

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 1929**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, 1929.

The SPEAKER (Hon. C. Taylor, Windsor) took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

The SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I nominate Edward Joseph Hanson, member for the electoral district of Buranda, to fill the vacancy on the Panel of Temporary Chairmen during the present session caused by the resignation of Mr. D. Riordan.

QUESTIONS.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN PIGS SUBMITTED FOR SLAUGHTER.

Mr. W. A. RUSSELL (*Dalby*) asked the Secretary for Agriculture—

“1. Has his attention been drawn to the incidence of disease in pigs submitted for slaughter?”

“2. Will he cause investigations to be made into the fire-branding of pigs with a view of tracing the origin of all pigs arriving at market?”

“3. Will he consider the establishment of a fund to recoup farmers and breeders for the loss that is sustained because of the condemnation of carcasses of diseased pigs?”

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. F. Walker, *Cooroora*) replied—

“1. Yes, but it is not considered the disease is any more prevalent in pigs than it has been for many years past, and the cause of more pigs being condemned is owing to the tightening-up of the post-mortem examinations. This action was considered necessary from a public health point of view.

“2. I have given attention to the matter of the fire-branding of pigs as a means of tracing the origin of the animals supplied to market. In practice pigs between the weaning and fattening stages change ownership frequently, and in such cases it is impracticable to determine under whose ownership a pig contracted disease. This appreciably discounts the value of fire-branding. Further, the fire-brand, if not very deeply impressed, readily becomes obliterated. However, tests, with a view of determining a reliable method of identification, will be conducted.

“3. I will give further consideration to this matter, but as a general principle it must be accepted that the person raising the pig is responsible for its health. The Government is not prepared to provide finance by way of subsidising any fund. The services of dairy inspectors and other departmental officers are available for the inspection of piggeries, to assist and encourage farmers to adopt a system of pig husbandry conducive to sound health.”

EXPENDITURE AND LOSSES ON STATE  
COALMINES.

Mr. WARREN (*Murrumba*), for Mr. BRAND (*Burrum*), asked the Secretary for Mines—

"1. What is the total expenditure to 30th June, 1929, incurred by the State in coalmining operations at Warra, Baralaba, Mount Mulligan, and Styx River?"

"2. What is the total amount written off Treasury loans and irrecoverable?"

"3. What has been—(a) Net trading profits; (b) net trading losses?"

"4. What is the total net indebtedness of these mines to the State?"

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. E. A. Atherton, *Chillagoe*) replied—

"1. £576,642 15s. 5d.

"2. £253,185 15s. 8d., in which is included a sum of £39,154 on account Warra mine, which was written off to consolidated revenue.

"3. Net trading losses—£164,279 15s. 6d.

"4. £318,456 19s. 9d."

## COSTS OF COAL PRODUCTION.

Mr. JONES (*Paddington*) asked the Secretary for Mines—

"1. Is it not a fact that in the 'Queensland Mining Journal' of 15th August, 1929, there is published a paper read before the North England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, by the eminent authority, H. S. Jackson, and entitled 'Costs of Coal Production,' and in which the following appears:—

Capital plays a greater part than is generally realised in the production of coal. A coalmine differs from other industrial organisations in two important features, namely—

(1) When capital is laid down to sink and develop a mine a long period, probably of several years, must elapse before there is any return.

(2) There is a special degree of risk associated with the laying down of capital in a colliery, due to uncertainty of the seams, their height, quality, and horizon, the effect of unknown faults, water, and other difficulties?

"2. Does he not consider that this truism applies to Australia, only more so, because of a limited local market, and possibilities of over-production, and the competition for overseas trade with concession coal, and cheap-labour-won coal from South Africa?"

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. E. A. Atherton, *Chillagoe*) replied—

"1. Yes.

"2. The statement, as set out in Question (1), applies to every country more or less, but no more in Queensland than in any other place (probably less). The fact that in Queensland the market for coal and prices are generally known, and that coal seams as a rule are near the surface, the probable expenditure would be computed within reasonable limits. Over-production of coal is not by any means peculiar to Australia; it is general all over the world."

## ALLEGED DISMISSALS BY RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. HYNES (*Townsville*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"Will he inform the House whether Townsville or the Northern Division are the only places where wholesale sacking of permanent maintenance railway employees has taken place since he took over the administration of the Queensland railways?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—

"There has not been any wholesale sacking of permanent maintenance railway employees. In connection with the substitution of contract for the day-labour system, some of the tradesmen have become surplus, and these are being absorbed as far as possible in other positions. Where this cannot be done, the employees concerned are given the opportunity of tendering for the contract work, or may be employed by the successful tenderer."

Mr. HYNES: Does that apply to other divisions?

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: It applies all over the State.

FIXATION OF CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF  
STATE EMPLOYEES BY INDEPENDENT INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL.

Mr. HYNES (*Townsville*) asked the Premier—

"Is it the Government's intention to continue the rights at present existing under the law to State employees, including railway employees, to have their terms and conditions of employment considered and fixed by an independent industrial tribunal?"

The PREMIER (Hon. A. E. Moore, *Aubigny*) replied—

"Yes."

## RAILWAY REVENUE.

Mr. WINSTANLEY (*Queenton*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

"What was the amount of railway revenue for the financial years ended 30th June, 1928 and 1929, respectively?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—  
 “1927-1928, £7,381,532; 1928-1929, £7,568,647.”

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON SHORT TIME, CAIRNS DISTRICT.

Mr. WINSTANLEY (*Queenton*): I desire to ask the Secretary for Railways whether he has an answer to the following question which I addressed to him on 18th September:—

“How many railway employees at Cairns have been placed on short time recently?”

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—  
 “Forty-six.”

RAILWAY DEPOTS INVESTIGATED BY BOARD OF INQUIRY.

Mr. DUNLOP (*Rockhampton*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

“1. Will he enumerate what depots the two experts investigated?”

“2. How long did such experts spend at each of such depots?”

“3. Were such experts furnished with any reports from the heads of the departments in the different centres that they visited; and, if so, what was the gist of such reports?”

“4. What was the total cost of the investigation made by such experts?”

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—

“1 to 4. No doubt the information desired by the honourable member will be contained in the experts' report, which, as I have already stated, will be made public.”

CHARGE FOR RAILWAY PLATFORM TICKETS.

Mr. DUNLOP (*Rockhampton*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

“In reference to the answer which he gave to the question asked by me on 10th September, in regard to the charge made by the Railway Department for railway platform tickets, does he not consider that his answer is quite preposterous when such largely populated places like Melbourne and Sydney charge very much less, and will he reconsider the matter and reduce the price to at least 2d. per platform ticket in the interests of the general public?”

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—

“No; my previous reply was in accordance with facts. The question of reducing the charge for platform tickets has

received full consideration, and it is not intended to reduce the charge at present.”

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FROM ROCKHAMPTON HOSPITAL BOARD.

Mr. DUNLOP (*Rockhampton*) asked the Home Secretary—

“In view of his answer to my question asking him to definitely state his reason for refusing to table the papers re the proposed removal of Messrs. Maurice Kelly and Wm. Goss, senior, from the Rockhampton Hospital Board, when he stated ‘that the reason is that no good purpose would be served by the tabling of the papers in question,’ will he now say if he will allow me, as the trusted member for Rockhampton, to peruse such papers in his office, and, if he so desires, in his own presence?”

The HOME SECRETARY (Hon. J. C. Peterson, *Normanby*) replied—

“Yes.”

COST OF 79½-MILE CUTTING, NORTH COAST RAILWAY.

Mrs. LONGMAN (*Bulimba*) asked the Secretary for Railways—

“1. What was the total cost of the cutting on the North Coast line known as the 97-Mile Cutting?”

“2. What were the approximate dates of commencement and completion of this work, and the total time occupied?”

“3. What is the length of the cutting?”

“4. What plant and material, if any, has been left on the job?”

“5. What are the department's intentions in regard to such plant and material?”

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. Godfrey Morgan, *Murilla*) replied—

“It is assumed the honourable member refers to the 79½-mile deviation on the North Coast Railway. If so, the desired information is as follows:—

(1) £48,100, including capitalised interest.

(2) Commenced 22nd October, 1927; completed 9th February, 1929.

(3) 38½ chains.

(4) There are four buildings left on the job, and a quantity of light track and some koppel wagons.

(5) One building has been sold but not yet removed by the purchaser. Two are the property of the Traffic Branch, and will be removed in due course. The fourth was offered for sale, but the reserve was not reached. The light track and koppel wagons will be retained for use as required.”

EXPERIMENTS IN TOBACCO CULTURE IN NORTH QUEENSLAND.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*) asked the Secretary for Agriculture—

"1. In connection with the experiments being conducted in connection with tobacco culture in North Queensland, including those in the Bowen electorate, will he furnish a statement setting out the nature of the experiments and the results which such experiments have indicated?"

"2. As flue-curing plants will require to be provided at certain strategic points in the tobacco-growing districts for the purpose of drying the leaf, has he given consideration to the formulation of a scheme to provide such facilities?"

"3. Will it be competent for producers engaged in tobacco culture to form themselves into a co-operative association for the purpose of controlling the curing of the leaf? If so, will any form of financial assistance be available through the Government in connection with the activities of such co-operative associations? What will be the nature of this financial assistance?"

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. F. Walker, *Cooroora*) replied—

"1. My department is co-operating with the Australian Tobacco Investigation Committee, which is conducting a series of tobacco-growing experiments in this State. The experiments are not sufficiently advanced and conclusive to warrant the publication of any results at this stage. It is anticipated that the preliminary experiments will be finalised with this season's harvest. The results to date are encouraging, but it would be unwise to induce agriculturalists to grow this crop on a commercial scale until more definite results are available.

"2. Yes; certain varieties of tobacco require to be flue-cured.

"3. It will be competent for any producers concerned to form a co-operative association for the purpose of engaging in the flue-curing of tobacco leaf, and the assistance of the Agricultural Bank, which is of a liberal character, will be available to any association prepared to conform with the requirements of the Agricultural Bank Act."

REPORT OF GEOPHYSICISTS ON ROMA OILFIELD.

Mr. JONES (*Paddington*) asked the Secretary for Mines—

"1. Will he request Mr. E. Burgraff, Australian representative of the Elbof Institution of Geophysics, to furnish him with the scientific reports and findings on which he based his report recently published in the press on the 16th of this month?"

"2. When received, will he publish same, and submit to the consideration of Mr. Dunstan, Chief Government Geologist, and Mr. L. C. Ball, Deputy Chief and Petroleum Geologist, and then make available their deductions?"

"3. Is he aware that Dr. Krahmann, geologist and geophysicist, of the Elbof Institution, when in Queensland, and prior to leaving for Germany, promised to make available to the Mines Department all scientific reports of the Roma field, or any other field on which members of the Elbof Institution would operate in Queensland?"

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. E. A. Atherton, *Chillagoe*) replied—

"1 to 3. I am prepared to give consideration to approaching the Elbof Geophysical Organisation with a view to having made available to the department the scientific reports and findings on the area in the Roma district, on which Mr. E. Burgraff, the Australian representative of the organisation, based his report recently published in the press on 16th instant. I may say, however, that the work of that organisation in Queensland is controlled by the Queensland Geophysical Company, which, I understand, has expended considerable sums in obtaining scientific data, of which they could reasonably claim to have the exclusive use. I am unaware that Dr. Krahmann, geologist and geophysicist, made the promise referred to by the honourable member for Paddington."

EXPENSES INCURRED BY LATE AND PRESENT CABINET MINISTERS.

Mr. DUNLOP (*Rockhampton*): I desire to ask the Premier whether he has an answer to the following questions which I addressed to him on 23th August:—

"1. What were the expenses incurred by each of the Cabinet Ministers who have just gone out of office since the 1st July, 1923, till the date the present Cabinet Ministers took up office, and how are such expenses made up?"

"2. What expenses have been incurred by the present Cabinet Ministers since they took office till, say, to the 17th instant, inclusive, and how are such expenses made up?"

The PREMIER (Hon. A. E. Moore, *Aubigny*) replied—

"Referring to the question asked by the honourable member for Rockhampton on the 23th August, I lay on the table of the House a return showing the expenses incurred by each of the Cabinet Ministers during the financial year, 1st July, 1923, to 30th June, 1924.



PAPER.

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed—

Report upon the Government Central Sugar Mills for the year ended 30th June, 1929.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. BEDFORD (*Warrego*): I ask the permission of the House to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the hon. member for Warrego be allowed to make a personal explanation?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BEDFORD (*Warrego*): Last week, while speaking on the Address in Reply, I made a statement which might do an injustice to the person mentioned, and as I would rather have anything happen than do that, especially under the protection of privilege, I wish to correct the statement that Mr. Rymer wrote the article complained of, although he was actively associated with the defendants' case. The first bill of costs against me for the defendants' costs in that part of the libel action in which I failed contained this item:—

“Attending chairman of directors and manager of defendant company and Rymer, the writer of the alleged defamatory article.”

Since then I have received a corrected bill of costs, which contains this:—

“Attending Francis Kenna, writer of alleged defamatory article on telephone, and later at office, when appointment made for 7.30 to-morrow night.

“Long attendance on Francis Kenna obtaining statement including his interpretation of statements concerning plaintiff tending to show the truth of such article.”

MINING TRUST LIMITED AGREEMENT RATIFICATION BILL.

INITIATION.

The SECRETARY FOR MINES (Hon. E. A. Atherton, *Chillagoe*): I beg to move—

“That the House will, at its present sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to approve, ratify, and confirm an agreement made between the Honourable Ernest Albert Atherton, the Secretary for Mines of the State of Queensland, and the Mining Trust Limited, a company incorporated and registered in Great Britain, relating to prospecting for minerals and the matter of mineral leases, claims, and mining tenements in respect of certain lands, and for other purposes.”

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH (*Maackay*): I called “Not formal” to this motion because of its unusual character; that is to say, a Bill which is apparently intended to ratify a very important contract is going to be introduced into Committee “at its present sitting.” The usual practice is to give notice of a Bill and move the resolution in Committee on a subsequent day. I would like to know what urgency there is in this matter that it is proposed to go into Committee to-day.

The PREMIER (Hon. A. E. Moore, *Aubigny*): It is not intended to go on with the Bill to-day.

Question put and passed.

OFFICIAL INQUIRIES EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE.

(*Mr. Roberts, East Toowoomba, in the chair.*)

Clause 4—“Amendment of section 5—Penalty for failing to attend, produce documents, to be sworn, or to give evidence.”—

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH (*Maackay*): When the Committee adjourned on the last occasion, I was asking for information regarding subclause (b), which reads—

“Subsection two of the said section five of the principal Act is further amended by omitting the words—

‘Provided that no such person shall be compelled to answer any question tending to incriminate himself.’”

I pointed out on that occasion that this proviso was inserted in the Act at the suggestion of Mr. Blair, the then member for Ipswich, and now the Chief Justice of the State. It was shown on that occasion, as hon. members know, that the general law contains this provision. It is accepted in all progressive countries as an axiom of justice that a person shall not be expected to give evidence tending to incriminate himself. While agreeing to the principle that Governments have a right to take sufficient power to get information which is in the public interests, it is necessary that some justification should be given for this definite departure from that principle. The Attorney-General has agreed with my suggestion, and perhaps it is intended to omit this proviso for the reason that, as it is contained in the Act, it might lead to abuse by persons who do not desire to give evidence but who should give it, making that the plea for failing to render that service to the State which a citizen is expected to give when called upon to give public evidence. That may be a very good reason.

However, I called attention to this matter on the ground that a departure in any Bill of such a far-reaching character should not be allowed by Parliament to pass without emphasis being placed on the fact that certain basic principles of justice must be adhered to at all costs, and that every Government must realise that justice can be obtained in a community only by the wise and proper exercise of authority, and that abuses should not be allowed to creep in. However, the Government apparently take the responsibility for this action, and I do not propose to press the matter further. Certainly under this Bill the Government are taking power of a very far-reaching character—power which could be justified by the failure of the commission appointed by the Commonwealth Government to inquire into the sugar industry in consequence of an incident in 1911.

I want to know whether the Attorney-General has considered all the implications of the clause. Does he realise, for example, that the powers given by this Act are conferred from time to time on other bodies and authorities? For example, the Royal Commission on Public Works will be enabled to exercise all the authority which this Act gives

*Mr. Smith.]*

to the bodies authorised to use it. It deals also with a very vexed question that has often arisen in the administration of the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1916 and its amendments. Under that Act the Board of Trade and Arbitration has the authority of a commission appointed under this Act. Frequently it has been urged that the board did not exercise its full authority in that direction in order to obtain evidence which would guide it in litigation or complaints before it. Such a point arose when I was Secretary for Public Works, when, on the recommendation of the late President of the Industrial Arbitration Court, Chief Justice McCawley—a most successful administrator of the Industrial Arbitration Act—the Government appointed certain economists to make an inquiry as to productivity and other questions which have an important bearing on the industrial life of this State. I remember that, in conversation with certain of my advisers, it was pointed out that sufficient power was not granted to the court under the Act to enable it to obtain information as to productivity which it was necessary for it to have in giving a judgment. Hon. members will realise that a court giving a basic wage judgment is doing something of far greater importance than any judgment of the Supreme Court, which affects only a few individuals and involves only a few thousand pounds. Under a basic wage finding every worker and industry in the State are affected to a very material extent. So it was necessary that the court should be vested with sufficient power to enable it to investigate thoroughly whether industries are in a position to give a better standard of living than those existing at the material time. I merely wish to point out the far-reaching character of this measure, and ask the Attorney-General whether he has fully considered all its implications by reason of the extension of these further powers to other statutory bodies now operating under the principal Act.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Hon. N. F. Macgroarty, *South Brisbane*): I would agree entirely with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition if we did not have in this Bill subclause [5E]. This Bill must be read as one in conjunction with the present Act. It is intended under the Bill, to omit from the principal Act the words—

“Provided that no such person shall be compelled to answer any question tending to incriminate himself.”

