

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, June 19, 1969

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

### QUESTIONS

#### KANGAROO ISLAND TRANSPORT

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Roads and Transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. H. K. KEMP: Transport costs are a very difficult problem for Kangaroo Island residents. I refer not only to the costs of goods transport but also to the costs of passenger transport. These costs are a material factor in the difficulties facing Parndana settlers, but they face, too, every resident on the island. Recently I was given an instance of this problem. A person requiring a simple dental filling had to pay the cost of air fares both ways and the cost of two nights' accommodation in Adelaide. A prohibitive cost is placed on this and every other service requiring visits to the city. I understand that the whole question of goods and passenger transport services to the island will shortly be under inquiry. Can the Minister say when this inquiry will be held and what opportunity will be given to people to place evidence before it?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: The Government is aware of the transport problems that confront Kangaroo Island residents from the viewpoints of both freight transport and passenger transport to the mainland. Some months ago the Government was confronted by the strong possibility that the *Troubridge* service would have to cease because the company operating it was facing severe losses. The Government agreed to subsidize the service for three years; this assured Kangaroo Island people of a continuation of that service.

The inquiry to which the honourable member refers would be an inquiry that is to be held to ascertain the future needs of Kangaroo Island residents after the three-year term has expired. A committee is at present being set up to carry out a full investigation into the island's future transport problems, which of course will be raised again at the end of the three-year period. The committee has not yet been given its terms of reference, but they are now being formulated and an announcement will shortly be made concerning the

inquiry. I assure the honourable member that, when the inquiry is set up, all interested people from both the island and elsewhere will have ample opportunity to put their views before the committee.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I ask leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Two years ago a committee was appointed to inquire into agricultural education, and I believe this was a wise move. Later, a committee was appointed from the Education Department to inquire into education problems generally. The latter committee, of course, has a much wider field to cover than does the former committee. I believe the expenses allowed to the latter committee have been regarded as adequate and that the expenses allowed to the former committee have not been considered adequate to cover the requirements of committee members. Can the Minister of Agriculture have a look and see whether any anomaly in this matter can be rectified? Also, can he say when he is likely to get a report from this most important committee on agricultural education?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I am not in a position to say exactly when the committee will bring down its report. The committee has been hampered somewhat in its work by the fact that it has not perhaps had the technical assistance one might have desired. For instance, some time has elapsed in appointing a secretary who has a sufficiently technical background to be able to understand fully the material being put as evidence before the committee. That matter has now been rectified. In the first part of the honourable member's question he raised the point that the committee was drawn mainly from people in the higher levels of education, such as the university and the Education Department and several of our own departments. At the time the committee was set up it was not considered necessary that these people be paid an additional stipend. I am in some sympathy with the honourable member in the fact that members of the committee set up under the Minister of Education are being paid for the services they render. I have not had any direct approach from the committee inquiring into agricultural education that there should be any fee provided, but I will certainly have a look at the position and see whether the committee would work better if paid.

**PORT PIRIE BOGIE EXCHANGE**

The Hon. R. A. GEDDES: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether there is an extra charge made on freight that has to use the bogie exchange system at Port Pirie; whether any delays are incurred at that bogie exchange; and whether this system is considered satisfactory or is it considered to be just a temporary system to overcome the problems of break of gauge at this point of time?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I am not certain of the answer to the first part of the question, and as some of the other questions involve details which I think ought to come in the first instance from the Railways Commissioner, I shall obtain a report for the honourable member.

**RED CROSS HOME**

The Hon. V. G. SPRINGETT: Following the closure of the Red Cross Home at Glenelg, a home which used to cater for asthmatic children, amongst others, can the Minister representing the Minister of Health indicate what the future prospects are for the care of such children who now have no home to which to be admitted or in which they can be treated?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I will certainly pass on the question to my colleague, the Minister of Health, who is absent today attending a Health Ministers' Conference.

**PORT AUGUSTA BRIDGE**

The Hon. A. M. WHYTE: I understand that work on the new Port Augusta bridge will take two years and will cost about \$2,000,000. Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether an approximate date has been fixed for the commencement of its construction?

The Hon. C. M. HILL: I shall obtain an estimated date for the commencement of the construction of this bridge. I understand that it is to be in the next financial year, but as I am not certain of the exact time I shall find out the information for the honourable member.

