

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, July 28, 1959.

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

QUESTIONS.

APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I ask leave to make a brief statement with a view to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—My question relates to the appointment of a new judge or judges to the Supreme Court of South Australia. Tasmania has five judges, Victoria 13, Western Australia five, and Queensland 12. In 1952 this Government appointed a sixth judge when the population reached 768,570. According to the Statistician's figures our population in March, 1959, was 914,763, an increase of 146,193. In view of the increased population and the extra work imposed upon our judges, does the Government intend to afford some measure of relief to our judges by the appointment of one or more judges to the Supreme Court?

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN—Obviously, the honourable member's question involves legislation because the number of judges is governed by Statute. However, I can inform members that no increase is contemplated by the Government.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MOTORISTS AT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—Does any Act make it the responsibility of motorists to stop at pedestrian crossings?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The responsibility of motorists at such places on the highway is open to considerable doubt, and the Government is making provision this session to control pedestrian lighted crossings on highways as opposed to intersections controlled by traffic lights.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—I was not referring to traffic lights. The pedestrian crossings I had in mind are those at Grote Street and near the Nailsworth school, where there are no traffic lights. Does any Act make it the responsibility of motorists to stop at those crossings?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The matter is being investigated.

CHELTENHAM RAILWAY STATION.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (on notice)—

1. When is it proposed to open the new station at Cheltenham for traffic?

2. What was the estimated cost of the new station?

3. Has the cost to date exceeded the estimate?

4. If so, by what amount has the estimate been exceeded?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The Railways Commissioner reports:—

1. It is anticipated that the new station at Cheltenham will be opened for traffic during August next.

2. The estimated cost was £10,878.

3. The cost has not exceeded the estimate.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table an interim report by the Public Works Committee on:—

Elizabeth Girls' Technical High School (additional buildings),

Angle Park Boys' Technical High School, Elizabeth Boys' Technical High School,

Magill Primary School (additional building),

Millicent Primary School (additional building),

Vermont Girls' Technical High School (additional buildings),

Railway from Hallett Cove to section 588, hundred of Noarlunga,

Blackwood High School,

Elizabeth Vale Primary School,

Mitchell Park Boys' Technical High School (additional buildings),

Taperoo High School,

Willunga High School, and Penola High School.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 23. Page 150.)

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL (Central No. 2)—I desire to support the motion. When one enters this Chamber, and indeed when one is fortunate to have one's term renewed, the first duty is to take the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty. The oath is couched in traditional rather than modern language and I imagine that in the constitution of the Chamber today (and indeed at any time in the past, and I hope in the future as well) the oath is superfluous because it is really an understatement of what we all feel in personal loyalty to Her Majesty.

His Excellency the Governor is our direct link between the State and Her Majesty the

Queen. I have always believed in English Governors, and I still do so. I believe that our link with the Crown is intensified by the appointment of one of her countrymen as her representative. I realize that there are many Australians who could very ably and adequately fill the office, but somehow, however worthy an Australian may be, it seems to me that the appointment of someone who resides 13,000 miles from the Seat of Her Majesty does not constitute quite that link that enables us to feel as we do.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert George, and Lady George have had a splendid term of office in this State and I believe that the excellence of the performance of their task lends further support to my tenets and belief in English appointments. They both have been untiring in the execution of their duties. They have travelled throughout the length and breadth of this State, more I believe than any previous occupant of the office, and His Excellency has wisely concentrated on horse transport rather than on camels.

I should like to refer to our Cabinet. The Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, is undoubtedly one of the greatest South Australians we have ever had. He is not the only man, however, in the Ministry because he has an excellent Ministry and I would like to make a special reference to his second in command, Sir Lyell McEwin. Sir Lyell is an outstanding Parliamentarian in my experience—and I can speak with experience because I have been here for three years now and I can say with knowledge that he is also an outstanding Leader of the Government in this Chamber. The State has progressed mightily under our present Government and I believe that a good deal of the credit for the progress belongs to Sir Lyell and the rest of the Ministry as well as to the Premier. Other outstanding men are the gallant Hon. Cecil Hincks, Hon. B. Pattinson (who has made such a splendid job of his portfolio of Education), the Hon. G. G. Pearson (who has graduated to the important portfolio of Works), and the Hon. Mr. Rowe (our really excellent and assiduous Attorney-General whose illness sharply reminds us of the strain to which our Ministry is subjected. This seems to be something which many people do not always realize). I join with other honourable members in hoping that the Attorney-General will have a speedy return to health. The Hon. Mr. Jude, another member of this Chamber, holds in a very excellent way several important portfolios, and the latest appointment—the Hon. Mr. Brookman—has already

shown his capacity in his new job as Minister of Agriculture.

