

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, June 29, 1967.

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

QUESTIONS

NURSES AWARD.

The Hon. F. J. POTTER: Can the Chief Secretary tell the Council what will be the cost to the Government in a full financial year of the recently announced new award for nurses?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: No; I am unable to say that at present but I will get an estimate of the increased costs and hope to be able to give it to the honourable member next week.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: I ask leave to make a short statement before directing a question to the Minister of Labour and Industry, representing the Minister of Works.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. J. GILFILLAN: My question relates to a question asked on June 22 about emergency water supplies for the town and district of Kimba. Subsequent unofficial reports indicate that the supply of water for stock at Kimba is nearing a critical point. It is estimated that only 10 to 12 days' water supply is left. In view of the extreme urgency of the position, will the Minister press for an early reply to the question asked last week?

The Hon. A. F. KNEEBONE: Yes. I will bring this matter to the notice of my colleague and produce a reply as soon as possible.

WHYALLA HOSPITAL.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to directing a question to the Chief Secretary.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Following recent statements made by members of the medical profession at Whyalla concerning members of the nursing staff in that city, can the Chief Secretary advise the Council whether any solution to the situation has been found?

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I am pleased to be able to announce that certain steps have been taken. I do not know whether they will be a complete solution, but I hope they will lead to a complete solution of the trouble at the Whyalla Hospital. Nobody regrets more than I this dispute at the Whyalla Hospital.

Following statements by the doctors, I consulted them and also the president of their association last week. I put it to them that I knew not the wrongs or the rights of the position and that the only way to find out was to have an inquiry into it.

I asked the doctors whether they would return to the *status quo* whilst we appointed some person of high repute to act as an arbitrator and sift the matter to ascertain the true facts of the case in the hope of finding a complete solution so that everybody would be happy. On Monday morning I had discussions with the Chairman of the Hospital Board, Mr. Ryan, and the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Martin, and I put the same proposition to them, which they readily agreed to. However, they naturally had to refer it to their board, which met last evening. I am glad to say that we were advised this morning that they were prepared to agree to our request.

The doctors undertook to return to the *status quo*; naturally, they made one or two suggestions, to which I readily agreed. They suggested, first, that the arbitrator should be an independent person who had had no connection with the City Commission or the Hospital Board, and, secondly, that there should be no victimization of anybody who gave evidence. Agreement has been reached on the suggestions that I made myself: I suggested these precise terms to the doctors last Friday but somebody always wants to beat the gun, and that is what happened. I put the same proposition to the doctors and to the board, and I hope within a very short time—a matter of hours, not weeks—to be able to announce the person whom I propose to appoint as the independent arbitrator. I know that members will agree with this appointment; he is a very high Government official, and I hope and trust that everything will go on happily and peacefully at Whyalla. It is the hope of myself and my department that hospitals all over the State will work efficiently and happily, and we hope that the main consideration is given to the community.

CAVAN CROSSING.

The Hon. L. R. HART: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. R. HART: A number of questions have been asked in this Council regarding the Cavan railway crossing and the duplication of the Port Wakefield Road. Members have been told that the duplication work has

been delayed not only because of financial difficulties but also because of the difficulty of planning the Cavan overpass. This project has been further delayed by the Government's policy requiring that the cost of such capital works shall be met out of the revenue of the Highways Department. Can the Minister indicate what progress has been made in the planning of an overpass at Cavan and in the work of duplicating the Port Wakefield Road as far as the Salisbury turn-off?

The Hon. S. C. BEVAN: Yes, and I appreciate the interest of the honourable member in this matter. I do not agree with his statement that the cost of all capital works has to be met out of funds of the Highways Department. The honourable member should know as well as I that the Port Wakefield Road is a main road and so the cost of the work he has described must be met out of those funds, whether we like it or not. Frankly, I have not recently inquired about this matter. Land acquisition has to be proceeded with; this and the duplication itself are not easy matters. Many landowners are not prepared to negotiate with the department—they dig their toes in for their own valuation—until the department is forced to issue a writ, and they are then prepared to talk. Much delay is caused in this way, and this is reflected in the construction work. However, I shall obtain a report on the progress of this project and make it available in the near future.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from June 28. Page 197.)

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT (Southern): I realize that every honourable member of this Council has experienced the situation in which I find myself this afternoon and, realizing that, it makes it much easier for me. Innocence, coupled with enthusiasm, has led to many an excellent and ill-founded voyage throughout history. I hope this afternoon that my innocence and enthusiasm will not lead to any such disaster. So far I have found (and I know it will continue) tolerance and kindness to an extreme degree from every honourable member of this Chamber, and I appreciate it very much.

May I, Sir, as previous speakers have done, associate myself with the expressions of regret for His Excellency the Governor's illness. I noticed in this morning's *Advertiser* that His Excellency is due to leave hospital

and will continue his convalescence at home at Government House. This is a good sign, and we can appreciate it all the more when we realize how much service His Excellency and Lady Bastyan have rendered to this State during the years they have been in South Australia. May I also express my respects to Sir Mellis Napier on the way in which he opened this session of Parliament—his ninth occasion, I understand—and also for the long years of service he has given to the State. I have heard references made to past members of this Parliament, the Hon. Robert Stanley Richards, the Hon. Dudley Octoman, and Mr. Rufus Goldney. These are but names to me, but I realize that they are just in a succession of the many who have gone before and who have left between them a tradition and a standard which those of us who come later have to follow, live up to, and even improve upon if possible.