You cannot read that amendment alone. The words are “tending to incriminate himself,” which means that it would be necessary first, that such person should be put on trial in a criminal court. Subclause [5E] of the Bill provides:—

“A statement or disclosure made by any witness in answer to any question put to him by a commission . . . shall not (except in proceedings for an offence against this Act) be admissible in evidence against him in any civil or criminal proceedings.”

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH: That certainly removes some of the objectionable features.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Many things have happened since the enactment of the Official Inquiries Evidence Act of 1910, and I am sure that the present Chief Justice would entirely agree with the Government in providing subclause [5E]. No harm can be done by omitting the words set

[Mr. Smith.

out above, because the evidence will not be admissible in any civil or criminal proceedings. I have considered the nature of the powers that may be conferred upon any body in any other realm.

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH: You know that there are a number of Acts.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I am quite aware of that, but I have not the slightest doubt that this legislation will operate in a fair manner to everybody.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5—“*Statements made by witness not admissible in evidence against him*”—

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH (*Mackay*): The Attorney-General referred to subclause [5E], which certainly removes an objectionable feature which would otherwise have been contained in clause 4. I raised the point of view as expressed in an earlier contribution to the debate that sometimes a matter of this kind may be introduced in a Bill and passed through Parliament without its true significance being realised. I am a great adherent of the principle that basic justice must at all times be observed in amending the law in Parliament. It is not a wise attitude of mind to think that one can do wrong with a view to doing good. The results that follow clearly indicate that that is a very unsound principle upon which to work. The Attorney-General will realise that, following a disclosure before a Royal Commission, whilst the information may not be admissible as evidence in a subsequent action, in many cases the effect is there. In the case of a trial by jury the jurymen are conscious of the information. This is the point I wish to make: In a case set down for trial by jury, whether in ordinary civil or criminal proceedings, counsel for the one side or the other might desire to have certain evidence placed before the jury, objection is taken to that evidence being tendered. The objection may be sustained, but the intention of the counsel in raising the matter has been served by the impression left on the minds of the jurymen. However, I realise that it is impossible to provide for every contingency.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: They must not take any notice of that evidence.

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH: Psychologically the effect on the minds of the jurymen cannot be removed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It would be, with honourable men.

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH: However, the best has been done in subclause [5E] that can be done in the circumstances, and I do not propose to oppose the principle therein contained. There is no doubt that in certain extraordinary circumstances, such as those to which I alluded in the case of the Federal Sugar Commission in 1911, when extraordinary power was required to deal with a recalcitrant company which sheltered behind its wealth thinking it could violate the law of the country with impunity.

Clause 5 agreed to.

[3 p.m.]

Clause 6—“*Application of Act*”—agreed to.

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported the Bill without amendment.

Third reading of the Bill made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL TABLES.

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Wynnum*) presented the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year 1929-30.

Ordered to be printed.

## ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1929-30.

The SPEAKER reported the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor, forwarding the "Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure of the Government of Queensland for the year ending 30th June, 1930."

Ordered to be printed, and referred to Committee of Supply.

## SUPPLY.

## OPENING OF COMMITTEE.

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, *Wynnum*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move—

"That you do now leave the chair."

Mr. HANLON (*Ithaca*): Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, there are one or two matters which I would like to ventilate before this House. The Premier has seen fit to make an issue of the question as to whether he and the members of his Government made any pledge to the people of Queensland prior to election day to the effect that he would provide immediately for the relief of unemployment, and that he would not tolerate a reduction of salaries, a lengthening of hours, or a retrenchment in the public service. These are very important matters to the people of Queensland—most important in view of the political developments which have taken place in the last month or two in the Federal arena. The questions of hours, wages, and conditions, have now, owing to political developments, become of vital importance to the people of Queensland. I contend, and have contended, that many thousands of electors at the last State election voted for hon. members on the opposite side of the House in the belief that the pledges given by their leader and themselves could be relied on.

Mr. CLAYTON: So they can.

Mr. HANLON: Had the people of Queensland realised that no faith could be placed in their statements that wages would be protected, I believe they would never have given their allegiance to the party which is now governing this State.

The Premier has seen fit to question the accuracy of some of the statements made by me when referring in the debate on the Address in Reply to the pledges made by his party to the people prior to the last election. The other evening the hon. gentleman said that I had put into his mouth words which he had never used. He stated that he had not made any pledge not to reduce the standard of living in Queensland, and led the House to believe that he told the people quite frankly that, if returned to power, he would repeal the Basic Wage Act, the 44-hour week legislation, and the rural workers' award. A rather interesting situation has developed in this regard. The Premier also congratulated the new members of this House upon the manner in which they had addressed themselves to the Assembly, stating that they were doughty and brave followers who had

not run away from any statements they had made to the electors prior to their election.

Mr. CLAYTON: They will not run away from any statement they made.

Mr. HANLON: I hope that hon. members will live up to the estimate of their character which the Premier evidently holds—that they will not run away from any pledge or promise they made to the people of Queensland. May I express the earnest hope that hon. members opposite will endeavour to justify the very high opinion which the Premier has expressed of them? In the course of my address I shall mention a few of the definite promises made by hon. members opposite, and it will be interesting then to see what assurance they will give of their courage and desire to live up to the pledges they have given. The words which I used in this House, and to which the Premier took exception, were—

"He faithfully promised the people no retrenchment. From every platform in Queensland, through the press, and by means of 'dodgers,' he faithfully promised the people that there would be no wage reduction. He also promised the people of Queensland that there would be no increase in the hours of labour."

The hon. gentleman stated that I had put words into his mouth. No member of this House is justified in making an assertion which he is not prepared to prove. I made that statement, and I intend to prove it this afternoon, because it is due not only to myself but to the people who sent me here that I should verify any statement made by me.

Although I have not had much time at my disposal, I have carefully perused the newspaper files containing accounts of meetings held during the last election campaign, and I have picked out as many quotations as I could of remarks made by candidates who stood for political honours in the Nationalist interests. These quotations can be deemed authentic reports of the actual words used by the respective candidates. The first extract is from the "Courier" of 6th May, containing a report of a meeting held by Mr. Henry Quinn, the selected Country-National candidate for Buranda, at Woolloongabba, on the preceding Saturday night.

Mr. CLAYTON: He is not here.

Mr. HANLON: The "Courier" evidently gives that statement considerable prominence, because in heavy type we find this heading—

"NO WAGE CUT.

"MORE EMPLOYMENT.

"Country-National Party's Policy."

The quotation I extract from that report reads—

"The dominant note I wish to strike is that the Country-National Party does not stand for a reduction of wages or any curtailment of the privileges now enjoyed by the wage-earner."

Now, Mr. Mitchell, the endorsed Nationalist candidate for the Bremer, addressed the railway workshops employees in the lunch hour on 2nd May, and this is a quotation from his speech, as reported in the "Courier" of 3rd May—

"Mr. Mitchell defined the attitude of the Nationalist Party towards hours and

*Mr. Hanlon.]*

wages generally, with especial reference to the Railway Department, and gave a pledge that wages would not be reduced, nor hours increased, nor retrenchment, if the Nationalist Party were returned to power."

Mr. CLAYTON: You have backed two losers already, you know.

Mr. HANLON: I will now give you a winner. This is an extract from the "Telegraph" of 6th April. Mr. Tedman, the present member for Marree, speaking at the South Brisbane City Hall, said—

"The statement that the Country-Progressive Nationalist Party will reduce wages if returned to power is one of the most diabolical lies uttered."

Here is the same gentleman, speaking at Mowbray Park. This also is a starred report in the "Courier." It is headed "A Deliberate Lie"—

"They had distributed untrue literature, not telling what they had done, but what would be done if the Nationalists were successful. They had said in these pamphlets that the Opposition would reduce wages and increase hours. This was entirely untrue."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Quite true.

Mr. CLAYTON: Don't forget what your party said at Emu Park.

Mr. HANLON: I have not had time to look up the reports of speeches of the hon. member for Wide Bay. Mr. J. McLennan, the endorsed Nationalist candidate for Fortitude Valley, said—

"The idea of a wage reduction could be dismissed as a 'bogy'—"

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Quite true.

Mr. HANLON: He continued—

"which I do not think for a moment you can consider correct."

Mrs. Longman, the hon. member for Bulimba, is reported as follows:—

"The principle of the Moore Party—that the wages of the working man should not be reduced, although they were quite willing to reduce parliamentary salaries—was echoed by Mrs. Longman."

The principle of the Moore Party was that wages would not be reduced.

Mr. Thatcher, the endorsed Nationalist candidate for Brisbane, speaking at the Leichhardt Street State School, as reported in the "Courier" of 3rd May, had this to say—

"The McCormack Party in one of its lying pamphlets said that the standard of living, as well as wages and hours, would be attacked if Labour failed to secure a return to power. Mr. Moore had definitely stated that these vital matters would not be attacked."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Quite true.

Mr. HANLON: Mr. Hill, the hon. member for Kelvin Grove, speaking at Swan Hill, as reported in the "Telegraph" of 2nd May, said—

"He emphatically denied that the party intended dismissing public servants, reducing wages, or lengthening the hours of labour, and appealed to his audience to change the Government."

He had better tell that to the public servants to-day.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. HANLON: Mr. Macgroarty, the present Attorney-General, speaking at the South Brisbane City Hall on 5th April, as reported in the "Telegraph" of 6th April—

"assured his hearers that there will not be any drastic retrenchment of the public service. This is a boggy created by the other side."

Some of these public servants are already carrying the boggy.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Tell us one who has been dismissed.

Mr. HANLON: Mr. Sizer, speaking at Northgate and Banyo—

"Repeated that his party was not a party of low wages and long hours. A low-wage community was a law-pending community, which was entirely opposed to their ideals and aspirations."

Some of these gentlemen could write a very nice story of ideals and aspirations to-day.

Then the Treasurer is reported in the "Courier" of 2nd May last, as follows:—

"Mr. Barnes referred to the Premier's (Mr. McCormack's) assertion that the proposed reduction in members' salaries was the prelude to a reduction of wages of the workers. He warmly denied that such was the intention of his party, and declared that his party stood for arbitration."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: One can quite easily understand the indignation with which the hon. gentleman denies the charge.

The hon. member for Nundah is also reported in the "Telegraph" of 2nd May as having spoken on the subject. This extract is necessarily a long one, as the hon. member usually takes much longer than anyone else to explain himself—

"Mr. Kelso said that from now on to election day, a tirade of misrepresentation would be indulged in by Labour against Mr. Moore and his party. The Government would employ the same tactics as they had done at the last election and would try to play on the fears of the electors, by telling them that if the Opposition Party were returned to power, they would reduce wages, lengthen the hours of labour, and abolish the Arbitration Court.

"Mr. Kelso also said that Mr. Moore had emphatically stated from time to time during this campaign that he and his party would do nothing of the sort."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: I am pleased to see that the hon. member for Nundah as well as myself accused the Premier of having made this statement—

"He reiterated the promise made by Mr. Moore that nothing in the nature of the suggestions made by the Labour Party would be given effect to."

Mr. KELSO: Hear, hear! Quite true!

Mr. HANLON: In addition to my statement that the Premier definitely promised that there would be no wage reduction or attack upon working conditions, we have the assurance of the hon. member for Nundah that the Premier gave that promise.

I would now quote the remarks of the Deputy-Leader of the Government, as reported in the "Telegraph" of 2nd May—

"The Government had indulged in a policy of vilification and abuse of the members of the Opposition and their policy. They said that if they (the Nationalists) were returned with a majority, they would reduce wages and the standard of living, notwithstanding that such statements had been emphatically denied by Mr. Moore and members of his party."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: The hon. gentleman also joined with Mr. Kelso in stating that they had no intention of reducing wages.

Mr. CLAYTON: What are you driving at?

Mr. HANLON: In case the Premier might adopt the view that a great number of the electors in the country are taking—that hon. members' pledges and statements before the election could not be believed—it would be advisable to read a few of the statements made by the Premier himself, as reported in the "Courier" of 3rd May last—

"ONLY BOGIES.

"LABOUR CONTENTION.  
"Mr. Moore at Mackay.

"30th April.

"The Labour Party's contention, 'that there would be a reduction of wages, and a lengthening of hours, if the Opposition were returned to power,' were only bogies' declared Mr. Moore in a stirring speech to a crowded meeting at the Britannia Hall to-night—

The report goes on—

"What kind of a Government, what kind of an idiot, would to-day suggest retrenchment and a reduction of wages? No one would be so absurd as to want to reduce the purchasing power of the individual. We want to increase, not to reduce, the purchasing power of the individual, so as improve and maintain conditions."

It sounds very nice after the hon. gentleman's assurance the other evening that he had told the people that they would have to be prepared to bear some of the losses in industry.

Mr. EDWARDS: He did not say that at all.

Mr. HANLON: Then at Rockhampton, as reported in the "Telegraph" of 3rd May last, the Premier said—

"Mr. Moore said that all sorts of bogies had been raised by Labour including the idiotic statement that if the Nationalists were returned there would be a reduction of wages; and an increase in working hours. They were all 'moonshine.'"

The "moonshine" is burning some of our unfortunate people of Queensland to-day!

Speaking at Gladstone, as reported in the "Telegraph" of 4th May, the Premier said:—

"The outstanding feature of the Labour policy, Mr. Moore added, was the number of bogies raised in an endeavour to stampede the electors and to frighten back to the Labour camp the many who undoubtedly had drifted. 'Do not be so silly as to take any notice of this "moonshine."' Mr. Moore said."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: The electors now realise whom they were silly enough to take notice of. As reported in the "Telegraph" of 7th May, the Premier said at Gympie:—

"'Humbug' was the description which Mr. Moore applied to the Labour pamphlets that, while Labour stood for high wages, the Opposition was out to down the worker. 'Do not be misled by such ridiculous trash,' he said. 'It is foreign to my intentions and to the intentions of my party.'

"'Why,' he asked, 'should any intelligent person wish to reduce the purchasing power of the people? A high-wage country means a prosperous country if it is properly governed, and we want to see Queensland prosperous.'"

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: The hon. gentleman quoted an extract from a speech made by him at Ipswich, by which he endeavoured to convey to the House the idea that he had not assured the people that they were protected from a reduction of wages. He quoted a portion of the speech, which gave the impression to the Chamber that he assured that meeting that all wages and conditions would be left entirely to the Board of Trade and Arbitration, without any protection against reduction.

Here is an extract from the same speech, which throws an entirely different light on it, as reported in the "Courier" of 9th May:—

"The Premier (Mr. McCormack) is trying to mislead the electors with a distortion of facts, to make people afraid that the Opposition would reduce wages and lengthen hours.

"He (Mr. Moore) would tell the electors that wages and hours should be left to the Arbitration Court and that would be the case if his party got into power . . .

"It would be extraordinarily foolish for him to reduce wages and thus lower the purchasing power of the workers."

That illustrates pretty effectively what the Premier told the people at Ipswich.

Here is an extract from the "Telegraph" of 1st May, reporting what he said at a meeting at Mackay:—

"Mr. Moore said that the bogey of Labour organisation was that if the Opposition were given power there would be a reduction of wages and a lengthening of hours. 'You will go back to 1915' was the cry to gull the electors . . . These fundamentals in industry are fixed by the Arbitration Court, and the awards are based on the statistics of the Federal Statistician. A change of Government will not alter the basis of fixation. The Arbitration Court will still retain its power. Any suggestion that it will not is a bogey raised to stampede the people . . . It is ridiculous piffle—the election scare of a party whose policy is barren—to say that my party is out to reduce wages."

In the "Telegraph" of 6th April, the Premier is reported as having said at South Brisbane:—

"Drastic remedies were necessary to rectify this condition of affairs, but these drastic remedies, if his party were

Mr. Hanlon.]

returned to power, will not include retrenchment . . . It is the intention of his party to give every man the right to hold his job."

Mr. KELSO: You are a long time getting to your subject.

Mr. HANLON: I am getting to it at a rate quite satisfactory to myself, although I think it is very unsatisfactory to hon. members opposite.

These are words quoted from the reports of speeches made by the Premier, the Deputy Premier, three of his other Ministers, and many members of the party opposite. They definitely assured the people that there would be no retrenchment, no wage reduction, no increase in hours.

Nor were the people assured from the platform only; they received these assurances through the press. Here is a copy of a full page from the "Telegraph" of 8th May—a big advertisement showing the Premier, apparently, smashing the Opposition with his fist, and the words, "Definite pledges" in big type:—

**"DEFINITE PLEDGES.**

"The Country Nationalists definitely stand for 'No reduction' in the standard of living.

(Signed) A. E. Moore."

And under that again:—

"£2,000,000 for 10,000 jobs."

with the signature, "A. E. Moore." There we have the signature of the Premier to both those statements in an advertisement inserted in the daily press.