If I may, Mr. President, I should like to return to retired members of this Chamber; first of all Sir Collier Cudmore. The Hon. Mrs. Cooper has referred to him in glowing terms, which in my opinion are completely justified. He did a wonderful job in this Chamber over many years and I think I can safely say that he wielded greater influence here and perhaps in this Parliament than any other person outside the Ministry; indeed, in some vital and important matters he may have wielded a greater influence on occasions than some of the Ministers themselves. His capacity, experience, and personality will be greatly missed in this Chamber; in fact, that is already so. I would like to take advantage of this moment to congratulate his successor, Sir Frank Perry, in the leadership. I am sure that Sir Frank Perry will uphold the high tradition of past Leaders, and I wish him not only success but also happiness in the job. I should like also before I leave retired members to refer to the excellent work of Messrs. Anthoney, Bice, and Cowan, whose presence and personalities will be missed here.

We have had possibly a greater intake of new members than is normally customary at this time. We have four new members, all of whom are now well-known to us. They all bring one common quality here which I suppose is quite befitting in these times of higher education, and that is that they all have an academic background of various sorts, but in addition they all have pretty extensive practical experience which I believe is probably of even greater importance. I refer first to the Hon. Mrs. Cooper, who is a University graduate. She has done much work in the Liberal and Country League and in other spheres, and she has also had administrative experience. I think her speech, on which I congratulate her very much, shows what an asset she will be in the House. She concentrated particularly on education, which I think is somewhat of a specialty of hers, and she has shown already that the gap in the educational sense that has been left by Mr. Anthoney, who was very enthusiastic on education, will be ably filled. The Hon. Mrs. Cooper had a rather trying experience on her entry into Parliament because her qualifications as a woman to be a member of the House were challenged in the courts. I had a somewhat fellow feeling for her because I remember when I was first in the Adelaide City Council I had a similar experience; thus when she was

suffering that experience I was unusually interested. I took some pains to investigate the history of the situation so that I might see whether I could afford some help in one way or another. The history of the introduction of the franchise to women in South Australia is a very interesting one, and I think the House might bear with me a moment if I repeat it briefly.

I think South Australia was the first part of the British Commonwealth and possibly of the world to introduce the franchise and vote for women. The legislation was introduced in this House by the Attorney-General of the day, the Government having apparently decided that women should have the vote. The bill was drawn and presented in the first instance in this House for the purpose of qualifying women to vote, but not to qualify them to sit in the chamber. Members jibbed at this a little and said it was illogical that women should be able to vote but should not be able to sit, and eventually the Bill was amended, apparently giving the right, or for the purpose of giving the right to women to sit in the House as well as to vote. That endeavour was achieved by cutting out a clause which expressly disqualified women from sitting, but what was overlooked was that the rest of the Bill had been designed to fit in with that clause, and thus the language of the rest of the Bill, being designed in that manner, gave colour to the view that women were not entitled to sit. I believe that that was the basis of the legal difficulties that were investigated, and of course no conclusive answer has yet been given. I think that is a good lesson to old and to new members as well—that when we are amending Bills, if we amend any clause we must carefully scrutinize the rest of the Bill to see that the language fits in with our amendments. I believe that Mr. Condon suggested it was unnecessary for an amendment to take place to the Constitution specifically to say that women were entitled to sit. I think that to put the matter beyond any legal doubt it is necessary that the Government, as is foreshadowed in His Excellency's Speech, should bring in such an amendment, and I am sure it will have unanimous support.

The Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin—How will you get over your problem in the City Council? Will you come under the same clause?

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—As a matter of fact, I think it was before the Chief Secretary was a Minister, but there was some deficiency in what Parliament had done in regard to postal voting. If the Chief Secretary had been in the Ministry at that stage,

no doubt it would have been quite clear. Mr. Hookings very ably seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. He will bring to this Chamber a great experience of country matters, and in the academic sense he has been a Nuffield scholar. He talked about, as is appropriate, the production of foodstuffs and agriculture, and he gave members a foretaste of the influence he will wield in this House. He asked for rain, and the very next day the heavens opened. Mr. Potter is also a university graduate. I regret very much that I had to be absent the day he made his maiden speech. I have read the speech very carefully and I believe one duty of members—of course all of us cannot be present all the time—is to read in *Hansard* what has gone on in our absence, because *Hansard* has the advantage of recording what has been said as well as our sins of expression. I enjoyed Mr. Potter's speech and found it most interesting, and it was very well reasoned. If I may venture to say so with respect, I think he had a very statesmanlike approach to his subject and the subject of the Address in Reply. Mr. Giles is also a Nuffield scholar and an experienced agriculturist, but unfortunately we have not yet heard him. That is a pleasure in store for us and I will be a very intent listener when he makes his maiden speech which, I believe, will be tomorrow. He comes from a well-known South Australian family and has a very fine war record. I will look forward to his speech.