**ROSEWORTHY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I seek leave to make a short statement prior to asking a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I was interested to hear His Excellency say when opening this session that representations were being made for the Roseworthy Agricultural

College to be recognized as a college of advanced education; also, that it was intended to increase the number of students there from 120 to 190, or figures of that order. I know that honourable members are aware that the status of Roseworthy has been advanced considerably, at least on the theoretical side, in recent years. The college diploma now apparently is of such a standard that young men can proceed from the college to one year at the teachers college and then can go out as teachers of agriculture in the high schools. In other ways the diploma has been recognized as being raised in status. I am also aware that the Principal at Roseworthy is very proud of the fact that the college is regarded as being the best practical school of agriculture in Australia as well as being highly regarded on the theoretical side.

The Hon. Sir Norman Jude: It always has been.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Yes; that is true: it always has been. It is in contrast to the agricultural college at Gatton, where there are some hundreds of students but there is very little practical instruction because of the large number of students. As the Roseworthy Agricultural College is regarded so highly from the practical and theoretical points of view, has the Minister plans, in view of the increased number of students, to increase the size of the college farm considerably, or even, in these days of modern transport, to make available what could almost be regarded as an adjacent Government farm for college purposes so that the practical school can continue to be of as high a standing as in the past?

The Hon. C. R. STORY: I thank the honourable member for the complimentary remarks he made about Roseworthy, with which I heartily agree. The present position is that we have extended the area of the Roseworthy farmlands in the last 12 months by about 340 acres, bringing the total acreage at Roseworthy to 3,030 acres, speaking from memory. What exercises our minds is how many acres we need to cater for X number of boys. We can be fairly precise in the case of dry wethers, etc., but it is not easy to know whether, if we increase the number of students by, say, 50, we ought to buy another 1,000 acres of land or not. I should like the agricultural education committee to look at this and advise us upon it, because one of the first things I want it to report on is the matter of Roseworthy in the future. The Principal's recommendation is that Roseworthy's acreage

should be increased to 4,000 acres from the present 3,000. There are several schools of thought on this, and I should like to have all the expert advice I can get upon it before a final decision is made.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from June 18. Page 45.)

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS (Midland): I have great pleasure in having the privilege to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency on Tuesday last. I hasten to congratulate our new Governor, Sir James Harrison, on his appointment. I believe we are indeed fortunate to have Sir James and Lady Harrison as our Vice-Regal representatives. Sir Edric Bastyan, as all honourable members know, was an outstanding man in the position of the Queen's representative. He is a hard man to follow; he was a man of great distinction and diligence, and he and Lady Bastyan were very much loved by the people whom they served. The State of Tasmania has shown good judgment, and is most fortunate, in having Sir Edric as its Governor. Sir Edric was a fine speaker, able to moralize and at the same time draw our thoughts to better things without appearing so to do.

In following Sir Edric, Sir James is also a splendid speaker and I respectfully express the opinion that he and Lady Harrison will be as successful in their high office as were their predecessors. I am sure the Governor and his good lady have our utmost goodwill and support.

I congratulate my colleagues, the Hon. Mr. Geddes and the Hon. Mr. Springett, on their contributions to the debate in moving and seconding the adoption of the Address in Reply. Both gentlemen bring a specialized knowledge and wisdom to this place. The Hon. Mr. Geddes is a successful grazier from a well-known and highly respected South Australian family, while the Hon. Mr. Springett is a surgeon of the first rank, a medical man not immersed completely in his profession but one with an extremely wide knowledge of many subjects. His views are of great value to this Council. I believe both gentlemen did an extremely fine job in proposing and seconding the Address in Reply, and I again congratulate them on their contributions to the debate.

In the early part of the Governor's Speech on Tuesday His Excellency mentioned that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent had graciously consented to visit this State in August. I believe all thinking South Australians will be delighted at this good news. I believe the great bulk—I would like to say all of the people but I will merely say the great majority—of people in South Australia owe true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and we are very pleased indeed that members of her family are able to visit these shores. We will welcome the opportunity of demonstrating once again our loyalty to the Crown and our appreciation of the example set by the Royal Family.

In addition, I believe all honourable members were gratified that Their Excellencies the Governor-General and his good lady saw fit to visit this State so early in their term of office. Again, I am sure Sir Paul will carry out his office with great dignity and that he will set an example which that high office demands.