In addition to those advertisements, I should like to call the attention of hon. members to the press statement appearing on the front page of the "Courier" on 10th May last—a statement that does not appear in an advertising column—a statement that is not an advertisement, and one that has not the authority of any individual. The only authority given in the paper is the authority of the Premier, "A. E. Moore, Leader of the Country-Progressive National Party, Parliament House, Brisbane." That is not an ordinary advertisement. It was the final appeal of the Premier to the people, and this final appeal is over the signature of the Premier on the front page of the "Courier." This is the final appeal—

"The main object of the new Government in Queensland will be to create conditions which will promote harmonious relationship in industry. I believe such can be accomplished. In the meantime I pledge my party to make available £2,000,000 for the relief of the present distressful conditions of the large army of unemployed and their wives and families. I feel confident that my proposal will provide work and wages in the place of sustenance and Government rations and remove existing obstacles to industrial peace."

That was his reason for asking the people of Queensland to support his party. The statement adds—

"I ask you, therefore, to vote for the candidate pledged to support the policy of the Country-National Party."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Hanlon,

Mr. HANLON: There is the definite statement—

"In the meantime I pledge my party to make available £2,000,000 for the relief of the present distressful conditions of the large army of unemployed and their wives and families. I feel confident that my proposal will provide work and wages in place of sustenance and Government rations and remove the existing obstacles to industrial prosperity."

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: He said he would make the money available.

Mr. HANLON: I also mentioned that, by means of "dodgers" distributed throughout the country and by means of speeches from the public platform, the party opposite, including the Premier, pledged themselves that there would be no wage reduction. I have here one of those pamphlets showing the promise made by hon. members opposite. It says—

"When McCormack tries next week to stampee you by appeals to your fear of the future,

**REMEMBER**

his propoganda is based on a miserable lie.

**THE TRUTH**

is that the Country-Nationalists are definitely pledged to uphold the present standards of living."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: It concludes—

"Your future is safe in the hands of Moore."

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Quite right.

Mr. HANLON: I now refer to the statement made by me to which the Premier took exception. He faithfully promised the people from every platform in Queensland, through the press, and by means of "dodgers" that there would be no retrenchment and no wage reduction. He also promised that there would be no increase in the hours of labour. I have repeated the promise by the Premier, by his responsible Ministers, and by a host of members of his party word for word. I have produced not only the advertisement in the press showing the promise of the Premier to provide £2,000,000 for 10,000 people, but I have also quoted a definite press statement under the signature of the Premier from Parliament House that he would make available that £2,000,000 for the relief of the present bad conditions. In addition, I have produced "dodgers" distributed throughout the country wherein the party opposite pledged the people that they were out to uphold the present high standard of living. I have proved entirely my statement made on the Address in Reply debate, to which the Premier took exception last Thursday night—a statement to the effect that, after reading the speeches, the "dodgers," and the publications in the press, there can be no doubting the fact that the party opposite faced the people with the pledge of no wage reduction, no retrenchment, and no increase in hours.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. HANLON: In going through these notes it was refreshing to note that the Premier admitted the foolishness of reducing wages.

During the course of the same speech delivered by me on the Address in Reply I had occasion to point out that the policy of reducing wages meant a reduction in the purchasing power of the people of Queensland which would have a very serious effect, not only upon the businesses of this city, but upon the prosperity of our farmers in the country.

I pointed out how the present high price of butter and other primary products was maintained, despite the fact that these goods were selling at a lower price overseas, and

I pointed out that the consuming [3.30 p.m.] public were quite willing to pay that higher price or the world's parity for their products, provided they were in a position to do so. They took the broad view that it was desirable to keep the country in as prosperous a condition as possible, and I am pleased to see that the Premier stated that he did not favour reducing the purchasing power of the sovereign.

Mr. EDWARDS: You sacked them altogether.

Mr. HANLON: I have also a speech reported in the "Daily Mail" as having been delivered by the hon. member for Toowong, but I will not bother reading it because we all know that at times the hon. member would say anything.

Mr. MAXWELL: You are the wage-reducers.

Mr. HANLON: The "Queensland Times," in its issue of 29th April, contains a report of a meeting held at Ipswich which was attended by the Attorney-General. The "Times" states—

"Mr. P. Cassidy asked Mr. Macgroarty what would be his attitude if the Arbitration Court increased hours from forty-four to forty-eight. Mr. Macgroarty said he would do all in his power to bring them back again."

The Attorney-General in this House gave us the assurance that at the first available opportunity he was going to "ringbark" the Arbitration Court, whereas the Premier tells us that he is committed to a repeal of the 44-hour working week. It will be interesting to see how the Attorney-General fares when the Premier introduces that legislation, and whether the Attorney-General will take action to bring the hours back again. The situation that has now developed is this: If hon. members opposite have the courage of their convictions—the Premier gave them credit for that courage the other evening—there would not be one of their number alive, as they would have torn one another to pieces. The Premier and other members of the Ministry have endeavoured to create the idea that the fixation of wages and hours should be left to the Board of Trade and Arbitration, and that legislation would be introduced to do so. They entirely neglect to note the remark of the Attorney-General about "ringbarking" the Board of Trade and Arbitration. They are endeavouring to create an atmosphere amongst the people that it is their firm belief that the Board of Trade and Arbitration should be the sole authority to fix wages and hours and define conditions of employment.

Mr. W. FORGAN SMITH: The court can only fix wages according to the powers conferred upon it.

Mr. HANLON: From time to time the attitude taken by hon. members opposite has been that they will have nothing to do

with the fixation of hours and wages. The Premier has given us that assurance in this House; but, while he tells the people outside that he will not have anything to do with the fixation of hours and wages, and that the Board of Trade and Arbitration alone will do that, he assured the House the other evening that, owing to the distressful state of the country, the workers will have to reconcile themselves to bear a portion of the sacrifice which all parties will be called upon to bear to put the State on a sound economic basis. The only sacrifice the workers can make is in their wages, and can any one tell me that since May last the Board of Trade and Arbitration has taken steps to bring about a reduction in wages. Where has the suggestion of a reduction of wages come from? Not from the Board of Trade and Arbitration. It has come from parties outside the court. A reduction in wages was foreshadowed by the Premier. The Government have warned the people to be ready for a reduction in wages, although no action has been taken yet to bring that about. How can we reconcile the statements made by the Government to-day with their attitude at the election—that they were not going to interfere with wages or hours?

Mr. KELSO: Where did you get hold of that argument?

Mr. HANLON: It is the argument of the hon. gentleman and his colleagues that they are not going to interfere with the Board of Trade and Arbitration. There is no application before the board for a reduction of wages or for any alterations of wages; yet hon. members opposite say that wages are going to come down. (Government dissent.) People throughout the city are discussing what sort of reduction is coming about. In fact, business people are saying in every quarter that no reduction under 10s. per week will be of any value to industry.

Mr. MAXWELL: That is not so.

Mr. HANLON: The Premier left no doubt in the minds of the people during the election campaign that he would not interfere with the standard of living in Queensland; yet he said quite frankly the other night that it is his intention to repeal the Basic Wage Act. If the hon. gentleman is not going to bring about a reduction of wages, why repeal the Basic Wage Act, which does not prevent the Board of Trade from increasing wages or leaving them stationary? The only effect that the present Basic Wage Act has is to prevent any reduction, and the Premier must have something in his mind now.

Mr. EDWARDS: He never said that.

Mr. HANLON: Whether the hon. gentleman says that wages are to be reduced by the Board of Trade and Arbitration or not—nothing is before that board at present—we are assured now of a wage reduction, and the Premier knows what the reduction is going to be. Hon. members opposite know how the board is going to be reconstituted. (Government dissent.)

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HANLON: If you talk to any business people in the city, you will find that the consensus of opinion is that no reduction of less than 10s. per week will be of any benefit to industry.

Mr. MAXWELL: You never talk to any business people.

*Mr. Hanlon.]*

Mr. HANLON: Hon. gentlemen opposite have convicted themselves. Whether the Board of Trade and Arbitration wants it or not, a wage reduction and an increase of hours will be inflicted on Queensland, despite the pledges made to the people, and despite the Premier's expression of opinion that hon. members opposite have the courage of their convictions.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: You are reflecting on the judges.

Mr. HANLON: Now that the Deputy Leader of the Government is in his seat, I might remind him that he sat here the other evening and heard the Premier say that no promise had been made that a reduction of wages would not take place. During the hon. gentleman's temporary absence from the Chamber I read a report of a meeting at which he addressed the residents of Salisbury stating that there would be no reduction of wages—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: It is a matter for the Board of Trade and Arbitration.

Mr. HANLON: And that the Premier had definitely and emphatically denied that a wage reduction would follow the return of his party to power.

Mr. KING: I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. HANLON: It is reported in the press. It is due to hon. members themselves and for the preservation of the dignity and honesty of this Parliament that they should immediately correct reports which are unfair or untrue. It would be interesting, however, to hear what the reporter of the "Telegraph" had to say on the accuracy of his report of that meeting.

Mr. KERR: There has been no wage reduction. What are you talking about?

Mr. KIRWAN: Four days a week in the Railway Department.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HANLON: Unfortunately for himself and for his own reputation, the Premier has made an issue of the promise of £2,000,000 and 10,000 jobs. The hon. gentleman denies the responsibility for that statement. Hon. members on this side have quoted a statement issued in the press under his name that he would immediately make available £2,000,000 and provide 10,000 jobs.

Mr. BRAND: You did not quote anything of the sort.

Mr. HANLON: A good thing cannot be said too often, so I shall repeat it. This is what appeared in the front page of the "Courier"—

#### "COUNTRY-NATIONAL VOTE.

"The main object of the new Government in Queensland will be to create conditions which will promote harmonious relationship in industry. I believe such can be accomplished. In the meantime I pledge my party to make available £2,000,000 for the relief of the present—"

The most definite word in the article is the word "present."

Mr. BRAND: You said the word "immediately" a moment ago.

[Mr. Hanlon.

Mr. HANLON:

"to make available £2,000,000 for the relief of the present distressful conditions of the large army of unemployed and their wives and families."

Under the Elections Act all electioneering matter has to be signed, and the only signature accompanying this statement is that of "A. E. Moore, Leader of the Country-Progressive Nationalist Party, Parliament House, Brisbane." Since the Premier makes an issue of the matter and denies the responsibility of that statement, I think it is up to him to tell us who made the promise if he did not. If we are to believe that the Premier did not make this pledge; that he did not authorise the insertion of that message by the Brisbane Newspaper Company, Limited; that he did not authorise the insertion of those big advertisements in all the daily papers; and that he did not authorise the statements made by his followers on every platform around Brisbane. The hon. member for Maree, speaking in my own electorate, made the announcement with regard to the £2,000,000 loan, and said—

"This is not an idle boast. An announcement will be made by Mr. Moore in the course of a day or two."

He was a pretty good prophet. In this Chamber the Premier definitely denied having made that pledge. It is due to this Parliament and to the people of Queensland to know who has authority to insert advertisements in the press over the Premier's name—who has authority to give official statements to the press and sign the Premier's name to them. Are we to believe that the Premier is a mere cipher for the Employers' Federation? What body, in defiance of the Premier, can publish in the press definite pledges committing his party definitely to do certain things and thus secure the votes of many thousands of electors? And then the Premier walks into this Chamber and denies the responsibility for it! If the Premier denies that he made that pledge in good faith, or denies that he made the pledge at all, it is due to the people of Queensland and due to the honour and reputation of this Parliament that we should know who did make it, and what steps he has taken to see that the party will not carry on the advertised policy of the Government no longer, because if the party responsible for these advertisements were able to issue instructions to Mr. Moore as Leader of the Opposition, we have no reason to doubt that they can issue instructions to Mr. Moore as Premier of Queensland. We have no other alternative but to believe that the policy of the Government is dictated by somebody outside of Parliament who is not responsible to the people and not responsible to members of this House, and such an intolerable position should not be permitted. I never thought such a state of affairs existed; and it is only on the Premier's statement that we can judge it. I can only form the opinion, in common with other men experienced in politics, that the present Premier toured Queensland secure in the confidence of defeat—secure in the knowledge that his party was going to be defeated—and, in that belief, he made remarkable statements in order to secure votes for his unfortunate followers.

Speaking at Paddington, in answer to a question asked by one of the audience as to

what would happen to the "Golden Casket" if the Opposition were returned to power, the Premier made the reply that he did not think the "Golden Casket" was a good thing, but, if he was returned to power, he would leave it as it was. That is rather a peculiar statement to come from a gentleman who desired to govern the country—that, in order to secure the votes of the people, he would leave as it was a thing which he believed to be evil.

I have absolutely proved the truth of my statements in this Chamber, and I have proved that the people of Queensland voted for the party opposite believing that their pledges and promises would be faithfully carried out; and hon. members opposite are in honour bound to make some effort to protect the people of Queensland from a violation of the election pledges given by the Premier.

Mr. COLLINS (*Bowen*): I desire to say a few words before you leave the chair. Before proceeding with my address, I want to express my regret at the death of the late hon. member for Maryborough, Mr. D. Weir, who sat alongside me in this Chamber last Thursday afternoon. It goes to prove that in public life men who are conscientious, as the late hon. member for Maryborough was, sacrifice their lives, as it were, in the public interest.

My reason for speaking this afternoon is that I have a grievance, not only in connection with my own electorate, but in connection with North Queensland and Queensland in general. There has been considerable discussion in this Chamber and throughout the country, as reported in the press, in reference to an agreement entered into by the ex-Secretary for Mines, the hon. member for Paddington, on behalf of the late Government, and Mr. Sleigh, who carries on business in Melbourne as a commission agent, and also as an exporter of coal. I want to define my own attitude on this question, because no one has ever accused me of running away from anything which I thought was the right thing to advocate, and, as I had a good deal to do in connection with this matter, as the ex-Secretary for Mines knows, I wish to quote a speech I made, which is reported in "Hansard," vol. cxlix., 1927, page 191—

"I desire to make reference to a paragraph dealing with coal which appeared in the Speech delivered from the Throne—

The coal section of the industry is making satisfactory headway. Production more than keeps pace with the requirements of the State, and efforts are being made by the Government to foster an export trade. Last year 1,221,000 tons were raised, valued at £1,100,000, as compared with 1,177,000 tons, valued at £1,000,000, won during 1925.

"That paragraph refers to the fact that the Government are endeavouring to create an export trade in coal. That is quite true. The Government have made arrangements with Mr. H. C. Sleigh, a large exporter of coal from the Commonwealth, with a view to his organising an export trade in connection with the Bowen State coalmine. I have had a number of interviews during the last two or three years with the Secretary for Mines, and I have pointed out to

1929—2 L

him that, if we are to organise an export trade in coal, we must have cheap coal, or, in other words, that the coal will have to be exported at less than the cost of production. The Government agreed to lower the price of coal for export, but in my opinion the price has not been lowered sufficiently to enable us to catch that trade. The Under Secretary for Mines, in forwarding me a letter, enclosed part of a report to his department made by Mr. Sleigh. He points out in that report that the principal competitor in the coal trade is South Africa, especially Natal, and the port of Durban. He refers to the fact that the South African Government give a rebate of 8s. per ton on every ton of coal exported from South Africa. The result of that rebate is that the coal-owners in South Africa are able to deliver coal alongside the ship at Durban and Natal at 12s. 10½d. per ton as compared with 16s. 4d. at Bowen, or 3s. 5½d. per ton less than we can deliver it alongside the boat at Bowen. It is no use thinking that we are going to compete with other countries in the export of coal unless we do something on the lines I have just outlined. I trust my remarks will receive attention from the Government, and that, whilst they have lowered the price of coal for export purposes, they will give consideration to the further lowering of the price. The figures quoted by me in reference to the paragraph in the Governor's Speech prove nothing. At the same time we want to know the position of the men engaged in the production of that wealth. Unfortunately, the miners on the Bowen coalfield, both in the State and privately owned mines, have only had work for two or three days a week since last Christmas.

"Mr. Brand: That has happened all over Queensland.

"Mr. COLLINS: Yes. It is quite true that we have an abundance of coal. It is in the ground; but it is of no value until it is taken out of the ground. I advise those hon. members who preach so much about economics that they should commence to study that subject."

That quite clearly defines my attitude in 1927.

A peculiar position has arisen since the advent of the new Government. On Tuesday, 27th August, the hon. member for Cook, pursuant to notice, asked the Secretary for Mines certain questions, which, with the answers, are reported as follow in "Votes and Proceedings":—

"1. What arrangements were made by the late Government in respect of the sale of coal produced at State coalmines?"

"2. Were agents paid by salary or commission?"

"3. What are the names of the agents, the quantity of coal sold by each, and the rate and total earnings, respectively, stating periods?"

"4. Has action been taken towards terminating any of such contracts or appointments?"