May I refer to the Birthday Honours. I should like to congratulate all those worthy people who received honours and should like particularly to mention the two highest honours awarded—namely, that to Sir Barton Pope and to Mr. Moxon Simpson, C.M.G. Both these men are industrialists. Sir Barton Pope created and built up a business that is now employing thousands of South Australians. Mr. Simpson came up in the business established by his forebears and he also has extended that business considerably and given employment to many South Australians. Both have done much voluntary work in the cause of industry and other things. They are outstanding men, and I was indeed happy to see men of their calibre so honoured.

The most important thing that I think has happened in South Australia in recent times is that we are now free of the Grants Commission. In other words, we shall be free of that horrible term “mendicant State.” I believe this freedom from the position of a beggar, as we have sometimes been referred

to, is the culmination of years of sound Liberal government. In my generation the State has grown up from a poor one to a wealthy one and I believe with my friends of the Labor Party that to some extent Parliament assists in these matters, but these things have to be initiated, and I think that the major portion of the praise is due to the Liberal Government which has brought us from penury to wealth. I should like to congratulate the Premier and his Ministers on this achievement. The award of *mendicant emeritus* is an honour in some sort of way similar to the other honours to which I have referred. There are implications in our freedom from the Grants Commission, a freedom that I hope will not be merely temporary, but permanent. It gives us far more control over our own affairs and also does away with one thing that has been so easy to say—taxes have to go up because the Grants Commission says so. That line of thought will no longer be available. Really collateral with that, the formula of income tax re-imbursements by the Federal Government has been amended, which obviously gives the States, including South Australia, much more sure finance and a greater feeling of stability. I notice that the Treasurer has promised to give further details of the formula and what it all means at Budget time, and I am sure that other honourable members, in common with myself, will be awaiting that event.

It might be timely when referring to finance to remind honourable members of the fact that if Labor had its way our whole financial system would be altered to a structure of Socialism. I know that the objective of the Party has been watered down, in words anyhow, and now reads:—

The democratic socialization of industry, production, distribution and exchange—to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in those fields—in accordance with the principles of action, methods, and progressive reforms set out in this platform.

These are words subject to interpretation.

I read a recent report in the *Advertiser* of the presidential address of the president of the State Australian Labor Party (Mr. Cameron, M.H.R.), who said that Labor must not hesitate to state publicly that a Labor Government was bound by its printed platform to place certain undertakings under public ownership and control. These included the nationalization of the private banks, insurance companies, commercial television and radio stations, privately-owned shipping, the

Colonial Sugar Refining Company and, in fact, all forms of monopoly. "Any Labor member of Parliament who pretends that his Party would not nationalize these things is completely dishonest," Mr. Cameron said. The new verbiage still heads the Labor Party Platform and it seems to me a pity that this great Party adheres to this outmoded policy of stagnation, frustration of enterprise, and general decay. Recently, there was a rise of 15s. a week in the basic wage. Members of this House will many times by now have heard me say that I support as high a standard of living for our people as possible. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is difficult to prognosticate the actual effect of this rise in the basic wage.

The usual cry has gone up that "business can absorb the basic wage rise," which is of course ridiculous to anyone who cares to pause and think for a moment. As an example, bus fare increases have already been announced, expressed to be a corollary to the increased basic wage. Government taxes or the costs to the public of services will have to rise because the money has to be found somewhere; alternatively, expenditure will have to be reduced, which would probably reduce the Government's capacity to employ labour, which none of us wishes to see. I sincerely hope that the basic wage rise will increase standards, but I am afraid I have to express doubts whether in the ultimate we shall not be back exactly where we started from except that once again money will in effect have been devalued.

I should like to compliment the State Government on its assistance to and encouragement of oil search in this State, and to mention also the Federal Government's financial assistance in this regard, and the taxation advantages it has allowed, which will in turn very much help oil search. The difference to South Australia's economy if we do discover commercial oil in this State will be tremendous. It is difficult for anyone to prophesy exactly how much it will affect us, but the changes will undoubtedly be enormous.

A Bill dealing with hire-purchase has been foreshadowed in His Excellency's Speech. One cannot, of course, pre-judge these issues without knowing the terms of the Bill but, judging from newspaper reports, the Premier has made his usual sensible approach to the matter. I would expect the Bill to be advantageous although, as I say, before I express support or otherwise I shall have to see its contents.