At this time it is usual for us to express our condolences to the relatives of deceased members, and I join with my colleagues in expressing appreciation of the work of those gentlemen who were members of this or another place in this Parliament, and who served this State with distinction in the past. We appreciate the fine public work done by men in the Parliament and in other spheres, and we sympathize with their relatives. It was not my privilege to know all these gentlemen, but perhaps I can be pardoned for mentioning two of them whom I knew particularly well. Senator Laught, who passed away only recently, served this State with distinction and diligence for, I think, 18 years. I personally express my deep regret that the Senator has passed on and that we have lost a gentleman experienced in Parliamentary life who will be difficult to replace.

I would also like to refer especially to the Hon. R. R. Wilson, who in my first three years here sat immediately on my right and who was an adviser and a kindly helper to me in my early period as a member. I remember some of the first things that the Hon. Mr. Wilson said after I came into this Parliament. When speaking in the Address in Reply debate he welcomed the Hon. Mr. Gilfillan, who moved the Address in Reply on that occasion, and myself to this Council. He went on to speak words of appreciation to members of my family, who had the opportunity to serve this State in some small measure. The Hon. Mr.

Wilson was always a kindly and helpful member, a gentleman of the highest integrity, a man for whom I had the greatest respect. The State is much poorer for his passing.

I am pleased to note that His Excellency had something to say about migration, and I am pleased to see that the migration figure is about 3,000 more than it was in the previous year. This shows that there is some buoyancy and confidence returning in South Australia. I am pleased to see the reversal of a trend: not so long ago skilled people were tending to leave the State to find jobs elsewhere but I am pleased to note that the Premier on his recent oversea trip was able to report decisions for the commencement of two important industries in South Australia and prospects of several others. This means that the Government is placing great importance upon industrial development and upon an expanded migration programme. This is a good thing because we do need more people in this State. Our home markets are our best markets for both our primary products and our secondary products. This policy will pay dividends in the long run.

In the field of agriculture His Excellency referred to the season we had last year, and there is not the slightest doubt that that season, cereal-wise, was splendid, and we had an excellent harvest. The large carryover of grain is evidence of this fact. Regarding livestock, the Governor said that the production situation was satisfactory; this, I suppose, would be true, but it would not be quite so true to say that returns were satisfactory. Although returns from wool improved a little, returns from meat were disappointingly low and not really economic for producers.

We were very fortunate indeed to pass through the summer without any really serious bush fires. This was due in no small measure to the campaign instituted against bush fires, which campaign caused people to think carefully before they lit fires. In view of the amount of dry fodder about we were indeed fortunate to get through the summer without a disaster. The situation in regard to wheat production is difficult; probably half of the harvest will still be left in the silos by the time we start to reap the next harvest. It is regrettable that a quota system has to be instituted but, of course, this is necessary only because of the outstanding results obtained last year. However, it may be that the committee is erring on the side of a little too much stringency at present.

As I remember the situation (the Minister will correct me if I am wrong) the figure to which we are committed is 49,000,000 bushels.

The Hon. C. R. Story: 45,000,000 bushels.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Thank you. This figure is only a few million bushels less than the previous record that we had in this State. Therefore, the average harvest would probably return us a total of this order.

The Hon. G. J. Gilfillan: That is wheat that is delivered.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: Yes. I think the committee may have erred in including the 1967 drought year in the five years from which the average is taken. To get an average of the typical production of a property it may have been wiser to include the 1963 season and to exclude the drought year, which was quite out of the ordinary. There will be some anomalies in the quota system and it is hoped that they can be ironed out.

I have noted that the Agriculture Department, in which I have always been very interested, is continuing to extend its work. This is a very good department. I know quite a number of its officers, and I know that they are very conscientious gentlemen who are anxious to do their best to advance the cause of agriculture, to improve the efficiency of primary production, and to increase the knowledge of the people on the land. I believe the work of the Agriculture Department is deserving of a tribute.

In the field of education the Government has done a good job; I would say that this would be the case with previous Governments. In this field we do get criticism—we are shot at from all sides, whether a Liberal or a Labor Government is in office, because not enough has been done. I would, however, draw attention to the following sentence in His Excellency's Speech:

Expenditure on education during the year rose by 10.74 per cent. Nineteen new schools and major additions to nine schools have been completed.