It would ill become me not to mention this afternoon the Hon. Mr. Densley, whose retirement caused a vacancy in the Southern District—a vacancy which my election filled. Mr. Densley is well known to all honourable members. He is better known to other honourable members than to me, although for a number of years I have had the privilege of meeting him at meetings and various functions, and the outstanding impression I have gained of him is one of kindness, courtesy, and gentle helpfulness. Mr. President, I am sure that those qualities have endeared him to all members in this House who know him, and that those members would join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.

Last week the Chief Secretary and the Leader of the Opposition expressed very generous sentiments and feelings at my elevation to this House. I thank them and I thank all whom they represent. As I said earlier, kindness and tolerance I have found in abundance. In return, I shall do all in my power to be worthy of this Council and of the Parliament as a whole and to ensure its full working as much as lies within my power.

Mr. President, last week I sat in your gallery and listened to His Excellency's Speech read by His Excellency's Deputy, and the thing that struck me most of all was the sheer physical volume which it contained and which is to be dealt with in what is really a limited period of time. I felt very aware and conscious of the fact that much wisdom and much definition of purpose must be required if true justice is to be done to the measures contained therein. Naturally, I am not yet conversant

with much of the detail of the legislation that will come before us, but I shall do my best in the passing days to acquire that degree of wisdom and knowledge necessary for the work of this session. One of the things that appealed to me was that the Industrial Code and the Workmen's Compensation Act are to be completely revised. As one who has served for some years as an industrial medical officer, both these matters are of interest to me. Industrial accidents make heavy inroads into the working force of any industrialized and civilized community. Secondary industry on a large scale is relatively new in this State, yet I find on research that primary and secondary industries in South Australia in 1965-66 were subjected to 10,522 accidents. These between them meant a loss of 37,659 working weeks. These were all non-fatal accidents, and there were in addition 23 fatal accidents. This means that during that one year this State's working force was reduced by 785 for a whole year. In addition to that, we lost permanently the working capacity of the 23 people who were killed.

Financially, this cost the State \$2,378,000 in hard cash. It must have cost the State an awful lot more in productive capacity. Constant improvement, therefore, in working conditions are of value and can lead (I emphasize the word "can") to safer working surroundings. Naturally, one does not assume that all legislation along these lines must automatically be good. I must say that when I think of the sheer physical volume involved in the Industrial Code and the Workmen's Compensation Act I look at the clock as well as the calendar and wonder how much time there will be for consideration of these matters.

Apropos safety at work, I am aware that the liquor licensing laws will come under review. That subject is a "hot potato" in some ways, but no-one can think of accidents at work and on the road without realizing that not a few of those are associated with indiscretions and excesses of alcohol. Liquor licensing not only affects our social habits but also has some effect, if not controlled, on road safety, on industrial efficiency, and on productivity—especially after the weekends. A person with cancer of the lung is pitied but an alcoholic whose work is affected deleteriously by excesses of alcohol is often condemned; if he is not condemned then he is often laughed at.

I now turn to the item in the Speech that took my attention most of all. I refer to

new hospitals, with particular reference to the proposed new hospital at Modbury. I am aware that this hospital was mentioned by the present Government before it was elected and when it was appealing to the electorate and now, in this third session of the 38th Parliament, the hospital is to become operative. I fully recognize the need for efficient, modern and well-equipped hospitals in both the metropolitan area and in the country. I realize that tremendously, but even more than a need for new and better buildings is a crying need for manpower. I came to South Australia in 1959 and when I got off the boat at Port Adelaide I was met by a gentleman (now dead) who had spent all his life helping fill vacancies in medical practices. He knew probably more than anyone else in this State about medical practices. He told me that I could choose from one to 39 vacancies that he had on his list. Not all were suitable for my particular line of work. That list did not, of course, include hospital appointments, staffing of institutions, public health, or laboratory services. Today, seven-and-a-half years later, the need is the same: more manpower, more doctors. Where do they come from? Migration? Yes, a certain number; without migration and without the arrival of doctors from overseas the medical services in this State would be in a considerably more parsimonious state than they are now. However, last year a mere trickle of doctors came to this State from overseas; some (and I believe a larger number) went to the Eastern States. Therefore, migration helps but it does not solve the problem. The only way this problem can be solved is by training more doctors locally.

The proposed hospital at Modbury will bring new and better facilities to that area, but a new hospital in the south-west region near the Flinders University would surely do just as much good to the local population and would be ready to receive students in training for medicine, thus supplying a means of potential replacement in the pool of manpower which is so badly needed. I admit that Commonwealth money is required to establish the pre-clinical part of the school at the Flinders University. As honourable members are aware, the medical course consists of two parts—first, the pre-clinical part, which consists of the basic sciences followed by anatomy, physiology and similar subjects, and, secondly, the part in the hospital, dealing purely with patients and diseases. I realize that the first

part relies upon Commonwealth money but, if the State provides the hospital, surely this would be a stimulus, in that we have gone our part of the road and encouraged the prosecution by the Commonwealth Government of its part.

