

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST 1935

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and took his place on the dais.

Honourable members being seated,

His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—
It gives me great pleasure to meet you at the opening of this, the first session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of Queensland.

“During the past twelve months I have had further opportunities of visiting districts within the State, with which I was not previously acquainted, and these further visits have more fully convinced me of the great assets which Queensland possesses. Everywhere, I have been received, as His Majesty's representative, with the greatest loyalty.

“I have also had further opportunities of visiting the north of the State, and it is very gratifying to notice the great progress which has been made in road communications, particularly those connecting the coast with the Upper Tablelands and the Atherton Tablelands—communications which have opened up a large area of fertile land for settlement.

“The past year has been an important one for the Empire, and, consequently, for this State. During the year Queensland has had the opportunity, which it welcomed so warmly, not only of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, but of welcoming to the State His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

“Throughout every portion of the State Queenslanders gave ample evidence, during the Jubilee Celebrations, of their undoubted loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Majesty King George V., and I have it in command from His Majesty to express the King's sincere appreciation of these demonstrations of allegiance and of gratitude to him for his untiring work for the benefit of his Empire.

“The visit of His Royal Highness gave another opportunity to Queensland to demonstrate its loyalty, and His Royal Highness expressed to me his gratitude for the arrangements which were made for his visit, for the pleasure which his first visit to Queensland gave him, and for the loyal and generous reception which he received in our capital city of Brisbane, and in every part of the State which he visited. His one regret was that time did not permit of his visiting other centres, and of seeing cattle and sheep stations in the more distant parts.

“Consolidated Revenue Fund receipts during the year 1934-35 amounted to £15,280,021, and expenditure to £15,844,633. The deficit was £564,612, which was £456,835 less than the estimated deficit, and an improvement of £563,191 in the budgetary position of the previous year.

“The buoyancy of the revenue, which exceeded the collections of the year 1933-34 by approximately £1,420,000, is an index of the revival of better business conditions, and of progress in the general economy of the State.

“A year ago it seemed that the world generally was beginning to emerge from the economic depression. Prices for wool had improved greatly and there were signs

TUESDAY, 27 AUGUST, 1935.

PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. G. Pollock, *Gregory*) took the chair at 9.30 a.m., and said: I shall now proceed to Government House, there to present myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and I invite such hon. members as care to do so to accompany me.

Mr. Speaker then left the chair.

On the House resuming at three minutes to 12 o'clock,

Mr. SPEAKER said: I have to report that I have this day presented myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

[*Hon. G. Pollock.*]

of revival of trade. Unfortunately very little progress has since been made, and wool prices relapsed again to unprofitable levels. Low prices have also ruled for meat. These facts, together with the very severe drought which has afflicted almost the whole of our pastoral areas, have hampered the progress of recovery in Queensland. Nevertheless, business generally has continued steadily to improve. Private building is active and is overtaking its arrears, and the Business Index of the Bureau of Industry for the three months ended June records a considerable advance on last year. The Bureau's statistics also show that in the last three years over 31,000 men have been added to those fully employed. The programme of public works and development, which has operated during that period, has been an important factor in securing such results. My advisers will continue this policy during the current year.

"The works programme now being organised under the aegis of the Bureau of Industry is estimated to cost up to £4,000,000 during the ensuing five-year period. A contract for the construction of the Brisbane River bridge at Kangaroo Point—to be named the Jubilee Bridge—at a price of £1,150,000, has been signed.

"Considerable activity has also been stimulated in new wharf construction down river as an incidental effect. This trend was delayed by the depression rather than caused by the bridge. The overseas port will be below the city proper as in other large centres.

"The other works relate to water supply and flood prevention. They include river improvements in Brisbane which are well in hand. The larger work is to be a dam on the Stanley River, for which a special board has been constituted, including the engineers of the contributing municipalities. A township will be established at the site. Access roads and bridges are under construction, foundations are being tested, electric power supply is being provided, and other preliminaries also. The Federal Government will contribute £125,000 towards the cost of these works.

"The sum of £1,674,392 was expended during the year from the Unemployment Relief Fund for the alleviation of distress arising from unemployment. This fund has also been utilised for the provision of full-time employment on a rotational basis. Short-term loans aggregating £12,000 were also made available from the fund to 370 cotton-growers in the Upper Burnett and Callide Valley. This practice will be continued. My advisers anticipated that the same amount of assistance will not be required during the current financial year, as the settlers in those areas are becoming well established on their holdings.

"Ration assistance to tobacco-growers in the Mareeba and Dimbulah areas and elsewhere has also been financed from the Unemployment Relief Fund. As in the case of the cotton-growers, it is confidently hoped that a succession of good seasons will remove the need of this form of assistance to those engaged in the cultivation of tobacco.

"Financial aid to mining prospectors in appropriate cases has also been made available from the fund.

"In accordance with the policy approved at the general elections, my advisers at an early date propose to improve the benefits now

applicable to those in receipt of unemployment relief assistance, and to progressively reduce the incidence of Income (Unemployment Relief) taxation as the normal avenues of employment expand.

"The Government's efforts in the direction of full time employment for as many as possible will be continued.

"Owing to the very severe drought in most of the sheep districts of the State the year under review has been a most trying and anxious one for the wool industry. Fortunately, splendid winter rains relieved the situation, and have given rise to the hope that a return to an era of good seasonal conditions may be expected.

"The adoption of measures as an aid to drought recovery is under consideration by my advisers. It has already been decided to allow, for a period of twelve months, a rebate of 35 per cent. for the rail carriage of sheep and cattle for restocking of drought losses. The charges for the carriage of wool have been reduced by an additional 10 per cent.

"The operations of the wool relief provisions of the Land Acts were extended for one year from 1st January, 1935. The annual value of this concession is estimated to be £96,517, which, added to the amount of the reductions for the period of from three to four years previously granted, makes a grand total of £423,883.

"It is proposed to embark on a scheme for the systematic improvement and watering of stock routes. A sum of £70,000 will be expended during the current financial year to provide water facilities at regular intervals along the main stock routes of the State. The works carried out under this scheme will be the reconditioning of present inadequate facilities and the putting down of additional bores, tanks, etc. It is estimated that 400 men will be given employment by the expenditure of this money. Provisions relating to the control of stock routes will be incorporated in a Bill dealing with this and other matters to be introduced during this session.

"Recurrent droughts and the apparent depletion of natural pastures in some districts, also call for an active research policy which is receiving the consideration of my advisers. By the establishment and gradual extension of native grass propagation areas, and a system of grass seed reservation and distribution, it is anticipated that the restoration of our natural pastures can be largely accomplished.

