trying to do over the past few years. One might well ask oneself whether the failure rate of first-year students is not more closely allied to the lack of staff and accommodation than to lack of intellectual ability on the part of the student.

If Governments cannot find the necessary finance to aid universities, then they must face the alternative of adopting the point of view that too many people are receiving education at tertiary level and must be diverted. To fall in between will mean that many thousands of students will receive second-rate tertiary education and that university standards will fall.

A strong case can be made out for the contention that we are encouraging far too many people to take advantage of subsidized tertiary education. This is not my point of view, nor do I recommend this course to the South Australian Government but, if the money cannot be found, what are we to choose—many thousands of mediocre graduates or fewer graduates of better quality? There are indications that second universities will have to be established in capital cities and that the present universities will have to be extended. One urgency is the necessity to establish schools of Oriental studies and languages in at least two of the 10 Australian universities.

Our diplomatic service is growing. The External Affairs Department says that it would like to have at least one person proficient in the local language on each of its staffs. In South-East Asia our foreign service is growing but, of 176 diplomats, only six can speak, write and read Chinese. Only six are proficient in Japanese. Two are proficient in Bohasa Indonesian, one only in Urdu and Bengali; and none at all yet proficient in Burmese, Siamese, Annamese, Korean or Tamil. This is a tricky situation that we cannot avoid or ignore unless we are ostriches.

For myself, I should like to see Latin retained in universities and formal English grammar reintroduced into schools as I believe these to be necessities for any study of languages. I am glad that I had both, although I realize that honourable members may see no sign of clarity, brevity or wit herein.

We have in South Australia a university of high standard that has produced outstanding men and women in every walk of life. It will be a tragedy if the Government finds itself unable in the next five years to grant sufficient sums for its development.

Finally (that word dear to speaker and listener alike), I should like to say, Mr. President, that we have considered a State that has recently developed the ground plan for decentralization by the supply of water and electricity over large areas of country, a State that is doing its utmost to produce trained and well educated people to help in its development. We know that it is a State which has in some ways developed, rather unexpectedly, major industrial activity. Let us not then forget the people of our State who will be called upon in the next 40 years to help solve what is going to be the world's greatest problem-in other words, the producers of our food.

Statisticians tell us that by the year 2000 or thereabouts the world's population will have doubled itself. It must be evident to any thinking person that the production of foodstuffs must soon become a sound financial proposition. Nobody could compare South Australia with the Garden of Eden but, by water conservation and sound planning, we as a State with the aid of our primary producers should be able to play a prominent part in this urgent world need.

We must at this stage of our development have sufficient wisdom to help and encourage all who, in field or laboratory, in garden or farm, are entering upon this great adventure, the greatest challenge of our time—the feeding of mankind. Mr. President, I move the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, as presented.

The Hon. A. C. HOOKINGS (Southern)—Mr. President, to have the privilege of seconding the Motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the Honourable Mrs. Cooper is an honour that I fully appreciate. I pay a tribute to the manner in which the Honourable Mrs. Cooper has moved that motion today. On this occasion a woman has made a speech in this Chamber for the first time. It will go down in history. I am sure the manner in which Mrs. Cooper has spoken has earned the applause and respect of us all.

I congratulate Sir Lyell McEwin on having served his State for 20 years as Chief Secretary, as Minister of Mines and as Minister of Health. His term of office undoubtedly creates a State record and is probably a record throughout the British Commonwealth. I endorse the remarks made by the Honourable Mrs. Cooper regarding the Honourable Colin Rowe. I know I express the sentiments of all members when I say I hope he will soon be restored to health.

I endorse the remarks of my friend about His Excellency Sir Robert George and Lady George who have, by their zeal for this State and their charming manner, particularly endeared themselves to the hearts of South Australians. I trust that good health will prevail for them during the remainder of their sojourn in South Australia. We are proud to have them as representatives of Her Majesty the Queen.

The speech with which His Excellency opened the first session of this 36th Parliament in South Australia indicated achievement, progress and confidence in the future. Industrial projects in this State, such as the projected oil refinery and the steel industry at Whyalla and the new paper mills in the South-East-just to mention a few of the big projects-truly point to a great industrial future for this State. Land development is proceeding very smoothly and although dry conditions are prevailing at present we hope that rain will soon relieve what at present appears to be the worst season experienced for some years. Even if rain does not arrive in time to provide us with a harvest as bountiful as those harvests we have had in the last few years, at least it may provide some relief for those who are in a desperate position today.

Industry has made great progress in South Australia and primary producers now realize that primary production and industry go hand in hand. During the development of South Australia in the last few years by way of industrial expansion we have also experienced expansion of rural production. In a modern society food and clothing are essential to all, and those who are engaged in the production of food and natural fibres such as wool are relying more and more on machines.

I read recently that in America between the years 1942 and 1957 food production had increased by 42 per cent but that 2,000,000 less workers were engaged in that field. similar trend is taking place in this State, but so much new country is being brought into production that the percentage of rural workers leaving our primary industries is not so great. However, the industrial growth in this State does mean that we are experiencing bigger home consumption market for our primary products, particularly meat. there is no market like the home market, and this is illustrated in Great Britain where the country produces mainly for export and has great difficulty in providing nearly enough food for its own needs. We find, however, that the lamb and beef that country produces have priority over all the best imported chiller beef and frozen lamb. I refer to that so strongly because I believe that the growth of industry in this State means also a great future for primary production and will result in the provision of home markets in Australia, particularly in South Australia.

