

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

Wednesday, April 13, 1960.

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

**QUESTION.****RAILWAY COACHES.**

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—I ask leave to read a brief statement prior to asking a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD—The press statement I wish to read appeared on October 24. It dealt with the annual meeting of Wiles Manufacturing Company Ltd., and was as follows:—

Wiles Manufacturing Company Ltd. has obtained an agreement with Wegmann & Co. of West Germany to make high quality railway coaches under licence. Announcing this at the annual meeting yesterday the chairman (Mr. C. L. Bonython) said that with the rail standardization programme mooted in Australia it could be expected that many sleeping coaches would be required.

Is the Minister of Railways aware of any agreement between Wiles Manufacturing Company Ltd. and Wegmann & Co. of West Germany to make railway coaches under licence in South Australia? If so, is the South Australian Railways Department committed in any way by such an agreement?

The Hon. N. L. JUDE—The answer to the first part of the question is definitely no. As to the second part, I will obtain information for the honourable member.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY.**

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from April 12. Page 124.)

The Hon. R. R. WILSON (Northern)—Each year when Parliament opens I look forward to the speech to be delivered by the Governor or the Lieutenant-Governor, and I would like to congratulate Sir Mellis Napier on the excellent way in which he delivered his speech on this occasion. It provides very many subjects for discussion by members. I join with other speakers in congratulating Her Majesty the Queen on the birth of her son Prince Andrew; also Princess Margaret on her forthcoming marriage. I also pay a special tribute to Sir Robert and Lady George, who were with us for so long—I think seven years—and travelled throughout the country on many

occasions. They became very well known and much appreciated by the people of South Australia. Also they were here during the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and also of the Queen Mother, and the manner in which they carried out their duties leaves, I am sure, a memory of which we are all very proud.

I would like to pay a special tribute to a distinguished Knight in another place. We are proud of the fact that in this Chamber we have four members who are Knights. They were not given their Knighthoods without rendering distinguished service, and I should like to quote particularly, and have it recorded in *Hansard*, the record of Sir Cecil Hincks because I am of the opinion that he thoroughly earned the distinction given him by Her Majesty. I first knew Sir Cecil before World War I and he was then recognized as an outstanding athlete. War was declared on August 4, 1914, and he enlisted on the first day that volunteers were called for, his regimental number being 634. He left Australia in the first troop ship, the *Ascanius* in October of the same year as a member of the Tenth Battalion. He was at the landing on Gallipoli with the Third Brigade on April 25, 1915, and gained his commission in France in 1916. He lost a leg in April, 1917, and since that time has had 86 operations as a consequence. He was not satisfied merely to receive a pension, to which he was entitled by the loss of a limb, but as soon as he was physically well enough he entered into business as a grain and shipping agent at Port Victoria and also into farming. He was a State councillor of the R.S.S.I.L.A. for many years and was first elected to Parliament in 1941, when he defeated the sitting member for the district of Yorke Peninsula and also a Labor candidate. He has been Minister of Lands, Irrigation and Repatriation for over 14 years and I think the War Service Land Settlement scheme is a great credit to him when we realize that over 1,000 settlers have been put on the land, and that he is acquainted with every one of them. I know he is very proud of that achievement and so, I think, is the public. Records show that he held the record of longest service in the famous Tenth Battalion and I have much pleasure in quoting that record of our distinguished member, for if ever a man earned a Knighthood he did.

I join with others, too, in making special reference to the late George Hambour, who had endeared himself to all members in both Houses. He was very original in his outlook and he certainly will be hard to replace. I wish also to congratulate the Hon. C. R. Story on

being selected to represent the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at its conference in Uganda next September. I think the service he gave as marshal when we had the honour of the visit of overseas members stood him in good stead to be selected as a representative of this Parliament at the forthcoming conference. The season has been a bad one and is causing much anxiety at the moment. The Hon. Mr. Story referred to the 1914 season and said that old-timers would remember that year. I am one of the old-timers and I do particularly remember that year. I think the rainfall of last year was less than that of 1914, yet the season was a far better one. A period of 45 years has elapsed since the 1914 drought and most of those years have been good ones. Although less rain was received last year methods have improved and in addition the time at which the rain falls has an important bearing on cereal crops. This year the State received about one-third of its normal wheat yield and about one-fifth of the 1958 barley yield. It must be obvious that such a low yield would have some effect on the State's economy. It is no wonder that the State's deficit is estimated at about £2,000,000.