Therefore, it seems to me a pity if there is to be any pressure to have a hospital at Modbury before there is one at the Flinders University. To staff any hospital requires manpower. To staff a hospital at Modbury would require manpower and to staff one at the Flinders University would require exactly the same manpower, but the Flinders University would help to put more people back into the pool. In saying all this, I am not thinking merely of the metropolitan area and its needs. It has its needs, but the provision of more doctors by a second medical school will help the country areas, where the pressure is greatest and where the need is perhaps even more urgent than in the city. Incidentally, I was told the day before yesterday of three doctors who have left the south-eastern part of this State and have gone to the Eastern States. That is by the way and another cause altogether, probably, but we are three doctors short again.

One of the problems in modern medicine is the diversification of the specialties. There are so many specialties today—some of them more glamorous than others. Brain surgery and heart surgery hit the headlines, and they are wonderful, but some of the specialties are more prosaic and less glamorous. In this category comes public health, with its emphasis on drains, sewers, purity of food and a good water supply; but so often public health is the Cinderella of medicine and very seldom the fairy princess. Perhaps it is because so much of its work depends upon even more prosaic organizations—bodies like those dealing with public works. They have to go hand in hand.

What I am about to say may be considered heresy in some quarters but, if communities spent over the years as much money on things like public health to prevent people getting ill as we spent on curing them after they had contracted their illnesses, the community would be well served—perhaps better and more economically served. The value of a good water supply is well recognized in this arid State—and it certainly is arid at present. Large areas languish permanently for lack of water. Here, especially since I am a representative of the Southern District, I think

of the Tailem Bend to Keith main and the whole area waiting to be opened up to crops and animals and to be more closely settled; I think of the township that is waiting for a potable water supply. They wait while, if I may say so, perhaps other less productive items take priority. Two days ago the Hon. Mr. Banfield said that this Government had given the people what they wanted. He cited lotteries and one or two other things. When one lives without a good water supply, I wonder which one really wants first. There are plenty of people in the Keith area relying on inadequate supplies at the moment. We are told that boreholes are a temporary expedient, but as long ago as 1952 it was reported that a water supply from boreholes had a high saline content and there was a serious risk of contamination. Yet that area is having to rely for some time yet on bore water. People's hopes were raised, but they turned sour. Not only did they turn sour but in recent months we have heard of infectious illnesses that have been traced to and laid at the door of an inadequate bore water supply.

I notice that today's newspaper states that the project of providing bores, it is estimated, will cost about \$250,000, and it will give Keith a temporary water supply until the completion of the Tailem Bend to Keith main, probably in 1972. It seems to be a system of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Now we are told this will be completed in 1972 but I am left wondering where the money will come from. It will cost a lot. There is the cost of the present bores, the cost of the main itself, the cost of new hospitals, the cost of four weeks' holiday, the cost of increasing salaries—I am wondering whether there will be enough money left in 1972 to complete this picture in the interests of Keith and its surrounding areas.

May I now turn to another point that is of great interest to me—migration. When I first came to this country in 1950 the population was just over 8,000,000. Today, it is over 11,000,000, and I am told that the increase in population by migration would account for the total populations of Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia put together. During this time South Australia has taken in more than the Commonwealth average of migrants. Post-war, South Australia has received some 12 per cent of those coming to this country, the population of which equals 10 per cent of the Commonwealth. What brought us to South Australia? I think there are several headings—work, opportunity, prosperity, development and expansion. To the

thousands of people from Britain the new town of Elizabeth was a homing beacon. They have settled there over the years. Having settled, they wrote back to their friends and relatives and told them what it was like in South Australia. They sent their message back, "Work is here, prosperity is here; there is development and expansion for you." But the message going back today does not seem to be quite the same. I understand from more than one source that work is less plentiful, that prosperity is not so high, that development is less obvious. Expansion may be occurring in some directions but it is more than offset by retractions in others. When settled migrants are asked by incoming migrants where to settle in Australia, I have heard on many an occasion that they are told, "Think of the Eastern States first." I think that this trend is shown by this year's migration figures. Up to the present, the number of assisted passages from Great Britain is down on the figure as at the same time last year. This is the first time since 1960 that a drop has occurred in these figures. This indicates how oversea people see the situation in South Australia; they want to see this State pull itself up a bit before they risk their all in coming halfway across the world to South Australia.

I do not expect that what I have said this afternoon will meet with agreement from every member of this Council. I am equally aware that I shall not be let off so lightly in future, but may I say that I stand here foursquare as a South Australian looking for the day when success and prosperity, as it existed four or five years ago, returns to this State. As a first step towards this, a political decision is necessary, and I trust that this decision will be made next year. Meanwhile, I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply moved by the Hon. Mr. Bevan and seconded by the Hon. Mr. Banfield. I wholeheartedly agree with what previous speakers have said regarding paragraph 3 of His Excellency's Speech, and I also support the references made to His Excellency the Governor, Lady Bastyan, and the Lieutenant-Governor. I do not, however, share the unbridled joy of the mover and second concerning paragraph 2. I congratulate most sincerely the Hon. Mr. Springett on his maiden speech which, to say the least, was excellence personified. He has

given us a most delightful and interesting contribution, and I think that we all join in congratulating him. We look forward to hearing him on a number of subjects; I am quite sure that he is very versatile.

