

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 1940**

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Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. E. J. Hanson, Buranda) took the chair at 10.30 a.m.

**QUESTIONS.**

**MARGARINE PRODUCTION IN QUEENSLAND,  
1939-40.**

Mr. WALKER (Coorooora) asked the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock—

“What was the tonnage of margarine produced in Queensland in 1939-40?”

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo) replied—

“Complete figures are not yet available, but it is estimated that approximately 920 tons of margarine were produced in Queensland in 1939-40. Of this quantity, by far the greater proportion was of animal origin.”

**ALLOCATIONS OF STATE TRANSPORT ROAD  
FUND.**

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) asked the Treasurer—

“1. In 1939-40 what amounts of the Heavy Vehicles Road Fund were allocated to—(a) the Main Roads Commission; (b) local authorities; and (c) consolidated revenue?”

“2. What were the details of the allocations to local authorities?”

The **TREASURER** (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Bremer) replied—

“1. (a) £18,228 11s. 3d.; (b) £9,803 13s.; (c) £26,913 7s. 10d. The Heavy Vehicles Road Fund no longer exists, it having been superseded by the State Transport Road Fund when the State Transport Act of 1938 became law from 2 January, 1939.

“2.—

Local Authority.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Atherton Shire .. .. .	16 14 11
Beauesert Shire .. .. .	7 16 8
Beenleigh Shire .. .. .	18 12 2
Boonah Shire .. .. .	19 10 9
Booringa Shire .. .. .	62 10 5
Bowen Town .. .. .	13 0 0
Brisbane City .. .. .	4,858 19 5
Bundaberg Town .. .. .	78 13 0
Bungil Shire .. .. .	115 12 6
Burrum Shire .. .. .	22 14 8
Cabootture Shire .. .. .	30 1 8
Cairns City .. .. .	145 8 9
Cairns Shire .. .. .	0 8 11
Cardwell Shire .. .. .	1 0 0
Chinchilla Shire .. .. .	41 7 8
Cleveland Shire .. .. .	2 16 1
Coolangatta Town .. .. .	2 10 0
Daby Town .. .. .	24 0 1
Drayton Shire .. .. .	24 2 2
Eacham Shire .. .. .	0 4 1
Esk Shire .. .. .	0 6 10
Fitzroy Shire .. .. .	3 11 10
Glengallan Shire .. .. .	49 1 5
Gooburrum Shire .. .. .	16 13 7
Gympie City .. .. .	128 0 11
Herberton Shire .. .. .	1 16 3
Highfields Shire .. .. .	7 0 5
Hinchinbrook Shire .. .. .	5 0 0
Inglewood Shire .. .. .	0 12 0
Ipswich City .. .. .	822 17 9
Johnstone Shire .. .. .	146 0 1
Jondaryan Shire .. .. .	172 12 5
Kilcoy Shire .. .. .	39 1 6
Kilkivan Shire .. .. .	7 8 6
Kingaroy Shire .. .. .	24 13 8
Kolan Shire .. .. .	6 10 10
Laidley Shire .. .. .	13 16 4
Landsborough Shire .. .. .	0 12 9
Livingstone Shire .. .. .	0 11 4
Mackay City .. .. .	37 6 10
Maroochy Shire .. .. .	37 3 3
Maryborough City .. .. .	65 12 7
Millmerran Shire .. .. .	26 8 5
Miriam Vale Shire .. .. .	2 11 0
Murgon Shire .. .. .	6 14 7
Noosa Shire .. .. .	1 2 5
Normanby Shire .. .. .	0 17 11
Perry Shire .. .. .	2 2 0
Pine Shire .. .. .	6 7 10
Pioneer Shire .. .. .	12 16 4
Pittsworth Shire .. .. .	83 12 10
Redcliffe Town .. .. .	55 11 4
Rockhampton City .. .. .	451 9 4
Roma Town .. .. .	10 9 7
Rosalie Shire .. .. .	70 14 0
Southport Town .. .. .	8 10 5
Tamborine Shire .. .. .	274 2 10
Tara Shire .. .. .	76 18 8
Tiaro Shire .. .. .	4 12 3
Tingalpa Shire .. .. .	16 18 7
Toowoomba City .. .. .	695 3 10
Townsville City .. .. .	441 3 3
Wambo Shire .. .. .	357 17 0
Warwick City .. .. .	46 2 6
Waterford Shire .. .. .	38 16 8
Widgee Shire .. .. .	33 5 3
Wondai Shire .. .. .	1 15 9
Woothakata Shire .. .. .	4 8 5
	£9,803 13 0