The State's reserve fodder supply is almost exhausted. I have never seen the country as bad as it is today. The dry feed has almost been consumed by stock and I do not know what they are living on now except for seeds because nothing is visible. I fear the worst if we do not soon get rain. Stock is stirring up the ground in an effort to find food and that must cause erosion. The Lieutenant-Governor said that the State had 15,000,000 sheep but I think, with the season's losses, we could now estimate that total to be not above 14,000,000. Here again nature has taught us a lesson; we can get bad seasons and I feel sure that the lesson will be observed and used to our advantage in future. The wheat research fund is getting very valuable results at present and the segregation of our wheats will improve the quality, and after all quality sells any produce.

I pay a special tribute to the Co-operative Bulk Handling Company which, in my opinion, has so far done an excellent job with the amount of finance available to it. It is certain that there will not be much revenue from tolls from last year's harvest, but the wheat-growers paid tolls for some time before that and therefore the company will get some benefit financially. The War Service Land Settlement scheme referred to in His Excellency's speech has proved to be very sound.

Cereal growing was not encouraged by the War Service Land Settlement scheme and that policy has proved sound too. The Commonwealth was not interested in land receiving less than 16in. of rain and it was not interested in soil subject to erosion. Therefore, the settlers are not feeling the effects of the present bad season as much as cereal growers are feeling it, and certainly they are not feeling it in a way that we might expect new settlers to feel it.

I congratulate the mover of the motion, the Hon. Mr. Giles, for the very splendid contribution he made to this debate. He referred to the Crown Lands Act and dealt almost entirely with agriculture. The honourable member has made a success of his own venture and he has authority to talk in the way he did. His speech was an education to members in this House. The speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. Potter was a very valuable one, so valuable that almost all the comments of members opposite have centred around his speech. The honourable member must have had something really worth while to say.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—We gave him all credit for it and did not attempt to decry him.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—It took a long time.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—That is the idea.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—The speech of Mr. Giles was given considerable publicity in the *Advertiser*, which does suggest that it was important. This State must encourage further land settlement, but I do not entirely agree with Mr. Giles that we must have larger holdings, though I do not want the House to misunderstand me. The Marginal Lands Act that was introduced into this Parliament in 1939 was a valuable piece of legislation, and it dealt mainly with pastoral country in the low rainfall areas. We can put a lot more people in wetter areas. Recently 39,000 acres of land was offered for settlement and there were many applications for the land. As a result there are many disappointed people who are not getting land under the Crown Lands Act.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Now you are advocating Labor's policy.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—No, I am not. I have had experience on our good lands where one producer with 1,000 acres could produce as much as another man with 3,000 acres. I am speaking only about the good rainfall areas, and the State could increase production there.

There is much virgin country in this State that could be developed to a greater extent.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—Your Government is in power, you know.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—Previous speakers have referred to water, and that is a very vital subject at the present time. Water is the first essential for both primary and secondary industries and there is no doubt that the River Murray is the State's lifeline. Every gallon of water from that river must be pumped, for there can be no gravitation at all. When members realize that there has been no rationing of water in this State during the present dry period I think that in itself is a great tribute to this Government. An amount of 52,000,000 gallons a day has been pumped from the Murray and 9,000,000 gallons a day from bores, and this water has been used for country and suburban areas. Therefore, the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline has more than proved its worth because if this State had not had the pipeline there would not have been sufficient water even for sewerage purposes.

The Hon. K. E. J. Bardolph—It was first advocated by the late Mr. Fitzgerald, the then member for Port Pirie, many years ago.