"Discussions have recently concluded in London between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth on the imports of meat into Great Britain, which is a matter of special importance to Queensland. The Ottawa Agreement adopted the principle that the Dominions were to have an expanding share of the British meat market. Subsequent to Ottawa, a trade agreement was concluded between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Argentina. The Anglo-Argentina Agreement, however, constitutes a major obstacle in the implementation of the Ottawa principle. Queensland has emerged from the experimental stage in the process of chilling beef to the position of being able to cater satisfactorily for this trade, which will mean much in the rehabilitation of the beef cattle industry. But the uncertainties of what the future may hold are themselves an obstacle

of no small importance, both to normal development and to the more rapid transition from frozen to chilled beef. It is unfortunate that at this critical time in the history of the industry, the right to market our beef should be under challenge, and that many more months must pass until the expiration of the Anglo-Argentina Agreement, before the removal of such difficulties can become a question for practical consideration. It is hoped, however, that we may then regain the security for a vigorous and expanding industry which was assured to us as a part of Empire development in the years that followed the war.

"An increase in the importation of pure-bred stock, particularly of beef cattle, is a pleasing development in the pastoral industry, especially as an infusion of new blood should result in the raising of our herd standards, thus enhancing the value of our chilled meat trade.

"The fat lamb scheme inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture and Stock about eighteen months ago is proving successful, and those associated with this important branch of the sheep industry are already realising its immense economic possibilities.

"The production of raw sugar in Queensland for the 1934 season amounted to 588,300 tons, or, approximately, 25,000 tons below that of the previous season, which was the largest on record. The average price for the whole crop was £15 10s. 6d. per ton of 94 net titre.

"The approximate value of Queensland's production of sugar last season was £9,497,000, including £2,385,000 for the sugar sold abroad.

"In February of this year the Prime Minister of Australia announced that the sugar agreement would be renewed for a further period of five years from 1st September, 1936, on substantially the same terms as the present agreement. The new agreement has been completed and signed by the Premier, on behalf of the Queensland Government, and by the Acting Prime Minister, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. Following the method adopted in respect of the current agreement (which was the first to be incorporated in a Federal Act), the new agreement will be embodied in a Bill to be submitted later in the year for the sanction of the Commonwealth Legislature.

"The dairying districts of the State were favoured with an excellent season generally. The year's figures show that the butter output has increased by approximately six and a-quarter million pounds. Queensland is now the largest exporter of dairy produce in the Commonwealth.

"The assistance given by the Government to the tobacco growing industry of this State is resulting in a marked improvement in the quality of Queensland tobacco. The crop produced during the past season, although somewhat light in yield, was of very high quality. It is now recognised that the highest grade of Australian leaf is being produced in this State.

"The returns from cotton growing this season have once more demonstrated that cotton should be included in the cropping system of most of the inland areas adjacent to the coastal districts of the south-eastern portion of this State. Although unfavourable climatic conditions ruled during part

of the season, the total yield will be the second highest produced.

"The average price realised will be appreciably higher than that of the previous crop. This has stimulated increased interest in cotton growing, and it is anticipated that a substantial expansion in cotton production will occur in the coming season.

"In accordance with the desire to foster the staple industries of Queensland as well as all other suitable avenues of primary production to the greatest extent, liberal provision has again been made for advances to settlers and farmers, through the agencies of the Agricultural Bank and Rural Assistance Board. The interest rate on all advances was reduced by 1 per cent. as from the 1st January, 1935, as a result of which increased business has followed.

"The area opened for selection during the year totalled 2,918,642 acres, and the area selected was 2,263,030 acres, the number of new selections being 616. Considerable progress has been made in connection with the North Queensland new settlement areas, and a number of good dairying and mixed farming portions have been made available at Eungella, Clump Point, and East Palmerston.

"In furtherance of the policy of vigorous land settlement and the Government's aim to provide reproductive work for the unemployed, my advisers continued their programme of road construction to provide access to new settlement areas. During the year a sum of £120,496 was expended in respect of the construction of such roads, and in the various undertakings a total number of 1,150 persons found employment at award rates. These undertakings will, when completed, directly benefit projected farms of a total area of 500,000 acres of Crown lands situated throughout the State.

"The year just closed was one of considerable forestry activity, and the Government records with pleasure that operations in the timber logging and sawmilling industries reached record dimensions, a quantity of 143,000,000 superficial feet of logs having been marketed from the Crown forests, an increase of 62,000,000 superficial feet on the previous year's output, and more than four times as great as the output in the year 1930-31.

"The policy of my advisers has resulted in a great mining revival. Queensland has advanced within three years from a position of comparative obscurity as a gold producer to the second place in the Commonwealth. Its production last year amounted to 115,471 fine ounces, as compared with 23,263 fine ounces in 1932. That fact clearly justifies the opinion freely expressed by influential mining men that this State is a promising avenue for profitable investment.

"Queensland attracted special attention at the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held recently in Melbourne. This conference, amongst other things, gave consideration to the extent to which assistance could be granted for the expansion of mining activities by the provision of funds from the Commonwealth for the relief of unemployment, and the quota allotted to Queensland was the largest, viz., £70,000. This money, which is supplementary to what is already being expended in the direction of prospecting assistance, will allow of a

very considerable expansion of mining activities.

"Mount Isa is about to augment its output by the production of zinc concentrates, and a loan of £500,000 has been secured by the company to enable it to continue development and to treat the zinciferous sulphide ores which exist in the mine in great abundance.

"The combined aerial and land geological and geophysical survey of the northern portions of Australia, which Queensland is undertaking in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government and the State of Western Australia, is now in full operation. This survey is expected to provide valuable data which will be of advantage to those who desire to invest money in the mining industry.

"The net earnings of the Railway Department, during the past financial year, were £353,075 greater than in 1933-34. This result was the best recorded in the history of the Queensland railways.

"A comprehensive programme of works on open lines was carried out during the last financial year, providing employment for a considerable number of men.

"One of the three up-to-date trains for the Brisbane-Townsville-Cairns mail service was put into traffic during the year, and it is anticipated that the two remaining trains, which are under construction, will be in service shortly.

"The drought conditions experienced throughout the State, other than in the coastal districts, threw upon the railways an unprecedented burden at a time which is usually a slack period of the year, but the Department was able to cope with the traffic offering, and the prompt removal of stock saved enormous losses in the pastoral industry. In addition, thousands of tons of fodder were conveyed to drought-stricken districts for the feeding of sheep. Stock was conveyed long distances, in most cases the haulage being over a thousand miles. As a drought relief measure, general rail rebates were extended for the carriage of fodder and starving stock.

"The past year was a record one of building activities for the Department of Public Works, and to this the policy of forward planning has largely contributed. The past two years have illustrated that in many instances building projects initiated in 1933-34 were successfully launched in the latter part of that year, and were either brought to completion in 1934-35 or so far advanced as to ensure continuity of employment.