This is a commendable effort by the State Government. If I remember correctly, I heard the Hon. R. R. Loveday, the previous Minister of Education, say that we were spending as much as 25 per cent or more of our revenue on education and that no State could be expected to spend much more than that in one field. I agree with him in this respect. I agree, too, that more Commonwealth Government help is needed. We have seen a continuing explosion in the numbers of children coming into Government schools.

and we need more help to educate these young people adequately. I commend the Government for what it is doing in the field of State aid. I have had some criticism of this practice. I have pointed out that if there were no private schools every one of those children would be costing the State Government many times the \$10 which is being given now to assist the parents who send their children to private schools. I cannot remember the exact figures, but I know that it runs into \$180 or \$200 or more per child for the average cost of educating the large number of our children in our Government schools, and if people want every child to go to Government schools they are going to have a very much greater bill for education than they have at the present time.

I have in the past, Mr. President, as I believe all other honourable members have, talked about some outstanding shortcomings in my district. I think every one of us can think of schools which are overdue for replacement and other obvious shortcomings which should have been rectified years ago. Of course, the reason they have not been rectified has been, as I said earlier, this continual explosion of numbers and the need to put a roof over children's heads and to continue to make do in places where there are already rooms and roofs for the children.

I have mentioned notably the crowding at the Yorketown Area School. My colleagues the Minister of Agriculture and the Hon. Mr. Hart have been there and have had a look at the conditions that obtained in this school, which was really an overcrowded primary school with extra buildings tacked on here and there, with classes being held even in corridors which were no wider than the distance between the front benches of this Chamber.

I am very pleased indeed to know that in this instance the Minister is foreshadowing the erection of a high school at Yorketown. While this means that the town will still have its old primary school, at least one-third of the children will be taken away and put into another school, and the situation will be relieved in that way. I know it would be very nice if new schools could be built in each case, but even the provision of the extra school makes a very great deal of difference. I can think of my own parish pump, as it were—the town of Gawler—where the old Gawler Primary School was dreadfully overcrowded with classes being held in all sorts of odd places; with the construction of the new high school the old high school was renovated and made into

an additional primary school and this relieved the position. In fact, I have not heard any real complaints about it for some time. I believe that this will obtain in Yorketown and other places where the extra school can be built and overcrowding can be overcome. I am very pleased to see that the Minister has stated that she intends to proceed with the planning for the Yorketown High School and that land has been purchased for this purpose. The other places I have mentioned in the past are Brinkworth and Nuriootpa, in both of which towns there is an urgent need, as in other places honourable members could nominate, for improvements to be made.

I was pleased to see that the Government has decided to have a scheme of travelling art exhibitions, because I believe it is an excellent thing for cultural life to be taken into the country areas wherever possible. I noted that there is going to be what one might call a mobile art gallery on a small scale which will be taken from place to place. I believe this move is to be commended, and I do commend the Government for it.

The Electricity Trust has continued to expand and work in a very efficient manner, despite the fact that it has to use Stobie poles, to which my friend the Minister of Roads and Transport violently objects. Nevertheless, the trust has continued to expand its activities throughout the whole of the State. I believe that until such time as we are wealthy enough to get rid of Stobie poles we shall probably have to put up with them, in many cases at least.

I was very pleased indeed to see that the Government appointed the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford to a position on the Electricity Trust this year. I believe the appointment is a very good one, and that with Sir Fred Drew and the other members of the trust the work will go on and that Sir Thomas Playford will make his contribution to a public utility which has been very successful indeed. I would also at this time like to pay a tribute to the late Mr. J. F. Honner, whose place Sir Thomas took on the trust. Mr. Honner, unfortunately, passed away a few months ago. He was a gentleman who made a very significant contribution to the advancement of the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula, a gentleman of the highest integrity and of great ability, a man who served extremely well on the trust and who was gratified with the Government's decision, only a few months before his death, to re-appoint him to his position on the trust.

I pay a tribute to this man for the work that he did, and also extend my condolences to his relatives.

I am pleased to see that work is in hand to set up the Torrens Island power station with equipment to burn natural gas, and also that the trust is continuing to operate in such an efficient manner that it has been able to keep its tariffs at a constant level for so long.

I wish to refer to one or two matters concerning the Department of Marine and Harbors. First, I refer to the construction of the port which is now known as Port Giles, on southern Yorke Peninsula. In company with my colleagues the Minister of Agriculture and the Hon. Les Hart, I inspected this undertaking some months ago and was impressed by what I saw. I believe this will be an asset to South Australia—an asset in the long term but particularly in the short term, because in this particular port we hope to have within a few months' time a depth of 38ft. of water, which is rather more than we have in other places and which will mean that we shall be able to take in ships larger than we previously could and which otherwise would probably go elsewhere.