The Hon. R. R. WILSON—I am also interested in the desalting of sea water. That may come about sooner than we suppose. I recently spoke to a doctor of the C.S.I.R.O. and he believes it will not be long before we are able to use vast quantities of sea water that have been desalted. That would apply not only to sea water but to the many salt lakes we have in this State. The underground scheme at Sleaford Bay is very promising and recent reports indicate that there will be no difficulty there about the future supply of water.

Reference has been made to the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline and to Booleroo Centre. Reports on Booleroo Centre have drawn headlines in both the *Advertiser* and the *News*, and they have been big headlines. I believe that the Government has done everything in its power to supply that district with water. Further provision was made by adding a 1,000,000 gallon storage tank to the 250,000 gallon tank installed some time ago. No water ran into the northern reservoirs last year, the bore is being lowered, and the salt content of the water is increasing. I can appreciate the difficulties being experienced at Booleroo Centre. In addition, a huge silo was built there recently and that consumed a

large quantity of water. It is interesting that those who have the most say about the water position have not set a good example. For instance, one person who I suppose has one of the largest premises in Booleroo Centre wrote a letter to the press about the water position, yet he takes no steps to catch water. War service homes have not set a good example either in this respect. Every house built should have a rainwater tank. This would be a tremendous aid. The person who wrote the letter to which I referred said he could not expect a politician to do anything for him, as he said that members enter Parliament to sit and snore. That shows ignorance on the part of anyone who signs his name as President of the Progress Association in that district. I am not pulling any punches in this case, because I thought it was an insult to those who try to do so much for their district. A member would not hold his seat very long if he only sat and snored. I feel sure that this man's statement has not the support of many people.

The duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main will cost £12,500,000 and I understand the work will be spread over 10 to 12 years. The duplication will extend for 169 miles, whereas the existing main is 236 miles long. Apparently, it is not intended to duplicate the main for the whole distance. Booleroo Centre can rest assured that as soon as possible Murray water will be taken to the district. In the meantime, like many other districts not served with water, that district should make the best of prevailing conditions.

It is amazing when it is realized that 2,000,000 tons of coal will be taken from Leigh Creek annually to the Port Augusta B station for the production of electricity. In the short time it has operated, Leigh Creek has made much progress and returned a large amount of revenue to the Government, and it is a great credit to all concerned. It does not matter whether a Labor or a Liberal Government started it, we must give credit to the Premier who worked so hard to get the field under way. Uranium is also a very important mineral and is bringing in a large amount from exports. I read an article saying that there was sufficient iron ore at Iron Knob to last 1,200 years. The ship building industry at Whyalla and the steel industry soon to be established there would not have been possible but for the mineral resources in the vicinity. I pay a tribute to the Government, particularly to the Minister of Mines, for the foresight and energy displayed in exploring the State for mineral deposits. The pyrites deposits at

Nairne are proving of great value and so are barytes at Quorn and gypsum at Penong. This also applies to lime sand deposits at Coffin Bay, 30 miles from Port Lincoln, which will be required for the Broken Hill Proprietary Company at Whyalla. Secondary industries depend largely on the minerals to which I have referred, and because such industries are flourishing we have not felt the full impact of the poor season through which we are passing.

An amount of £9,500,000 may be expended on roads in 1960. I understand that the Lincoln Highway will be completed by June 30. No-one can fully assess the value it will be to Eyre Peninsula, particularly to the lower end. I pay a tribute to the Highways Department for the speedy progress made and the quality of the roads. This applies in both the country and the metropolitan area. This is the result of improved methods of construction in recent years. The Lincoln Highway will provide an excellent opportunity for improvement in the tourist trade at coastal towns such as Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay. People on holiday sometimes like to travel long distances, and no doubt the steel industry at Whyalla, among other things, will be an attraction to holiday-makers at that centre. I noticed the other day that the surveying of the Eyre Highway had proceeded for a long distance and the people mostly concerned are looking forward to this project being completed. I feel sure that the Minister of Roads will see that no time is lost in sealing the worst patches of this road. The Premier of Western Australia visited South Australia recently, and some of the public were looking forward to something wonderful happening because he was going to travel from Perth to Adelaide by road. The proposed sealing of this highway will be a colossal undertaking financially and I cannot see how Western Australia and South Australia can undertake it without financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Work on the Warnertown to Peterborough road is proceeding very rapidly. No doubt when the Minister of Roads travels overseas in the near future he will gain much valuable information that he will be able to apply to the further improvement of our roads.