"The administration of its housing schemes has involved a period of intense activity in the State Advances Corporation. Contracts for 489 workers' dwellings and 362 building revival projects were completed, whilst 150 contracts for workers' dwellings and 67 for the building revival scheme were under construction at the close of the year. The total sum advanced for housing schemes amounted to £366,000.

"My advisers are gratified that, through the activities of these Departments of State, many avenues of employment, both direct and indirect, are being provided, which are materially assisting in the rehabilitation of the building industry generally.

"The mileage of main roads construction completed during the past year reached the

highest point yet achieved in any one year since the establishment of the Main Roads Commission. Actually $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road per day were completed on every working day throughout the year, the expenditure on construction work amounting to £1,351,000. At the 30th June last Queensland possessed 3,400 miles of completed main roads and approximately 61,200 lineal feet of bridges. Direct employment was provided last year, through the activities of the Commission, on the average for nearly 4,000 men. My advisers will continue with the same vigorous policy of road construction during the present year. In the planning of main roads, close touch is maintained with the land settlement projects of the Lands Department. Extension of construction into reclaimed prickly-pear areas will again be pursued.

"The various activities of the Department of Public Instruction have been maintained and developed.

"Early in January my advisers announced the inauguration of a 'revival employment scheme for boys and girls,' and allotted to this Department its administration. A board of juvenile employment was established within the Department.

"From the 1st January, 1935, to the 30th June, 1935, 1,151 boys and 192 girls have been placed in positions.

"As part of the juvenile employment scheme, 200 farm scholarships were offered; 232 boys were placed in farm jobs, and 102 lads were placed in State forests. During the year, 3,603 openings were found for juveniles in various spheres as a result of governmental activities. Of that number, the Crown services absorbed 1,097.

"In order to meet the educational needs of students in places removed from the metropolis, four railway travelling schools were recommissioned at the beginning of 1935. Two of these are for the instruction of girls in domestic science and two for the instruction of boys in wood, sheetmetal, and leatherworking.

"Pursuant to the decision of my advisers to create a Ministry of Health, a Bill will be brought forward during the session for the purpose of co-ordinating, as far as possible, all health activities, and of clarifying the precise functions of the new department.

"The establishment of a Faculty of Dentistry in the Queensland University has now been accomplished, and a Bill will be introduced to transfer the functions of education and examination of dental students from the Dental Board to the University. Dental clinics have also been opened at Gladstone, Maryborough, Rockhampton, and Toowoomba. A clinic will shortly be opened at Townsville, and clinics are about to be constructed at Cairns and Mackay. The buildings of the Dental Hospital and College at Brisbane are entirely inadequate, and it is proposed to construct a new hospital for such purposes immediately a suitable site can be secured.

"Recently, the construction of two road dental clinics was approved for the Department of Public Instruction, one to replace the existing clinic which had covered ninety thousand miles and operated in the south-west, and a second to provide a service in the north-west. These cars will cover the greater part of the area between the New

South Wales border and Bouliá, and supply the dental needs of many thousands of children.

"General hospital services are being developed and extended as the needs demand. The programme for the capital city includes the construction of two new six-story wards at the Brisbane Hospital, a large eight-story block addition to the Nurses' Home as well as a number of other building improvements. The estimated value of hospital works on hand, or to be commenced, throughout the State—including maternity hospitals—is approximately £600,000. The new Women's Hospital in Brisbane, which will provide every modern facility for maternal welfare, is expected to be completed during the current financial year. The maternity and child welfare services have been enlarged, and 93 maternity hospitals have now been provided at various centres in Queensland.

"Clinics for the treatment of infantile paralysis by Sister Kenny have been opened at Brisbane and Townsville and 17 nurses are now under training. The number of patients receiving treatment daily at Brisbane is 160 and at Townsville 75. A census is now being taken of the crippled children in the State, so that a concerted effort can be made to deal most effectively with the disastrous effects of this malady.

"The reorganisation of the police force, which was commenced with the appointment of the present Commissioner of Police, has been continued. The Criminal Investigation and Traffic Branches have been reorganised and improvements effected in advantageous directions. In conformity with the remodelling of the force, a Police Bill will be introduced to modernise the machinery laws governing police administration involving the repeal of a number of existing Acts.

"My advisers have continued to extend fair and reasonable consideration to the public service. By "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Act of 1934," it was enacted that the provisions of the Financial Emergency Acts should cease to apply to any award made by the Industrial Court on or after 1st October, 1934, in respect of salaries and wages not exceeding £500 per annum. The unions of employees concerned took action promptly for the restoration of awards which had ceased to operate in 1930. As a result of Industrial Court proceedings, Crown wages employees are now being paid rates of wages comparable with the award rates for wages employees generally, and the large number of salaried officers concerned have had the reductions under the Salaries Act removed to the extent of one-fourth. In many cases new awards have been issued; in other cases new awards await the conclusion of court and conference proceedings.

"The results obtained by the amendments of the Electric Light and Power Acts during previous sessions have been satisfactory, in that many electric authorities have reviewed their prices. It is estimated that the saving to the community in the cost of electric energy will be not less than £100,000 per annum.

"The financial emergency relief legislation, providing, inter alia, facilities for review of interest rates, as well as the Mortgagees Relief Act, and concomitant measures, have been continued during the year.

"The Estimates for the current financial year, which are now being framed with due

regard to economy and the requirements of the State, will be submitted to you at an early date.

"Among other proposals which will be submitted to Parliament, you will be invited to give consideration to the following measures:—

- An Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts Amendment Bill;
- An Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts Amendment Bill;
- An Income Tax Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Health Bill;
- An Adoption of Children Bill;
- An Infant Life Protection Amendment Bill;
- A Police Bill;
- A Fertilizers Bill;
- A Stock Foods Amendment Bill;
- A Farmers Assistance (Debts Adjustment) Bill;
- A Fodder Conservation Bill;
- A Bill to Deal with Agricultural Research and Experimentation;
- A Stock Routes Improvement and Animal and Vegetable Pests Destruction Bill;
- A Land Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Fish Supply Management Bill;
- A Fish and Oyster Act Amendment Bill;
- A Mining Survey Bill;
- A Friendly Societies Acts Amendment Bill;
- An Industrial and Provident Societies Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Maintenance and Alimony Bill;
- A Statistics Bill.

"To these and all other matters which may be submitted to you, I invite your earnest consideration, and I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER left the chair at 12.29 p.m., resuming it at 2.30 p.m.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn, which I now direct the Clerk to read to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

MEMBERS SWORN.