As honourable members know, we have been in a very difficult position regarding the loading of ships. We have needed to get our wheat away, and we have been in the position where large ships have been going elsewhere because of the comparative shallowness of our ports. I believe that, particularly in the short term and also in the long term, this port will be of great assistance to us, for it will be possible for the Wheat Board to cart large quantities of wheat if need be from some of our shallower ports down to Port Giles to be loaded there, and this will mean that we shall get more wheat away in quicker time and that we shall get to the position where we shall have most of the silos—most of the barley silos at all events—emptied in time for the next harvest.

The development of further deep sea ports is needed, and I know that the Minister needs no reminder on this point. By saying that, I mean that in one or two places it may be feasible to develop a port which will take the bigger ships for the time being with the idea that we shall have to construct new ports which will take even larger ships in the future, because the emphasis seems to be on very large ships. If we do not develop ports on both sides of Spencer Gulf, I would think that within the next few years we will be left lamenting so far as getting our produce away

is concerned. I realize the necessity for the development of these deep sea ports in order to get our produce away and I know it is engaging the attention of the Minister of Works and also indirectly the Minister of Agriculture.

I am interested to see the progress that has been made on the Kangaroo Creek dam. I had the opportunity to drive around that area not so long ago and saw that the work was progressing very well. I was interested to read that the Stockwell to Swan Reach main is now connected to the Warren trunk main. I do not know whether this means that it is at the moment being used—I hope it is. This main will be of great assistance in relieving the offshoot pipeline, as it were, running from the Mannum main to the Warren reservoir. If that is so and if the latter becomes only a stop-gap pipeline, it will mean that much more water will be available for the city of Adelaide—water which would otherwise be channelled into the Warren. The main from the Murray will be used more efficiently for the city of Adelaide.

I also noted the Governor's reference to the Clarendon dam, which will be our third largest dam, in that it will be slightly smaller than Mount Bold and South Para. This is a necessary project. All our dams compared with some dams in other States are small. The South Para, which is, I think, our largest, is still very small beer compared with some dams in the other States. Were it not for the water from the Murray, we would be in great trouble. I am pleased to see that development is being continued on the construction of these dams and on increasing the normal capacity of the Mannum-Adelaide main, which is, to my mind, a necessary work. The Government is seized with the importance of it.

The Stockwell to Swan Reach main will also mean more water available in due course for the areas served by the Warren reservoir, a small reservoir serving an abnormally large area for a reservoir of that size, which it could not do without assistance from the Murray River. This could mean that there will be more water for one of the few populated places inadequately served—southern Yorke Peninsula. I heard recently that the people there, being super optimists, suggested we should duplicate the main down the peninsula. While I think that is impracticable or uneconomic at present, it may mean that with more water being available through the use of the Swan Reach main it will be feasible to construct bigger tanks, which will mean larger storages which could be filled in off periods, or even connect bores in southern Yorke Peninsula to overhead tanks

to relieve the situation. That is one of the areas in Midland District still needing more water.

I want now to refer to something that I believe is of interest to all honourable members, a matter raised by way of question by my colleague, the Hon. Les. Hart, on Tuesday—land tax. He managed to forestall me because I had a question written down in almost exactly the same terms.

The Hon. A. J. Shard: You should have got up earlier.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I am now endorsing my colleague's request. Perhaps in one sense I should have got up earlier, as the Hon. Mr. Shard suggests, but I have previously been in touch with the Chief Secretary and the Treasurer on this matter. It is not a matter on which we can press the Government unduly at present, owing to the financial position of the State, but in the long term it will be correct and proper to ask the Government to see whether land tax can be phased out on agricultural land, as is being done in two of the Eastern States.

I ask the Government, having set about improving the State's financial position, to look at the position of primary producers, who are working on very small margins. Their costs are rising, but their financial returns are not. I remember a leading business man in Rundle Street, Adelaide, saying to me once, "If you throw a pebble into a pond, the ripples all come out to the edge. If the primary producer is in a state of economic insecurity, this ripple comes right out and is felt by the business man in Rundle Street, by the Government and by the people of the State." I endorse Mr. Hart's request for a review of land tax and for some relief therefrom as soon as feasible.

