

Queensland

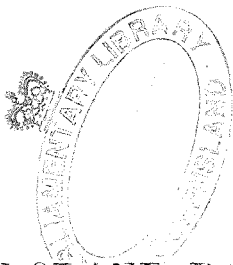


Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST 1936

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Assembly.

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
PARLIAMENT

APPOINTED TO MEET

AT BRISBANE ON THE ELEVENTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1936.

TUESDAY, 11 AUGUST, 1936.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 21st July, 1936, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 10 o'clock a.m. in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. G. Pollock, *Gregory*) took the chair.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the Proclamation.

DEATH OF KING GEORGE V., AND ACCESSION OF KING EDWARD VIII.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The PREMIER presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor—

"The Governor acquaints the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the fourth section of the 'Constitution Act of 1867,' that Our late Beloved Sovereign King George the Fifth of Blessed and Glorious Memory, departed this life at Sandringham on the twentieth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-six, and that on the twenty-second day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-six, His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward the Eighth was duly and lawfully proclaimed at Brisbane as King, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

"The Governor further acquaints the Legislative Assembly that, before Members thereof sit and vote as such, it is necessary that they should take or make the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to His Most Gracious Majesty, as required by the Act hereinbefore mentioned.

"Government House, Brisbane, 11th August, 1936."

The Clerk read the message.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO KING EDWARD VIII

The PREMIER produced a commission under the public seal of the State, empowering him, the Hon. Percy Pease, the Hon. Maurice Patrick Hynes, and the Hon. George Pollock, or any one or more of them, to administer to all or any members or member of the House the oath or affirmation of allegiance to His Majesty King Edward VIII., which commission was then read to the House by the Clerk.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The Commissioners (the Hon. Wm. Forgan Smith, Hon. Percy Pease, Hon. Maurice Patrick Hynes and Hon. George Pollock), having been themselves previously sworn before His Excellency the Governor, then administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance to all other members present, namely:—

Mr. Roy Mackenzie Bell.
Mr. William Alfred Brand.
Mr. Samuel John Brassington.
Mr. James Clark.
Mr. Ernest Henry Collet Clayton.
Mr. Harold Henry Collins.
Mr. Charles William Conroy.
Mr. Patrick Kerry Copley.
Mr. William John Copley.
Mr. William Arthur Deacon.
Mr. Thomas Dunstan.
Mr. James Braidwood Edwards.
Mr. Thomas Andrew Foley.
Mr. Vincent Clair Gair.
Mr. David Alexander Gledson.
Mr. Edward Joseph Hanson.
Mr. John Vincent Hayes.
Mr. John Joseph O'Connor Healy.
Mr. Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton.
Mr. Roland William Hislop.
Mr. Cecil George Jesson.
Mr. James David Kane.

Mr. James Patrick Keogh.
 Mr. William Thomas King.
 Mr. James Larcombe.
 Mr. Edmund Bede Maher.
 Mr. James Francis Maxwell
 Mr. Bernard McLean.
 Mr. Arthur Edward Moore.
 Mr. Godfrey Morgan.
 Mr. John Mullan.
 Mr. Adolf Gustav Muller.
 Mr. George Francis Reuben Nicklin.
 Mr. Thomas Nimmo.
 Mr. Thomas Flood Plunkett.
 Mr. William Power.
 Mr. Hugh McDiarmid Russell.
 Mr. George Cuthbert Taylor.
 Mr. Harry Frederick Walker.
 Mr. Edward Joseph Walsh.
 Mr. Francis John Waters.
 Mr. Herbert Williams.
 Mr. Thomas Lewis Williams.

The following Ministers were re-sworn before His Excellency the Governor:—

31st July, 1936—

Hon. Frank William Bulcock.
 Hon. Frank Arthur Cooper.
 Hon. John Dash.
 Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon.

6th August, 1936—

Hon. Henry Adam Bruce.
 Hon. James Stopford.

At 10.13 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall resume the chair at 2 minutes to 12 o'clock noon.

At 11.58 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. G. Pollock) at the bar.

The members of the Assembly 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 second session of the twenty-seventh Parliament of Queensland.

"The death of His late Majesty, King George V., was an event which caused whole-hearted and profound grief, not only to the whole British Empire, but, in fact, to the world.

"It was only last year that His Majesty's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with deep loyalty and affection, in which celebrations Queensland played no mean part. The Empire will never forget the twenty-five years of His late Majesty's reign, during which he devoted himself to the contentment, the welfare and the happiness of his peoples, working at the same time, with untiring effort, to the promotion of peace and goodwill throughout the world. You will, no doubt, desire to express your sympathy with

Queen Mary, and the other members of the Royal Family.

"I recall with pleasure the fact that His present Majesty, King Edward VIII., has visited Queensland, and, from personal observation, knows our conditions, our problems, and our aspirations. I am confident that you will join with me in hoping that His Majesty will have a long, happy, and glorious reign.

"During the past twelve months I have visited many parts of the State, and I was particularly glad to have a recent opportunity of touring through districts which have benefited so much from excellent rains. For several years many of these districts have suffered from severe droughts, but all those engaged in the pastoral and other interests there have met their difficulties with much courage and self sacrifice. The better season is, therefore, a reward to them for their endurance, and I sincerely trust that many good seasons are ahead for every part of the State.

"I find everywhere a feeling of determination to utilise to a greater extent the great assets which the State possesses, and it is most satisfactory to note the increased interest which is being taken in Queensland by many from overseas and resident in other parts of Australia who had not previously made themselves personally acquainted with the potential wealth of this State.

"My advisers considered it desirable that during the recess the Leader of the Government should agree to the request made by all sections of the sugar industry that he should proceed to Great Britain for the purpose of representing this State at the International Conference on the Sugar Industry which was then contemplated by the Imperial Government, and also that he should investigate trade relationships between Queensland, Great Britain and European countries generally.

"It was later found that such a conference could not be held with any prospect of agreement on fundamental matters. Consequently, the Premier made representations in the proper quarters for the benefit of the sugar industry. In conjunction with the Commonwealth Government he asked for a five years' agreement, based on existing rebates of sugar duty without limitation as to quantity. This was not agreed to by the Imperial Government, but an undertaking was given that no change in policy would take place unless eighteen months' notice was given. On the basis of the original proposition set down for discussion this means a saving of a market to Queensland this year alone of at least £516,000.