I know that the major hire-purchase companies welcome certain controls because certain things are done in these industries by minor participants, less honourable people, that do the industry no good. The Hon. Mr. Bardolph said, when speaking in this debate, "Hire-purchase is rather in my line." I found that a rather cryptic remark; I do not know exactly what he meant by it, but it is in mine, too.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—I did not say that at all. I have corrected the proof.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—Hire-purchase, in my opinion, has undoubtedly raised our standard of living. It has stabilized employment and manufacture. It is a part of the economy these days. Whether we like it or not, we cannot get rid of it. I myself am for it; I think it is beneficial in many ways.

Although, unfortunately, I was absent on that day, I have read the speech of the Hon. Mr. Condon with great interest. I should like to congratulate him on it, although as is understandable, I do not agree with everything he said. I should like to pay this tribute to Mr. Condon. We often have a joke with him, in which he joins, in relation to his references to the flour industry, which are constant and thread through his various speeches. I think Mr. Condon may well have a world record in leadership of his union. He is to me a model of a good union man because he is concerned not only with the workers in his industry but with the overall health of the industry itself. He knows that a healthy industry means high employment and a capacity to compass good wages and conditions. That no doubt also fosters good employer-employee relations, without which no country can be really great.

I disagree with one thing that both he and the Hon. Mr. Bardolph said, that Labor scored the highest votes at the recent election. This is a splendid example of over-simplification. It may be literally true—I do not doubt their figures—that they scored actual votes, but that is not the point of what they were saying: they were saying that Labor had greater support generally in the community, which I think is quite unreal. Seven "blue ribbon" Liberal seats were uncontested as against only one uncontested pink ribbon Labor seat, which upsets the balance of votes completely if you are trying to say which Party had more support in general in South Australia. In addition to that, Labor recorded votes in seven seats that were not contested by the Liberal and Country League, and we know the reason for that in the Northern District anyway.

Coming now to education, the Hon. Mrs. Cooper said that she would like to see English grammar re-introduced into the schools and Latin into the universities. I agree with her in both instances. I should like to add history in schools, because I think young people growing up today are often told that things that went before were not good, and even bad, and they have not sufficient respect in many instances for the achievements of the past. Many wonderful things have been done to which we still hold and to which we should still hold, but unfortunately the indoctrination is not always that way. Referring to Latin and English grammar the Hon. Mrs. Cooper said (these are her words as recorded in *Hansard*), "I am glad I had them both." It took me two or three years to pass First Year Latin at the University. I should like to adopt those words too—"I had Latin too."

The Hon. Mr. Bardolph referred to the university. I do not agree with everything he said, particularly about its finances, because I think the Government has been most generous. He referred to non-graduating students. I thought at first that he was not in favour of them, but by the time he finished his remarks about the matter I did not know what he meant. I believe that the University has a very wide role; that its function is to give a wider education to all capable of receiving it and not necessarily merely to give education to those taking degrees and letters. I believe that its efforts for non-graduating students over the years have succeeded in raising the standards of education generally very considerably indeed.

Referring now to the legal profession, I believe that promotions to the status of Queen's Counsel are generally too late in life. This was emphasized by the introduction, a few years ago, of a retiring age for judges. It seems to me that there are not enough Queen's Counsel in South Australia and that if they were appointed earlier they would gain a higher status in the estimation of the public, whereby those seeking top legal advice would have greater confidence in the people coming on. If that means the appointment of more Q.C.'s I would certainly be for it, and I say that quite apart from the fact that we might now be short of them. Even if earlier promotion meant more Q.C.'s when we were not short of them I would still support it.

I noticed that the press recently mentioned that a 10 weeks' course was being arranged at the University for justices of the peace to

help them in their legal duties. J's.P. have done a wonderful job over the years, and I say that with full knowledge, for I have suffered at their hands and I have been elevated by them; all in all they have done a wonderful job. They do it most conscientiously and their work must have saved the State a very large sum, and helped it considerably when the legal profession was undermanned, as, of course, it still is. A J's.P. approach to the law is one of commonsense, and although my cynical friends may not agree with me, the law and commonsense go very closely hand in hand. Indeed, if you care to look at the mental processes of the top quality judges, as revealed by the Law Reports, it will be found that they try to determine first what is justice and then see if the law will fit to it; a good judge can generally achieve that result. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" and I express some feeling of doubt about this course, depending on what it is going to be. If the course concentrates on legal procedure in the courts and that sort of thing it will be very beneficial, but if an attempt is to be made to try to teach J's.P. law in 10 weeks they will be inclined to lose that commonsense approach that is their sheet anchor at the moment, so I sound that note of warning.