Messrs. H. F. Walker, E. H. C. Clayton, and E. B. Maher, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took their seats as members for the electoral districts of Cooroora, Wide Bay, and West Moreton, respectively.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1935.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir James Blair, intimating that the Hon. Mr. Justice E. A. Douglas would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1935.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I hereby nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present session:—

- William Alfred Brand, member for the electoral district of Isis;
- David Alexander Gledson, member for the electoral district of Ipswich;
- William Thomas King, member for the electoral district of Maree;
- Thomas Nimmo, member for the electoral district of Oxley;
- John O'Keefe, member for the electoral district of Cairns.

PAPERS PRINTED DURING RECESS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following paper was ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess, in accordance with the resolution of Parliament passed by both Houses during the session of 1901:—

Thirty-fourth annual report of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOT-PAPERS.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that he had received from the Clerk of the Parliament the following letter:—

"Parliament House,
"Brisbane, 4th March, 1935.
"Hon. G. Pollock, M.L.A.,
"Speaker,
"Queensland Parliament,
"Parliament House, Brisbane.

"Sir,—I have to report that, pursuant to an order made by the House on 28th November, 1934, I caused all ballot-papers in my possession, the period for the safe custody of which had expired, to be destroyed.

"The ballot-papers were reduced to pulp at the premises of the Cardboard Company of Queensland, in the presence of a messenger and myself, and before we left the ground we were satisfied that the destruction was complete.

"I have the honour to be,
"Sir,
"Your obedient Servant,
"T. DICKSON,
"The Clerk of the Parliament."

CIRCULATION AND COST OF
"HANSARD."

Mr. SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Chief Reporter, State Reporting Bureau, on the circulation and cost of "Hansard" for the financial year ended 30th June, 1935.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS.

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

Report of the Secretary for Public Instruction for the year 1934.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Fiftieth annual report of the Union Trustee Company of Australia, Limited.

Orders in Council under "The Supreme Court Act of 1921."

Orders in Council, dated 6th December, 1934, and 7th February, 1935, under "The Queensland Law Society Acts, 1927 to 1930."

Orders in Council, dated 21st March, 26th April, and 9th May, 1935, under "The Coroners Act of 1930."

Proclamations, dated 4th January, 1st May, 13th June, and 27th June, 1935, under "The Justices Act of 1886."

Regulations, dated 7th March, 28th March, and 4th July, 1935, under "The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1932."

Regulations, dated 7th March, 1935, under "The Money Lenders Acts, 1916 to 1933."

Regulation, dated 13th June, 1935, under "The Art Union Regulation Act of 1930."

Orders in Council, dated 12th December, 1934, under—

"The Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932."

"The Financial Emergency Acts, 1931 to 1932," and "The Contracts of Sale of Land Act of 1933."

"The Financial Emergency Acts, 1931 to 1932," and "The Law of Distress and Other Acts Amendment Act of 1934."

"The Mortgagors Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932."

"The Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932."

Proclamation and Regulations, dated 7th March, 1935, under "The Law of Distress and Other Acts Amendment Act of 1934."

Statements of various insurance companies under "The Life Assurance Companies Act, 1901."

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor this day delivered to Parliament an opening speech, of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I hope hon. members will take the Speech as read.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. WALSH (*Mirani*) [2.45 p.m.], who was received with Government cheers, said: I beg to move—

"That the following address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the first session of the twenty-seventh Parliament of Queensland—

'May it please Your Excellency,—

'We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the

Mr. Walsh.]

Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

'The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.'

I regard it as an honour to the electorate that I have been selected to represent in this House to be accorded the privilege of moving the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Before reviewing the programme outlined in the Governor's Speech, I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your election to the high, responsible, and honourable position of Speaker in this Parliament.

It may not be out of place at this juncture to offer my congratulations also to the Leader of the Government, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith, and the members of the Cabinet on their election to the responsible positions which they occupy in the government of this State. Their renewed occupancy of these positions is evidence that we on this side appreciate the good work done by them during the past three years. Their re-election follows upon the wonderful victory achieved by the Government Party at the elections in May last, the results of which must be all the more gratifying to the Government when we take into consideration the fact that the "Courier-Mail" admitted that the redistribution of electorates was a fair and reasonable balance as between the various constituencies.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. WALSH: Whether we should be guided in this instance by such an authority as the "Courier-Mail," I leave hon. members to say for themselves. There appears to be some ground for questioning the authority of that paper in political matters when we realise that, with the undisputed exception of the "Daily Standard," all the morning dailies and the country press advised their readers to vote against the policy advocated by members on this side of the House. The extent to which that advice was accepted needs no stressing.

Hon. members will notice that His Excellency's Speech dealt with the results of "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act Amendment Act of 1934." Labour's industrial policy was laid down many years ago on the basis of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. That policy does not cater for the loafer; nor will it stand for the exploitation of the worker. The policy of arbitration was placed upon the statute-book of this State by the Labour Party and I venture the opinion that that policy has been responsible for the greater enjoyment of industrial peace in Queensland during their rule than at any time prior to their attainment of power.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. WALSH: For many years Labour was successfully opposed by reactionary forces—even hon. members on the other side of the House will agree to that. Their object was to reduce wages progressively and increase hours on the mistaken assumption that the national prosperity can only be brought about by the impoverishment of

the people. Labour Governments have proved the fallacy of that policy. The advocates of the reduction of wages and the increase of hours, generally speaking, address their arguments to the small business man and the farmer, but to these Labour Governments in Queensland have gradually proved the fallacy of this "one-eyed" argument. In substantiation of my contention I need only refer hon. members opposite to the "Economic News" of August, 1935. This periodical, I understand, is edited by Mr. Brigden, whose ability to advise us on this matter will not, I think, be questioned for one moment by anybody in this Chamber. It may be useful to the House if I quote the percentages of unemployment in the years from 1929 to 1935, not the least significant feature of which is the fact that since the re-assumption of office by a Labour Government in 1932 the percentage of unemployment has been considerably reduced. In 1929, the year that the Labour Party, by accident or otherwise, were defeated at the polls, the figure was 10.1 per cent. The percentages in the following years moved thus:—

	Per cent.
1930	13.6
1931	22.8
1932	22.2
1933	20.2
1934	15.1
1935 (to June)	11.8
1935 (June)	10.1

That shows that there has been a progressive reduction in unemployment during the last three years of Labour government. The figures disclose that we are getting back to the position that existed when Labour went out of office in 1929, and reviewing all the circumstances it is but reasonable to claim that such a state of affairs can only have been brought about by the policy that was put into effect by the party for which I stand subsequent to their return in 1932. Wages were actually increased and hours reduced; nevertheless unemployment decreased!