The Secretary for Mines replied—

"1. to 4. (a) The late Government appointed an agent named F. Byrne to attend to local sales at Bowen and Townsville at a salary of £7 per week

*Mr. Collins.]*

and expenses. He is also provided with office accommodation. Action is being taken to terminate this appointment as unnecessary: (b) for a term of three years from 24th May, 1927, Harold Crofton Sleigh, of Melbourne, was by agreement with the Secretary for Mines appointed the sole and exclusive agent of the Queensland Government for coal produced at the State coalmines at Collinsville, near Bowen, required for bunkering overseas vessels and for export, saving only contracts then existing. Under this agreement Mr. Sleigh is empowered to demand 500 tons of the usual merchantable quality of coal every twenty-four hours, delivered on trucks at Collinsville, at the following prices:—

	s.	d.
Best screened coal, per ton	14	0
Run-of-mine coal, per ton ...	12	0
Screened small coal, per ton	11	0

The obligations under the agreement are all on the Government, the agent merely being called upon to 'use his best endeavours to extend the sale of the said coal.' The rates charged to the Railway Department for coal obtained from the mines in question are the same as those charged to shipping companies and others, but the agent got a concession which has averaged 5s. per ton, and for the past year was of a total value of £6,384, although he purchased only 27,402 tons, as against 62,290 tons purchased by the Railway Department. The average price to the agent was 11s. 5d. per ton, whilst cost of production for the year 1927-28 averaged 13s. 10d. per ton. Comparing the sale price to the agent with the usual selling price, the concession to the agent was really a selling commission of 30.6 per cent. The agreement contains no provision for its cancellation, other than at the end of the first twelve months if either party should then, from any cause whatsoever, consider that it was not sufficiently profitable to continue. The cancellation of this contract is at present being considered, as any action taken to that end will require parliamentary confirmation."

The sting is in the last sentence. I hope Parliament will never do anything which will injure what we have been endeavouring to build up—an export trade from the Bowen State coalmines.

On the same day the hon. member for Cook, without notice, asked the Secretary for Mines another question, which, with the reply, is reported thus—

"Was the agreement for the sale of Bowen coal to Mr. H. C. Sleigh formulated in accordance with the recommendations of any responsible official of the Department of Mines?"

The Secretary for Mines replied—

"The terms of this agreement were reported upon by Mr. J. Stafford, supervisor State coalmines. His report, dated 19th March, 1927, contains the following passages:—

Proposal 4 deals with prices, and from present costs it is impossible to sell screened coal or run-of-mine coal at the prices mentioned. For the twelve months ending June, 1926, the average cost of producing was approximately 14s. 6d., and the lowest cost was

12s. 8d. per ton. The main reason for this is governed by the amount of unsaleable coal (duff or slack), and this has to be charged against cost of production. This quantity varies according to the amount of screened coal sold, and any increase in screened coal orders (export coal would be mainly screened) increases the amount of slack that has to be put to grass, and necessarily increases the cost of production.

It is impossible to reduce present prices of 20s. screened coal and 16s. unscreened coal unless an outlet is found for slack, and the present position does not lend itself to favour the encouragement of screened coal sales."

I gave notice of the following motion for 4th September:—

"That all papers relating to the contract entered into by the Mines Department with Mr. H. C. Sleigh, of Melbourne, be laid on the table of the House."

The Minister called "Not formal" to that motion, with the result that the papers were not laid on the table of the House.

Mr. BRAND: You saw the papers at the Mines Department.

Mr. COLLINS: Never mind; I am telling the truth. Later, in reply to a question, the Minister informed the House that hon. members could peruse the papers at the department. In company with the hon. member for Mundubberra, I paid two visits to the department, and we devoted altogether three hours to the perusal of those papers. In reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Cook, the Minister, when quoting from the report of the supervisor of State coalmines, omitted a very important paragraph, which I propose to read to the House. The Minister quoted these words—

"This quantity varies according to the amount of screened coal sold, and any increase in screened coal orders—"

Export coal would be mainly screened.

"increases the amount of slack that has to be put to grass, and necessarily increases the cost of production."

He omitted to quote these words, which followed immediately after the word "production"—

"If an outlet for slack were available, then costs would be considerably reduced, and the increased output by export trade would also lower cost of production, as overhead charges are constant and are dividable by the output."

The Minister said that he quoted only what suited his own purpose, and to some extent I agree with him, because most members of Parliament do that. The Minister omitted to quote that portion, which had a most important bearing upon the whole situation. When it was brought under the notice of Mr. Sleigh that the statement had been made that he had made a profit of over £6,000, he immediately took action. He wrote to the Premier protesting against the statement that had been made that he had made a profit of over £6,000, and, I believe, under instructions from the Premier to the Secretary for Mines, that letter was published in the press. It appeared in full in the "Daily Mail," the "Telegraph," and the "Daily Standard," but, so far as my

[Mr. Collins.

memory serves me, it did not appear in full in the "Courier." I do not intend to quote the whole letter, being content to quote extracts from it, but I have mentioned the papers in which it appears in full, so that hon. members may follow me if they wish. Neither the hon. member for Mundingburra nor myself was able to discover anything wrong after examining the papers in the Mines Department. The extracts that I propose to quote from Mr. Sleigh's letter are taken from the publication of his letter in full in the "Daily Standard" of 6th September—

[4 p.m.]

"After some considerable discussion the prices of Bowen coal were fixed as follows:—Best screened coal, 14s. per ton; run-of-mine coal, 12s. per ton; screened small coal, 11s. per ton. Subsequently unscreened small coal was added to the list, the price being fixed at 9s. 6d. The foregoing prices are free on rail at the mine at Collinsville, and to which has to be added rail freight on bunker coal 2s. 9d. a ton, and on cargo coal 2s. 4d. a ton. In addition, the following charges are payable to the Bowen Harbour Board:—

"Cargo Coal.—Wharfage, 3d.; harbour due, 3d.; cranage, 1s.

"Bunker Coal.—Cranage, 1s.

"Labour charges on the wharf at Bowen amount to approximately 1s. a ton on both cargo and bunker coal, and this charge does not include cost of trimming or any labour on board ship in loading coal.

"At the outset of this business it was found to be extremely difficult to secure orders, and during the first seven months no orders were booked, although the coal was extensively advertised both in Europe and in Australia. From 1st January to 20th June, 1923, sales of coal began, the total quantity of cargo and bunkers shipped in this period being 5,903 tons 2 cwt. From 1st July, 1923, to 30th June, 1929, a further increase took place, the total quantity shipped being 27,279 tons 15 cwt. From 1st July, 1929, until 24th August, 1929, the total quantity shipped was 9,911 tons 4 cwt., and there is at present on order, but unshipped or in course of shipment, 17,680 tons.

"NET PROFIT OF £568 16s. 9d.

"I would point out, in consequence of my efforts to increase the sale of Bowen State coal, that since the contract was entered into, forty-four steamers have called, or are due to call, at Bowen for the purpose of loading coal, and that each one of these vessels has expended several hundred pounds in stores, etc., during her visit. It would appear from the newspaper report referred to that some exploitation of the Mines Department at my hands has taken place. I wish, Mr. Premier, most emphatically to deny such is the case, and from the enclosed statement you will ascertain that the profits made by me are as follows:—

"From 24th May, 1927, until 30th June, 1927, there was an establishment loss, mostly created by advertising charges, of £352 8s. 2d."

I now lay a booklet on the table of the House for the information of hon. members, as an example of the methods adopted by Mr. Sleigh in advertising the Bowen State coal all over the world. Hon. members can see that it is a booklet well got up, nicely printed, excellently illustrated, and showing that Mr. Sleigh was making a conscientious endeavour to assist Queensland to create an export trade for her coal. The letter continues—

"From 1st July to 30th December, 1927, there was a further loss of £168 11s. 8d., while from 1st January, 1928, to 30th June, 1928, despite the fact that 5,093 tons 2 cwt. of coal had been shipped in this period, there was an additional loss of £186 1s. 6d. Up to that point my total losses in establishment, etc., were £707 1s. 4d. in actual out-of-pocket expense, without taking into calculation any salaries or overhead expenses of any kind.

"From 1st July, 1928, to 31st December, 1928, which is half the period referred to in the statement made in Parliament, I made a profit of £256 16s. 6d., and from 1st January, 1929, to 30th June, 1929, I made a profit of £1,019 1s. 7d. This profit was made on 27,279 tons 15 cwt. of coal shipped, and after deducting previous losses from profits made in the periods referred to there remains a net profit of £568 16s. 9d., which represents 4.217d. a ton, which can hardly be looked upon as an extraordinary remuneration for the work that has been put into this business, covering two and a-half years, and which makes no allowance for salaries or other overhead expenses."

Further on in his letter Mr. Sleigh suggests that the Premier should appoint a qualified accountant, if he so wished, to examine his accounts in relation to the transactions regarding the purchase of Bowen coal.

The SPEAKER: Order! I would draw the attention of the hon. member for Bowen to the manner in which he is conducting his argument, which is quite contrary to parliamentary practice and the correct procedure.

I have in my hand a "Manual of the Practice, Procedure, and Usage of the South Australian Assembly," by Mr. E. G. Blackmore, and the following is an extract which is relevant to the matter which the hon. member is now discussing:—

"There is no rule of debate more clearly established than that it is irregular to anticipate and raise a discussion upon any matter which is to come on at a later period."

I would like hon. members to pay particular attention to this—

"Greater latitude of debate is allowed on the motion for going into Committee of Supply than on any other question; but even in this case it is irregular to discuss the details of any Bill to be considered, or any motion of which notice has been given . . ."

There are two notices of motion on the business-sheet—one in the name of the hon. member for Bowen, and one in the name of the hon. member for Herbert—both dealing with the Sleigh agreement. I would ask the hon. member for Bowen not to continue debating on the lines on which he has been proceeding, as his action is irregular and

*Hon. C. Taylor.]*

contrary to parliamentary procedure. I have given my authority.

Mr. COLLINS: Do I understand, Mr. Speaker, that I cannot deal with the Bowen State coalmine and with the export of coal?

The SPEAKER: The hon. member can deal with the Bowen State coalmine and with the export of coal as much as he likes, but not in connection with the Sleigh contract, which has been introduced into the debate, because a notice of motion stands in the name of the hon. member himself—that all the papers relating to the Sleigh contract be laid on the table of the House; whilst a further motion, standing in the name of the hon. member for Herbert, is that a select committee be appointed to go into the whole transaction. Therefore, the discussion in that particular direction at this stage is out of order. The hon. member may refer to the export of coal as much as he likes, but he cannot refer to the terms of the contract entered into with Mr. Sleigh.

Mr. COLLINS: I am a little handicapped, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the Premier said that he did not intend to give an opportunity to discuss my notice of motion. During the twenty years that I have been in this House I have never seen a member interfered with in this way in connection with a motion—"That you do now leave the chair"—to go into Committee of Supply. However, I have to bow to your ruling, because you, not I, are in command of this Chamber. At any rate, it places me in a very awkward position.

Mr. BRAND: You have no grievance at all.

Mr. COLLINS: I have a real grievance. I will obey Mr. Speaker's ruling, not the hon. member's. Having been allowed to proceed so far, one can understand that the whole of my speech has now been spoilt by your ruling, Mr. Speaker. (Government laughter.)

Mr. CLAYTON: Who cares?

Mr. COLLINS: My electors care.

Mr. EDWARDS: You were putting up a bad case.

Mr. COLLINS: Not at all—I was putting up a good case. It is ruled that I can continue to make reference to the export of coal from Bowen. Well, Mr. Sleigh comes into that without the Sleigh agreement at all.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: My word, he does! (Government laughter.)

Mr. COLLINS: And I am puzzled as to how to proceed.

The TREASURER: Give it best! (Laughter.)

Mr. COLLINS: I have never given a thing best in my life. My point is that there are three factors in connection with the export of coal from Bowen, and I hope the Treasurer will pay a little attention to me now. A new jetty and an up-to-date crane have been built at Bowen.

We have had built at Bowen a new jetty and, in this connection, on the 18th September, I asked the Treasurer this question:—

"BOWEN HARBOUR BOARD.

"1. What was the total cost of erecting and equipping the new jetty at Bowen?

[Hon. C. Taylor.

"2. What is the amount of the annual interest being charged by the Treasury to the Bowen Harbour Board in connection with the capitalisation mentioned in 1?

"3. Has the Bowen Harbour Board met its obligations to the Treasury in this connection?

"4. Has there been any increase in trade to the port of Bowen since the completion of the new jetty, and what is the estimated amount of such increased trade?"

The Treasurer replied—

"1. A loan of £217,597 1s. 11d. was granted to the Bowen Harbour Board.

"2. The annual instalment of interest and redemption on the loan is £13,560 5s. 8d.

"3. No.

"4. The revenue collected by the Bowen Harbour Board from all sources during the years 1925 to 1928 was as follows:—1925, £9,540 18s. 10d.; 1926, £11,723 7s 5d.; 1927, £10,513 15s. 5d.; 1928, £12,442 5s. 2d."

It will be noticed that there is an increase of nearly £2,000 in the receipts of the Bowen Harbour Board, brought about by the export of coal from Bowen. There are three factors to be considered in regard to export of coal. One is the Bowen Harbour Board; and, if we are going to increase the export trade, that harbour board will be able to meet its liabilities to the Treasury. At the present time we have a Government in power that is talking about finding work for the unemployed. This is one of the methods for finding work for men who work on the waterfront. Hon. members sitting on the other side of the House claim that they are business men, and, therefore, they will know what the fact of ships coming to Bowen for coal in increased quantities means to the business people of Bowen. It means increased business to the town of Bowen.

Mr. BRAND: Trimming costs are very high at Bowen.

Mr. COLLINS: The latest report from the Bowen Harbour Board shows that they are loading coal at Bowen cheaper than at any other place in Australia.

Mr. BRAND: That is not true.

Mr. COLLINS: It is true, and the hon. member cannot deny it. Let me quote the opinion of Mr. Shepherd, the chairman of the Bowen Harbour Board—a gentleman who ought to be well known to members opposite as well as to members sitting on this side, because, on the death of the late Senator Givens, the present Premier moved that Mr. Robert Shepherd be appointed to fill the vacancy in the Senate created by the death of Senator Givens. This is what Mr. Shepherd said, as quoted in the Bowen "Independent" of 14th September:—

"Mr. Marshall said, before the meeting closed he would like, on behalf of the other members of the Board to welcome Mr. Shepherd back, and expressed a hope that he had had a successful trip and that he was in very good health.

"The chairman thanked the members for their expression of good will. He was pleased to see everything going on well. Mr. Marshall (acting chairman) having satisfied him on this point on his return last week. He had

made many inquiries whilst on his trip and in India found that the jute mills were getting coal at 11s. per ton delivered at the furnaces. At Singapore it was 24s. per ton landed. The coal came from Durban and they had no hope of placing coal at any of those places until big alterations were made. He saw some very fine piers at Marseilles, Bombay, and Calcutta, but so far as any special jetty was concerned he didn't see anything better for its size than the new pier at Bowen either in the method of construction or the work right through. If the work had cost more by day labour they had at least a very substantial structure. As regards the crane, he had discussed the question with men who were in a position to criticise and was satisfied it could do the work for some time to come. They had nothing to fear in that direction, and the only trouble was there was not sufficient work for it.

Mr. Shepherd is well qualified to express an opinion. I know that he is as anxious as any man could possibly be to build up an export trade to enable him to meet his dues to the Treasurer. The only way it can be done is by encouraging an export trade, which I mentioned earlier in my remarks when quoting an extract from my speech delivered in this Chamber in 1927. How can we compete in the world with our coal when South Africa is giving the bounty stated by the hon. member for Burrum the other night—and I take his figures as being correct?

Mr. BRAND: They are correct.

Mr. COLLINS: The hon. member quoted the bounty paid in South Africa as being 8s. 6d. per ton on coal exported. That is the kind of competition we are up against. What was wrong on the part of the late Labour Government in their action—and all honour to them—in reducing the price of coal below the cost of production to enable us to get an export trade? What has it meant in other directions than with respect to the prosperity of Bowen? Take, for instance, the railway from Merinda to the Bowen coalfield—a distance of 48 miles odd—which cost a little over £600,000 to construct. We established a State coalmine there, and, through the shipments from that coalmine since its inception, we have saved the Railway Department £300,000 compared with

what the department would have had to pay for coal had it been brought from elsewhere. That is a marvellous thing for any Government to do. This export trade means a further increase of work at the Bowen coalfields. I can remember in 1927 when the miners were only averaging about three days a week the whole year round.

Dealing with the railway, on 10th September last I asked the Secretary for Railways the following question:—

“1. What are the railage charges for the carriage of coal from the State coalmine at Collinsville to Bowen Jetty for—  
(a) coal for bunkering vessels and for interstate use; and (b) coal for export purposes?”

“2. What revenue was received by the Railway Department under each of the headings mentioned in (1) on account of coal carried by the railway during each of the financial years 1927-28 and 1928-29?”

The Secretary for Railways replied—

“1. (a) 2s. 9d. per ton; (b) 2s. 4d. per ton.

“2.—

	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£
Bunkering and interstate	1,168	1,226
Export	306	2,709

Hon. members will notice the increase in the earnings of the railway in connection with the export of coal. In 1927-28 it was only £306; yet in 1928-29 it had reached £2,709. That means more work for the railwaymen. I have pointed out how it increased work on the waterfront, increased the work on our railways, and increased work in our State coalmine.

If time will permit, I would like to quote a few figures in connection with the Bowen State coalmine—because these questions are all linked together—but I would ask the permission of the House that they should go into “Hansard” without my reading them. They are to be found on page 152 of our “Votes and Proceedings.”