Education is another important subject. Today we have 6,000 full-time and 1,000 part-time teachers in the Education Department and more than 200,000 scholars. This year an amount of £17,500,000 has been allocated to education. This is a colossal sum, but its expenditure is very necessary for the future

welfare of the State. Hospitals in South Australia are making great headway. A second X-ray survey was commenced during the year. I notice that the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech stated that 450 additional sufferers from tuberculosis were discovered during the first survey, most of whom were restored to health. I take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the late Miss Ella Cleggett, M.B.E., who commenced her career in 1916 at the Bedford Park Sanatorium in voluntary work for tuberculous ex-servicemen. She then joined the Education Department and later resigned to take up a position with the T.B. Aid Society in 1918. It was considered in those days that T.B. people required a dry climate. Therefore, Angorichina was founded. The late Mr. John Lee gave the land on which the hostel was erected. The sum of £1,000 was raised for the project and it was subsidized by £1,000 from the Government. There was an anonymous donation of another £1,000, which made Angorichina possible.

Miss Cleggett, during her service for T.B. ex-servicemen, raised £250,000 through appeals and collections. Not only did she raise that huge sum of money, but many of the gum trees in the creek adjoining Angorichina were turned into furniture made by the T.B. sufferers themselves. She paid many a visit to Angorichina and often drove an old Packard 7-seater car on her own. A certificate of merit was given to Miss Cleggett by the R.S.L. for her wonderful work. She was an amazing woman, and her energy and vitality will be remembered by the present generation.

Road traffic accidents are increasing alarmingly. I understand there will be a Bill to amend and consolidate the Act; it will be known as the Motor Vehicles Bill. I feel sure that the amending legislation will do something to reduce the tragic accidents that are happening continually on our highways and roads. I make particular mention of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman, a young married couple, who lost their lives. We also have in mind the late Mr. Larry Heath, who lost his life near Port Wakefield in similar circumstances—that is, through semi-trailers being stationary on the roads. It would be an excellent idea if the bumper bars on those vehicles were brought down to the same height as those on motor cars. In both the accidents I have mentioned the cars went completely underneath the semi-trailers. If the Act were amended and the bumper bars on semi-trailers were brought down to the same level as the bumper bars on cars, there would be no chance of a similar accident occurring.

There was also mention in His Excellency's Speech of the Bush Fires Act and a consolidation Bill. I want particularly to refer to scrub land. I am just as concerned as anyone else is about the total fire ban. It was necessary and a wonderful introduction to effective control, but I find it is causing great loss of revenue and hardship where scrub land is concerned. I refer mainly to the upper part of Eyre Peninsula. The weather is often entirely different in different parts of the State. The Hon. Mr. Brookman, Minister of Agriculture, is visiting that part of the State in the near future, and I know that deputations will wait on him to endeavour to have authority given to district councils to either permit or not permit burning. Often, it is not the hottest days that are not suitable for scrub burning; prevailing winds are an important factor. We who have experienced the burning of scrub land realize the importance of it for, if we do not get a good burn from scrub lands, it causes great expense afterwards. If the total ban is imposed we cannot burn any aftermath of the scrub, so I do think the idea of control being put in the hands of the district

councils has some merit. I know it would assist the people living in those districts, which are valuable. If we do not get a good burn after clearing scrub, we do not have success afterwards.

I want to echo what Mr. Story said about the extension of electricity supplies in this State. When the B power station is working at Port Augusta and the four alternators are operating, the Electricity Trust will be able to extend supplies more rapidly than it can now. The single wire earth return lines provide an excellent service. This system is not new; we used earth return lines in World War I. I want to conclude by saying once again that the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply this time certainly did themselves credit, and what they said was of great value to this Chamber.

The Hon. Sir ARTHUR RYMILL secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.54 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, April 19, at 2.15 p.m.