A perusal of the business and prosperity index figures in the "Economic News" for August will bear out the contention that industry has improved, generally speaking, under the Labour Government. It may be argued that the policy of deflation may suit some sections of the community or favour individuals, but from the Commonwealth viewpoint it must fail. No better proof of this assertion can be found than the calamitous results that followed the intense pursuance of such a policy by the Moore Government. In proportion as wages were reduced business stagnated and unemployment increased; the reduction in the purchasing power of the worker necessarily resulted in depressing the primary and secondary industries of the State. That effect must be all the more obvious to hon. members opposite when they observe how industry has generally improved under the Labour Government. The result shows that the low-wage policy is wrong. Our opponents, for once at any rate, appear to have gained a lesson from the work of a Labour Government, for we found that after prophesying that all sorts of terrible things would happen if a 44-hour week were introduced into the State of Queensland, they placed such a plank in their platform for the recent elections. Labour has indeed

[Mr. Walsh.

proved that its industrial policy is sound and progressive and in the best interests of the State generally.

We on this side of the House are pledged to arbitration—I wish to remind hon. members opposite of that fact, for it is just as well that they as well as those who endeavour to break down the system of arbitration should remember just what Labour stands for. It is significant that the section to which I have referred received some encouragement from the party opposite in so far as they denied Crown employees the right of access to the Industrial Court. That right has now been restored, together with many other rights filched from them by the Moore Government.

The building revival policy inaugurated by the Government has been responsible for alleviating unemployment to a considerable extent and distress resulting from unemployment during the last two or three years—to a far greater extent than any effort made by private enterprise. This policy could have been brought about only as a result of the amendment of the financial proposals that were placed before the Loan Council in 1932 by the Queensland Labour Government through their Treasurer, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith. It is a significant fact that within twelve months from the time when that amended financial policy was put into effect we had no less an authority than Mr. Davidson, the general manager of the Bank of New South Wales, agreeing that it was the only policy that would revive industry. So that hon. members opposite may have no doubt as to what Mr. Davidson said, I propose to quote from the monthly circular issued by his bank in May, 1933. In it we find—

“The question is asked: ‘What can we do to help ourselves?’ Two things are necessary—to provide money and to provide means of getting money to work.”

That was the attitude adopted by the Queensland Treasurer in 1932 when he advocated that money be made available to foster private employment.

Another passage to be found in that circular that is in striking accord with the Government's policy is that which reads:

“Increased Government investment forms another avenue of approach by setting up increased demand in two ways. It sets up demand directly for materials of all kinds and indirectly through increasing the spending power of those re-employed.”

The concluding remarks contained in the circular should convince the most stubborn hon. member opposite that Labour has led the way in creating work to meet the needs of the unemployed throughout the Commonwealth. It would appear from the circular that Labour in Queensland has given the lead not only to the Commonwealth but also to the outside world in the inauguration of schemes to provide work for the unemployed.

Mr. Davidson, in his circular, also stated:—

“World opinion is now gradually coming to the conclusion that the first step in the general recovery must come from Government investment.”

There we have a very striking statement that unconditionally confirms the sound policy

of Labour. The Government will have to continue to lead the way in a campaign for the revival of industry. I am sure that no hon. member in this House would question our claim that we have received an undoubted mandate from the people to continue the policy that Labour has administered with such beneficial results during the past three years.

As one who has earned his living from the land for many years I am naturally very interested at that phase of His Excellency's Speech that relates to the man on the land, and I am sure that the matters he mentions will be of special interest to other representatives from rural constituencies. In the administration of their agricultural policy the Labour Government have always recognised that a country is not free if its farmers are not free.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

Mr. WALSH: The farmer can be materially assisted from economic thralldom by the technical advice necessary to enable him to solve many of his problems. It should be borne in mind that production does not depend altogether upon favourable natural conditions; it also calls for initiative on the part of the farmer himself. As a consequence the rural policy of the Labour Government has been carefully planned and its application has been entrusted to the sympathetic administration of the Department of Agriculture and Stock. Success in farming lies, to a large extent, in self-help and co-operation; it needs also, however, sympathetic assistance by the Government. As one who for years has earned his living from the land I feel qualified to express that opinion. The Labour Government have paved the way for one and provides the other in the face of the fiercest opposition from the so-called Country Party—and I say that without any disrespect to that party. It is no idle boast for the Labour Government in Queensland to claim that they lead the Commonwealth in the passage of beneficial legislation in the interests of the man on the land. A perusal of the measures passed during the past twenty years, since Labour first assumed office in Queensland, will convince any unbiased mind that Labour has made a genuine effort to assist the producer. One of the first measures enacted by a Labour Government directly affecting the producer was the Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, passed by the Ryan Government. I feel that I am safe in saying—I am sure that no hon. member opposite will challenge my assertion—that the very high state of efficiency in that important industry to-day is the result, to a very large extent, of the enactment of the cane prices legislation.

We know, of course, the attitude adopted by those hon. members who occupied the Opposition benches in 1915 when that measure was introduced. We know, too, that certain interests have since endeavoured to break down the beneficial effects of that legislation. They tested its constitutionality even as far as the Privy Council. However, that legislation stood the test. It is one piece of legislation on the statute-book that Labour can point to with pride for having been its authors. In view of the many problems that continually arise from time to time, however, it is not unreasonable to suggest that this legislation should be reviewed and so

Mr. Walsh.]

amended as to assist in overcoming these problems and at the same time we can attempt to regulate the industry so as to meet other problems that may arise in the future. There are certain forms of control exercised in the industry to which I cannot subscribe—or rather, should I say—the basis which has been adopted in arriving at the present form of control is one with which I do not agree. Nor have they been brought about by the Labour Government. As a matter of fact, they were consequent on legislation introduced by the Moore Government following the defeat of the Labour Government. Before that amending legislation was introduced no investigations were made as to its probable effect in certain areas that were only in their initial stages of development. I do not purpose at this stage to go into that phase of the industry; another opportunity will enable me to do so.

Mr. WALKER: The legislation was amended on the recommendations of the organisations connected with the sugar industry.

Mr. CLAYTON: Of course it was.

Mr. WALKER: And your own organisation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WALSH: Legislation of a similar character was requested from the previous Labour Government but, I am proud to be able to say that they refused to introduce it before a proper investigation as to its probable effects was made. I can be corrected if I am wrong.

The PREMIER: You are quite right.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS interjecting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Hon. members know that it is not usual to interject on occasions such as this when an hon. member is making his maiden speech. It is not sportsmanship.

Mr. WALSH: So far as I am concerned hon. members opposite can interject as much as they like.