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the figures the hon. member desires to quote shall be printed in “Hansard” without being read by him?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. COLLINS: These are the figures—

Period.	(a) Pro- duction.	(b)		(c) Interest to Treasury.	(d) Depreciation.	(e) Royalties.	(f) Profits.
		Total Cost of Production.	Average Per Ton.				
	Tons.	£ s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1-8-17 to 30-9-22	2,110	From Development		..	..	..	..
1-10-22 to 30-6-23	49,620	33,600	0 11	12	1-6	..	..
1-7-23 to 30-6-24	74,866	61,600	17 4	16	5-5	3,635	6 0
1-7-24 to 30-6-25	80,135	57,964	17 4	14	5-6	4,061	12 7
1-7-25 to 30-6-26	119,785	84,119	11 4	14	0-5	3,694	12 9
1-7-26 to 30-6-27	106,481	80,382	4 5	15	1-2	2,836	9 1
1-7-27 to 30-6-28	114,802	79,191	7 0	13	9-3	2,516	9 10
1-7-28 to 30-6-29	129,100	90,345	3 4	13	11-9	2,250	13 10

Mr. Collins.]

That is a very interesting table. It goes to show—I have had to add up the figures myself—that the complete production of the mine since its inception has been 676,899 tons. In addition, we have a privately owned mine situated 3 miles 10 chains away which, since the completion of the railway, has produced 197,424 tons, or a total production from the two mines of 874,323 tons.

One of the arguments that has been used against lowering the price of coal for export is that it was not a payable proposition. Yet we find that the State coalmine has paid in royalties since its inception £22,839 19s. 2d. Every ton of coal taken out of that mine to-day pays 1s. per ton royalty to the Department of Mines, and every ton taken out of the privately owned mine pays a similar amount. The privately owned mine has paid in royalty £5,268 14s. 4d., or a total between the two mines of £28,107 13s. 6d. That sum could not have been paid but for the fact that those mines have been able to export 40,000 to 50,000 tons of coal, which otherwise would have remained in the ground. Had that coal not been taken out of the ground, the Crown would have received in royalties over £2,000 less than it actually did receive.

I regret very much that we have had to have this discussion. I was under the impression that the duty of a Government was to encourage that mine and the greater export of coal, to permit of the greater employment of our own people. My teaching may have been wrong, because economists sometimes do teach you wrongly, but I was taught that the greater the production the less the cost of production, because the overhead charges are reduced proportionately. The point I want to make is that, if the coal had not been taken out of the ground, where it has no value—it is only by the application to it of human labour that it is made valuable—this amount of royalty would not have been paid. The Bowen State coalmine shows a total profit of £47,207 0s. 10d. since its inception, in addition to which it has paid in depreciation £17,077 11s. 9d., and interest to the Treasury, £18,955 4s. 1d. There is nothing like it in the whole history of Queensland. There is no mine which has done so well after paying its interest and depreciation and royalty charges.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has exhausted the time allowed him under the Standing Orders.

At 4.28 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. Roberts, *East Toowoomba*) relieved the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. BRASSINGTON (*Balonne*): I desire first to express my sincere regret at the passing of my good friend, the late Mr. David Weir. I was privileged to know the late gentleman fairly well, as I was in company with him here for some time. One of the outstanding features of the late gentleman was his high family traditions, and the fact that at all times he set a good example to others by the fine moral life that he lived. I feel sure that this House will be much poorer as the result of the loss of Mr. Weir.

I desire to refer to the statement made by the Premier during the course of his remarks last Thursday night. He took exception to hon. members on this side referring to an election promise that he had made, and, when moving a vote of thanks to the Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, at the Exhibition Hall

[*Mr. Collins.*

on Monday night, the hon. gentleman repeated the remark that he had made in this Chamber last Thursday. He said that at no time did he make a definite promise that he would make available the sum of £2,000,000 for the relief of the unemployed in this State. What did the Premier actually say? This statement appeared in the Brisbane "Courier" of 10th May, 1929—

"FINAL APPEAL.

"COUNTRY-NATIONAL PARTY.

"The main object of the new Government in Queensland will be to create conditions which will promote harmonious relationship in industry. In the meantime I pledge my party to make available £2,000,000 for the relief of the present distressful condition of the large army of unemployed and their wives and families.

"(Signed) A. E. MOORE."

That is a very definite statement, and I, for one, want to know why the Premier does not intend to honour that promise. The making of that promise was one of the greatest examples of the exploitation of the miseries of the unemployed ever known in this State. No political party in the past ever endeavoured to secure the reins of government by exploiting the miseries of those who were "down and out." The hon. gentleman consistently states that he did not make the promise. As the Premier is an honourable man and one who expects us to accept that statement, will he inform us who did make the statement that £2,000,000 would be made available, if he did not make it? I want to know who was responsible for the signature of the Premier appearing under that statement. Apparently someone at Terrica House was responsible. Apparently the Premier is so despised at Terrica House that they will use his name without consulting him. That is a very serious matter; and I suggest—in fact, I demand—that the Government shall at least be fair to their promise and make this money available. I also demand that a full inquiry be made into the statement appearing in the "Brisbane Courier," and, if anyone is responsible for using the signature of the Premier unfairly, then I suggest that the law be brought to bear on that person. I wish to add that hon. members on this side intend very definitely to keep this question before the people of Queensland. We intend to keep the matter prominently to the front until the people realise what a lot of promise-breakers now occupy the Treasury benches, and until this promise-breaking Government collapse like a house of cards.

[4.50 p.m.]

Another grievance that I have against the Government is that they promised the people that under no consideration would wages be reduced or hours increased.

In that connection it is very necessary that we should make a survey of the activities of the Government since they returned to power. I want, firstly, to deal with the suspension of the rural workers' award. This award was suspended without any reference to the legal rights of the parties governed by the award. If this award was to be suspended, it was the duty of the Government to suggest to the party desiring its suspension to make application to the Board of Trade and Arbitration and have their application dealt with in a proper and legal

manner. If that had been done, the workers of this State would have more respect for the Government than they have at present. How can we expect the workers of this State to honour and respect the principle of arbitration and conciliation when we find the Government—the first authority in the land—flouting and trampling down that very principle? Hon. members opposite are continually preaching that the workers on all occasions are prepared to break awards and disregard conditions imposed by the Board of Trade and Arbitration. I submit that by their own action a few months ago, in suspending the rural workers' award without any reference whatever to the Board of Trade and Arbitration, they have created a precedent in that respect. This is a matter of great importance, and I say very definitely that the Government's action has struck a death blow at arbitration. As a matter of fact, the matter will be carried further. I heard the hon. member for Gympie say here the other day that if he had his way he would press for the abolition of all awards relating to primary industries. In other words, he suggested that the workers engaged in the shearing industry in Western Queensland would have to work for the same rate of wages that many of the employees in the rural industry are receiving to-day.

Mr. CLAYTON: He did not say anything of the sort, and you know it.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The hon. member for Gympie suggested that awards relating to primary industries should be abolished.

Mr. CLAYTON: Don't misquote his remarks.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: If the hon. member for Gympie were here I would still say the same.

Mr. CLAYTON: I won't let you.

Mr. HYNES: He said all primary awards.

Mr. CLAYTON: He didn't refer to the award relating to the shearing industry.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The shearers are governed by an award of the Board of Trade and Arbitration, and every hon. member will admit that the pastoral industry is a primary industry.

I asked the Secretary for Railways a number of questions some time ago relating to the employment of farmers on railway construction and main roads works, and I suggested that these men, who own farms, were receiving award rates of pay, and while so employed were employing men on their farms at wages ranging from 10s. to 15s. per week. The reply the hon. gentleman gave to me was of a side-stepping nature. He asked me to produce proof. If he wants proof that what I stated is happening, then he has only to peruse letters appearing in the daily press.

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS: There is nothing in them.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: It is a matter which should be investigated. The result of the abolition of the rural workers' award is very clearly seen by subsequent happenings. A statement appeared in the press the other day that a married man with a family had tramped out into the country and secured a position on a farm, and that the wage offered was £1 per week and find himself. He had to work fifty or sixty hours a week. That is what hon. members

opposite stand for. Their action has resulted in men being engaged on farms for £1 a week and find themselves.

Mr. MAHER: Can you give proof in support of that statement?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I suggest that the hon. member should be a little more industrious, read the daily newspapers, and see complaints to this effect himself.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: Is it a signed statement?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: In concluding my remarks on this subject, I would urge the Government to be fair to the most unfortunate section of the community. Before carrying this matter further, let them institute an inquiry into the conditions of the rural workers throughout the State. I ask for justice for those workers, because of all the workers in the State they occupy the meanest level possible; and, if the Government are not prepared to stand up to their responsibilities and play fair by these people, then they have not honoured their election promises, and have again gone back on the many pledges given during the election campaign.

A remarkable feature of the Government's activity since their return has been the policy of retrenchment that is being put into effect.

Mr. MAXWELL: Where?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The hon. member asks me where!

Mr. MAXWELL: And you cannot tell us.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The Secretary for Railways has admitted that a number of men have been dismissed from the railway service; that the staff of porters at the Central Station has been reduced; and that other employees on the permanent staff of the department have been removed from the service. What a remarkable policy for a Government to pursue who were returned to power on a promise to relieve unemployment! In the face of that policy, how can they honestly claim that they are playing fair by the people of this State? Let me carry the argument a point further: Hon. members opposite say they have not interfered with wages and conditions, but, in face of the position of the thousand construction workers now employed for four days a week at a wage of £3 4s., can they honestly say that it is fair and just?

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: You sacked them every time after an election.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I deny that.

The SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY: We can prove it.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: In the second place, it is not what we did that matters; it is what the Government are doing, because they are on trial, and it is up to them to stand up to their responsibility. Many of these unfortunate construction workers were unemployed for a long period prior to their employment on present work.

Mr. CLAYTON: Prior to the last election.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: When they went on the construction work they were very deeply in debt, and thought that they would receive a wage at least sufficient to enable them to keep their families and to get out of debt. What did they find? They were only there a few weeks when the Government reduced their wages to £3 4s. per week. Is it a

*Mr. Brassington.]*

fair and reasonable proposition that any man should be asked to support a wife and family on the miserable wage of £3 4s. per week, particularly when it is remembered that many of these men contribute for the upkeep of homes situated a long distance from their place of employment? The people outside will remember the promises made by hon. gentlemen opposite—the promises, for example, of the Attorney-General and the hon. member for Maree, who, speaking at Ipswich, said that under no circumstances would they favour a reduction of wages.

Mr. TEDMAN: Neither we do.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I would like to know what they did in the party meeting, and whether they are prepared to condemn the Government they now support. If they are not prepared to do that, the people outside will know that they have been neither true to their principles nor faithful to their trust—that, now that they have got to power, they have sold their principles for the sake of keeping an incompetent Government in office.

This all-important question of arbitration is at present agitating the minds of the people of the Commonwealth. We all know the proposals of Mr. Bruce and what will happen if the Bruce-Pago Government is again returned to power. When the Premier spoke here the other night he told hon. members that, if they made a sacrifice in their wages, the working people outside would also have to make a sacrifice.

Mr. MAXWELL: You are romancing.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The Premier can be congratulated on his candour in this regard.

Mr. MAXWELL: He never made any such statement.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: It does not surprise one to hear the Premier making such a statement when we look around and see the campaign that is now being conducted throughout this country in an attack on arbitration and in favour of a reduction of wages and a general decline in the workers' conditions. Firstly, there has been an agitation by hon. members opposite, by the Employers' Federation, and by the press of this State. All these forces are arrayed against the Labour party and against the workers of Queensland. On top of that, we find the Attorney-General's very remarkable statement that his Government would ringbark the Arbitration Court of this State. I shall have more to say about that later on. We also remember that the Premier of this State recently attended a conference of Premiers in the South, and also attended one of the secret sessions, where no doubt he and the other Premiers, as well as the representatives of the Commonwealth Government, definitely arrived at an agreement to destroy arbitration and leave the workers in the power of the employer. Then we had a secret meeting of employers and the Secretary for Labour and Industry. We do not know what transpired at that conference, but we do know that Mr. C. W. Campbell, speaking last night on this industrial question said—

"With regard to the State Act, Mr. Sizer has promised relief in many directions, recognising that there were too many restrictions on industry and the principle that those engaged in industry were the best judges of what was best for the industry."

[Mr. Brassington.

That is a very definite statement, and I can only interpret it to mean that the Employers' Federation were the best persons to be in control of industry, and that they will then approach the Secretary for Labour and Industry and suggest that the Government should attack arbitration, bring about a reduction of wages, increase hours, and generally make worse the conditions of the workers of the State. It is a very strange coincidence that hon. members opposite have always preached that doctrine. It is also a strange coincidence that the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth is now appealing to the people on that same issue. And it is also very strange that just after the Prime Minister delivered his policy speech the report of the Royal Commission on the Constitution should be made public. This Royal Commission on the Constitution is comprised mostly of Nationalist Party hacks—men who have been behind the Nationalist machine for years—men who were a nuisance, and were found a job on that commission. They received general instructions before they went to work on that commission, and, after the Prime Minister's policy speech was delivered, the report of the commission was made public, obviously to impress the people of this country.

Mr. MAXWELL: You are as bad as Billy Hughes.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I am glad to think that the hon. member for Toowoong is prepared to place me anywhere near the hon. member for North Sydney. The submission of that report was a very definite and unfair advantage to take in this election campaign, and I say that those tactics are worthy of the parties opposed to Labour, because on all occasions they can be relied on to take the meanest advantage possible.

Mr. KELSO: You know that is untrue.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I know it is true. Before I leave this very important question I might point out—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: A few facts.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The hon. gentleman talks about facts—he is rather a stranger to facts. I was going to say how this scheme will work. The Commonwealth Government, I understand, propose, if the verdict is in their favour on 12th October, to place the responsibility for the conducting of arbitration tribunals on the shoulders of the State Parliaments. This Government outlined a policy to the people which embraces what they termed "round-table conferences." The futility of round-table conferences can be seen by the successive conferences summoned by Sir Wallace Bruce, the Mayor of Adelaide, to try to bring warring factions in industry together. Most of those conferences were a failure. I suggest that the round-table conferences indicated by the Government will also be a failure.

Mr. EDWARDS interjected.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: I know they will be, because I have had experience of dealing with employers like the hon. member for Nanango. The round-table conferences will be a failure, and the dispute will then be sent on to the Board of Trade and Arbitration, which, to use the classical expression of the Attorney-General, will be a "ringbarked" court. I think the personnel of this court

will be two representatives favourable to the interests of those opposed to the working classes and one representative in favour of the workers. Naturally, any dispute referred to such a tribunal would be unsatisfactorily solved, chaos would occur in industry, and, generally, the working class would be held responsible.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: What about the Commonwealth court?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The present Commonwealth Government dispensed with the services of judges and appointed in their place party supporters such as Senator Drake-Brockman, Judge Lukin, and Judge Beeby—men who were antagonistic to the working class—men who gave awards unfair to the workers in the different industries, with the result that we have had disastrous strikes and the country has suffered thereby.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: That is a reflection on the judges.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The hon. gentleman says it is a reflection on the judges. Then he believes, apparently, in the principle of political appointments.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: No.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: When men are appointed who have no industrial experience—men who do not understand industrial questions—is it any wonder that their awards have failed and trouble has occurred throughout industry in this country? I believe that behind all this agitation—behind all these inspired statements appearing in the press—these inspired speeches by the Prime Minister and hon. members opposite, there is a desire to go back to the days before industrial organisation was known in this State—to the days when the "open shop" was in force.

In case hon. members opposite should misunderstand what I mean by the "open shop," I want to say definitely that it stands for all that is bad as regards the exploitation of the working class. It stands for sweated labour, miserable conditions, and the enslavement of the working class; and I want to support my contention by referring to some of the things that are happening in America to-day. I desire to refer to the famous delegation which went from this country at the request of the Prime Minister to investigate American industrial conditions.

The delegation returned from America and submitted a majority report suggesting that, as far as possible, Australia should copy American methods in industry. Even the gentleman who made the statement to which I referred a few moments ago—Mr. Campbell—

Mr. MAXWELL: That is not the same gentleman.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: Well, a Mr. Campbell was on the delegation. I apologise to the one I have quoted, if he was not. The Mr. Campbell who was on the delegation was whole-heartedly in support of introducing American methods into this country. Several years have elapsed since that report was received, and in the meantime the Commonwealth Government have laid the foundation for the change from our fine Australian conditions to conditions similar to those which prevail in America.

In case hon. members opposite should be confused on this point, let me quote a few

facts to convince them of what the "open shop" would really mean to the people of this State. The history of the American system has become widely known for its brutal, coercive methods. I quote first the coal strike in Pennsylvania and Illinois, where an attempt was made by the employers to reduce wages to a low level. The miners went on strike, and the employers used against them the law and all the forces at their disposal. These were the State militia, the "Coal and Iron Police." These, along with machine-guns, batons, and every other form of suppression known in the civilised world, were used. The miners were out for two years against that brutal system, and in the end they were crushed. During that strike there was a massacre of the working class at the mining town of Herrin, Illinois. These brutal constables, the State militia, fired on them, and killed and wounded quite a number of innocent persons.