The allocations are strictly in accordance with the terms of the Acts governing same. The Commissioner of Main Roads uses the portion paid to the Main Roads Fund for maintenance of roads and relief to local

authorities on account of the contributions which would otherwise be due by the local authorities for maintenance.”

#### REPORT OF WOOL ADVISORY COMMISSION.

**Mr. MAHER** (West Moreton) asked the Premier—

“1. Having regard to the remarks made by him on 20 and 21 November, 1939, when he stated that the recommendations of the Wool Advisory Commission were being investigated by the departments concerned, and that the Government would subsequently give full consideration to them, will he now advise the House of the outcome of this investigation and consideration?”

“2. Will he advise the House which, if any, of the recommendations of the Wool Advisory Commission will be implemented by the Government?”

The **PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) replied—

“1 and 2. The Government is not prepared to accept without reservation the recommendations of the Payne Report. The Government has given valuable concessions to the pastoral industry, and will continue to do so as circumstances warrant and permit.”

#### TAXATION REVENUE, 1939-40.

**Mr. MAHER** (West Moreton) asked the Treasurer—

“1. What were the amounts of tax revenue collected, in 1939-40, under the following headings:—(a) Consolidated revenue—licenses, registrations, fees of office, &c.; (b) Trust Funds—(i.) motor taxation, (ii.) other licenses, &c.?”

“2. What was the total tax collections, in 1939-40, under all headings?”

The **TREASURER** (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Bremer) replied—

“1. (a) £238,893; (b) (i.) £960,433; (ii.) £86,524.

“2. £8,842,930. Whilst license fees, registration fees, and items of an analogous nature are classified by the Commonwealth Statistician as taxation, it is obvious that revenue from these sources represents fees paid for services rendered.”

#### RATION RELIEF AND UNEMPLOYMENT, 30 JUNE, 1940.

**Mr. MAHER** (West Moreton) asked the Secretary for Labour and Industry—

“In view of the anticipated short session, and the fact that the annual reports of his department are usually not tabled until November or later, will he kindly furnish the information asked for by me on 21st instant?”

The **SECRETARY FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY** (Hon. T. A. Foley, Normanby) replied—

“Every effort is being made to table the annual report of the department at an

early date, and the information desired by the hon. gentleman will be contained therein."

"GOLDEN CASKET" AGENTS AND COMMISSIONS.

**Mr. NIMMO** (Oxley) asked the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs—

"1. How many 'Golden Casket' agents are there in—(a) Brisbane; (b) elsewhere in the State?

"2. What was the total commission paid in 1939-40 to—(a) Brisbane agents; (b) other agents in Queensland (in each case excluding the Golden Investment Company); (c) the Golden Investment Company?"

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo), for **The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS** (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca), replied—

"1. (a) 192; (b) 267.

"2. (a) £36,694 11s. 5d.; (b) £27,216 5s. 6d.; (c) £17,257 11s. 10d."

TAXATION INQUIRY COMMISSION.

**Mr. YEATES** (East Toowoomba) asked the Premier—

"1. Is the royal commission on taxation still functioning?

"2. If so, about when is it expected that the investigations will be finalised and the report made available?"

**The PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) replied—

"1. Yes.

"2. The commission's investigations will be completed shortly."

JUBILEE SANATORIUM, DALBY.