"The Premier also dealt with the dairying and meat industries, and made valuable contacts not only with Members of the Imperial Government but with those closely concerned in commercial circles. These, with his addresses to influential societies in Great Britain, will assuredly result in material benefit not only to the people of this State, but of the Commonwealth as a whole.

"The transactions of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the last financial year resulted in a deficit of £741,815, or £420,558 less than the Budget estimate, and £558,185 less than the deficit to which the Leader of the Government agreed at the Australian Loan Council last year.

"Receipts amounted to £15,488,991, or £452,181 in excess of the estimate. Expenditure totalled £16,230,806, being £31,623 over the estimate.

"Compared with the previous year, the revenue generally disclosed increases under the various heads. The receipts from income tax, probate and stamp duties were in excess of the estimates. The buoyancy of the revenue derived from these sources indicates a marked improvement in the business activities of the State, and is a very pleasing feature of the returns.

"It may be observed that the expenditure for the last financial year represents an increased amount for such essential services as education and health to the sum of £99,314. My Government, however, considers this increased expenditure justified, as such services are necessary in the building up of a healthy and educated democracy.

"It must not be forgotten also that exchange accounts for the sum of £810,185, and sinking fund payments for £477,170, and were it not for these charges the State would have been able to show a surplus for the financial year.

"The fact that the excess disbursements during the past twelve months have been restricted to the comparatively small sum of £31,623 indicates that the Government exercised a proper control over the expenditure during the period.

"The expenditure from Loan Fund amounted to £4,219,630, which enabled the Government to carry out a loan programme to meet the essential needs of the State, provide work for our citizens by means of its policy of public works, and grant assistance to local authorities.

"The Government's policy of progressively developing the State has borne fruit in increased productivity, and increased employment under normal conditions for our people. More men are now employed in the State than ever before, and our percentage of unemployment is lower than that of any other State. The Queensland Business Index for the three months ending 31st May last records that business conditions now obtaining are better than at any period since 1929. It is the policy of my advisers to promote the wellbeing of all industrious people in the various vocations within the State.

"The activities of the Department of Public Lands have progressed most satisfactorily during the past twelve months. The Government is in the somewhat unique position of still having administrative control over more than 94 per cent. of the lands of the State, and thus it is of the greatest importance to the community that the administration of the Department of Public Lands and its associated departments should be progressively efficient and sound.

"During the year 553 new selections were acquired, totalling 1,347,233 acres, while new pastoral holdings, totalling 247, covering a total area of 18,438 square miles, were acquired.

"The revenue from all sources, including timber sales, amounted to £1,405,603, which is the highest annual revenue received since 1928.

"The settlement of our densely infested prickly-pear lands, which have been reclaimed

by biological agencies, was continued during the year. The new areas selected or leased total 2,341,961 acres. The total area of reclaimed prickly-pear lands which has been settled subject to developmental conditions is over 17,000,000 acres.

"A feature of the land settlement policy of my advisers is the grant of additional areas to selectors whose present holdings are not regarded as adequate living areas. This policy, of course, can only be applied in localities where lands come into the hands of the Crown. But in order that as many settlers as possible may be accommodated, the Government gives consideration to the claims for additional areas of persons who hold land within a radius of about 30 miles of any available land. Since the additional area policy was inaugurated, more than 1,200 landowners have been granted priority additional areas, the total acreage of which exceeds three and three-quarter million acres.

"Settlers are becoming established in the new settlement areas in North Queensland, and further areas are being prepared for early settlement.

"The Government's policy of building roads of access to Crown lands being made available for settlement, and of constructing other development roads and reproductive works by the Public Estate Improvement Branch, has been actively continued. The expenditure incurred is in the neighbourhood of a quarter of a million pounds, and practically full-time work at award rates has been provided for 725 men.

"The present activities of the Sub-Department of Irrigation and Water Supply are greater and more widespread than at any time during the history of the department. The works of construction under investigation or in progress include drainage works, construction of weirs, water conservation for irrigating purposes and other irrigation schemes, drainage of lands for farming purposes, reclamation of land, artesian or sub-artesian bores and excavated tanks for the better watering of the main stock routes, and town water supplies and sewerage works.

"Forestry operations in all their phases were vigorously conducted throughout the year. The quantity of milling timber cut from Crown lands reached a total of 148,000,000 superficial feet, which is nearly 5,000,000 superficial feet higher than the previous record figure established in the preceding year.

"Employment in reforestation works was considerably increased, and the sum expended therein during the year, namely £114,000, is the highest on record. Employment was found thereby for upwards of 1,100 employees, including over 100 boys employed under the Commonwealth-aid forestry scheme. The Government gave attention to the provision of land for forestry operations, and increased the acreage of forest reservations by over 400,000 acres to 6,187,000 acres.

"Moved by a desire to improve employment and conditions in the timber industry, the Government reconstructed the Timber Industry Advisory Committee during the year, and is at present giving earnest consideration to the comprehensive report submitted.

"Queensland's production of raw sugar for the 1935 season totalled 587,700 tons,

being 600 tons below the previous season's output. Australian requirements absorbed 51½ per cent. of the Queensland output, the balance being sold to British and Canadian refiners.

"The approximate value of the Queensland raw sugar last season was £9,878,000, of which £2,357,000 represents the value of the sugar sold abroad.

"The sugar agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments has been renewed until 31st August, 1941, and an Act ratifying this agreement was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament in December last.

"The growing importance of the chilled meat trade has strengthened interest in herd improvement in respect of both breeding and feeding.

"A grazing experiment designed for the purpose of determining the adaptability of coastal lands in regions of heavy rainfall for the fattening of cattle to supply the export requirements of the chilled beef trade is in progress in the Tully district. Similar experiments are being conducted in other areas of the State. They have been planned to test the practicability of bringing store cattle, inoculated against redwater and pleuro-pneumonia, from the Gulf country to the coast for fattening on introduced and improved indigenous pastures.

"For the purpose of providing adequate veterinary service for stockowners in the far North, and a fully equipped and strongly staffed animal research centre, a stock research station is being established at Townsville. It is anticipated that the station will have a very important influence on the progress of primary industry, the success of which is bound up inseparably with the permanent settlement of a large white population in North Queensland.

"The Government has also established a Bureau of Tropical Agriculture at South Johnstone, which is investigating the grazing limits of existing pastures, and the possibilities of introduced pastures in large scale planting. The activities of this bureau have been correlated with the research programme of the Northern Animal Health Station.