His Excellency the Governor referred to the growing market for manufacturing beef in the United States of America. The population of the United States today is about 170,000,000 people and it is expanding at a rate of about 3,000,000 a year. As a result America needs Under our agreement with the more meat. British Ministry of Food we have not, in the past, been able to sell much of our exportable meat to countries other than Great Britain, but because of a relaxation in the agreement last year we are now in the fortunate position of having America coming to Australia and purchasing what is known as pre-packaged boneless beef, which is third quality meat. It is of a quality that we understand is used in hamburger and sausage meat in America. That market has been of great benefit to this country.

South Australia is playing its part in the production of quality beef. For about three years our Department of Agriculture has been conducting trials into the effect and the habits of fattening cattle bred in Central Australia and sent down to more favourable high rainfall areas where better pastures and fodder are available for fattening. It is well-known that it is uneconomical to fatten first-class cattle in areas of doubtful rainfall where natural pastures are relied on. These trials have produced much interesting information and I think that the future of this plan that has originated in South Australia can result in nothing but prosperity. The whole idea of the plan is that cattle raised in Central Australia and the Northern Territory may be brought to the southern areas where they can be fattened within a few months. In the past there has been a tendency for cattle coming into the Adelaide market for consumption to be of a greater age than that which is considered desirable, but the tendency now is for steers aged 11 to 2 years to be sent down for fattening. An essential to the success of this scheme is the provision of rapid transport from the railhead at Alice Springs to the destination at which cattle are to be fattened. transport is essential and while both the Commonwealth Railways and the State Railways are involved I trust that the Government will do everything in its power to see that the

cattle coming from the Alice Springs area arrive at their destination in the shortest possible time. A recent trainload of cattle was shifted from Alice Springs to Naracoorte in $3\frac{1}{2}$ days but another consignment took nine days to reach the Mount Gambier area. That sort of thing must be avoided. It takes a long time to replace the shrinkage that occurs on such a long journey and, because of this, speedy transport is essential for the production of quality beef.

State forests have been mentioned this afternoon and I understand that 4,000 acres of forest were planted last year. Forest expansion has been very rapid. I wish to refer to one point regarding forests and that is the question of fire risk. At Wandilo in April, 1958, during a forest fire eight men lost their lives. On January 17 this year a fire started in a private forest and, after burning for some time, burst into open country ultimately causing devastation of which all honourable members are aware. Landholders in the area of the Kongorong fire suffered great loss of stock, fencing, and in some cases, homes.

On inquiring, I have found that fires cannot carry for a long time in pine forests, but that it is necessary for them to be fed by ground level fires. In our State forests the lower limbs of the trees are removed and these forests are thereby rendered fairly safe, but there are some private forests where the lower limbs-known to forestry people as trashare not removed and this omission results in a real menace. That type of undergrowth was prevalent in the forest at Kongorong when fire broke out on January 17. I hope the Government may be able to find ways and means of seeing that the fire risk in private forests is lessened. Perhaps that risk may also be minimized in State forests by the removal and burning of some of the lower branches in the winter. I have no doubt that the recently appointed Bush Fire Research Committee will ultimately provide a report that will be of great benefit and help.

The field of education has been widely covered by Mrs. Cooper. I intended to say a few words on this subject, but I shall now confine myself to congratulating those responsible for keeping pace with the advancement of education, because, undoubtedly, if a country wants to keep pace with other nations then the education of the children is of the highest importance. I congratulate the Minister of Roads on the extension of roads throughout

country areas and on other work being done by the Highways Department. As one who has travelled in other parts of the world where the population is very dense, I am sure that because of the comparatively short history of Australia we should be proud of the advancement, by overseas standards, in our road system. South Australia is a very large State with a comparatively small population, yet bituminous highways are already established in many districts. As a result of the policy of the Highways Department, in co-operation with councils, and by aid from the Commonwealth Government, many fields of production are being opened up in rural areas. Before land can be developed in places like Kangaroo Island and the West Coast, roads must be provided.

Sewerage in country areas is proceeding. At Naracoorte rapid progress is being made. hope that the sewerage of other major country towns will soon be undertaken. This system must be provided for Mount Gambier in the next few years and I hope that when this is being undertaken full consideration will be given to the possibility of using the sewage effluent and that it will not be wasted. could be used on rural land. I know that at the moment problems are being experienced at the sewage farm at Dry Creek. Anyone knowing of the work being done at Werribee, in Victoria, will, I am sure, agree that there should be an investigation into the question of sewage disposal in South Australia. particularly have in mind Mount Gambier. In the Lower South-East, although the excellent work the Government has done in undertaking agricultural research is acknowledged, there is a feeling that because of climatic and environmental conditions further research is needed there. In the last two years diseases that had been unknown in this area have been affecting cattle, and if an experimental station could be profitably established in the area research work could be undertaken that could be of considerable help to animal production.

As one who lives near the Victorian border and sometimes travels to Melbourne and sees the work being undertaken in that State, I remind honourable members how proud I am to be a South Australian and to be associated with a Government that has been led for a record term by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford. I found it encouraging to read his remarks last week in reference to land settlement. He expressed regret that the Commonwealth Government did not intend to support further land

settlement in this State and remarked that he hoped his Government would be able, in some way, to find the necessary finance to continue an extension of closer settlement. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably moved by Mrs. Cooper.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.20 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 22, at 2.15 p.m.