Another paragraph in the Speech of His Excellency that interests me as a representative of a rural constituency is that forecast of legislation designed to assist and improve the lot of the farmer. I refer particularly to the Farmers' Assistance (Debt Adjustment) Bill. This measure will implement certain legislation passed by the Federal Parliament in its last session. From what I can gather, the provisions of the legislation we shall be called upon to consider will be specifically limited in their scope. However, we will discuss that question when it is brought down. We shall be grateful for some new suggestions from hon. members opposite. I venture to say that had the proposals submitted by the Queensland Government, through the Secretary for Agriculture, been accepted, the farmers and producers would have been afforded a greater measure of genuine relief. For some reason or other the Federal Government did not see fit to adopt the suggestions made by this Government. It will be necessary, therefore, for the primary producers to work within the scope of the Bill passed by the Federal Parliament. It may interest some hon. members to know what has been done in other States of the Commonwealth in connection with such legislation. The allocations made under the

measure passed by the Federal Government are:—

	£
New South Wales	3,450,000
Victoria	2,500,000
West Australia	1,300,000
South Australia	1,300,000
Queensland	1,150,000
Tasmania	300,000

I wish particularly to draw the attention of hon. members opposite to these allocations, the basis for which was recommended by a conference of statisticians. The allocations clearly indicate that the farmers of Queensland, after twenty years of Labour rule, are infinitely better off than their confreres in other States of the Commonwealth. If hon. members opposite desire to challenge my statement I would refer them to the Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. E. T. McPhee) on whose recommendation the conference referred to adopted the allocations I have just mentioned. In arriving at these allocations, various factors were taken into consideration, one of which was the extent of farmers' debts in the various States, and investigation proved the relatively satisfactory position of farmers in this State as compared with that of farmers elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Some reason must exist for that relatively satisfactory state of affairs in this State, and I contend—and I think with perfect fairness—that it is to be found in the wise legislation enacted by Labour Governments in Queensland.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. WALSH: Despite the moanings of hon. members opposite the Labour Party are entitled to the full credit for the beneficial effects that followed the enactment of that legislation, for the steps taken by Queensland Labour Governments in the direction of marketing and organising legislation have enabled producers to control their own affairs so far as the law of the Commonwealth and other States will permit. No better example of this can be found than the State Wheat Pool and the Sugar Pool. The right of the primary producer to a fair and equitable price for his products consumed in this country cannot be effectively questioned. It is with that end in view that Labour Governments have by their marketing and organising legislation assisted producers to obtain fair prices. The proof that the producers themselves recognise this is evidenced by the fact that of the sixteen commodity boards and pools created under the legislation I have referred to, not one has been allowed to become defunct. No more striking evidence of the benefits of pool legislation could be cited. Moreover, it is interesting to note that the guarantees given by the Government to such boards and pools have been honoured in every case. One of the leading farmer-journals in the State has stated that the creation of the Wheat Board has been responsible for a gain to wheat-growers of approximately £1,877,000. Is it any wonder, then, that the wheatgrowers in Queensland are vitally interested in the legislation passed for their benefit by Labour Governments in this State?

Our marketing legislation has been the cause of inquiry not only by other States of the Commonwealth but also by such countries as Canada, Denmark, Oregon, and even Great Britain, and it is interesting to note that the Agricultural Marketing Act passed in recent years in Great Britain is

[Mr. Walsh.

almost identical with Queensland legislation on the subject. In this connection the following extract from the "Producers' Review" may interest hon. members:—

"In 1931 Great Britain, the last country to develop large scale co-operative marketing claiming with a doubtfully judicious pride the most individualistic farmers in the world suddenly became a pupil of her own Dominions and passed the Agricultural Marketing Act; a close imitation of the nine-year old Queensland legislation."

That should be convincing proof not only to the farming community of Queensland but also to hon. members opposite that the Queensland legislation stands out pre-eminently amongst the marketing enactments of the world.

There is, however, much to be done to ensure that the producer gets the return to which he is justly entitled. We find that even at present there are throughout Australia interests that are endeavouring to break down the beneficial effects resultant from this legislation. We notice that from time to time cases are brought in the law courts challenging the validity of marketing legislation on the grounds that it contravenes certain sections of the Commonwealth Constitution. This is a matter that will have to be carefully watched by the Government of Queensland whose producers can rest assured that they will safeguard their requirements in every respect and by every means in their power. The producers, no doubt, appreciate the efforts already made by the Premier to have the position clarified in so far as ensuring that no appeal shall proceed against a decision of the High Court of Australia in respect of marketing legislation. Why there should be any necessity for a provision of so democratic a nature I cannot conceive, for each and every one of us, I am sure, will agree that the High Court of Australia should be the final arbiter on questions affecting trade within the Commonwealth that come before it for decision.

Speaking particularly of matters affecting my own electorate I wish to say that my constituents appreciate the good work that has been done by the Secretary for Public Works and the Secretary for Public Lands and their respective departments. There are still, however, hundreds of miles of very bad roads in the electorate of Mirani, and we hope during the next three years to see the beneficial results of the actions of a Labour Government in that respect.

The marvellous developmental work carried on in the Eungella Range district, which I have had the pleasure of inspecting, is a cause for complimenting the departments concerned. Congratulation is in particular due to them for the introduction of a policy—which should have been introduced many years ago in the interests of the man on the land, and which is the policy of the Labour Party to-day—of building access roads to enable the producer to market his products from the earliest moment at which they are available. Such a course must encourage men to take up land in new areas. The Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Department of Public Lands has built access roads to the various blocks at Eungella, but there are certain roads in the Carmila area that I should very much like to see expedited owing to the unfortunate

position in which the farmers there are situated this year. In many cases, owing to the absence of the customary seasonal rains, no crops will be harvested and in others the crops, small as they are, have been damaged by frost. It is important to note that in that area the producers are requesting that these works be expedited in order to retain the local labour in that area, and it is gratifying to remember that such a course is in consonance with Government policy. I thank hon. members for the very cordial reception they have accorded me and the attentive hearing that I have received from both sides of the House. I trust I shall be here for many years.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear! and laughter.

Mr. HISLOP (*Sandgate*) [3.23 p.m.]: I appreciate the honour conferred on me in being selected to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, which I now do. I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to the high office you hold. Everybody will agree that in the past you have worthily upheld the traditions of that office, and I am sure that whenever you may have to vacate it, you will have added to its prestige.

I should also like to offer my congratulations to the Leader of the Labour Party, who is also the Leader of this House, for the wonderful vote of confidence given to him on the 11th May last. It was a vote of appreciation of sound and humane legislation. Not only is that gentleman looked up to in Queensland; he is also the most outstanding statesman in the whole of Australia. I am proud to be one selected to follow him.

I should like to take this opportunity also of congratulating the mover of the Address in Reply, the hon. member for Mirani, on his well-merited victory in that constituency; I hope it will be consolidated by succeeding political victories.