"There has been a marked improvement in the quality of butter submitted for export. The services of the officers of the Dairy Research Laboratory have been in constant demand. Through their investigations many manufacturing difficulties have been surmounted, thus proving the value of the technical and advisory services available to all engaged in butter and cheese production.

"Expansion of export outlets for Queensland pig products in Great Britain and in Eastern markets, in addition to increasing interstate trade and a steady domestic demand, may be accepted as evidence of the sound position of the pig industry. The Leader of the Government, while in Great Britain, confirmed the reports that for quality and suitability frozen pork from this State compares favourably with that from other countries supplying the British market.

"Although facilities through various State Departments are granted for boys to be trained and given suitable employment on the land it is a matter of extreme regret that many parents are reluctant to allow their sons to take advantage of the opportunities offering. In Queensland the people

have a wonderful heritage, and it is necessary that we should develop it to the fullest possible extent with our own people, both from urban as well as rural areas. Successful occupation of the lands of our State is of supreme importance and will in the last analysis constitute our only title to its possession. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that parents will co-operate with the Government in this respect and so not only assist in developing Queensland but also provide their boys with the means of earning a reasonable livelihood.

"Considerable progress has been made during the year on the various works for which the Bureau of Industry is responsible. The expenditure on the Jubilee Bridge over the Brisbane River amounted to £233,000, providing employment for large numbers of men, both directly and indirectly. Work is also proceeding on the Brisbane River and wharf works and the Stanley River dam, and as these works proceed continuous employment will be found for an increasing number of employees over a lengthy period.

"The Government's building programme as covered by the Department of Public Works, has been continued with very satisfactory results, being almost equal to the remarkably busy year immediately preceding it. In carrying out this programme the department has erected many fine buildings, which will stand for many years as a monument to an intensive building period and to the credit of both the professional staff and the artisans employed.

"During the recess my advisers appointed a royal commission to enquire into and report upon the regulation and supply of electricity throughout the State. The report of the commission, which is expected shortly, will have the close attention of the Government.

"The citizens of the State continue to avail themselves of the benefits of the various housing schemes administered by the State Advances Corporation. During the last financial year 562 workers' dwellings and 231 building revival scheme contracts were completed, and a number of others were under construction at the close of the year. The total amount advanced in respect of these housing schemes during the year was £393,000—an increase of 7 per cent. over the preceding year.

"The Main Roads Commission at the 30th June last had completed 3,623 miles of roads and approximately 11 miles of bridges. At the beginning of the new financial year, 270 miles of new works were in hand, and 100 miles of previously constructed road were being converted to higher surface types. The expenditure during the year was £1,503,000, and was the second highest on record. The works undertaken were on the average responsible for the direct employment of approximately 3,000 men.

"The Federal Aid Roads Agreement was recently extended for six months, and a Bill for its ratification will be brought forward during the coming session. The negotiations between the Commonwealth and the various State Governments for a new agreement in this regard are in progress.

"The cash receipts of the Railway Department, amounting to £6,643,000, represent a decrease of £353,000, principally accounted for by reduced traffic in live stock, wool, and

fodder for starving stock. This was due to the abnormal traffic of the previous year, occasioned by drought conditions necessitating the shifting by rail of large numbers of starving stock and large quantities of fodder. The earnings were further affected by a decrease of 10 per cent. on the rates on wool as from 1st August, 1935.

"High-level railway bridges to replace the low-level structures over the Mulgrave, Herbert, and Tully Rivers, on the main coastal railway, have been completed, and these will minimise the interruptions which occur at these rivers during times of flood.

"Two additional Sunshine Express Trains for service between Brisbane and Cairns were constructed in the Ipswich Railway Workshops during the year. These trains, of which there are now three in service, are equal in comfort and appointments to any in the Commonwealth, and have been the subject of much appreciative comment by passengers who have travelled in them.

"Strong representations having been made to the Government for increased railway facilities in the north-western portion of the State, the Royal Commission on Public Works was reconstituted during the recess, and authorised to investigate and report upon the question of constructing a railway from the Northern Railway to Camooweal. The Commission's report is expected to be available at an early date for the consideration of the Government and Parliament.

"Transport matters have been receiving the consideration of my advisers for some time, and also occupied the attention of the Leader of the Government during his mission abroad. With a view to having a comprehensive inquiry made into the various problems of transport, a royal commission has been appointed to investigate and report on this important subject.

"With the production last year of approximately 103,000 fine ounces, Queensland has consolidated her position as the second gold-producing State in the Commonwealth. A spirit of enterprise is evident on all sides and the industry is responding magnificently. Many companies, including some very powerful organisations, are now operating in various parts of the State, and as a result of my advisers' methods of advancing the industry with a policy of scientific investigation and liberal assistance an ever increasing degree of confidence in Queensland is being instilled in the minds of the investing public.

"The activities of the Department of Public Instruction have been maintained, and in many directions extended. Increased attention has been devoted to the study of the environment, the needs and the aptitudes of the pupil. Project and club work has been extended, and greater numbers of young people are being given the type of education that will enable them to grapple successfully with problems incidental to life on the land.

"The scope of University teaching has been enlarged. The recent establishment of a Medical School, a School of Law, and a Chair of Veterinary Science supplies a long-felt need, and renders it unnecessary for our brilliant students to leave the State to receive preparation for the learned professions.

"Consideration is being given to the erection of new University buildings, to

accord with approved modern requirements, on the site at St. Lucia donated by Dr. and Miss Mayne.

"The task of vocational placement allotted to the Department of Public Instruction in 1935 has passed beyond the experimental stage. The Juvenile Employment Bureau provides a recognised community service. It is accepted by employers as the channel through which juvenile labour should be recruited, and by juniors as offering the greatest opportunity for employment. Since the inauguration of this scheme 4,432 juniors have been found employment, and my advisers propose in the immediate future to extend the scheme to embrace the larger country centres.

"Through the activities of the Departments of Labour and Industry and Agriculture and Stock, the training of youths for farm careers has been continued, and to date 1,173 have been placed in rural employment.

"The operation of the various relief measures has been beneficial to the community generally, and by such Acts many persons have been assisted in times of serious anxiety, caused through pressure of adverse circumstances over which they have no control. Under the Hire Purchase Agreement Act, persons obtaining furniture and other necessaries by means of hire purchase agreements are protected against inequitable action, while at the same time the just rights of the vendors are protected. Similar protection is afforded by the Contracts of Sale of Land Act, both to vendors and purchasers of land under contracts of sale, providing for instalment payments.