Mr. Potter referred to the virtues of uniformity in laws. I agree that uniform laws can be a very good thing, but I have always been against uniformity for the sake of uniformity. In other words, do not adopt uniformity as a general thing, but if the laws are good in other places certainly make our own laws uniform with them. I would like to give an example of what I have in mind by referring to the present move for the cutting out of the amber light in traffic lights. I believe there is a move for uniformity in that direction. I have made a study of traffic lights for many years. In fact, I think that if the records of the City Council were looked up it would be found that I originally successfully moved for their introduction in King William Street. I do not claim any credit for thinking of it as the council had been vacillating for a number of years on the question, but it finally made up its mind, quite coincidentally, on my motion. You cannot cut out the amber light on the green light because that is the warning to the motorist coming along that he has to stop. If you changed from green to red without the amber obviously things would become chaotic, and that is not suggested by those amber-light-cutting-out fanatics. What they say is that we ought to cut them out on the red.

I have been trying to elucidate the principle of this. It seems that their philosophy is, "You cannot trust a motorist" and then, if tackled, they whittle it down to "You cannot trust one per cent or two per cent of the motorists, so give none of them any information and catch them all flatfooted. Don't mind if it holds up the rest of the traffic; that does not matter, we will catch them all." They forget that the light that is beaten is the green when the amber comes on with it, which they must have anyhow. It is not the motorist beating the red light when it changes to green. He does not beat it when the amber comes on, but gets ready in the few seconds given to move, and that few seconds in a 10 or 15 seconds cycle is very important to the traffic movement. I hope that our State Traffic Committee does not fall for this one. It is merely an example I am giving to illustrate my argument regarding the achievement of uniformity in laws. I think this is a case where we do not want uniformity. I would like to see one Minister put in charge of all road traffic laws. I have tackled that previously without result. At present we have three Ministers who handle portions, but if we had one Minister I think we would get much further, and I once again firmly advocate that.

With regard to matters cultural, to which I have referred on previous occasions, I feel a sense of increasing interest in the Government in these matters. I remember asking Sir Lyell McEwin at the end of last session a question about the possibility of Austral House going to the National Trust, and getting a very encouraging answer. I hope at a later stage and on an appropriate occasion to make certain suggestions about cultural matters. They relate to such things as art galleries, museums, theatres and so on, and I would like to mention at this stage Victoria Square, as it seems to be topical and I regard this as in the cultural category. I hope one day to see a very fine Government building in Victoria Square. I do not want to be misunderstood on this because I know the difficulties involved; I know that buildings are extremely expensive to erect and that there are other things demanding the expenditure of money.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—One was recommended 15 years ago, but the Government did nothing about it.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—I hope that the Government will one day find it financially possible to erect such a building.

The Hon. A. J. Shard—Do you mean in the square itself or on its boundaries?

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—The square itself is sacrosanct to me.

The Hon. A. J. Shard—You could have been misunderstood.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—I thank the honourable member for his help.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—We are very helpful always.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL—The honourable member may be of help on occasion, but he does not always try to be. I would like to mention the very topical question of the car barn in Victoria Square. I was in Sydney the other day and I happened to go near the site of the new Opera House and, curiously enough, it was once occupied by an old car barn. It seems to me that history might be capable of repeating itself some day in Adelaide. I realize that the Tramways Trust has great financial difficulties and that it is trying to do things as cheaply as it can, which is quite proper, but I do think that the car barn is in a very unfortunate position for a city that is developing like Adelaide is. The City Council has not been trying to get it removed immediately, but to stop the expenditure of any considerable sum of money on it so that later it cannot be said "We have spent so much money on it that we cannot afford to move it."

I consider that the present parklands development and the Festival of Arts that will take place next year are both extremely important things to the City of Adelaide and its citizens and, indeed, to the whole of South Australia. They might seem to be things slightly apart, but I think one can bring them together if one thinks back to the time when we were awarded the Empire Games which would have been a very costly thing to Adelaide and its citizens, and the Government and everyone else. I leave it to members to judge whether our losing the games was a good or a bad thing, but if we had had the Empire Games the City Council would not have had the finance available to do this permanent parklands improvement that will be of use to a far greater volume of people than the Empire Games would have interested, nor, I believe, would the Festival of Arts have been possible because the people concerned would have been so wrapped up in the Empire Games, and all available finance would have been called up. Therefore, I think we can regard the parklands development and the Festival of Arts as a substitute for the Empire Games and I think it is a grand

thing—without commenting on the rights or wrongs of the Games—that we are getting all these developments.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Government on its outstanding record of progress, to which I have referred before, in relation to its new-found freedom from the Grants Commission. I believe that its money has been exceptionally well spent; the Government has put essential things first. We cannot have everything, but I hope that one day the Government will have money to spare for all these other odd things I have mentioned, bearing in mind, as an inspiration, our magnificent row of buildings along North Terrace. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion once again on their speeches and all those others who have contributed to this debate. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—Mr. President, the further down the list of speakers one is in this debate the more difficult it becomes to avoid repeating statements that have already been made. I support what the previous speakers have said as to personalities in this Chamber, and though I am not going to the lengths to which Sir Arthur Rymill went in this respect I do say how pleased I am to join with other speakers in welcoming the new members to this Chamber. We have been impressed by those who have spoken—the Honourable Mrs. Cooper, the Honourable Mr. Hookings, and the Honourable Mr. Potter. They will prove great assets to this Chamber and they are all about the right age to enter politics, in addition to which they have had considerable experience. Their speeches in debates on future occasions will be well worth hearing.