I should also like to congratulate the Leader of my Party in this Council on a very fine contribution to this debate yesterday, and also the Hon. Mr. Gilfillan. I was most disappointed to find in the *Advertiser* this morning that the Leader's speech, which I thought excellent, commanded only 22 lines on page 9.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: He was lucky to get that.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I am only saying a few words for my Leader. I think enough has been said by previous speakers on the general running down of this State's economy, so I shall not dwell on this aspect today. There are two other speeches that I shall give a little later and for which I am doing much research, but just now I have one or two fairly important things to say about His Excellency's Speech.

I want to say something today about rebuilding confidence in this State—something which is sadly lacking today. I am particularly interested in paragraph 4 of His Excellency's Speech, which is as follows:

The Premier's Department has actively pursued its policy of industrial promotion and has had successes in the establishment of industry as well as increased inquiries for the expansion of industry in the State. The accommodation in the Agent-General's office in London has been greatly improved and the staff has been re-organized so that a Trade Officer is solely engaged to assist in the promotion of trade and the attraction of industrial investment to the State.

Now, I do not know that I can share the optimism of paragraph 4, because I have not seen this industry. I represent the Elizabeth-Salisbury area where a good deal of industry is located, but I have not seen the great buoyancy that paragraph 4 would lead us to believe exists at present. I shall say something a little later regarding this matter. The whole development of this State is completely interlocked with the availability of water, and it is on this subject that I intend to spend most of my time today.

The Hon. D. H. L. Banfield: Do you know much about that?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: It is a subject that is almost as dry as dust!

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I thought that you might add some additive.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: No. I shall deal mainly with paragraphs 4, 5, and 18 of His Excellency's Speech. I shall deal with paragraph 18 first; it relates to the Chowilla dam which will be the largest storage in Australia and will hold about 5,000,000 acre-feet of water. Water will cover 550 square miles of river flats in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia; the water will be banked back for 120 river-miles. There are some very interesting statistics in a small booklet published by the Government called *The Work of the River Murray Commission* and I commend it to members who desire information about the work of the River Murray Commission and about the details of the Chowilla dam.

I should like to draw attention to one or two points in this report. The area of the reservoir at top water level is 530 square miles and the height of the top water level above sea level is 101 feet. The length of the spillway is 800 feet. There will be radial gates and a lock, which is very necessary.

There are some interesting statistics regarding the quantity of concrete that will be necessary to construct this dam. It is located 25 miles north of Renmark. To make the matter clear, I should explain the system of allocating water under the River Murray Waters Agreement. The States of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have entrusted the control of the Murray system to the River Murray Commission, which comprises the Minister of National Development or his Deputy as Chairman, and a commissioner from each of the participating States. The commission's functions are to arrange for the construction and maintenance of the works set out in the River Murray Waters Agreement, the operation of those works, to distribute the water of the Murray in accordance with the provisions of Part IV of the Agreement, and the initiation and investigation of proposals for the better conservation and regulation of Murray water.

The South Australian Engineering and Water Supply Department is the constructing authority for all River Murray Commission works below the town of Wentworth and including the barrages at Goolwa. We in South Australia are entitled under the terms of the agreement to certain waters by right, and I must here pay a compliment to Sir Thomas Playford, who fought, as many members will remember, extremely hard to see that we got our just allocation of water from the Snowy Mountains Authority project. This has made it much easier for South Australia to continue to develop. The allocation to South Aus-

tralia under the River Murray Waters Agreement is 1,254,000 acre-feet. The usable component out of this supply has been variously assessed. The original agreement stated that 603,000 acre-feet should be available for use, plus some unspecified amount for domestic and stock supply. This particularization was deleted in 1963. The agreement also can be taken to imply that 47,000 acre-feet a month is the base flow necessary to keep the river sweet, which would allow 690,000 acre feet for diversion. Subject to research programmes now being undertaken, the estimate of between 600,000 and 700,000 acre-feet available is the best one that can be made.

It is important and interesting to realize that the maximum diversion capacity of the several pipelines in existence today is as follows: the Morgan-Whyalla main (original) 12,000 acre-feet a year; the Morgan-Whyalla duplicated system (both mains) 50,000 acre-feet a year; the Swan Reach to Stockwell main (which is in the process of being commenced at the moment) will take 18,000 acre-feet a year; the Mannum-Adelaide (with the augmented scheme which is to come into operation very soon) 65,000 acre-feet; and the Tailem Bend to Keith (which is not embarrassing anybody very much at the moment) is not taking very much, but when completed it will take 5,000 acre-feet a year. And the daddy of the lot, which is to come by about 1970-71—the Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main—will take 110,000 acre-feet. In total, we will then be using through our pipeline system in South Australia 248,000 acre-feet of our total amount of 1,254,000 acre-feet.