"The above measures, together with the amending law affording protection to tenants and that by which the rate of interest chargeable by money-lenders is regulated, mark an important advance in social service legislation.

"The Public Curator's Office, which is rapidly extending, continues its successful mission as Public Trustee in providing a State wide service for our citizens, a service characterised by efficient and economical administration of their affairs, while at the same time security to beneficiaries is afforded.

"Following the creation of a Ministry of Health and the decision to co-ordinate, as far as possible, all health activities, the Chief Office of the Department was transferred from the Treasury Buildings to the Agricultural Buildings, together with the officers of the Director-General, Director of Laboratory and the Government Analyst. Legislation will be submitted during the session to provide for a more efficient health service for the State.

"It is the desire of the Government that the lot of those aborigines remaining in Queensland be made as comfortable as possible, and that the policy of the Government is so directed as to settle these people ultimately in villages of their own which may reasonably be expected to become self-supporting. During the past year an inquiry was held into the administration of aborigines in Torres Strait and Thursday Island, and consideration is being given to the report received.

"Baby clinics are continually being extended. Since 30th June, 1935, three central clinics and seventeen branch clinics were

opened. Further provision is being made for additional centres and this service will practically be available to all the more important places in the State.

"Dental clinics have been established at six centres and plans approved for one at Cairns. Plans for the erection of a modern dental hospital and college at Brisbane are at present under consideration.

"The work of the Elizabeth Kenny clinics for the treatment of sufferers from paralysis in various forms has been continued. The clinics at Brisbane and Townsville have been treating patients to their full capacity. A clinic has been established at Toowoomba, and others will be opened at Rockhampton and Cairns.

"The Government desires to provide the same excellent hospital service to people in the distant portions of the State as is available in the cities. With this object in view the Minister for Health and Home Affairs made extensive tours during the recess through the State and authorised many improvements and additions to hospitals. In order to provide a more efficient hospital service, it is proposed to establish base hospitals at Charleville, Longreach, and Cloncurry. A scheme is under consideration to inaugurate a flying service in order that the services of medical practitioners will be available to the people in the North-West and Gulf country.

"In continuation of the policy of providing for the mothers, maternity hospitals were opened at Cairns, Wondai, Mitchell, and Mount Isa.

"During the year considerable progress has been made towards modernising the police force. Additional motor transport, including three wireless equipped cars, has been made available to the metropolitan police. Motor vehicles have also been provided in country centres, and the efficiency of the force has been greatly improved thereby.

"Crown employees continue to render loyal and efficient service. Care has been exercised to ensure economy in administration, consistent with efficiency.

"Many claims affecting wages, salaries, and general working conditions of Crown employees were dealt with by the Industrial Court. Broadly, general principles were determined by the court, and details were settled by conciliatory conferences between representatives of the unions and of the Government. The determinations and agreements have now been embodied in awards of the court.

"The Uniform Income Tax Bill, which was introduced last session, will again be submitted to Parliament.

"The Estimates for the current financial year, which are now in course of preparation, will shortly be submitted for your consideration, and will be found to have been prepared with full regard for economy and the requirements of the State.

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

- An Income Tax Assessment Bill;
- An Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Land Acts Amendment Bill;

- A Timber Industry Stabilisation Bill;
- A Water Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Local Government Bill;
- A Health Bill;
- A Hospitals Bill;
- An Insanity Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Dairy Produce Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Dairy Products Stabilisation Continuance Bill;
- A Native Fauna Protection Bill;
- A Workers' Compensation Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Workers' Accommodation Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Wool Draft Allowance Abolition Bill;
- A State Children Acts Amendment Bill;
- A Federal Aid Roads Agreement Extension Approval Bill;
- A City of Brisbane Act Amendment 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.

At 12.28 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall resume the chair at 2.30 p.m.

At 2.30 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

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. John Innes Brown, John Burton Donnelly, and John O'Keefe took the oath of allegiance.

LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) (2.33 p.m.), by leave: While the House was in recess there was an alteration in the constitution of the political party to which I belonged. We have formed a new Country Party that will be separate and distinct from other political parties.

I also wish to announce that at a meeting of the parliamentary members of the Country Party I was elected as Leader and that at a further meeting of the party, which was held this morning, the hon. member for Aubigny was elected Deputy Leader.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.34 p.m.]: I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. member for West Moreton on his elevation to the important position of Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of an Opposition has very important responsibilities to Parliament and the country, as is recognised in

the Constitution of the State. I feel sure that in the execution of his duties the hon. member for West Moreton will do his best to help to carry out the business of this Parliament in the interests of the State. The appointment of the hon. member is a happy one. As a matter of fact, had the selection been left to me, I should probably have chosen the hon. member. (Government laughter.)

LEADERSHIP OF UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY.

Mr. RUSSELL (*Hamilton*) [2.36 p.m.] by leave: I wish to announce that I have been elected Leader of the newly-formed United Australia Party. (Government laughter.) We are small in numbers but represent many thousands of electors. We shall be prepared to support the Government in all measures that we believe will be for the welfare of the whole community.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.38 p.m.]: I desire to take this opportunity of congratulating the hon. member for Hamilton on his elevation to the leadership of an important party of three. A party of such dimensions must require a great deal of tactful handling, and I hope that the supporters of the hon. member will give him the aid that is due to him in the discharge of his arduous duties. (Renewed laughter.)

BY-ELECTIONS DURING RECESS— NEW MEMBERS.

TOOWOOMBA, BRISBANE, KEPPEL, AND BOWEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that during the recess—

I received a letter, dated 28th November, 1935, from Evan John Llewelyn, Esquire, resigning his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as member for the electoral district of Toowoomba.

I received from the Registrar-General certified copies of the registration of the deaths of Robert Funnell, Esquire, on the 3rd January, 1936; of Owen Daniel, Esquire, on 5th January, 1936; and of Charles Collins, Esquire, on 28th March, 1936; lately serving in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as members for the electoral districts of Brisbane, Keppel, and Bowen, respectively.