I refer now to retired members—the Honourable Sir Collier Cudmore, the Honourable Mr. Bice, the Honourable Mr. Cowan, and the Honourable Mr. Anthoney. We miss them very much in this Chamber because they were here for many years and formed great friendships with members. I believe, too, they are missing Parliamentary life.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—They went out of their own free-will.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I know perfectly well how they went out. I refer to the election of my colleague, the Honourable Mr. Robinson, as a member of the Public Works Committee. I feel sure that he will give just as good service to that committee as he has given to his district in the 12 years or more

he has been representing it. He is conscientious, loyal and faithful to any undertaking in which he is interested and the Public Works Committee will find him of great assistance.

On the last sitting of Parliament in 1958 two retiring members were farewelled. Other members doubted whether they would be returned at the elections. During this debate much has been said about a minority Government and a gerrymander, but I say that the Northern District results have proved that when the people are left alone to make their choice they show that they are satisfied with the Government in power today, and I believe people generally in South Australia are satisfied with that Government. The whole weight of the Australian Labor Party was thrown into the election in the Northern District, and two dummies were sent to contest the elections in Stuart and Whyalla, but the people showed their true feelings in no uncertain manner.

The Governor's Speech contained 31 items and I desire to speak on several associated with my district. Last season was one of the best known as far as cereal production and revenue were concerned. That season has helped considerably during the present worrying, dry weather. I travel the Northern District extensively, and last weekend went as far as Minnipa and other places, and it is distressing to see the country as it is at the moment. There is hardly a blade of grass anywhere, very little seeding has been done, reserves of fodder are just about exhausted, and unless we get good follow-on spring rains I am sure we shall not enjoy a good season this year.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—You are not going to blame the new members for that.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No, but nature has a habit of teaching us a lesson. The season has had a bad effect on the harvest prospects and on business as well, which proves that primary production is the real backbone of this country.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Nobody denies that.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—The honourable member has a habit of interjecting frequently when other members are speaking. He had a pretty good hearing when he spoke and I ask that he be requested not to interject when I am on my feet. Baled hay could previously be bought anywhere for 3s. a bale, but one is lucky to get it for 10s. a bale today, which is an indication of the low state of fodder reserves.

Reference has been made to the sale of boned beef to America. That is one of the

most pleasing things that have occurred in primary production from a revenue angle. A week ago yesterday 3,000 head of cattle were offered for sale at the abattoirs and those who know inform us that they brought £20 a head more because of our trade with America in boned beef. That would represent over £60,000, which is colossal. However, stock people are concerned that cattle and pigs should not be fed on fodder grown at the sewage farm because it has been found that it produces what is known as a cyst in the carcass. If people do not stop feeding their cattle and pigs on this fodder we may lose our now established boned beef trade with America, and that would also apply to mutton. The boned mutton trade with America is a great asset to producers. The hospital farm at Northfield comprising 400 acres was not producing much revenue, but it has now been turned into a research station which will be a great asset to primary production in this State. His Excellency the Governor referred to artificial breeding, and a laboratory will be established there for that purpose. That is one of the greatest advances made towards producing better blood stock: in this way breeding may be regulated. Wheat research is being commenced, and farmers are paying for this themselves. Farming in this State is in such a position that they can afford to carry out this research work.

The War Service Land Settlement Scheme ended on June 30 last. I have been associated with war service land settlement since it was introduced and it is a bitter disappointment to me to see that there are still about 200 applicants who have not been settled on the land. A request was recently made to the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry that the scheme be carried on a little longer, but the reply was in the negative, as follows:—

Despite many active endeavours over a number of years it has not been possible to acquire sufficient suitable land. There will therefore be some applicants who will not get farms but that is not due in any way to the inadequacy of finance available.