In the year 1965-66, diversions from the Murray River in South Australia were, as I have mentioned, 80,000 acre-feet through major pipelines, and irrigation diversions 270,000 acre-feet, making a total in all of 350,000 acre-feet. At present, licences for the diversion of water for irrigation from the Murray River, plus diversions in uncontrolled parts of the river, such as the lakes area, can take approximately 320,000 acre-feet a year. This is rather important, as the above presents a rather critical situation, which is receiving very close study. On the other hand, I believe there is rather more room for development than the actual figures in the various items may indicate at this stage. This brings me to my two main points: first, the quantity, and secondly and more importantly, the quality. The fall of the river in South Australia is remarkably gradual. In fact, in the last 100 miles of

the river which is in South Australia the fall is one inch a mile, which is pretty near flat when one comes to consider it, and the river itself is 1,600 miles in total length.

These two things are very closely related, and I consider they bear a direct relationship to each other. If the quantity of the water falls away, so, too, does the quality, which brings me to the main purpose of my speech today, and that is cusecs and salinity. Cusecs is the measure by which the flow of a stream of water is measured in cubic feet of water passing a given point in a second, and salinity

is measured by the number of grains of soluble salts a gallon, or sometimes described by the number of parts a million. If the salinity reading is given in grains a gallon, as I will have to give some figures in a minute, the rapid method of converting to parts to a million is by multiplying it by 14.7.

Page 7 of the River Murray Commission's report contains a table of diversions. With your permission, Mr. President, I should like to have this table included in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

DIVERSIONS FROM THE RIVER MURRAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

| Month. | New South Wales. | Victoria. | Total. | Flow Passing to South Australia at Lake Victoria Outlet. |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Thousands of acre feet. | Thousands of acre feet. | Thousands of acre feet. | Thousands of acre feet. |
| 1965. | | | | |
| July | 71 | 285 | 356 | 63 |
| August | 160 | 645 | 805 | 118 |
| September | 188 | 365 | 553 | 527 |
| October | 356 | 256 | 612 | 303 |
| November | 127 | 206 | 333 | 126 |
| December | 152 | 154 | 306 | 108 |
| 1966. | | | | |
| January | 255 | 80 | 335 | 123 |
| February | 128 | 120 | 248 | 113 |
| March | 232 | 152 | 384 | 113 |
| April | 209 | 112 | 321 | 102 |
| May | 97 | 94 | 191 | 89 |
| June | 108 | 84 | 192 | 66 |
| Totals | 2,083 | 2,553 | 4,636 | 1,851 |

The Hon. C. R. STORY: The table sets out the diversion of water from the Murray River over a period from July, 1965, to June, 1966, and sets out the number of acre-feet which actually passed into South Australia each month during that period. In that year we received 1,851,000 acre-feet, which is in excess of our annual quota. The other point I wish to make as regards that table is that the flow of water in South Australia from the upper river and its tributaries exceeded the entitlement for the first four months of the year—July to October; for most of the remaining period the flow to South Australia was supplemented by releases from Lake Victoria, Menindee Lakes, and to a limited extent the Hume reservoir.

The volume flowing to South Australia for the year was 1,851,000 acre-feet. From November to May inclusive the monthly volumes to which South Australia was entitled were determined by the commission under clause

51 of the River Murray Waters Agreement, with the result that those monthly volumes were some 6 per cent lower than those normally applicable under clause 49. The maximum flow in the river at Lock 9 was 10,870 cusecs in September. I might mention that anything over 10,000 cusecs of water is considered to be a minor flood, and it is possible to remove a good deal of salinity from the river bed in those circumstances.

Page 8 of the report gives a very interesting situation and one that I think everybody who is interested in this matter of salinity would understand perfectly. The water stored in the Hume weir, in the headwaters near Albury, has an average salinity before it is released of 7.1 parts a million. That is very good water indeed. I will indicate the deterioration that takes place in its perambulations down the river by picking up salinity on the way. A table in the report sets out the actual position,

and I seek leave to have this table (from page 26 of the report) and a table showing the quality of the water stored at the Hume

weir (from page 8 of the report) incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

QUALITY OF WATER AT HUME WEIR.

| | Below Dam. | Above Dam. | Murray Arm. | Mitta Arm. |
|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Highest | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Lowest | 7.0 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.0 |
| Average | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 |

SALINITY OF THE RIVER MURRAY—TABLE SHOWING TOTAL OF DISSOLVED SOLIDS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