In consequence of these vacancies and in accordance with the direction of the tenth section of the Legislative Assembly Act of 1867, I issued writs for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Toowoomba, Brisbane, Keppel, and Bowen, in the room of Evan John Llewelyn, Esquire, resigned; Robert Funnell, Esquire, deceased; Owen Daniel, Esquire, deceased; and Charles Collins, Esquire, deceased; and that the said writs have been duly returned to me with certificates endorsed thereon by the Returning Officers of the election of John Edmund Duggan, Esquire; John Henry Mann, Esquire; David John Marlais Daniel, Esquire; and Ernest Joseph Riordan, Esquire; to serve as such members respectively.

Messrs. Duggan, Mann, Daniel and Riordan were then introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

DEATH OF MESSRS. R. FUNNELL, O. DANIEL, AND C. COLLINS.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.40 p.m.], by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Robert Funnell, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Brisbane; Owen Daniel, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Keppel; and Charles Collins, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Bowen.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the families of the deceased gentlemen expressions of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland."

It is very seldom that we find it necessary at the opening of any fresh session of Parliament to move a vote of condolence in the death of as many as three members. Of these three gentlemen, two at least—one would think—would have had years of usefulness ahead of them in the service of the State. We realised, of course, that the health of the late Mr. Collins had been undermined over a period of years, and it was only a matter of time before he would pass over the great divide. Mr. Collins was one of the oldest members of this Parliament and a man who had the esteem of every member of it, and of the people of this country.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: He was for many years associated with the Labour movement, and every righteous cause in the State had his support. He gave expression to his views fearlessly and in an unmistakable fashion. I personally was associated with him during all the years I have been in Queensland. I claimed him as a close personal friend, and consequently I can speak with great regret of his loss. He was a man who was widely read and well informed on all matters affecting the life of the State and of the people at large.

The late Mr. Funnell was a comparatively young man. He was elected to this Parliament on 11th June, 1932, as member for Brisbane, and served till his death on 3rd January, 1936, a period three years and seven months. Mr. Funnell was a man with considerable ability and a man who had given years of service to the Labour Party, both on the industrial and political sides; and many people with whom he was associated mourn his loss. I received a great shock when I heard of his death, as he appeared to be a man of very robust constitution, who in the ordinary course of events should have lived for many years. His demise is a further evidence of how little one can rely on such outward and visible manifestations.

The late Mr. Owen Daniel was elected to the Twenty-sixth Queensland Parliament on 11th May, 1929, as member for the electoral district of Keppel. He served through the Twenty-sixth Parliament and to the 5th January in the twenty-seventh—a period of six years and eight months. As member for Keppel he conscientiously carried out his duties in the interests of the people he represented. He did not speak a great deal

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in the House, but when he did so was well worth listening to. He was a man who, according to his lights, gave of his best in the service of the State.

The three gentlemen covered by this motion were men who merit the esteem of members of this House and the citizens of the State, and I regret the necessity of having to move a motion of condolence to their relatives.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) (2.47 p.m.): I desire to associate the Opposition with the motion of condolence that has been moved by the Premier. The three members concerned played very useful parts in this Assembly. They gave of their best to serve the best interests of the State.

The late Mr. Collins was the senior member. He represented Bowen for many years and was held in very high regard not only in the electoral district he represented, but also by all hon. members with whom he came in contact. He was of a very kindly nature, and did his best within his sphere to make conditions better in the State. I regret his death.

The late Mr. Owen Daniel entered Parliament at the same time as I, and all who came in contact with him were impressed with his absolute forthright honesty, earnestness, and sincerity in the cause he espoused. He succeeded in the representation of the electoral district of Keppel by his son. That is a very fine tradition. It has occurred previously in the Queensland Parliament. There have been previous instances in the cases of Messrs. Wienholt and Plunkett.

The late Mr. Funnell was comparatively a new member to the House, but as the Premier has indicated, he had served the Labour Party for many years. During his term in Parliament I have no doubt that he gave of his best to represent his constituents and to serve the people from his point of view.

I associate the Opposition with the Premier's motion and offer the relatives of the deceased gentlemen our very sincere condolence in their time of grief.

The motion was carried, hon. members standing in silence.

DEATH OF KING GEORGE V.

ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.50 p.m.], by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That the following address of condolence to His Majesty be adopted:—

'To His Most Gracious Majesty, Edward the Eighth, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

'May it please Your Majesty—

'We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, on its first sitting of the present session, express our profound sorrow at the death of His late Most Gracious Majesty, King George the Fifth, whose name and reign will ever be held in lasting remembrance by His late Majesty's sorrowing and loving

{*Hon. W. Forgan Smith.*

subjects; and desire to convey to Your Most Gracious Majesty, Your Royal Mother and other members of the Royal Family our heartfelt sympathy.'

"2. That His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward the above Address to His Majesty."

There can be no doubt that this resolution will be supported by all members of Parliament and by all citizens in this State of Queensland. There can be no doubt that the late King will be found to have occupied a unique position in the history of Great Britain. He held his high office during one of the most stirring and difficult periods in the world's history. He was a man of such great character that he gained the support and esteem not only of all the peoples he represented in the British Commonwealth of Nations but also of the people of America and other large populations throughout the world. I had the privilege of having had an audience with the late King in which he showed great interest in Australia. He recalled his visits to this country and proved that he had a wide knowledge of the development of this Commonwealth and the achievements of its people. He had an extraordinary faculty of conveying the impression to persons with whom he was conversing that the only thing he was interested in was what he was being told by his representatives.

The people of Great Britain showed the esteem in which he was held, by the wonderful demonstration at the time of the lying in state at Westminster and the Royal funeral. I had the sad privilege of representing this State on that occasion and I shall never forget the wonderful crowd of people who waited for the opportunity of filing slowly past in order to pay their last tributes of respect to all that remained of their late Sovereign. Those who know London can realise the extent of the public demonstration when I tell them that the queue, of four deep, extended very considerably beyond Westminster Bridge and that on the Sunday it took some as long as seven hours to pass through Westminster Hall. The scenes at the Royal funeral indicated that his late Majesty King George V. occupied a position unique, perhaps, in the history of our people in the esteem and affection in which he was held by his subjects. That esteem and affection exists with equal force in Australia and other parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is with regret that I feel it my duty to move this motion.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) [2.55 p.m.]: I desire to second the resolution of sympathy moved by the Premier in reference to the death of His late Majesty King George V. He was a democratic and constitutional monarch whose life was devoted to his people and whose influence throughout it commanded affection everywhere in the world.

During his kingly reign mankind experienced the most terrible conflict in its history; yet at that time, when thrones were tottering and kings were seeking havens of refuge in friendly countries throughout Europe, his power, prestige, and influence throughout the Empire—indeed throughout the world—were as great as ever.