I notice that the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works are due for completion late in this financial year. I presume its completion will mean that the effluent water that is being channelled away from these works will be even purer than it has been so far. I hope the Government will continue to look closely at the possibility of using this water for irrigation. I note that some irrigation channels are being reconstructed in the Upper Murray area; no doubt that is overdue and it is high time they were reconstructed. It is equally important that the Government consider an irrigation scheme for a place like Virginia, which produces a large proportion of the State's vegetables and is situated favourably for the growers to get their vegetables into the

city economically. The Government must continue to see what it can do about this. I know that certain objections have been raised and that salinity is a problem; also, there is some query from the health point of view.

However, there is also some query about the water that runs off over roofs, because it runs over bird droppings; and about the water that runs into the reservoirs, which runs over all sorts of things before it gets into the reservoirs. Therefore, it is possible that the water from our roofs and from the reservoirs is not quite as good, on analysis, as the water coming from Bolivar. We must regard this matter from a practical point of view. I understand that the salinity is such that some vegetables may not do sufficiently well with this type of irrigation. In that case, it may be necessary to have a "shandy", because many producers in that area have large ground level storages. If we could have a shandy, it would reduce the draw from the Adelaide underground basin in that area—which is the danger area—by 50 per cent. If we could do that, we would largely solve the problem of what to do with Virginia and perhaps not get into a situation where many vegetable growers would go broke and have to be set up in another location. I urge the Minister of Works, to whom I was speaking about this matter only the other night, and my colleague the Minister of Agriculture, who, too, is interested in this problem, to see what can be done about it as soon as possible.

Other honourable members have referred to the increased activity shown recently in regard to mining and minerals. I do not intend to say any more about that except to commend the Government for recognizing the importance of this matter to the State's economy and development.

I believe that this and previous Governments have done a conscientious job in providing hospitals for this State and that, generally speaking, facilities available today are probably satisfactory. I do not suppose it could be said that facilities are extremely good or excellent, because many small hospitals in South Australia, with all due respect, were to some extent the product of the horse and buggy days. I refer to hospitals with 15 or 20 beds, or even fewer, which cannot, in my view, be as efficient or have equipment as good as larger hospitals that can justify the expenditure of money on expensive equipment.

In due course consideration will have to be given to providing larger hospitals; where a district has, perhaps, six hospitals it may be

possible to reduce that number to two or three where more beds and better equipment could be provided resulting in a more efficient service. With faster and more efficient ambulance facilities, this is something that the Government should consider. It may well be that local people will have to be convinced of the necessity for this because sentiment and tradition die hard. In some cases they will be reluctant to dispense with a hospital but, on the other hand, perhaps some of these places would be suitable as old folks homes or something of that nature. Something must be done in due course to ensure that hospital accommodation and equipment is more efficient, less spread out, and contained in more economical units.

I note that tenders are about to be called for the construction of the Modbury Hospital, the buildings to be completed in 1971 providing for 218 beds. I make it clear that I have nothing against the provision of a hospital for the Modbury and Tea Tree Gully area; I believe hospital facilities should be made available there and that they should have been already provided. According to March statistics, the present population of the Tea Tree Gully council area that a hospital will serve is 26,000 people, while the optimum population envisaged by the planners is 104,000. The population of Elizabeth, Munno Para and Salisbury is 94,600 at present. The hospital at Elizabeth (which has the honour to bear your name, Mr. President) has a capacity of 153 beds and, according to information I received from the accountant this morning, the daily average for that hospital over the last three months has been about 105, 106 and 100 respectively. The daily average bed requirement of a population which is not quite as high as the eventual population of the Modbury area is being served by a hospital of 153 beds, at only two-thirds of its capacity.

Therefore, I cannot see the need for a hospital of 218 beds, let alone 400-odd beds, in Modbury. I believe a hospital should have been provided for in that area at this stage for possibly 80 beds and, at a later stage, for double that number. My main criticism is that this plan should, if possible (and here I stress the words "if possible" because I am not in a position to be aware of the stage reached in present planning), have been transferred to the Bedford Park area. Even though I believe a hospital should be provided at Modbury and should not be postponed, the vital need for hospital services in this State (and here the Hon. Mr. Springett can correct me if I am wrong because

he would know far more of this than I) is for a teaching hospital in association with Flinders University.