| Station. | River Mileage. | 1965. | | | | | | 1966. | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | July. | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April. | May. | June. |
| Lock 9 | 479 | 141 | 161 | 167 | 126 | 210 | 295 | 252 | 353 | 192 | 165 | 182 | 279 |
| Lake Victoria .. | — | 173 | 194 | 198 | 189 | 194 | 233 | 230 | 239 | 256 | 258 | 270 | 241 |
| Lock 6 | 388 | — | 265 | 271 | 165 | 211 | 220 | — | 270 | 335 | 233 | 286 | 430 |
| Chowilla | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Homestead .. | 381 | — | 386 | 283 | 178 | 300 | 263 | — | 301 | 346 | 266 | 336 | 630 |
| Berri | 327 | 345 | 569 | 195 | 158 | 270 | 339 | 360 | 326 | 494 | 355 | 359 | 363 |
| Lock 3 | 268 | 333 | 432 | 326 | 170 | 305 | 313 | 363 | 343 | 403 | 481 | 372 | 415 |
| Waikerie | 238 | 469 | 560 | 322 | 181 | 371 | 416 | 407 | 413 | 456 | 500 | 450 | 480 |
| Morgan | 199 | 511 | 540 | 312 | 184 | 333 | 401 | 470 | 431 | 471 | 579 | 507 | 521 |
| Blanchetown .. | 170 | 528 | 453 | 400 | 210 | 282 | 382 | 417 | 502 | 442 | 472 | 558 | 475 |
| Walker's Flat .. | 94 | 584 | 540 | 401 | 222 | 234 | 405 | — | 509 | 458 | 485 | 532 | 549 |
| Mannum | 93 | 636 | 614 | 538 | 219 | 223 | 354 | 435 | 451 | 534 | 495 | 494 | 597 |
| Murray Bridge .. | 70 | 669 | 699 | 580 | 210 | 231 | 290 | 426 | 453 | 486 | 491 | 517 | — |
| Tailem Bend .. | 55 | 659 | 668 | 576 | 217 | 250 | 288 | 355 | 472 | 480 | 595 | 516 | — |
| Goolwa | 8 | 609 | 709 | 671 | 415 | 468 | 726 | 804 | 914 | 991 | 1,297 | 1,091 | 1,131 |

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I shall not weary honourable members by reading a great amount from the report, but I wish to speak briefly on one or two interesting points. I have already said that when the water leaves the Hume weir its salinity is just over seven parts a million. However, by the time it has travelled to the present Chowilla dam site at Chowilla homestead it has increased considerably. In August, 1965, it had picked up 386 parts a million; in September, 283; in October, 178; in November, 300; and in December, 263. In February, 1966, the salinity was 301 parts a million, and by March it was as high as 346 parts. Then in April it was 266, and in May 336. In June, when the flow would be released, it had reached 630 parts at Chowilla homestead. There are even more alarming figures than these for people who live farther down the river, at Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend particularly, where the figure for long periods runs up well into the 500's.

My main purpose in speaking on this subject is to indicate that it is not so much the quantity of water that I am worried about as the quality, and this is particularly worrying to people who make their livelihood from the land adjacent to the river. I believe that if we cannot get good water it will be equally as disastrous for people in industry. I think these figures give some indication to the Council of the shocking deterioration in the water during its long journey from Albury to South Australia.

This brings me to the second important point I want to make today. Is it prudent to continue to increase headwater storages above or near Albury unless something is done to decrease the incidence of pollution in the Victorian and New South Wales sections of the Murray? I say it is perfectly futile to continue to do that if something is not done about this matter of saline pollution of the river. The salting of the Murray River occurs in

several ways, some natural and some man-made. I think the natural occurrences would probably run in this order: the natural seepage from the heavily salt-impregnated clay soils adjacent to the river valley, and then shallow lagoons that become saline lagoons and then evaporation basins, and in due course find their way back into the main stream, particularly during the hot summer months when we need our water most.

Secondly, as I said, we have the man-made problem. This arises from heavy applications of water for irrigation purposes. That water, naturally enough, finds its way back to the waterline or just above the waterline and moves straight into the river. Another problem is caused by the construction by engineers of salt effluent evaporation basins close to the main stream or its tributaries. This causes the water to seep around the fresh water underground bubble associated with all streams of any type. I might mention that in a stream such as the Murray the amount of water or depth of water is directly related to the water bubble or the fresh water that is under the ground at that point. The hydrostatic pressure of the load of water on top is directly related to the water bubble underneath and, if the flow steadies or the river level drops, so the salt water that is backed off by this water bubble is allowed to come into the sides and further pollute an already low and slow-flowing stream.

Thirdly, problems are caused by the discharge of raw salt effluent from comprehensive drainage schemes and from private diverters straight into the main stream. I cannot understand how this has been allowed to go on. I think it is absolutely shocking that some action has not been taken, because this is something that we must watch very carefully. The raw salt effluent coming from a comprehensive drainage scheme often has a salt content very nearly as high as the sea, and this is being put straight back into the stream without any care being taken to get it on to the bottom of the stream by inverts or anything else. It is merely being pumped back into the main stream.

As I said earlier, the immediate problem we are faced with in South Australia is not so much water shortage as water quality, and this is where the Chowilla dam comes in. We are in urgent need of a storage close to our State border from which we can regulate the speed of flow of the river and the quantity needed to maintain a good flow, particularly during the peak months of demand, which are the summer

months. This can be accomplished only if we have an adequate reserve at our own disposal for release at critical periods. Within our State borders our engineers, too, have built many ponding or evaporation basins. Whatever these are called, they are there, and they are established to hold the salt effluent and theoretically to evaporate the water out of them and leave the salt deposit behind to be picked up by the big river when it comes. Of course, in these last few years we have not had the big rivers, and to study the amount of water coming into the Murray tributaries this year is rather a frightening experience.