We feel—as the world felt at his death—a deep and reverent sense that a great work had been accomplished in his lifetime and

a great task had ended. We mourn with millions of sorrowing subjects throughout the Empire at the death of a beloved King.

The motion was carried, hon. members standing in silence.

ACCESSION OF KING EDWARD VIII.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) [2.57 p.m.] by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That the following address of congratulation to His Majesty be adopted:—

‘To His Most Gracious Majesty, Edward the Eighth, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India.

‘May it please Your Majesty—

‘We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, respectfully submit congratulations on Your Majesty’s accession to the Throne.

‘We pray that under the Divine Guidance Your Majesty may be long spared to rule the British Commonwealth of Nations and that Your Majesty’s reign may be distinguished by peace, prosperity, and a general advancement in the social and economic conditions of Your Majesty’s subjects.’

“2. That His Excellency the Governor be requested to forward the above Address to His Majesty.”

There can be no doubt that the present King comes to the Throne equipped for his high responsibilities in a manner that is given to few. He has travelled extensively throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations and has an intimate first-hand knowledge of all the countries under his dominion; and that of itself must be of great advantage to him in the carrying out of his high duties. In addition, he has made it his business to probe beneath the surface of the existing social system. No one previously occupying his exalted position has taken so much interest in the social welfare of his people. He has travelled extensively through what are known as the depressed areas of Great Britain and has come into intimate contact with the problems of poverty and those that result from unemployment, and has shown an active sympathy in the bringing about of better conditions for the people of his country.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, as will most members of this House, his comparatively recent visit to Australia. If I remember rightly, it was in 1921 that he visited Queensland. On that occasion he made himself acquainted to a large extent with this State and its people, with its industries and its problems.

I also had an opportunity of meeting His Majesty during my recent visit to England. He spoke in glowing terms of his visit to Australia and Queensland and showed that he had a very good memory and he knew the conditions that obtained in this country, and was aware of the efforts that were being made to develop this great Commonwealth. I feel sure that hon. members will support the motion.

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*) [3.1 p.m.]: I am privileged to second the resolution congratulating His Majesty, King Edward VIII., on his succession to the Throne. The great loss experienced by the nation in the death of King George V. is softened somewhat by the fact that his son has succeeded him. As Prince of Wales he toured Queensland and won the hearts of all by his personal charm, his fine sportsmanship, and manly qualities. From radical sources in Great Britain it has been stated that if the Empire became a republic the present King would be overwhelmingly elected to the exalted position of national leader. With noble purpose and very great sincerity he has time and again demonstrated his firm sympathy for all those people who have to struggle hardest in life’s stern battle. As the Premier has indicated, he is well equipped for the very great position in the life of the British Empire that has come to him. We wish our King a long, happy, and peaceful reign.

Question put and passed

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1936.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir James Blair, intimating that the Honourable Mr. Justice Macrossan, S.P.J., would be the Judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1936.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirement 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 papers were ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess, in accordance with the resolution of Parliament passed by both Houses during the session of 1931:—

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

Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into certain matters relating to racing and gaming.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, *Mackay*) laid on the table a copy of the “Government Gazette,” dated 5th December, 1935, declaring that the designation of the office of Home Secretary had been changed to that of Minister for Health and Home Affairs.

Hon. W. Forgan Smith.]

PAPERS.

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

Report of the Acting Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1935.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council, dated 19th December, 1935, and 4th June, 1936, under the provisions of "The Industries Assistance Acts, 1929 to 1933."

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 presume hon. members will take this Speech as read.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. MANN (*Brisbane*) (3.12 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

"That the following address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by him in opening this, the second 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 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 I have been chosen to represent to be granted the privilege of moving the adoption of the Address in Reply. I sincerely thank the electors of Brisbane for the confidence they have placed in me and I hope I shall justify their trust.

At the outset I desire to record my personal regret at the passing of Mr. Robert Funnell, the hon. member for Brisbane, since this House last met. By his death Queensland has been robbed of a good citizen and this House of a worthy member. Mr. Funnell was my friend and I feel his death as a severe personal loss, as I believe many other hon. members of this House do also.

I wish to say a word of welcome to the Premier on his return to Queensland. I hope his health has been fully restored and that he will continue to enjoy good health and occupy the high and honourable position that he holds as Leader of the Government for many years. (Government members: Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman's overseas visit

[*Mr. Mann.*

has been of immense value to the primary industries of Queensland. Particularly has the meat industry felt the benefit of his representation. His co-operation with the Commonwealth authorities has resulted in an improved overseas market for Queensland products which, he has been assured, will enter Britain on a much more equitable basis of competition with other countries than has been the case in recent years. Later on in this session hon. members will hear of the representations that the Premier has been able to place before the Imperial authorities.

The speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor must have been encouraging to all who were privileged to hear it. It indicated that the prosperity and confidence restored by the return of a Labour Government in 1932 still exist. The Moore Government failed because they did not understand the requirements of the people and the class of legislation necessary for the benefit and advancement of the State. The present Government have succeeded because of their keen knowledge of the people's needs and their progressive policy to meet them. A sound foundation has been laid for the State's progress and the legislation that will be brought before this House will build upon it to the immense benefit of Queensland.

The Speech makes reference to the relations between the Commonwealth and the States, and I am pleased that the Premier will place before the forthcoming conference to be held in Adelaide a basis for a new agreement that which, if arrived at, will make for a better financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States. The plan has been published. It is based on the view that the Commonwealth Government should make available to the States a greater amount of its surplus, for use particularly in caring for public health and education. Education is the key-note of national progress and health is a fundamental need of a vigorous people. The contention of the Premier will be that the Commonwealth Government should make available to all the States 50 per cent. of the cost of compulsory primary education and the cost of a national health scheme. I am in accord with those proposals. If we are to have a healthy people we must have healthy children and we must have them educated. It is unfair that the State should be asked to carry the whole burden of education. It is also unfair that it should be asked to carry the cost of an unemployment relief scheme. I hope that the recent visit to Brisbane of the Cabinet of the Commonwealth Government will result in a better understanding between State and Commonwealth, and that Queensland will get better financial treatment in the future.

This brings me to the important subject of industry, which also has been dealt with in the Speech by His Excellency. It is a matter for pride that in Queensland we enjoy to-day and have enjoyed for many years the best industrial conditions of any of the States. The present Queensland basic wage of £3 14s. a week is the highest of all the States.