Then we have the strike of the oil operators in California. Probably no blacker passage than this has occurred in the history of the world. These men who were being exploited and trampled in the dust made a fight for better wages and conditions; and against them were arrayed the laws of the State and Federal Governments and every coercive measure that could be brought into the fight. It was a common practice for the police in California to make against the union leaders charges so serious and unfair as to send men to the electric chair unjustly—as in the case of Mooney, a noted Labour leader in San Francisco. His case stands out as an instance of what anti-Labour persecution in America will stand for. He was charged, convicted, and sentenced to the electric chair. Successive appeals held up Moody's execution, and some years afterwards—I think five—it was discovered that he was innocent. The same applies to men who were executed last year, Sacco and Vanzetti—men who were prepared to stand up and fight for the rights of the workers.

Mr. MAHER: Murderers! Do you justify that?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: They were sent to the electric chair.

Mr. MAHER: Are you justifying murder?

Mr. BRASSINGTON: If you will ask hon. members on the other side, Mr. Speaker, to give me a hearing, I will say that those two men were arraigned for the South Daintree murder. They were convicted because they were Labour leaders in the State of Massachusetts—(Government dissent)—and executed despite the fact that another person under sentence of death, who was a member of the gang that committed the murder, signed a definite statement that those two men had nothing to do with what was known as the South Daintree murder. One was an honest shoeman and the other a fish-hawker. They stood for the rights of the working class. Hon. members opposite may ask what this has to do with us. I am endeavouring to make the point that, if they had their way, they would introduce the American system into this country, when it would have a lot to do with us. I refer also to the fight by the Metal Polishers' Union against the Chicago Shafting Company—people who manufactured the Cooper combs and cutters used in Australia by Australian workers. These men were fighting against what was termed the "Yellow organisations." They were fighting against "open

Mr. Brassington.]

shop" methods, and they appealed to the workers of this country not to buy those combs and cutters.

We also have another definite case—that of the miners in the iron mines in the State of Nevada. The men also employed in smelting works under desperate conditions and low wages. They were compelled to work in a frightful climate, working sixteen hours a day under conditions under which men could not live more than six to seven years at that occupation. This place was renowned as the worst place in America. It possessed the highest mortality rate.

I think I have submitted sufficient to show the result of the American system, which would be introduced into this country if hon. members opposite had their way. Before leaving the subject I desire to quote several statements from "Let Freedom Ring," a very remarkable work by James Garfield Hayes, a leading American barrister. This man was connected with the coal workers' strike, and he details the position and the methods used in the little village of Vintondale, in Pennsylvania. Here are some of the extracts—

"Where shall we go?" was the next inquiry. That seemed to be a matter of indifference. Somerset county, where union organisers were arrested on sight; Cambria county, filled with State troopers and coal and iron police, organised to maintain order with machine guns, clubs, and rifles. We'd get the same reception anywhere. 'What's the toughest town?' 'Well, there's Vintondale; we haven't been able to get near the place.'"

Approaching Vintondale, Hayes described the following:—

"On the piles and other points of vantage are mounted powerful searchlights to warn off strangers at night. Machine guns? No doubt. An armed guard stands near the sentry booth. In the road are obstructions squarely planted to hold up traffic."

Further, he says—

"The coal and iron police, wearing awe-inspiring grey uniforms belted with ammunition, armed with gun and black-jack, are in chase."

This is the last statement I desire to read—

"A union meeting was broken up in Du Quesne, Pennsylvania, and the speaker arrested. The mayor said that the Lord himself could not speak in Du Quesne on the Labour question, the evident and probably true assumption being that the Lord would be on the side of the workers."

Those are some very definite facts concerning the industrial conditions existing in America which hon. members opposite and the Prime Minister desire to introduce into Australia. In submitting his new scheme of arbitration to the States, the Prime Minister forgets the fact that ten months ago he was returned with a definite mandate to stand for the principle of Federal arbitration. He also forgets the fact that he was a great believer in Federal arbitration prior to the last appeal to the people. This is what the Prime Minister had to say—

[5 p.m.]

"The suggestion was made that only two industries—shipping and shearing—

[Mr. Brassington.

were the affairs of the Commonwealth. That, of course, is quite wrong. There are many other industries that are nation-wide in their ramifications."

The Federal Attorney-General, Hon. J. G. Latham, said—

"There are those who urged that the Arbitration Court should be abolished. The abolition of the Court would not solve any problem. On the contrary it would create new problems without any satisfactory means of solving them. There were 149 unions representing 693,000 unionists, and twenty-seven employers organisations registered in the court and most of these organisations were working in peace under the awards of the court."

Those statements are not mine; they are the statements of the Federal Prime Minister and Attorney-General. They were made ten months ago. The Bruce-Page Government were returned by the electors of the Commonwealth with a mandate to put their policy into effect; and now we find them asking for a mandate to do just exactly the opposite of what they said ten months ago! They may make out an argument for the abolition of the Federal Arbitration Court; but, if that court is abolished, industry in this Commonwealth will not improve. It will regress. The fact is obvious that, if you have six State awards covering one industry with six different rates of pay, that industry cannot carry on and expand. It is only fair and logical to assume that whatever might be the faults of the Federal arbitration system, it is up to the people of this country to fight for its retention, and, if possible, endeavour to improve it.

Before concluding, I want to say that the Federal Court can be improved on. During the last three years something like twenty-eight complaints have awaited the determination of the Federal Arbitration Court. The court is not functioning as it should. If it were functioning in the interests of the country, its scope should be broad enough to admit of both employer and employee having their grievances heard as quickly as possible, and being sent away satisfied. Instead of asking the States to accept the responsibility of fixing hours, wages, and conditions in the industry, the Commonwealth Government should take upon themselves their rightful responsibility, and extend the powers of the court in order to permit of claims being dealt with expeditiously and the parties making those claims sent away satisfied. If the Court were constituted along these lines, it would be a great success. It is very evident that a definite arrangement exists between the Governments of the various States and the Federal Government.

A GOVERNMENT MEMBER: Your speech is one appealing to class hatred.

At 5.3 p.m.,

The SPEAKER resumed the chair.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: The Federal Government cannot make out a convincing case for abandoning arbitration and conciliation in the Federal sphere. The issue before the people is clear. If they vote for the Bruce-Page Government, they will place themselves within the fetters of industrial slavery; but, if they vote for the Labour Party, they will at least vote for a little contentment and happiness to which they are

justly entitled. This Commonwealth is passing through one of its darkest periods. Every State, with the exception of Western Australia, is controlled by an anti-Labour Government.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: The Government of Western Australia are supporting Mr. Bruce's arbitration proposals.

Mr. BRASSINGTON: These anti-Labour Governments are ruling with their policies of despair. Under the Bruce-Page Government our national Parliament has been degraded, our national assets depreciated, and the accumulated deficits under their regime have amounted to £4,900,000.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has exhausted his time under the Standing Orders.

Question—"That the Speaker do now leave the chair"—put and passed.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

(Mr. Roberts, East Toowoomba, in the chair.)

The TREASURER (Hon. W. H. Barnes, Wynnnum), who was received with Government cheers, said: Mr. Roberts, I am entrusted with the honour of placing before

the Committee a review of the position of the public finances of the State.

The Statement which I am about to read contains several tables of figures, and I would suggest that the Committee consent to take these tables as read.

It must be realised that, so far as the transactions of the past financial year are concerned, very little, if any, responsibility rests on the shoulders of the present Government, as we were not sufficiently long in control of matters, prior to the 30th June last, to afford opportunity of effecting any appreciable influence on the finances of the year.

The Consolidated Revenue Fund on the 30th June last disclosed a deficit of £165,957, arrived at as follows:—

	£	£
Expenditure .. .. .	16,902,145	16,902,145
Less receipts .. .. .	16,725,682	
Transferred from Surplus Revenue Trust Fund, being surplus at 30th June, 1928 .. .. .	10,566	
	16,736,188	16,736,188
Deficit .. .. .		£165,957

The following tables show the receipts and expenditure under the principal headings as compared with the Budget Estimates in each case:—

## RECEIPTS, 1928-29.

Head of Revenue.	Budget Estimate.	Receipts.	Over Estimate.	Under Estimate.
	£	£	£	£
Commonwealth .. .. .	1,096,235	1,060,234	..	36,001
Taxation .. .. .	4,702,000	4,671,652	..	30,348
Land .. .. .	1,412,000	1,445,558	33,558	..
Mining .. .. .	37,400	53,783	16,383	..
Railways .. .. .	7,700,000	7,567,281	..	132,719
Other receipts .. .. .	1,919,500	1,937,680	18,180	..
Totals .. .. .	16,867,135	16,736,188	68,121	199,068
Under estimate .. .. .	£130,947		£130,947	

## EXPENDITURE, 1928-29.

Head of Expenditure.	Budget Estimate.	Expenditure.	Over Estimate.	Under Estimate.
	£	£	£	£
Schedules .. .. .	636,209	631,792	..	4,417
Interest on the Public Debt .. .. .	5,214,595	5,170,948	..	43,647
Executive and Legislative .. .. .	23,206	22,460	..	746
Premier and Chief Secretary .. .. .	154,664	159,279	4,615	..
Home Secretary .. .. .	1,551,131	1,610,631	59,500	..
Public Works .. .. .	233,665	228,834	..	4,831
Labour and Industry .. .. .	51,767	48,190	..	3,577
Justice .. .. .	215,263	215,704	441	..
Treasurer .. .. .	426,450	443,187	16,737	..
Public Lands .. .. .	326,582	305,086	..	21,496
Agriculture and Stock .. .. .	182,286	160,333	..	21,953
Public Instruction .. .. .	1,639,588	1,636,421	..	3,167
Mines .. .. .	68,955	68,479	..	476
Railways .. .. .	6,316,069	6,200,801	..	115,268
Totals .. .. .	17,040,430	16,902,145	81,293	219,578
Under estimate .. .. .	£138,285		£138,285	

## RECEIPTS.

It will be observed that the sum received from the Commonwealth is less by £36,001 than the estimate. This is accounted for by the fact that during the year 1927-28 the Com-

monwealth Government paid the State the sum of £1,130,769 under the provisions of the States Grants Act 1927, which was £34,534 in excess of the sum payable under the Financial Agreement. The agreement

Hon. W. H. Barnes.]

did not come into operation until the 3rd September, 1928, and its effect was retrospective to the 1st July, 1927, consequently the overpayment for the year 1927-28 was deducted from the payment for 1928-29.

Taxation produced £30,348 less than the estimate, which is accounted for principally by shortages of £41,486 in income tax and £6,875 in totalisator and betting tax, which are set off to some extent by a surplus of £19,551 in land tax. When taking into consideration the depressed condition of the pastoral industry and business generally, the receipts from income tax must be regarded as very gratifying.

Land revenue was £33,558 over the estimate. This also affords satisfaction, as indicating the stability of the pastoral and agricultural industries.

Mining receipts were £16,383 in excess of anticipations, chiefly accounted for by fees received for prospecting permits under the Petroleum Act.

Railways returned £132,719 less than the estimated revenue. The amount received, £7,567,281, was £193,729 over the receipts for the previous year, which is a considerable improvement, and the largest revenue collected by this department in any year.

Other receipts amounted to £18,180 more than the estimate.

The revenue as a whole was £130,947 short of anticipations.

#### EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure was £138,285 less than the estimate. The foregoing table shows the variations under the appropriation headings. There are only two instances in which the outlay exceeded the appropriation to any appreciable extent. These are Home Secretary's Department, where the excess of £59,500 is more than accounted for by outdoor relief, which is £78,476 in excess of the vote, and the Treasurer's Department, the

vote for which was exceeded by £16,737. Practically the whole of the latter excess is accounted for by payments to the Railway Department for rebate of freight on starving stock and fodder, which was £14,894 more than the provision on the Estimates.

A notable saving was effected in interest on the public debt. Honourable members will remember that, in pursuance of the Financial Agreement, the Commonwealth Government relieved the States, as on the 1st July, 1929, of liability on account of loans raised by the Commonwealth for the State to an amount equal to the value of the transferred properties. The late Treasurer, when formulating his Budget for last year, assumed that he would be liable to pay to the Commonwealth the interest for the period 1st January to 30th June, 1929, at the rate of 5 per centum per annum on loans from the Commonwealth amounting to £1,560,639, being the value of this State's transferred properties. The interest was, however, not payable until 1st July, 1929, and the Commonwealth Treasurer decided that obligation to meet the liability rested on his Government, and he, accordingly, did not demand payment from the States. This provided unexpected relief to the extent of £39,015 in the State's interest bill.

The Railway Department's disbursements show a saving of £115,268 on the estimated expenditure. The net charge to consolidated revenue on account of this department amounted to £1,605,346, as compared to £1,630,316 for the previous year. The net return on the capital invested was £2 3s. 3d. per cent., which is an improvement of 2s. 3d. on the return for the previous year.

The following figures, which I regard as extremely interesting, show the revenue and expenditure per capita of population for the years 1914-15 and 1928-29 respectively. I should like very much if hon. members of the Committee would associate these figures with some figures to be found at the end of the Statement:—

Year.	Population.	Revenue.	Revenue per Capita.	Expenditure.	Expenditure per Capita.
1914-15 .. ..	676,707	£ 7,202,658	£ s. d. 10 12 10	£ 7,199,399	£ s. d. 10 12 9
1928-29 .. ..	916,689	16,736,188	18 5 2	16,902,145	18 8 9
Increase .. ..	Per cent. 35.46	Per cent. 132.36	Per cent. 71.59	Per cent. 134.78	Per cent. 73.33

I think some further comparisons are also worthy of mention, as illustrating the remarkable growth in taxation since 1915. I would like these figures also to be taken in association with the figures at the end of the Statement. Taxation produced in 1914-15 £954,457, and in 1928-29 £4,671,652, an increase of £3,717,195, which is equal to 389.25 per cent., and an increase of £3 13s. 9d. per head of population.

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

Interest on the public debt is another instance of extremely rapid inflation during the last fourteen years. This charge has increased by £3,195,367, having risen from £1,975,581 to £5,170,948, an increase of 161.74 per cent. and £2 14s. 5d. per head of population. During the same period no less a sum than £49,871,160 was added to the public debt, which stood at £112,024,975 on 30th June, 1929. The latter figure represents an addition of 80.24 per cent., and £54 8s. 1d. per head of population.

## TRUST FUNDS.

The total receipts and expenditure in connection with Trust Funds last year compared with the previous year were as follow:—

	1927-28.	1928-29.
	£	£
Receipts .. .. .	5,994,451	6,156,577
Expenditure .. .. .	5,476,407	5,884,956

The following are the funds in which the largest transactions were involved:—

	Receipts. 1928-29.	Expendi- ture. 1928-29.
	£	£
Agricultural Bank .. .. .	145,430	145,652
Central Sugar-mills .. .. .	1,003,250	970,641
Forestry and Lumbering .. .. .	171,133	174,407
Harbour Dues .. .. .	103,343	144,745
Main Roads .. .. .	883,957	939,911
Prickly-pear Land Commis- sion .. .. .	145,440	151,368
State Coalmines .. .. .	183,798	188,200
State Enterprises .. .. .	900,926	963,284
State Insurance .. .. .	1,163,842	883,423
State Sawmills .. .. .	152,719	126,001
Unemployment Insurance .. .. .	491,503	439,171
Workers' Dwellings .. .. .	147,405	142,866
Workers' Homes .. .. .	49,941	50,407

*Agricultural Bank.*—The receipts are mainly comprised of interest earned on advances to borrowers, and the expenditure covers working expenses and interest paid to the Treasury on loan money advanced to the bank.

*Central Sugar-mills.*—Transactions in connection with this fund represent receipts for sales of sugar, and payments for cane purchases, wages, etc., on account of the Tully and Proserpine Central sugar-mills.

*Forestry and Lumbering.*—The expenses of harvesting and marketing State forest produce are paid out of this fund. The fund is recouped from sales to the extent of the expenses incurred, and the balance of the proceeds of sales is credited to land revenue under the heading "Timber licenses, etc."

*Harbour Dues.*—Collections at ports where no harbour boards have been constituted are paid into this fund, and disbursements on account of maintenance dredging, etc., at those ports are charged to the fund. The expenditure last year exceeded the receipts by £36,402. This is due to the heavy cost of maintenance dredging in the Brisbane River for the restoration of the normal depths in dredged channels, rendered necessary owing to silting caused by freshets in the river.

*Main Roads.*—The receipts for the year were less than the expenditure by £103,954, but the fund had a credit balance of £116,492 on the 1st July, 1928. It was, therefore, still in credit on 30th June, 1929.

*Prickly-pear Land Commission.*—The annual statutory endowment of £100,000 is paid into this fund. Other receipts are obtained from sales of poison, etc. Expenses paid out of the fund are salaries and wages,

purchase of poison, equipment, subsidies to local authorities, etc. There was a sum of £59,177 to the credit of the fund on 30th June, 1929.

*State Coalmines.*—This fund is credited with proceeds of the sale of coal and debited with working expenses, including interest paid to the Treasury on capital expenditure and on the overdraft, if any, in the fund.

*State Enterprises.*—Transactions in connection with State coalmines, Chillagoe smelters, State sawmills, and Irvinebank treatment works do not pass through this fund. The figures mentioned in the above table are the aggregate of the financial operations of the State butcher shops, State cannery, State fish supply, State hotel, State Produce Agency, State railway refreshment-rooms, Hamilton cold stores, and State stations. I do not propose to offer explanations with respect to each State enterprise, as details will be shown in the report of the Commissioner of Trade and in the Auditor-General's report. I will, however, mention that immediately I assumed control of the Treasury I carefully examined the position of the several enterprises and the existing relations with the Treasury. I ascertained that accounts, such as the State stations and the Hamilton cold stores, were being charged interest on the indebtedness to the Treasury, although these enterprises were wholly incapable of meeting the charge. The result was that consolidated revenue was being credited with sums which were never actually earned, the credit being nothing more than a bookkeeping entry. I invite the Committee to note that sentence particularly. I decided that in the case of the State stations and the Hamilton cold stores this practice should be discontinued as from the 1st January, 1929.