Most of these basins can be discharged into the river itself without any major damage, provided the river reaches 10,000 cusecs. This, of course, is a minor flood. At present the river is running at about 700 cusecs. To give the Council some indication of what that means, if a person threw a bottle into the river it might drift for 10 or 20 yards in an hour. It is very, very slow, almost up and down, as the saying is. This flow could further decline soon. If it were not for Lake Victoria, just over the New South Wales border, with a storage of water preserved during winter and for other water from the Menindee Lakes and the Hume reservoir, South Australia would be in a difficult position. A better method of salt water disposal is necessary and I ask the Government to suggest to the responsible Minister in Canberra that an expert committee, comprising an engineer, an agricultural scientist and an economist, be appointed to study salinity and report its findings and recommendations to both the Commonwealth and State Governments.

In my opinion, a two-fold approach to River Murray water quality should be made. First, I consider the construction of the Chowilla dam should proceed without delay. Secondly, there should be a complete reappraisal of saline water disposal, particularly in the Victorian and New South Wales sections of the river. I further press the point I made yesterday when I suggested that the Government should take the initiative and invite official delegations to visit the Chowilla dam site for the purpose of explaining its engineering features and letting such visitors view the immense amount of data so ably compiled by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in conjunction with oversea consultants. This may lessen the amount of criticism at present being levelled at the scheme, because many critics who are extremely vocal have not the slightest idea

of the nature of the work to be done and do not understand the problems and/or the advantages associated therewith.

I want to try and instil real confidence into the minds of users of Murray water, particularly the minds of primary producers. The latter section has its livelihood closely tied to Murray water, whether it be farmers on Yorke Peninsula, miners in the Far North of South Australia, peagrowers near Port Pirie, cattle and fat lamb producers in other parts of the State or horticulturists located close to the river. Industry, too, is dependent upon the Murray River for good water and I believe it is our duty to provide the good quality water so vitally needed.

Turning to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Speech, I will attempt to elaborate on one or two matters therein. I refer again to paragraph 4, which states:

The Premier's Department has actively pursued its policy of industrial promotion and has had successes in the establishment of industry. I question that statement, because the Premier's Department did a great deal of work in negotiating and making its good offices available in order to bring out a large organization from Scotland—or bring its money, anyway—with the object of establishing a new industry which was, from all reports, to be concerned mainly with exports. I know that at the present time a large quantity of brandy is being sent to Scotland, and that amazes some Scots. However, it apparently costs less to buy that brandy in Scotland than it does to buy Scotch whisky.

The Hon. R. C. DeGaris: The same situation applies here.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes. The organization concerned was apparently given every encouragement to come to South Australia and it was also given certain assurances on water rights. Not one licence for drawing water from the Murray has been granted since January of this year. I am not sure that the Government realizes what is happening in the River districts now; I think someone should tell it if that is the case. Many people are beginning to run out of work because they are dependent upon the normal development that has occurred for so many years. New development is not occurring and great inconvenience has been caused to many people who had made arrangements to finance the planting of another 10, 15 or 20 acres of trees. That was normal procedure in the past, but now the nurserymen who grow the trees are left out on a limb because no plantings will take place unless

the Government suddenly decides to make some licences available. Others affected include pipemakers at Elizabeth and in other parts of the State, as well as the biggest implement maker in South Australia. They will all feel the pinch. The sudden dragging on of the hand brake and the stopping of all diversion of water without warning in January is not in the best interests of the State.

I believe a committee was appointed two or three months after January last and that it has reported to Cabinet. I urge the Government to make known its decision, whatever it may be, so that people vitally affected may regain confidence in the future. Nothing is worse than having a piece of land paid for, with water pouring past the front door and satisfactory arrangements made with the bank to provide the necessary finance, and then to be completely frustrated because of an inability to obtain a licence in order to divert the water. I believe in a certain amount of caution in relation to water usage; I do not believe that it should reach to the sky nor do I see why it should suddenly be decided that South Australia has reached the limit in development. If the necessity for not issuing licences for water diversion is genuine I would not be so upset, but if it is a means of curtailing plantings of certain commodities then somebody should be frank and say so. I plead with the Government to give a decision in this matter as soon as possible, because it is causing a great deal of worry in many quarters.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: I think a decision is close at hand.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Yes, but I know the Chief Secretary will pardon me for saying that I made representations to the Minister of Works on the Thursday before Good Friday and I was told that it would only be a short time before it was announced.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: The report has been in the hands of the Minister for less than 14 days.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I agree, but I am uncertain about what it contains, because I have not read it. I do not know whether it says that the all clear will be given to a certain extent so that people will be able to plant a certain acreage.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: If they had not been away for two weeks I think you would have had a decision. I shall be surprised if a public announcement is not made by the end of next week, at the very latest.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: People who are not engaged on the land never realize that trees just do not appreciate that there is a Government inquiry. Things have to be planted at the correct times, otherwise it is too late. We cannot just go on and on and on. We shall have to know very soon about this matter. I accept what the Chief Secretary has said and look forward to having some concrete and binding proposals in a short time.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: From that point of view I think you will be satisfied.