The average weekly wage in Queensland is also the highest of all the Australian States, and it has the greatest purchasing power. The Commonwealth Statistician said quite recently that the real effective wage in Queensland was 20 per cent. higher than

that of New South Wales or Victoria, and it had a 20 per cent. higher purchasing power—an advantage of 4s. in the £1. Credit for this fact is due to Labour Governments, who have always endeavoured, consistently with the progress of industry, to improve the lot of the worker by giving him better wages and conditions. It is the cry of the Opposition that Queensland has been hamstrung by taxation and wage conditions. In reply I refer them to a recent industrial supplement to the "Courier-Mail," which stated that the manufacturing industries in Queensland were worth something like £15,000,000 and were making rapid strides in development. These facts show that good working conditions can be given in industries, without hampering them. The theory that low wages are necessary for the development and progress of industry has been exploded. We have only to call as witnesses Henry Ford in America and Lord Nuffield in England to refute it.

Queensland has always been regarded as a primary producing State, and it has been charged against us that we are making conditions in Queensland so attractive as to induce workers to come here from the other States. That is not a fact that should be held against us—it is more to our credit than discredit. We have plenty of room for people who are prepared to spend their energy and enterprise amongst us, who are prepared to make shift for themselves. All over the State evidence can be seen of its progress. The Director of Labour has reported that the most outstanding feature of the year 1934-35 was the remarkable improvement in employment. More men were employed during that year than in any other since 1928. That is a fact that cannot be refuted and it redounds to the credit of the Government's policy.

I am pleased to notice the Government's activity in public works. They should be commended for pursuing a policy that enables the workers of this State to be put in regular employment and to enjoy regular wages. I congratulate the Government for pushing on with jobs like the Stanley River dam, which at the present time employs between 300 and 400 men, and the Jubilee Bridge, which is also giving employment to several hundred. The construction of a new maternity hospital at Bowen Bridge and the Mackay harbour scheme are other things for which the Government are to be commended. It is also their intention, I understand, to proceed with the building of a new university. The building trade is a generous employer of labour and enables its workers to enjoy a fair remuneration with full-time employment, and I commend the Government for their plans to push on with a work that cannot fail to give an impetus to it.

I am pleased also to note His Excellency's reference to the hospital system, and I congratulate the Minister for Health and Home Affairs upon the construction of new hospitals throughout Queensland and upon their efficient administration. Not only have the vountry parts of Queensland benefited in this way. The cities have not been neglected. The new administrative block in the course of construction at the General Hospital will be a monument to the work of the present Government and to the able Minister in charge of the department. This hospital will be the finest public institution of its kind in

the southern hemisphere. I understand that the No. 3 block and the nurses' quarters are nearly completed and that next week the Minister will lay the foundation stone of the fourth block. I commend the Government for their progress in the provision of hospitals, and especially for their provision of the new Women's Hospital, which will prove a great boon to expectant mothers and others who will need to seek its aid. It is not generally known that 50 per cent. of the babies born in Queensland are born in maternity hospitals established by the Government. The Women's Hospital will be the very latest in construction and equipment.

Another phase of the activities of the Home Department mentioned by His Excellency is the proposed new dental hospital, with the building of which I believe that it is the intention of the Government to proceed in the near future. The dental hospital system is giving great service to those workers of Queensland who are unable to pay for the attention of private dentists. About 7,000 sets of new artificial teeth were made during the last year by the Dental Hospital, and it is reasonable to assume that apart from such a provision the majority of those people would have been unable to obtain those benefits. (Opposition interruption.)

Another aspect of the department's work that is deserving of great credit is the establishment of the Elizabeth Kenny clinics. The Government are to be congratulated upon their endeavour to develop a cure for persons who are suffering from the results of infantile paralysis.

Mr. BELL: You are a long time waking up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Hon. members on my left are well aware that it is customary to allow hon. members making their maiden speeches to do so without interruption or interjection. I hope hon. members will remember that.

Mr. MANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that hon. members opposite will be there long enough for us to get used to their interruption.

I should like to congratulate the Government on their establishment of the Juvenile Labour Bureau, which, as His Excellency remarks, has been the means of placing boys and girls in employment who previously had failed to get it. I understand that about 2,900 boys and girls found employment last year through this bureau, which under the direction of Colonel Hill is doing excellent work. I suggest to the Government that its scope be extended and that the co-operation of all commercial and industrial employers be invited.

The Press intimated this morning that it was expected that His Excellency would be appointed for a further term of five years. That is an undoubted tribute to his wide popularity, and I believe will meet with the approval of the Government, seeing that they are not to be accorded the privilege of having local Governors.

I congratulate the Government on their legislative and administrative record, and I look forward with pleasure to witnessing a further measure of public benefit from a continuation of the same policy. I hope that their progress in the future will be even greater than their achievements in the past.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mann.]

Mr. RIORDAN (*Bowen*) (3.32 p.m.): I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution so ably moved by the hon. member for Brisbane. At the outset I desire to pay a tribute to the late Mr. Charles Collins, a former member of this Parliament. He set a standard in this House which I aspire to equal. I knew the late Charlie Collins when I was a small boy in the North, and I am firmly convinced that he lived for only one thing—the Labour movement. Throughout his life he remained true to its early ideals, sternly determined not to waver in the slightest. The people of the Bowen electorate deeply regret his passing.