At 5.25 p.m.,

Mr. MAXWELL (*Toowong*), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved the Chairman in the chair.

The TREASURER: A close scrutiny will be kept on these matters, and appropriate action will be taken with respect to funds of this nature if circumstances warrant.

*State Sawmills.*—The transactions in this fund show a surplus of receipts over expenditure to the extent of £26,718. The debit balance of the fund had been reduced to £4,347 at 30th June, 1929.

*Unemployment Insurance.*—The receipts exceeded the disbursements by £52,332. Disbursements amounted to £439,171, which exceeds any year since the fund was established. The fund was in credit to the extent of £58,997 at 30th June, 1929.

*Workers' Dwellings and Workers' Homes.*—The total receipts were £197,046, and the expenditure £193,273. The explanation given by me regarding transactions in the Agricultural Bank Fund applies to these funds.

*Hon. W. H. Barnes.]*

## LOAN FUND.

The cash transactions of the Loan Fund were as follow:—

	£	£	£
Cash Balance, 1st July, 1928 .. .. .			5,651,808
Receipts during the year—			
Repayments by local authorities, &c. .. .. .		1,179,540	
Receipts under Lands Sales Proceeds Act .. .. .			94
Proceeds of loan issues—			
Overseas—			
State's proportion of Loan issued by Commonwealth Government—			
5 per cent. (London) .. .. .	788,000		
Less charges .. .. .	29,593		
		758,407	
Australia—			
5½ per cent. (domestic issues) .. .. .		290,500	
State's proportion of Loan issued by Commonwealth Government—			
5½ per cent. .. .. .	1,434,000		
Less charges .. .. .	6,055		
		1,427,945	
Less not received at 30th June, 1929 .. .. .		533	
		1,427,412	
The Commonwealth Bank Agreement Ratification and State Advances Act of 1920—			
Loan from Commonwealth Savings Bank on account of increase in depositors' balances .. .. .		810,000	
Loan from Commonwealth Government in terms of the Migration Agreement .. .. .		2,000	
Amount transferred from Trust Funds in adjustment of capital cost of Hamilton cold stores, as determined pursuant to the provisions of the State Enterprises Act of 1918 .. .. .		17,517	
Repayment of portion of temporary loan advanced to Commonwealth Government .. .. .		250,000	
Refund by Commonwealth Government on account of expenses in connection with loan raised for the State in New York (July, 1927) .. .. .		3	
		4,735,473	
		10,387,291	
Disbursements during the year—			
Expenditure as per Budget Table E4 .. .. .		3,243,429	
Redemption of debentures issued under—			
The Government Loan Act of 1918 .. .. .		231,000	
The Commonwealth Bank Agreement Ratification and State Advances Act of 1920—On account of repayment of deposit receipt .. .. .		240,000	
Temporary loan to Commonwealth Government .. .. .		500,000	
Payment to Commonwealth Government on account of stamp duty on loans raised for the State in London .. .. .	4,185		
Further expenses in connection with loans raised for the State—			
London, March, 1928 .. .. .	877		
New York, May, 1928 .. .. .	2,957		
		8,019	
Transfer to Trust Funds on account of adjustments between Trust Working Accounts and Loan Accounts of the following—			
Agricultural Bank .. .. .	2,950		
State Advances Corporation—Workers' Dwellings .. .. .	2,048		
Workers' Homes .. .. .	1,362		
		6,360	
Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund to meet accumulated deficits at 30th June, 1927 .. .. .		1,328,188	
		5,521,996	
Cash balance at 30th June, 1929 .. .. .			£4,825,285
which was held as follows:—			
At current account .. .. .		£4,691,051	
On extended deposit .. .. .		134,234	
		£4,825,285	

At 5.30 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

The TREASURER: The cash balance at the credit of the fund on 1st July, 1928, was £5,651,808. Receipts during the year amounted to £4,735,473, which included proceeds of loans £3,288,319, repayments by local authorities, etc., £1,179,540, and repayment of portion of temporary loan to the Commonwealth Government £250,000. £3,248,429 was expended on public works, £471,000 was applied in redemption of the public debt, and £500,000 was lent, temporarily, to the Commonwealth Government, of which £250,000 was repaid, as I have just mentioned. The accumulated deficits in the Consolidated Revenue Account at 30th June,

1927, amounting to £1,328,188, were funded, in pursuance of the authority contained in the Government Loan Act of 1928, the adjustment having been effected out of the proceeds of the loan of £1,434,000 issued under the provisions of that Act, the cash proceeds of which were £1,427,945, as shown in the foregoing statement.

The details of the expenditure under the several appropriations in last year's estimates may be ascertained on reference to Table E4 of the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement. As the present Government had very little opportunity of exercising any control over this expenditure, I do not intend to discuss details. The total sum of £3,248,429 was expended, as compared

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

with £4,038,885 during 1927-28. £4,343,668 was provided on the Estimates-in-Chief, 1928-29, which is £1,095,239 more than the actual disbursements.

## PUBLIC DEBT.

The net public debt at 30th June, 1928, was £109,752,365, which increased during the year by £2,272,610, arrived at as follows:—

	£	£
Gross public debt at 30th June, 1928 .. .. .		111,733,969
<i>Add—</i>		
Proceeds of loans, 1928-29 .. .. .	3,322,500	
Advances from Commonwealth under Migration Agreement .. .. .	£2,000	
South Brisbane-Kyogle-Grafton Railway Act .. .. .	£84,013	
	86,013	
		3,408,513
		£115,142,482
<i>Less—</i>		
Cancellations in terms of Financial Agreement .. .. .	1,056,864	
Redeemed from cash .. .. .	511,000	
Redeemed by National Debt Commission out of sinking fund .. .. .	642,569	
Advances from Commonwealth under Wire and Wire-Netting Act .. .. .	70,000	
	2,280,433	
Gross public debt at 30th June, 1929 .. .. .		£112,862,049
<i>Less</i> accumulated sinking funds .. .. .		£37,074
Net public debt at 30th June, 1929 .. .. .		£112,024,975
Net public debt at 30th June, 1928 .. .. .		109,752,365
Increase .. .. .		£2,272,610

Of the new loans, £2,222,000 was raised by the Commonwealth for the State in terms of the Financial Agreement. £788,000 was raised in London, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum, the issue price being £98 per cent. Expenses were £29,593 and the net proceeds were £758,407, the effective rate of interest being £5 4s. 4d. per cent. £1,434,000 was raised in Australia, interest being 5½ per centum per annum, issue price par, expenses £6,055, net proceeds £1,427,945, effective rate of interest £5 6s. 1d. per centum.

Under the provisions of the Savings Bank Transfer Agreement, £810,000 was received from the Commonwealth Savings Bank—£554,000 at 4½ per centum per annum, and £256,000 at 5 per centum per annum. In terms of the agreement, the late Government adopted a suggestion by the Commonwealth Savings Bank that interest on depositors' balances be increased on the 1st October, 1928, from 3½ to 4 per centum per annum on the first £500 of each account, interest on the excess over £500 and up to £2,000 to remain at 3½ per cent. This suggestion was made with the object of increasing the deposits in the bank. The State is entitled to 70 per cent. of any increase in depositors' balances, and the bank may demand interest at a rate not exceeding 1 per cent. per annum above the highest rate of interest paid to depositors generally on current accounts. This explains the higher interest charge of ½ per cent. on the loan of £256,000.

£290,500 was obtained through investments by the Insurance Commissioner and Public Curator.

Further indebtedness to the extent of £84,013 was incurred in pursuance of the South Brisbane-Kyogle-Grafton Railway Agreement Acts, 1924 to 1926.

An advance of £2,000 was obtained from the Commonwealth Government under the Migration Agreement towards expenses in connection with the agricultural survey now being made.

In pursuance of the Financial Agreement, State securities of the value of £1,056,864 were cancelled and destroyed. These securities were previously held in the State sinking funds, and are now written off the gross public debt. The sinking fund conditions of

the contracts with respect to the Queensland American loans are still being observed, and the securities purchased in connection with these funds are held at the Treasury on behalf of the National Debt Commission. £642,569 was redeemed by the National Debt Commission out of moneys available in the State's sinking fund. The commission held uninvested cash to the extent of £83,620 on account of this State at 30th June.

As provided for in the Financial Agreement, the Commonwealth relieved the State on the 1st July, 1929, of liability amounting to £1,560,639, being the agreed value of Queensland transferred properties. This was effected by the Commonwealth assuming liability for loans of an equal amount owing by the State to the Commonwealth. The State's indebtedness to the Commonwealth on account of 5 per cent. loans maturing 1945-1975 in London has been reduced by the sum mentioned. As the adjustment was made on the 1st July, it does not appear in the transactions for last financial year. The State will, in future, be relieved of interest to the extent of £78,031 per annum, and the receipt of that sum which has been paid by the Commonwealth since 1st July, 1927, will now cease. Prior to that date interest at 3½ per centum per annum, amounting to, approximately, £54,622, was received from the Commonwealth on account of transferred properties.

LOAN £12,703,734 WHICH MATURED ON  
1ST JULY, 1929.

The Australian Loan Council decided the terms and conditions on which this loan was converted. The National Debt Commission redeemed £300,000 of the loan with money available in the Queensland Sinking Fund, and Commonwealth stock for the balance, £12,403,734, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per centum per annum was issued at £97. Allowing for the amount which had to be provided for expenses, the effective interest cost will be £5 5s. 1d. per cent. The stock is redeemable on the 1st July, 1975, the Commonwealth Government having the option of redemption, in whole or in part, at par, on or after the 1st July, 1945, on giving three months' notice. Holders of the maturing loan were offered a cash bonus of £3 per

*Hon. W. H. Barnes.]*

cent. on converting their holdings into the new loan, £5,009,252 was converted, and cash subscriptions for £1,436,600 were received, together amounting to £6,445,852, being 52 per cent. of the whole. The underwriters found the balance, £5,957,882, which is equivalent to 48 per cent. Taking into consideration the depressed state of the London money market and the fact that the interest on the new loan is  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. lower than the matured loan, the result of the conversion must be regarded as satisfactory in the circumstances, although a better issue price would have been obtained had conditions been more favourable. Determined, although unsuccessful, efforts were made by the Loan Council to secure less costly terms. The expenses connected with the conversion were heavy, amounting to £537,094, as follows:—

	£
Discount and bonus at 3 per cent. . . . .	372,112
Underwriting . . . . .	124,037
Brokerage . . . . .	25,254
Other expenses—advertising, etc. . . . .	12,950
Bank of England charge for paying off unconverted portion of loan . . . . .	10,000
	£544,353
Less interest earned on investment of cash subscriptions lodged prior to 1st July . . . . .	7,259
	£537,094

This amount was paid out of cash already in the Loan Fund, being portion of the proceeds of previous issues. It was, therefore, not necessary to increase the nominal amount of the conversion loan to provide cash for that purpose. In the case of conversion loans, the London market objects to the issue of any amount in excess of the sum actually required to redeem the maturing loan. The charge does not appear in the Loan Cash Account for the year 1928-29, as the amount was not paid until the 1st July, 1929, being the date on which it became due.

The conversion at the reduced interest rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. will result in a saving of £62,000 per annum in interest on this loan, but from this saving must be deducted the sum of, approximately, £27,000, being interest at 5 per centum per annum on expenses.

#### AUSTRALIAN LOAN COUNCIL.

Meetings of the Australian Loan Council were held in January, May, and August.

At the meeting held in January, the chairman reported that the Financial Agreement came into operation on the 3rd September, 1928. A Bill to validate the agreement was passed by the Federal Parliament early in 1929. The borrowing programme of the Commonwealth and the States was reviewed at this meeting of the Council, and certain reductions were agreed upon. At the meeting of the Council held in May, the Commonwealth and the States submitted their programmes of loan expenditure for the financial year 1929-30. Advice received from the financial advisers of the Commonwealth in London made it perfectly clear that the prospects of securing loan money on the London market under favourable terms were very remote, and that the indications were that conditions would not improve in the near future. In view of this, the Commonwealth and the States agreed to a material reduction in their loan programmes, on

the understanding that a further revision would be made should there be no improvement in the prospects. So far from improving, conditions on the London market became distinctly less favourable soon after this meeting, so much so that the chairman of the Council deemed it advisable to convene another meeting on the 6th August for the purpose of further discussing the situation. Information received from London since the meeting held in May was of such a discouraging nature that the members of the Council were compelled to the conclusion that it would be futile to budget for loan expenditure even on the reduced amounts agreed to at the May meeting. They were, therefore, reluctantly forced still further to reduce their respective programmes, it being clearly recognised that these further reductions were inevitable. The consequence of this enforced diminution in the expenditure of loan money, will be embarrassing, but it is the only wise course to pursue. The decision to make these reductions is one which has my entire accord, as it would be suicidal to incur commitments when the prospects of raising the necessary money appear so difficult, as those with which we are confronted at the present moment.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT LIABILITY.

The proposal made to the States by the Commonwealth Government, as the outcome of Mr. Justice Pike's report on soldier settlement, is disappointing, and is not as favourable to Queensland as the agreement entered into in October, 1925. The matter is under consideration, but it will probably be some time before finality is reached.

#### ESTIMATES, 1929-30.

I have no hesitation in stating that the Government is singularly unfortunate in assuming office at a time when the financial outlook is anything but reassuring. I have no intention of adopting a pessimistic attitude, but I must say that the management of the public finances will be an extremely difficult matter for some time to come.

We are not going to strike any pessimistic note; we are going to strike a note of caution; but this State is going to come out all right. I am perfectly certain that Queensland will be one of the first to show an immediate improvement.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

#### RECEIPTS.

##### REVENUE FUND.

The TREASURER: I anticipate that receipts this year will amount to £15,763,500. This compares with collections last year, as follows:—

	Received. 1928-29.	Estimated. 1929-30.
	£	£
Amount from Commonwealth	1,960,234	..
Taxation . . . . .	4,671,652	4,549,000
Land Revenue . . . . .	1,445,555	1,478,000
Mining Receipts . . . . .	53,783	48,400
Railways . . . . .	7,567,281	7,675,000
Other Receipts . . . . .	1,937,680	2,013,100
Total . . . . .	£16,736,138	£15,763,500

It will be noticed that no amount is shown as a receipt from the Commonwealth. The

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

sum of £1,096,235, which is payable by the Commonwealth in terms of the Financial Agreement towards the interest on the public debt, is shown as a deduction from the State's liability on that account on page 6 of the Estimates-in-Chief. This more than accounts for the reduction of £972,688 in the total estimated revenue, as compared with last year's receipts.

Taxation shows an estimated decrease of £122,652 compared with last year's collections. I anticipate that receipts from income tax will drop to the extent of £159,514, mainly as the result of the fall in the price of wool, and the fact that the pastoral industry has not yet fully recovered from the effects of the recent drought. I do not expect there will be any great variations in the collections under the other headings of taxation.

Land revenue, I hope, will yield £32,442 more than last year.

A small reduction of £5,383 is anticipated in mining receipts.

Railway takings, I estimate, will amount to £7,675,000, which is £107,719 in excess of the earnings of the previous year.

Other receipts are expected to yield £2,013,100, which is an increase of £75,420.

EXPENDITURE.  
REVENUE FUND.

The following table contains my estimate of the expenditure for the current year, as compared with actual disbursements last year:—

	Disbursements. 1928-29.	Estimated. 1929-30.
	£	£
Schedules .. .. .	631,792	675,529
Interest on Public Debt ..	5,170,948	4,085,307
Executive and Legislative ..	22,460	36,541
Premier and Chief Secretary ..	149,802	164,174
Home Secretary ..	1,610,681	1,564,207
Department of Public Works ..	228,834	229,123
Department of Labour and Industry ..	48,190	51,525
Department of Justice ..	215,704	201,301
The Treasurer ..	443,187	426,904
Department of Public Lands ..	305,086	330,318
Department of Agriculture and Stock ..	160,333	176,601
Department of Public Instruction ..	1,636,421	1,716,200
Department of Mines ..	68,479	73,687
Department of Railways ..	6,210,278	6,208,220
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£16,902,145</b>	<b>£15,939,642</b>

*Schedules.*—Provision is made for an excess of £43,737, of which £40,886 is required to meet increased sinking fund contributions and interest on State securities purchased by the National Debt Commission out of the State's sinking fund.

*Interest on the Public Debt.*—This service shows a decrease of £1,085,641, which is more than accounted for by the payment of £1,096,235 to be contributed by the Commonwealth Government. Furthermore, it is not now necessary to provide £78,031 for interest on the debt which the Commonwealth Government has taken over in connection with transferred properties. I have already explained these matters. After allowing for these deductions and adjustments in connection with the conversion loan, details of which

I have previously given, it will be necessary to provide this year an additional sum of, approximately, £150,000 for interest on public debt.