The Hon. C. R. STORY: Very well. I would not like to think that I had spoken in this debate without having made some reference to the difficult period that people in some parts of the State are going through as a result of the drought. I do not think at this stage we shall throw up our hands and say "Disaster and calamity", but there must be a good deal of caution in our attitude. I noticed in a press report the other day that the Premier said he would do something about seeing whether the private banks and the banks generally would take a generous view in relation to finance. The banks are lending institutions; they cannot work by sentiment. Whilst they give us a fairly good go, they cannot do stupid things. Some areas of the State are going through extremely difficult times and have gone through such times for two, and in some places up to three, years. I refer particularly to parts of the Murray Mallee area. I have been in touch today with the President of the United Farmers and Graziers Association of that zone and have discussed the matter with him fully. Whilst there is no panic in the thinking at present, they believe that, unless there is rain before the end of next month, it will be difficult for them to carry on without assistance. I am told that at present in the Mallee the carrying capacity (which, as honourable members well know, is always kept on the low side because of the light soil conditions there) has been reduced to 25 per cent. In other words, people have had to sell off their stock and they are down to about 25 per cent over the whole period.

Another matter they have asked me to mention is water rates. Although these people have enough problems, they have had their water rate notices sent in about three months before the normal time they have to be paid—payable before July 15. One wonders why it is necessary that water rate notices should have gone out at this time in an area where the Government knows the people are coping with real difficulties. Fortunately, there has been little

wind in the last few weeks, and the top soil has not blown away unduly. In the Meribah and Veitch areas they have had reasonably good rains, and the crops are up. In fact, some crops are being sprayed for weed control at present, but on the western side of Loxton things are grim; and on the eastern side there is a bit of dry feed but there are no crops. By the end of July a complete reappraisal will have to be made of the Murray Mallee, and I think the Government will then have to do a little more than suggest that the farmers see their bankers if good rains do not occur in the meantime. It is well known that in one year, 1964, a quantity of wheat was planted in August and the farmers got some crop out of it. In 1945 planting was done between July 9 and July 28. At that time many farmers got a crop, so all may not be lost. I mention this because it is an area which over the last few years has come good. With the use of superphosphate it is an area with a high carrying capacity, if we could only get some rain.

That leads me to the point that Sir Henry Bolte, just over the border from the area I am referring to, has an aeroplane that has been seeding the clouds. They have had useful showers as a result of this in the areas down towards Murrayville. The people in the Mallee do not quite understand why we have not tried to hire one of Sir Henry Bolte's aeroplanes on the right sort of day and make an honest attempt to seed the clouds. Last Friday was an ideal day, according to the people who go in for this business of cloud-seeding. It does not take many points of rain to keep these crops alive—even 15 to 20 points will do. I think it is not too late now for the Minister of Agriculture to review his policy of starting on this next year. (He may not be there next year, of course.) I think the time is opportune for a reappraisal of the whole situation. These two matters are coupled together. Paragraph 5 of His Excellency's Speech states:

South Australia is pioneering the use of under-tree sprinkler systems in Australia and this project and other projects related to salt management in irrigation areas are being given high priority in our research programme.

Earlier, this paragraph states:

The orange crop, the harvest of which will start this month, will be less than 60 per cent of last year's crop because of the effects on tree health of the leaf drop associated with the high river salinity early in 1966 and the heat wave conditions during flowering in November. As oranges are the principal fruit crop of the State and South Australia provides 60 per cent of Australia's export oranges, the influence of the light orange crop could be widely felt. A record crop of 3,000,000 bushels of oranges

was harvested last year and sold at good prices, reflecting credit on the Citrus Organization Committee in its first year of operation.

Honourable members will have to take it from me that the growers on the river do not think they sold at very good prices. The Citrus Organization Committee has brought the whole matter of selling oranges on to a reasonably stable basis, but I would not share the enthusiasm of whoever wrote this, that they sold at good prices, because they are still selling on the balancing line of cost of production, and nobody can get very well fed on that sort of economy. I hope that by the end of this year some of the citrus growers in South Australia will be receiving better prices; this has been a disastrous year, to say the least, for the citrus industry. The matter of salinity is tied up with a very hot period and, as His Excellency says, 60 per cent of the crop was lost in the setting stage. This represents complete disaster for many people, and it will have a real effect upon the economy; this is why I have spent most of this speech in trying to get the message home that we must do something about the salinity of the Murray River. We would not have needed very much more salt in the water for many thousands of trees to be killed; we did lose some. Defoliation of trees is serious enough in itself. I stress this point to impress upon the Government that

it should do everything possible to relieve the salinity problem.

Yesterday I received a reply to a question I asked some time ago regarding the committee that was set up. I was a little disappointed to find that the committee does not appear to have done anything yet. It has met three or four times, but I want this to be a much more active committee than that; I want to see it really get somewhere. We must not wait for a long investigation when we are dealing with a problem like that of salinity; if we are waiting because of financial difficulties we ought to take money away from something else that is not productive and apply it to something that really counts.

I shall be dealing with many other aspects including the State's finances on the next occasion that I speak, but on this occasion I thought that I should raise what is to my mind one of the most important things necessary for getting this State back on its feet and for restoring confidence—that is, getting a bit of decent water. I hope that the message has got through. I support the motion.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.43 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 4, at 2.15 p.m.