That is not a fair statement of the position in South Australia. Our own Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement has recommended scores of thousands of acres to the Commonwealth which it thought was suitable for war service land settlement. That land was refused by the Commonwealth in both irrigation and dry lands, and I refer particularly to the Lyrup area which our committee thought was most suitable for irrigation purposes. That was not approved of. It is very pleasing, however, to hear from the Premier

himself that the South Australian Government is not going to discontinue the settlement of those men who are now hoping to get land. The Premier said that the State will have to trim its sails—meaning it will have to carry out another new scheme according to circumstances—and the idea is to get the assistance of councils. They will inspect the land that is available and report on it, and the Department of Lands will carry on from there.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Will the councils make the investigation?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes, because it is obvious that the closer one is to the country the more knowledge one has of it. I feel sure it will be a good scheme because I know of hundreds of thousands of acres in good rainfall areas that could still be brought into production.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—You only have to look at the South-East.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Yes, and certain places on Eyre Peninsula are suitable for settlement, even for closer settlement. The Hon. Mr. Condon always make an excellent speech, but in his speech on Appropriation Bill No. 1 on June 11 he made a statement I was forced to investigate regarding the Port Lincoln Freezing Works. He made some sweeping statements which, I think, were made without due regard to facts. The prosperity of Eyre Peninsula depends upon the freezing works, and a number of times previously the honourable member has referred to the great losses that have been incurred continually at those works. Markets must be found, and surely that important part of the State is entitled to a market, such as the Port Lincoln Freezing Works. I think the honourable member understands that. If losses are made the freezing works are criticized. If profits are made the freezing works are criticized by producers because they believe they, and not the freezing works, should have the profits. The losses that have been made indicate that revenue has been indirectly made for the producers.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—I have always supported the Port Lincoln Freezing Works.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—The honourable member said in answer to a question, "What was the remedy? Ship them to Port Pirie or Wallaroo." That is why I did not understand what the honourable member really meant. About 10 or 12 years ago the works were in production only for about three months a year, whereas today they work almost continuously. There are about 60 permanent and 70 casual employees.

For the purpose of seniority, long service leave, superannuation and homes, the men want to know where they stand. When they are not on the slaughtering chain, they are engaged on maintenance work. The tuna industry, now associated with the freezing works, is a great asset to South Australia. The storage required for tuna between February and August brings in much revenue to the freezing works. The potential is very great for this section of the fishing industry, which the Government has assisted financially.

The functions of the freezing works are as follows:— (1) The treatment of lambs, sheep and cattle for export (as carcasses or boned meat); (2) the slaughtering of all stock from the Port Lincoln abattoirs area; (3) the slaughtering of all stock for processing by Port Lincoln Bacon Specialists Limited; (4) the slaughtering of all sheep, lambs and beef for shipment to Adelaide; (5) the storage of various produce, such as meat, poultry, eggs, ice cream and fish, on behalf of hotels and storekeepers, etc; (6) the storage of egg pulp for shipment overseas; (7) the storage of 400 tons of tuna annually as a working stockpile for the local cannery; (8) the chilling and storing of rabbits on behalf of W. Angliss & Co. Ltd.; (9) the manufacturing of ice for the fishing industry and town consumption; (10) the supply of steam to the canning works and to the bacon factory; (11) the manufacture of tallow and meat meal and bone meal; and the drying or salting of all hides and skins, etc. The latest innovation is the freezing of goats' meat, and this is becoming an important industry. One of the difficulties is that sufficient refrigerated ships are not available. Five of this class call at Port Lincoln annually. It is difficult to get these vessels to call for cargoes of under 300 tons. Shipments under 300 tons are brought to Adelaide by road transport or on the *Minnipa*, which has refrigerated space for eight to 10 tons and makes two trips a week. The Port Lincoln freezing works are here to stay, and are vital to the welfare of Eyre Peninsula. Valuable plant has been established, but requires much money spent on it because it has now been in production for about 40 years. These works are giving great service to primary producers and the public generally. Even the present turnover is a valuable asset and not a liability. A roll-on roll-off type of vessel to serve Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island is now being built in Brisbane, and will revolutionize production in these two areas. That is the answer to the problem that has always existed because of the sea between these places and the mainland.

In the 1958-59 financial year Port Lincoln freezing works killed for export 178,740 lambs and sheep. Pigs slaughtered for the local bacon factory numbered 4,116, and cattle and calves for export totalled 2,112. A total of 553 tons of meat meal and bone meal and 375 tons of tallow was produced. Approximately 90 per cent of all sheep treated for export and a small percentage of cattle are sent to America as boned meat. There has been much controversy in the press recently regarding the dairying industry and the subsidy granted to this industry, which is so important to South Australia. The main reason for this is the margin between the amount received by the producer and that paid by the consumer. I have a property only 10 miles from Port Lincoln. The whole milk is collected and delivered to Port Lincoln daily for sale to local consumers. I receive 3s. a gallon on the farm and the man who collects it receives 6s. 2d. from consumers. Therefore, he collects 9½d. a pint as against 4½d. paid to me. The difference in overhead costs of the producer and the vendor is tremendous. For a producer to carry 10 head of cattle his overhead expenses would amount to no less than £5,000 to £6,000, whereas the overhead of the person who collects the milk is the cost of a utility and milk cans, which are estimated to cost about £1,000.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Is that £5,000 to £6,000 a yearly amount?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No, that is the cost of establishment. The labour of the producer is three times as great as that of the collector of the milk. The consumer is the one we should consider. In about one hour's work the distributor can collect more than the producer, who has to work seven or eight hours a day.