I listened with great attention to the very excellent Speech delivered by His Excellency this morning. It is clear that in Sir Leslie Wilson we have a Governor who takes a keen interest in the wellbeing of the State and its people. He has associated himself with the people whose Governor he is, and I am sure that when he takes his place again in the councils of the Empire we shall have there a keener voice to speak on behalf of Queensland. His Excellency's Speech reveals the tremendous amount of activity undertaken by the Government, and amply demonstrates the soundness of the claim made from various election platforms that the Labour Government of Queensland has made a most excellent contribution towards relieving depression. A review of the position in Queensland indicates that we have an overwhelming majority of the people behind us. People who are prepared to pass a just judgment have said that they are satisfied with our stewardship and wish the present Government to continue the policy that was initiated three years ago. That this policy has proved successful is demonstrated by the fact that invariably people who are capable of forming worth-while judgments have since its effects have been apparent described Queensland as the premier State of the Commonwealth. Nevertheless we find that there are people who hold an antagonistic or selfish view, and who suggest that the Government

Mr. Hislop.

make very little contribution to the well-being of the State and that all alterations are determined by economic laws. The last three years have shown the fact to be otherwise, and demonstrated that wise government can in a large measure direct the course of economic practice and consolidate economic tendencies in a direction beneficial to the populace in general.

The present Government have been returned for two reasons—first, because they kept their promises, and secondly, because they presented a constructive political programme in direct contrast to the vagueness of the utterances of their Nationalist opponents. Most of the people within our State are gratified that the Government have been returned; it is evident that they desire a continuation of the good work that has been carried on by the Labour Government in the past. It is obvious from the programme submitted here this morning that the work must not be impeded by small-visioned Queenslanders who think in terms of self rather than in terms of State. The present Government will have many colossal tasks before them; but if past events are a guide to the future, we can rest assured that those tasks will be tackled to the satisfaction of the people. It is evident that the Labour Government are destined to proceed along the road that leads to national greatness.

I desire to thank the people of Sandgate for my election to this House. I assure them I realise the responsibility they placed upon me, and that it is my desire to discharge that responsibility to the best of my ability. The economic situation is not so gloomy as it was three years ago, and one of the principal acts of the present Parliament will be the adoption of such measures as are essential to alleviate distress in its many forms.

Perhaps the greatest evil that can befall any community is unemployment. It is pleasing to note that there has been a steady fall in the volume of unemployment during the past three years, but I am of the opinion that efforts should not be relaxed until the normal volume of employment is again attained within our State. It is obvious that no set policy in this regard can be formulated, but I would urge the Government to exploit every avenue and take advantage of every opportunity to widen the scope of employment. We, of course, are gratified at the big volume of public works that is contemplated in the metropolis. I realise that it will result in the absorption of a great number of men and that their dependants will, therefore, be adequately cared for. But relief work should be regarded as a transient phase of our national life. Parliament, therefore, must give attention to those things that will lead to the abandonment of relief work and the substitution of full time work. Business prosperity is not possible without a big volume of employment, and every person in the State should be materially concerned about the unemployed. The co-operation of Parliament, the press, and the people is essential if this big problem is to be solved. It is of more than passing concern to the populace generally because revolutions and disorders are bred of unemployment. The person who thinks that he is relatively safe to-day may not be so safe to-morrow if he does not make some contribution towards the solution of this burning problem. I have said that unemployment is the greatest evil that can befall a people.

[*Mr. Hislop.*

Conversely, employment must be the greatest blessing, and the lifetime of this Parliament must necessarily be occupied largely with finding solutions for this problem, which is the result of a social canker and the very negation of civilisation. Private enterprise has failed. Private enterprise recruits individuals for its service only as they are required, but economic conditions cause these individuals to be ruthlessly offered up as sacrifices on the altar of industrialism when profits are not visible as a result of their employment.

It was a recognition of these facts and an understanding of the basic principles associated with unemployment that brought the Labour Party into being. The policy of the party, since the first member was returned to this House over forty years ago, has been consciously in the direction of alleviating the major social ills of the community. That the party has been successful and that its policy has been helpful have been proved by the fact that the things that the Labour Party stood for in its earlier days are now accomplished facts within our social life. No party, no matter how vehemently it may be opposed to Labour, has the courage to repudiate the vision that was translated into legislation by the pioneers of the Labour movement. But new problems are continually arising, and the questions of to-day present many ugly aspects.

As an agricultural State it is our obvious duty to give attention to agriculture, both culturally and economically. Our cultural position is essentially sound, but the same cannot be said about the economics of production. The dark clouds of restriction hover over our State. The city dweller, equally with the inhabitant of the bush, is vitally interested in the correct solution of the problems presented. The tendency to compare rural Australia with rural Denmark or Argentina and apply a common policy to all of these countries is fundamentally unsound, for Denmark has reached the limit of her development and her natural resources are imposing limitation of production whilst in Australia we have barely touched the fringe of agricultural development. While we do not agree that Great Britain should subordinate her agricultural policy to the interests of the Dominions, we certainly think that a policy aimed at placing the Dominions in a trade position superior to foreign countries should be actively contested.

The Queensland Labour Government were the first Government in Australia to declare against a restriction of production programme, and to-day every State in the Commonwealth as well as the Commonwealth Government itself is saying exactly what Queensland said two years ago. A limitation of production means a limitation of employment. This State cannot afford to be associated with any project that limits the avenues of production, or permits of a further drift to the cities.

In exploring new avenues of development may I suggest that the Government give attention to that vast source of unexplored wealth to be found in the seas adjacent to our coast line? I am aware that certain attempts made to exploit this wealth have failed; nevertheless that is no justification for abandoning efforts in that direction. The fishing industry has attained great importance in many countries, and many well-informed people contend that similar

success is possible here. A pre-requisite, however, is a scientific survey of our sea resources. That work has already been undertaken in a minor degree but it would appear that the time is opportune for concerted action by all interests involved, including the State, the University, and the commercial interests. This action should take the form of research work, including the collection of data concerning edible fish, the possibility for the establishment of works to treat certain forms of marine life for conversion to stock foods and fertilizers, and the possibility for the intense commercial exploitation of the Barrier Reef. In other words, a serious attempt should be made to place our fisheries on a definite and orderly basis rather than that a continuation of the present haphazard system of indiscriminate exploitation should be permitted.