*Executive and Legislative.*—The provision under this heading includes £12,450 for payment to the Railway Department for free railway passes issued to members and ex-members of Parliament and their relatives. It is considered equitable that the Railway Department should receive credit for the value of these passes, for which no payment has, hitherto, been received by that department.

The appropriations for Home Secretary, Department of Justice, and Treasurer show decreases amounting in the aggregate to £77,110, and the total provision for other departments is £156,511 in excess of the previous year's expenditure. Of the total estimated expenditure, approximately £123,000 is required to meet increases to the salaries and wages of public servants.

Despite the fact that every care has been taken to estimate revenue and expenditure as accurately as possible, and notwithstanding that provision has been made for what are deemed to be essential services only, the following is the result of my anticipations:—

Estimated expenditure .. .. .	£	15,939,642
Estimated revenue .. .. .	£	15,763,400
<b>Estimated deficit .. .. .</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>176,142</b>

Mr. BRASSINGTON: You have started well.

The TREASURER: We have started well, but I shall show later on that thousands of pounds were taken by the previous Government from the Loan and Trust Funds to sustain the Revenue Account in order to bring forward credit balances.

There is one matter I feel justified in mentioning, and that is the method followed in some of the States in the treatment of railway receipts and expenditure. The elimination of these transactions from the Consolidated Revenue Account enables a surplus to be shown in that account. In my opinion there is no merit in this procedure, as it is in the nature of a device to obscure the true position.

TRUST FUNDS.

The total of the appropriations for Trust and Special Funds amount to £5,817,213, which is £343,710 less than the appropriations for last year, and £67,743 less than the expenditure for the same period.

The following are the principal variations:—

	Appropriation. 1928-29.	Expenditure 1928-29.	Appropriation 1929-30.
	£	£	£
State Enterprises ..	832,379	963,284	249,747
Unemployment Insurance ..	425,532	439,171	426,980
Public Curator ..	63,187	60,871	80,287
Central Sugar Mills ..	1,075,000	970,641	1,003,490
Harbour Dues ..	129,767	144,745	166,407
State Insurance Office ..	891,283	883,423	978,979
Forestry Office ..	423,000	300,408	330,000
Chillagoe Smelters ..	3,000	3,234	226,615
State coalmines ..	215,700	188,200	216,000
Main Roads Commission ..	1,017,249	989,911	1,070,980

*State Enterprises.*—The figures given for expenditure last year include railway refreshment-rooms, which are provided for this year under the heading "Department of Railways." The transactions in connection with these enterprises will be reduced this year, owing to the sale of the butcher shops, cannery, and produce agency, and the transfer of the refreshment-rooms to the Railway Department. Provision, however, is still necessary for expenses on account of State stations, as it is uncertain when these will be finally disposed of.

*Unemployment Insurance.*—It is anticipated that, owing to the reduction which will be effected in unemployment, the claims on this fund will not be so heavy as they were last year.

*Public Curator.*—£13,000 is provided on account of the cost of a building to be erected on the site recently occupied by the Normal School.

*Harbour Dues.*—Provision in excess of last year's expenditure is necessary in order that maintenance work for the restoration of the depths in dredged channels in the Brisbane River may be actively continued, as it is very desirable that this work be completed at the earliest possible date.

*State Insurance Office.*—£50,000—I want to emphasise this—is provided to meet estimated outlay during the year on a building to be erected for this office on the Normal School site. An additional £35,000 is required for the payment of claims, which are expected to increase as the result of the expanding business of this office.

*Forestry Office.*—This appropriation covers the requirements of the State sawmills and activities in connection with forestry and lumbering. Although the appropriation is £93,000 less than last year's votes, it is £29,592 in excess of the actual expenditure. £25,000 of this excess is for expenses in connection with contracts for the supply of hardwood.

*Chillagoe Smelters.*—The reopening of these smelters necessitates provision for the payment of wages, purchase of ores, and working expenses.

*State Coalmines.*—As a result of the increased sales of the output of these mines, an additional amount will have to be provided for wages and working expenses. £27,800 in excess of the previous year's disbursements is appropriated for this purpose.

*Main Roads Commission.*—£47,449 is provided for permanent works on main and developmental roads, and £45,000 for maintenance in excess of last year's expenditure on these items.

#### LOAN FUND.

As I stated when referring to the Loan Council, the Commonwealth and the States have been compelled to budget for very reduced expenditure from Loan Fund this year. At the meeting of the Council held during May, I submitted a programme considerably in excess of last year's expenditure. It being realised at this meeting that it would not be possible to raise sufficient loan money to meet the total requirements of the Commonwealth and the States, reductions amounting in the aggregate to a large sum were agreed upon. A reduction of £150,000 was agreed to by me, so far as Queensland was concerned. At the August meeting the circumstances already mentioned enforced a

further all-round reduction of 20 per cent., which was unanimously agreed to by the members of the Council. This State's expenditure will, consequently, be curtailed to, approximately, £3,280,000. The total appropriation, as shown in the Estimates-in-Chief, amounts to £3,355,507, but this includes £75,000 for the Kyogle-South Brisbane Railway, which is not embraced in the State's loan programme, the necessary funds being raised by the Commonwealth for the States. This item has not previously been appropriated on the Estimates-in-Chief.

It was the intention, and is still the desire, of the Government to spend loan money to a greater extent than that to which we have been restricted by the unfavourable financial situation. I believe that there are avenues for sound investment on reproductive works of a larger sum than that to which we have been confined, but the provisions of the Financial Agreement, under which loan raisings and expenditure are determined, must be observed. However much the Commonwealth and the States might desire to spend loan money, the indisputable fact remains that money is not procurable, at present, on anything like favourable terms, and indications of a change for the better in the existing conditions are not reassuring. As illustrating the high cost of money, I would mention the recent issue in London of Commonwealth Treasury bills. These bills have a currency of one year only, and were issued to relieve the immediate necessities of the Commonwealth and certain of the States. The interest cost exceeds 6 per cent., which is a very high rate. Queensland is fortunate in that we do not require any of this money. Australia is not the only country to suffer in consequence of the financial stringency. Money raised by the issue of Imperial Treasury bills about the same time as the recent Commonwealth issue was more costly than usual, and the scarcity of money in South Africa is responsible for an increase of the discount rate of the Reserve Bank of South Africa to 6 per cent. The general impression for some time past has been that the Bank of England rate is likely to be raised. The Australian banks have twice during the last three months increased the rates of exchange on remittances to London. All these facts are the result of the scarcity of money, and account for the high cost of raising funds by the issue of loans. Having all these circumstances in view, it cannot be disputed that the proper and only course to follow is to conserve our present cash balance to the greatest possible extent, it being very doubtful when a favourable opportunity will arise to enable us to obtain further funds on the London market. Unlike some of the other States, Queensland is not in arrear with its loan raisings, and although I do not anticipate that difficulties will arise in this connection, it cannot be overlooked that the process of overtaking these arrears will not be an easy matter.

The provision which has been made in the Estimates-in-Chief for the current year is £32,073 more than the actual outlay last year, irrespective of expenditure in connection with the Kyogle Railway. I have already explained that a limit has been imposed upon our activities by the unanimous decision of the members of the Loan Council. The Government will exert its utmost endeavours to expend the sum at our disposal to the best possible advantage to

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.]

the State. Details of the proposed avenues of expenditure may be ascertained on reference to the Estimates.

#### CONCLUSION.

A careful review of the public finances cannot fail to impress one with the fact that during the last fourteen years such a thing as sane control of expenditure has been entirely absent.

**GOVERNMENT MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

The **TREASURER:** Administrative and all other costs have been allowed to increase beyond all reason. The enormous expansion in these charges has inevitably resulted in tremendous increase in taxation. The weight of this burden is now so great that some relief to the taxpayer is essential. However much I might desire to ease the strain on business and industry generally, the Government's hands are tied by the conditions which existed when they assumed office. Some time will be required in which to effect any change for the better. Economies have already been effected, but there is much to be done along these lines before any marked improvement can be accomplished. The whole system of expenditure needs revising, because it is only by curtailment in this direction that relief can be obtained.

The sum required to meet the salaries and wages of public servants is a very large item in the cost of government, and the annual increments provided for by awards constitute an ever-increasing charge on the public funds. I do not wish it to be inferred that I have any objection to a system which provides adequate remuneration in return for services rendered, but I must say that when a Treasurer is confronted with a diminishing revenue, and at the same time is expected to find funds to meet expanding outlay, the fact that a large sum is required for increases to salaries and wages is embarrassing. More particularly is this so at a time like the present, when so many persons are seeking employment. No exception must be taken, therefore, when I state—and I want to emphasise that the Government is prepared to abide by existing awards and give increases that are automatic—that while the Government is prepared to abide by existing awards, no concessions not provided for in awards will be granted, and variations in classifications, involving additional emoluments, will be permitted only in very exceptional circumstances.

It would be right for me now to say that there are many difficulties lying ahead of the Government. Amongst other things there is the fact that the decline in the price of wool—one of our staple industries which has suffered considerably as a result of the dry conditions prevailing in some parts of Queensland, and received a further set-back as the outcome of lower prices—will, unfortunately, seriously affect the returns from income tax. In any case it will be seen that it is anticipated that the revenue from this source during 1929-30 will not be as high as last year.

It may also be thought that influences are at work affecting the great sugar industry, so far as that portion of the product which has to be exported is concerned, for fear has been expressed that the export price of sugar may be affected as a result of recent Government changes in the old country. I believe, however, that it does not matter what Go-

vernment may occupy office in Britain, every effort will be made by those in authority to assist the Dominions by admitting their products upon the most favourable terms. I have no doubt that every citizen—regardless of his political convictions—trusts that this policy will be continued.

The quantity of raw sugar purchased by the Sugar Board during the 1928 season was 522,582 tons, of which 186,703 tons were exported. The proportions of the crop required for Australian use and for export were 64.2809 per cent. and 35.7191 per cent., respectively. The average price declared for the export sugar was £10 10s. per ton f.o.b. for 94 net titre. In respect of the Australian portion of the output, in addition to the price of £26 per ton specified in the proclamation, the Sugar Board declared a further payment of 13s. 6d. per ton. The average price for the whole output was £20 17s. 11d. per ton 94 net titre, a decrease of £1 2s. 5d. per ton on the return for the previous season.

Consequent on the revised scale of British sugar duties which came into force on 1st May, 1928, it was found necessary to manufacture sugar of a slightly lower standard than had been the practice in Queensland in recent years, in order to escape the penalty of over £1 per ton by way of extra duty on sugar polarising over 99 degrees. The initial difficulties associated with the change were satisfactorily overcome by the mills, and on arrival in Britain only a small portion of one shipment was found to have exceeded the standard. The production for the 1929 season is estimated, on present advices, at 515,000 tons, including 21,000 tons in New South Wales. The amount reserved out of last season's production to meet Australian requirements was found to be in excess of the demand, due to an unexpected falling-off in consumption. The amount to be provided for home consumption out of the 1929 crop has, consequently, been reduced, and the exportable surplus is expected to amount to 190,000 tons.

The dry weather in some portions of the State is still causing anxiety, because of the physical and financial strain which it lays upon those who are engaged in industry, and who are assisting in the building-up of Queensland in those parts. I fear that many people in this State fail to fully recognise how much we owe to those who are so engaged, and may I say—especially to the women, who in those places, and often under most adverse conditions, bravely assist their husbands in their work—that I sincerely trust that a merciful Providence may supply the necessary rain and grant the relief that is so much required in many parts of Queensland.

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

The **TREASURER:** Whilst I have referred to some things which are causing anxiety, and will continue to do so until a change takes place, I wish also, on the other hand, to draw attention to the fact that the prospects are good in connection with some of the other leading industries of our State.

The prospects of the wheat crop, especially on the Downs, appear to be good, and may the farmers of Queensland who are engaged in this industry be rewarded for their labours by a good return!

**HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

The **TREASURER:** Cattle, fortunately are also improving in price, and the outlook

*Hon. W. H. Barnes.]*

with regard to the market for meat is good. I trust that the improvement may be a set-off against the decline in the price of wool, and whilst assisting the industry, also assist the Government by increased revenue.

The dairying industry is satisfactory, and those engaged in farming pursuits, I think, on the whole, are doing well. It will not be out of place for me at this time to remind the country of the men who in the early stages of this industry educated our people by pointing out to them the value of dairying to Queensland. The State owes much to them, and certainly much to those who have been, and who are now, engaged in this and similar industries, and who largely as a result of co-operation have made their various undertakings such a success.

At one time it was thought that it would be impossible to produce such things as butter and cheese in Queensland. The answer to those who thought so is very complete, as those commodities are now amongst our principal exports. From these sources it is hoped that increased revenue may come.

It is fitting also that I should make reference to some of our other industries, one of which is the production of fruit. At one time the general opinion was that to grow fruit in Queensland was almost an impossibility, or in any case that a certain class of fruit could not be grown here. Is it not wonderful what can be done? Without enumerating the various classes of fruit produced, let me say that there is scarcely a class known that cannot be supplied by us, and I feel sure that fruitgrowing will materially assist us in the days to come.

[6 p.m.]

Another industry which is expanding, and will continue to do so, is the egg industry. It has grown wonderfully during the last few years, and especially has the exportation of eggs—as a result of greater production—increased to a particularly large extent.

I believe also that the higher price now being obtained for cattle—to which I have already made reference—together with a better demand for them, will result in more satisfactory prices being secured for poultry, and producers should consider the wisdom of breeding a class of fowl which will be suitable for table purposes. Already there are indications that steps will be taken to export poultry, and thus bring Queensland into prominence in regard to this particular line.

It is important that we should make one of our slogans "Export more and import less," and by so doing assist to bring money into this country for developmental purposes.

I hope that it may be possible by scientific methods to enable some of the poorer lands adjacent to the railway, and even those nearer to our cities, to be made more profitable by those means. Our duty is to fill up the spaces, for it is to be regretted that quite a large quantity of our land is at present unproductive.

There are some matters of importance of which we should remind ourselves at this time, and one of them is that efforts should be made to increase our manufactures. We have not progressed, so far as our secondary industries are concerned, as we should have done. Another slogan should be "Buy Queensland-manufactured goods," and failing to obtain those we should then purchase Australian- or British-manufactured goods in that order of preference.

[Hon. W. H. Barnes.

It is well to remember that we have a great country, and difficulties which may be experienced should not cause us to lose confidence. There are wonderful opportunities ahead, and whilst that is so, let us learn the lesson of self-help. If we do so, the present financial position, which certainly causes much anxiety, may prove a blessing in disguise.

I think I am right in stating that, apart from the financial strain, the load carried by the taxpayer is so great that, unless money can be obtained and used for works that are reproductive, not much good will follow the spending of a large sum of borrowed money. I think, therefore, we must see to it that loan money is only spent on assured reproductive works.

Before closing I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to the mistakes of the past, more particularly in connection with the practice which has been pursued in the spending of borrowed money and the methods adopted in some cases—to which reference has already been made—in crediting Revenue Account from either Loan or Trust Funds. I also feel that the attention of the public should be drawn to this, and that a summary of certain expenditure treated in this way should be placed before them. This I am doing in a concise manner, notwithstanding that previous reference has been made to this class of expenditure.

Amounts have been written-off certain State trading concerns and funded in Loan Account, as follows:—

	£
State enterprises .. .. .	808,828
Chillagoe State smelters .. .. .	281,822
State coalmines, exclusive of £39,154 written off from revenue	219,031
Total .. .. .	£1,309,681

These sums do not comprise the whole of the losses written off.

Of the sum of £808,828 written off State enterprises, £505,314 represents interest debited to State Stations Trust Account and credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund. Chillagoe State smelters and State coalmines have been charged with interest in a similar manner, but to a more limited extent.

It is evident that the bulk of the following capital and trading losses at 30th June, 1929, will have to be written off:—

	£
Chillagoe State smelters .. .. .	928,306
Irvinebank State treatment works .. .. .	60,462
State coalmines .. .. .	373,890
State enterprises, including Hamilton cold stores	2,096,131
Total.. .. .	£3,458,789

The indebtedness of the various State trading concerns at 30th June, 1929, including amounts written off, was slightly over £5,000,000. The annual interest cost of this sum at 5½ per cent. is £275,000.

It will, I think, be conceded that in view of the aforementioned facts, the policy of the Government in abandoning State enterprises was quite justified, as many of them have been disastrous to the country.

The Government does not intend, at present, to raise additional taxation in order to meet the deficit on the 30th June last, or the estimated deficit for the current financial

year. It is confidently expected that the anticipated shortage in the Revenue Account this year will be considerably reduced, if not entirely eliminated, by a campaign of economy. An organised and sustained effort will be made to reduce expenditure. Obviously the growth of fourteen years cannot be arrested at once. The policy of economising will be continued to the utmost limit, short of impairing efficiency, but it is impossible to state, at present, the extent to which the cost of the several services is capable of being reduced. The desired result will be accomplished only by gradual and well-considered means. Undoubtedly there is a fruitful field for operations in this direction.

I will conclude by expressing the earnest hope that the seasons generally may be good, that markets may continue to be satisfactory, and that under the blessing of Providence the year upon which we have entered will be a particularly good one.

Mr. Roberts, I move—

“That there be granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1929-30, the sum of £300 to defray the salary of the Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor.”

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The House resumed.

The CHAIRMAN reported progress.

Resumption of Committee made an Order of the Day for to-morrow.

The House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

---