I desire to congratulate the Premier upon his successful mission overseas, primarily in the interests of the great sugar industry. As the representative of a district engaged principally in sugar production I am pleased to know that as a result of his visit a percentage reduction in our exports of surplus sugar to Great Britain was averted and thus the sugar farmers of this State avoided a loss of approximately £560,000 per annum. The problem of over-production in the industry is a very serious and important one that must be solved by the farmers themselves. I am very concerned and the farmers are also very concerned at the operation of the present peak year scheme, which was voluntarily imposed upon the industry, I believe, in 1929. It affected many farmers very seriously, particularly in those areas that had not then reached the full production that they have attained of recent years. One of the places sorely hit was the Proserpine district, an old-established sugar area. The completion of the North Coast railway made new areas available for sugar production, and the Proserpine district did not reach full production until a comparatively recent date. As late as 1931 land was still being assigned, and the district did not reach full production until some time in 1933, whereas the peak year production was based on the average production during the years 1915 to 1929, and Proserpine did not reach its peak in that period till 1927. It will thus be seen that the scheme had a very detrimental effect on the district. There are 432 farmers in the area, 220 of whom do not grow more than 200 tons each per annum. Anyone with a knowledge of the sugar industry will know that it is not possible for a farmer to obtain a reasonable livelihood if he does not grow more than that, yet his production for No. 1 pool is severely restricted by the peak year scheme. The position regarding mill peaks in this area prevents it from developing. The growers have local ways and means of dealing with restriction of the growth of cane. The position facing the industry requires careful consideration, not only by those engaged in the industry itself, but by the Government also. A policy of restriction of output would mean a restriction to mill peaks. This would result in financial chacs and ruin to the district. The Home Hill area reached its peak in 1929, when for some reason unknown to the sugar growers in that area—they have had their struggles and misfortunes to contend with—17,000 tons of cane were diverted from the Inkerman to the Invicta mill. The Invicta mill reached its peak in 1929. The Home Hill area, like Proserpine, is expanding, but that expansion is jeopardised by that diversion. That quantity would be beneficial to the Home Hill district. These are a few phases of

[*Mr. Riordan.*

the sugar industry, a knowledge of which will enable hon. members to appreciate the indefatigable work of the Premier during his recent trip to Great Britain. His efforts in maintaining the exportable quotas will be appreciated by the industry.

The renewal of the Sugar Agreement for a further five years will certainly give some sense of security to the sugar farmer, but until a remunerative market is found for the exportable surplus the industry is faced with a period of anxiety and difficulty.

There is another matter in relation to the sugar industry that I desire to bring under the notice of the Premier and his Government. Within the next few months there is a probability that the Inkerman and Pioneer sugar mills will be offered for sale. I suggest that as the farmers have made a huge success of the management of the co-operative sugar mills in this State they be encouraged and helped to take over those mills on a similar basis. That can only be accomplished by legislation and sympathetic financial aid by the Government. I know that this matter will receive the serious attention of the Government, as they recognise the difficulties that beset the industry and have always given it favourable treatment. If more control of industry is placed in the hands of the workers, who in this instance are the growers, greater contentment and expansion will result. This can be accomplished by the adoption of that policy either by a Labour or Nationalist Government.

The Governor's Speech foreshadows the introduction of a Water Acts Amendment Bill. I am interested in this measure, and I hope that it will afford greater help to people who depend on irrigation for the working of the land. The trust that has been formed at Home Hill to control the Inkerman irrigation area has built up a reserve fund. A proposal has been made by this trust to the Secretary for Public Lands for a remission of certain dues that have been paid. I trust that this application will receive his serious consideration. He has shown a desire to help the man on the land, and an application from a body representing men working the land for the purpose of developing the northern districts of Queensland must appeal to him. It is recognised that the sugar industry is vital to the populating of our tropical areas, and it has been agreed on all sides that nothing should be done to hamper the attainment of this great objective.

The Governor makes reference in his Speech to the districts he has visited in his various tours of this State. It cannot be gainsaid that His Excellency has travelled the State more extensively than any other occupant of the position, and he therefore knows many of the attractions that Queensland has to offer the tourist. The tourist trade should receive careful attention and every effort should be made to put it on a sound basis. The Barrier Reef is sometimes known as the "Northern Wonder," and the Whitsunday Passage and the islands in its proximity will be the future playground of thousands of tourists. These beauty spots are situated close to Bowen, Proserpine, and Mackay. Only one thing is lacking—proper access roads to the taking-off places, particularly the Cannon Valley road at Proserpine. I notice that the Secretary for Public Works has made provision for 3 miles of road there, but 5 miles more of road will be necessary to give good access.

His Excellency refers to the activities of the Department of Public Instruction. I hold that it is the right of every child to enjoy the fullest opportunities of education, irrespective of whether it resides in the city or country.

The PREMIER: Hear, hear!

Mr. RIORDAN: The city offers greater educational facilities than country centres, and although the primary correspondence schools—introduced by this Government—have done and are doing excellent work, there is still need for additional school facilities in the country areas, particularly in the area adjoining Proserpine. The old school building in Proserpine, for instance, is out of date and inadequate. I have recently toured the Bowen electorate and been impressed with the need for new schools in many centres. I suggest to the Minister that additional school facilities are needed.

There is much room for expansion of the meat industry in Northern Queensland, including the Bowen electorate. There is no doubt that the application of science to the preparation of the products and the adoption of improved marketing methods will bring about that expansion. I believe that the improvement of herds will also enable it to grow to such an extent that it will be able to supply the oversea market.

It is very pleasing to me, as one who has had a good deal of experience in the ranks of the unemployed, to know that many thousands of men who were without jobs a few years ago are now in employment. Great credit is due to the Government for that, but much remains to be done. When the Moore Government left office in 1932 the unemployed figures for this State were the highest in its history, but with the advent of the Labour Government they immediately started to decline. They have progressively declined till they are now at the lowest figure since the depression commenced. In spite of all that has been accomplished there is still much to do before the Government can rest content or the unemployed be satisfied. No Government can be content so long as there are any unemployed within the State. I know that it is the desire of the Government to place all in employment if possible.

At the same time the fact must not be lost sight of that the problem of the unemployed has to be faced. Speaking as one who until recently was in that class I know that it must be faced, inasmuch as if the Governments of Australia do not do so, then the democratic form of government that is known to us will disappear. Under the present capitalistic system unemployment cannot be entirely eliminated, for it is essential to the success of that system that there shall be a surplus of labour. We must, without ceasing, aim at seeing that within all this Commonwealth the policy of the Labour Party is given effect to, for till the system under which we live to-day is displaced by that sponsored by that party, Australia cannot be a peaceful and contented nation.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. RIORDAN: There is full and plenty in Australia for everybody and it is necessary that all Governments face the fact that the present system has outlived its usefulness. It is gradually being changed by the Labour

Government of Queensland and I hope that within the next few years the big things that we are looking forward to will materialise. I hope to see the total elimination of unemployment within the Commonwealth, even if it means that the present system of society must go as a result of its gradual removal by the Labour Governments in the Commonwealth.

I trust the day will never come when Queensland will lose the honour of having the highest basic wage, the highest effective wage, the shortest working week, the lowest cost of living and the lowest percentage of unemployment in the Commonwealth, if not in the world.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MAHER (*West Moreton*): 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 to-morrow at 10 o'clock a.m.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.