The Hon. Sir Frank Perry—Does the vendor deliver in pints?

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—In various quantities, I should say. I was greatly interested in Mrs. Cooper's remarks concerning education. I have been a member of the Urrbrae Agricultural High School council for many years and am of opinion that this school is one of the most valuable in South Australia. Ten years ago the scholars numbered 80, but today 620. Agricultural science is one of the most important and valuable factors in education. At present the leaving standard is the highest available to scholars at Urrbrae. An important feature of the school work is the opportunity afforded scholars to engage in practical

work under the guidance of technical teachers. Most of the boys at Urrbrae return to farms, but some join stock firms and a sprinkling attend Roseworthy Agricultural College; others undertake teaching agriculture. Practically all our high schools and area schools are crying out for teachers of agricultural science, but sufficient are not available. Urrbrae does provide the opportunity for young men to take up this very valuable work. Much of the plant at Urrbrae has been donated by machinery firms. Mr. Brooks has donated a splendid flock of sheep. The school's greatest problem is the provision of boarding accommodation for scholars. For many years requests have been made for this facility to be made available, and I understand that plans have now been prepared. Scholars who board in private homes do not seem to achieve the same scholastic results as those who are able to board at a school or college. Because board is not available at Urrbrae, I am sure many prospective students are disappointed.

Last week I asked the Minister of Local Government a question regarding the Port Lincoln highway. I compliment him and his department on the marvellous progress that has been made on this highway in a short time. He says that the road will be finished by the end of next financial year. It will be a boon to Eyre Peninsula, both from the point of view of production and the attraction of tourists. Materials that are required for its construction have to be carted long distances. I asked the Minister about the stabilization method of construction and he said that certain soils were not suitable, and that in future more frequent inspections will be made and the soils will be tested every hundred yards so that it will be known what soils are suitable for the stabilization method. The Minister also promised that as soon as this road was completed work on the Eyre Highway would be commenced. I call it the "Bockelberg" highway because he has fought very hard for it ever since he has been in the House of Assembly. The industries in the Northern District are tremendous. I refer to the potential of the steel industry at Whyalla. The Premier has announced recently in a speech that it will probably cost nearer £40,000,000 than the £30,000,000 that was specified in the Bill before us not long ago. Also, 40,000 people will probably be in the district by the time the industry is in production. The whole of the Northern District is going ahead as well as the steel industry, with the provision of

water, transport and other things associated with such a huge industry as that at Whyalla.

I pay a tribute to the shipbuilding industry at Whyalla. A ship is to be launched on August 4. I have had the pleasure of accepting invitations to launchings ever since I have been a member for the Northern District. The launching of a vessel is a great sight, causes much pleasure, and is a tribute to the industry, which is building ships to be used in practically all parts of the world. I think it will flourish and make as great strides in the future as it has done in the past.

I turn to the increased production of Leigh Creek coal, which, together with water, is the life-blood of South Australia. The output from Leigh Creek will expand tremendously, the increase being absorbed by the second power station at Port Augusta. I want to say a few words, in conclusion, about decentralization, about which we hear so much. If ever a Government has attempted to decentralize the people of this State it is the present Government and perhaps I should say "the Government with the assistance of Parliament." I throw that in because it is true. In spite of conveniences and amenities in my district, we still find that people want to come to the city lights. It is not the fault of the Government or anybody else, for people like to congregate in city areas. Provision has been made to decentralize this State and I feel sure that the people, and the people who are coming to this country in the

thousands that we need, will be well satisfied with the life that they will be able to enjoy in the northern part of this State.

I do not usually indulge in any criticism of what happens in the city, but I want to support the Honourable Sir Arthur Rymill in what he said about the car barn at Angas Street. It is a great pity that an important part of the city should be used as a car barn. The Adelaide Co-operative Society's store has been vacated and taken over by the Housing Trust. It will be modernized and re-modelled. The Returned Soldiers' League will re-model and reconstruct its building. I think those two projects will be an important improvement to that part of the city. The city will expand in that direction. It will not be quite so economical to the Tramways Trust, but the difference will be more than offset. I hope the authorities will win the day and that the car barn will be removed. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion. I should like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on occupying the Chair again for another session. We look on you as a part of this Chamber. Your rulings are always accepted with respect, and we hope that your health will enable you to occupy the Chair for many years to come.

The Hon. G. O'H. GILES secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.45 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, July 29, at 2.15 p.m.