Modern experience has converted the time-honoured phrase "the joy of youth" into another and a more sinister expression, "the tragedy of youth." Boys and girls, the future citizens of our State, who left our educational institutions in the early years of the depression, and who did not succeed in obtaining either employment or training, present a very real problem for the Government. Is the gaunt shadow of depression always to stalk alongside our boys and girls, always handicapping them, and always having a cruel effect on their future prospects and happiness? The Government recognised the tragedy of these things, and by a vigorous policy of juvenile employment, found work for many, and training for many more, but the victims of the early depression years stand in a class alone, and should be accorded special treatment; special plans should be evolved for their wellbeing. It will be cheaper to provide funds for training these young people now than to let them drift into blind alleys and in the long run be sources of an ever-recurring charge on the State.

Education, the salvation of the State, has not been neglected by the present Government, notwithstanding that the seeds of tragedy in relation to youths attaining working age were sown by the Moore Government. Their vision obscured by a passion for economy, and cursed by an inability to look beyond the immediate future, the Government of that day promoted conditions that led to unemployment and thus deprived this army of rising young citizens of their right to work. Not satisfied with that, they formulated an educational policy that deprived these young citizens of training and drove many on to the street corners. Had the scholarship facilities not been curtailed it is a reasonable assumption that a large number of these boys and girls would have pursued a secondary education. The policy of the Moore Government in effect said to them, "You cannot get work and you cannot get education." It must be remembered that this was the Government that was elected on the slogan of "Give the boy a chance." The problem of the boy that this Government have to face is, therefore, a legacy from the past, and the proposal of the Government to establish a juvenile employment bureau is an honest endeavour and will be a successful attempt to cope with this perplexing problem.

The election campaign, which resulted in the overwhelming return of a Labour Government, revealed fundamental differences in

the political philosophy of the two major factions, and this is perhaps most clearly evidenced by the National-Country Party's advocacy of childhood endowment and Labour's opposition to the particular scheme that party put forward. Childhood endowment is an ideal we should strive to attain, but a childhood endowment scheme that was another name for wage reduction was very properly rejected by the constituencies. Nationalism is a low-wage philosophy. It was applied with appalling results to the State over a period of three agonised years. It was obvious to National Party managers that a bald wage reduction policy would win no popular applause, so a scheme, the success of which depended on wage reduction, was advanced. Although the scheme was defeated, Nationalism ran true to form and the people's answer was a complete repudiation of a wage reduction policy.

The major desire of our constituencies is to attain security. Most human thought and activity have this end in view, and this security has been attained by the application of Labour thought to a greater degree than is possible under any other form of administration. Starting with earliest infancy, we have child welfare clinics, an extension of the activities of which has been hailed with delight by mothers in the more remote parts of our State. The security of motherhood is thus established. A maternity scheme, the ramifications of which reach to the utmost parts of the State, is a part of this branch of humane work, and the monument that the Home Secretary is erecting in the form of a maternity hospital within the grounds of the Brisbane General Hospital will remain as a permanent reminder of the humane side of the work of the present Government. Nor should we overlook the establishment of the Elizabeth Kenny clinics, one of them in Townsville and another in Brisbane. The establishment of these clinics proves that the Government are not subject to direction from the British Medical Association, for, if orthodox medical opinion had prevailed, these clinics would never have been established. Already they are proving their worth, and the noble woman in charge should, by her ideals of service, inspire other people in the State to give and not to take. Sister Kenny receives no remuneration for her work; she is actuated by the ideal of service to suffering humanity. It is my fervent hope that she will long be spared to continue her great work.

Another pillar of security is to be found in the Government's hospital policy, whose application has removed hospitals from the hazards of charity and has placed their finances in a position of security. Thus entrenched the hospitals are giving a service such as was not possible under previous systems. Although this hospital policy has been the subject of hostile criticism, the Moore Government were unable to suggest anything better and were compelled to acquiesce in the system laid down by a Labour Government.

Passing from the health and healing side of the Government's activities to the industrial field, we find that Labour's charter to industrialists is the finest in the Commonwealth, if not in the world. Arbitration and unemployment insurance give a security that is a direct negation of the law of the jungle, the law of tooth and claw, and ensure that

Mr. Hislop.]

the worker shall not be exploited or victimised by the unscrupulous employer.

Relief work, a passing phase of depression, will, by a process of gradualness, be merged into the ordinary employment of the State, but, while it remains, every effort should be made to give such benefits to those who are unfortunately on the fund to remove the direst effects of unemployment. In this connection it is pleasing to note that the Government have decided to extend benefits, and at the same time have agreed to reduce taxation by £300,000 a year. It has been said that gratitude is as a lubricant to the wheels of life, but that ingratitude is like unto emery powder thrown into the bearings of machinery. Those who have been clamouring for reduction in taxation, having now obtained a reduction amounting in round figures to £250,000, do nothing but ridicule the Government responsible for such relief. Instead of oiling the wheels of industry, however slightly, they express their ingratitude and ridicule. Moreover, despite what they have said would be the result on industry from taxation relief, it will be safe to predict that not one additional man will be put back into work.

There are those who claim that unemployment relief taxation should be abolished, amongst them the hon. gentleman who led the Government responsible for its introduction. Does the hon. gentleman suggest that we should abandon our unemployed to the cold blasts of charity? Is it his hope that the creation of an army of unemployed will be the cause of effecting a breaking down of the industrial laws of the State? Does he desire that we should revert to the laws of the jungle? Civilisation demands that the more fortunate shall extend the helping hand to the less fortunate. Unemployment relief taxation is one application of that doctrine. The Government contemplate the gradual elimination of relief workers and a reduction of unemployment relief taxation as economic circumstances permit. If the Taxpayers' Association is so concerned at the incidence of this class of taxation, I would suggest that there is room for co-operation between its members and the Government with a view to making it no longer necessary.

I desire to pay tribute to what has been done by the Sub-Department of Forestry in providing for employment by the revival of the timber industry. Much is heard to the effect that the Government of the day are not doing this or doing that, but great credit is due to the sub-department mentioned for what has been done. From 1929 to 1932 there were timber mills in Queensland working only two or three days a week. Thanks to the activity of a Labour Government some of these mills are now working two or three shifts a day in order to cope with the extra work brought about by the increased activities resultant from the administration of a Labour Government. In passing I desire to urge upon the forestry office the further exploitation of the hardwoods of the State. At the present time the average person thinks of hardwood as being a timber for use only on the exterior of a building. That point of view is wrong. Hardwood can be effectively used in the finishing work of the interior of a home. Beautiful effects can be obtained by its use in that way.

In conclusion let me say I look forward to three years of increasing prosperity as a

[*Mr. Hislop.*

result of administration by the present Labour Government, and I feel sure that their actions will at all times be dictated by the sincere desire to give the best service to the State.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MOORE (*Aubigny*): I move the adjournment of the debate.

Question put and passed.

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

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 10 o'clock a.m. to-morrow.”

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 3.54 p.m.