In this instance I say the Government is building something that will be a kind of white elephant in the Modbury area, especially if the building is taken to the second stage of 400 or 500 beds. In order to use a hospital of that size to any extent—if due regard can be given to the figures I quoted dealing with Elizabeth and the population in the Modbury area—it will be necessary to cart people by the trainload from the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals in order to fill the Modbury Hospital. While still agreeing that a hospital should be erected in that area, I believe the first essential for the Government is to create facilities for a teaching hospital in the south-western portion of the city at Bedford Park or thereabouts.

During Question Time I mentioned extensions to Roseworthy Agricultural College. I believe the work being done there is particularly good and the proud boast of the present Principal is that it is the best practical school in Australia as well as being a theoretical school of high standard. I know it would not suit Mr. Herriot if that were not so, and the proud boast of its being the best practical school in Australia must continue. I am sure that with the interest taken in it by the Minister, this institution will continue with its present high standard. Speaking as a layman, I think the advancement in that institution is satisfactory. However, many people on the land today had just a year or two of secondary education (or maybe not that) and are prepared to send their lads to secondary school for, perhaps, three years. Unfortunately, they will not be persuaded at the present stage to send their children to secondary school for five years and then to Roseworthy College for another three years, even though I think this may happen in future.

In order to encourage parents to give their boys that extra two years at school or college, which would be to their advantage, a course such as that being tried at Urrbrae Agricultural High School at present has much to commend it. Whether this could be done in agricultural high schools throughout the State, which has a grave disadvantage as far as practical schooling is concerned, or whether it is to be done in secondary agricultural colleges, I do not know. However, I hope that the Agricultural Educational Committee will supply an answer to this. I hope that



the committee does not adopt the academic attitude that everybody must be educated to a very high degree because today young people are in a different situation from that applying 30 or 40 years ago; today nearly everybody attends secondary school and should be able to pursue a course which he or she can handle. I believe it should be possible to take an agricultural course in conjunction with some basic subjects such as English and one or two of the sciences at fourth or fifth year level so that parents may be persuaded to leave their children at school for that additional two or three years.

The Roseworthy Agricultural College, of course, will provide for the extension services and for some farmers' sons who wish to do an extended course. There will still be 50 per cent who will go on the land in one way or another after completing the Roseworthy course. There is a crying need for at least duplication of the experiment now being conducted with some success at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School. I ask the Minister to look at this matter and to obtain some comment from the committee.

Regarding local government, the Minister's moves in setting up a separate office and in establishing the position of Secretary of Local Government are moves in the right direction. I am convinced of the importance of local government in this State. I am sure that people who have had the privilege of serving in local government for four or five or more years before coming into Parliament have some advantage over those who have not had this experience. I am equally sure, from discussions I have had with members of the Commonwealth Parliament, that Commonwealth politicians who have served in a State Parliament have an advantage over those who have not done so. Those with experience in State politics do not immediately become imbued with a one-apex attitude and they realize that the various States must be looked after adequately.

The work of local government is, of course, becoming more varied and more extensive all the time. If the Government can look after the many valuable people in our midst who serve in local government and if it can give them ready access to the Secretary of Local Government, it will be taking a step in the right direction.

Recently I asked the Minister about the progress in the negotiations for standardizing the railway line from Adelaide to Port Pirie. Unfortunately, the Minister could not give a very cheering reply. We must use all possible pressure to ensure the success of these negotiations. I believe—and I expect that the Minister will disagree—that, if necessary, we must give away for the time being the possibility of standardizing the Gladstone and Wallaroo lines in order to secure agreement to standardize the Port Pirie line.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have been willing to compromise.

The Hon. M. B. DAWKINS: I am pleased to hear that. I wish the Minister well in his efforts. I have noted that the Highways Department has continued to progress in its activities. The department is doing very good work. I again commend the Government for the work it has done over the last 12 months. It has had a considerable amount of criticism about the taxes it has had to levy, but I commend the Government for having the political courage to do the unpopular thing that was necessary in order to set the State on a good financial basis. I do not go along 100 per cent with everything the Government has done, but I believe its measures were largely dictated, unfortunately, by the Commonwealth Government.

The State Government is to be commended for the work it has done in trying to balance the Budget. I would remind some people outside who expect miracles that this Government did not promise pie in the sky: it promised to clean up the financial mess, and it has had the political courage to do it. The State is gaining in momentum and confidence. The employment figures, the migration figures and the industrial climate have improved. I can detect a note of buoyancy coming back into the State's economy; such a note was markedly lacking not long ago. The Government has had a difficult task but it is solving the problems that existed when it came to office. I have pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, June 24, at 2.15 p.m.