**Mr. YEATES** (East Toowoomba) asked the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs—

"1. Are there at present any inmates of any kind at the Jubilee Sanatorium, Dalby? If not, when were the last patients removed?

"2. How many persons are there employed at this institution, and what was the total expenditure for (a) the year ending 30 June last, and (b) since the last inmate departed?"

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo), for **The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS** (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca), replied—

"1. No. 28 December, 1936. Arrangements had been completed to open the Dalby training farm for backward youths which was established under the Backward Persons Act of 1938, but the Commonwealth Air Board approached the depart-

ment with a request to make this institution available to the Air Force for training purposes. The Board was informed on 10 April last that the Queensland Government was agreeable to make the premises available to the Commonwealth Government for war purposes on terms and conditions to be arranged by the Public Curator with the Commonwealth Government. So far no definite action has been taken by the Air Board. The last communication the department has had with the Air Board was dated the 8th instant.

"2. Eight. The balance of the information sought will be contained in the Auditor-General's report."

NEW LOCOMOTIVES, 1939-40.

**Mr. YEATES** (East Toowoomba) asked the Minister for Transport—

"How many new locomotives—stating class—have been delivered to the Railway Department during the year ending 30 June, 1940?"

**The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT** (Hon. J. Larcombe, Rockhampton) replied—

"Nine. Eight B18½ and one Diesel. Six more locomotives will be placed in service before the end of December."

ACTION TO COMBAT COLDS AND INFLUENZA.

**Mr. YEATES** (East Toowoomba) asked the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs—

"Will he state what action, if any, has been taken by the Health Department of Queensland, or in co-operation with the Federal health authorities, to combat by scientific methods the common cold or influenza, which causes a loss of many thousands of pounds, plus inconveniences, to the community each year?"

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo), for **The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS** (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca) replied—

"None. Such an investigation would require much greater resources and facilities than are possible in any small country. Researches are being carried out in America and elsewhere, where the greater prevalence of this disease makes success in investigation more likely. Queensland could not contribute materially to success in such a huge piece of research, but is in a position to profit by applying any discoveries made."

VENEREAL PROPHYLACTIC CLINIC, BRISBANE.

**Dr. WATSON BROWN** (Gregory) asked the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs—

"Have any arrangements been made with the Departments of Defence, Air Force, and Navy for the establishment of a venereal prophylactic clinic in the city of Brisbane?"

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo), for **The SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS** (Hon. E. M. Hanlon, Ithaca), replied—

“No. This is a matter for the Defence Department.”

#### PAPER.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Proclamation, dated 22 August, 1940, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1939, and the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.

MR. G. A. MORRIS.

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

“That leave of absence for this session be granted to Mr. George Alfred Morris, member for the electoral district of Kelvin Grove, while serving with His Majesty’s Australian Navy.”

Motion agreed to.

#### DISEASES IN STOCK ACTS AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1936, the Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1939, and the Stallions Registration Acts, 1923 to 1934, each in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

#### BRANDS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Brands Acts, 1915 to 1917, in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

#### FRUIT MARKETING ORGANISATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole

to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1934, in certain particulars, and for another purpose.”

Motion agreed to.

#### BUFFALO FLY CONTROL BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill for the purposes of the control and/or eradication of the buffalo fly (*Lyperosia exigua*) and other diseases affecting cattle, and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

#### DISEASES IN POULTRY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK** (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Diseases in Poultry Acts, 1923 to 1937, in certain particulars, and for other purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

#### MINING ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

##### INITIATION.

**The SECRETARY FOR MINES** (Hon. D. A. Gledson, Ipswich): I move—

“That the House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider of the desirableness of introducing a Bill to amend the Mining Acts, 1898 to 1930, the Coal Mining Acts, 1925 to 1939, and the Mining for Coal and Mineral Oil Act of 1912, respectively, each in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—THIRD ALLOTTED DAY.

Debate resumed from 27 August (see p. 109) on Mr. Collins’s motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. J. I. BROWN** (Logan) (10.50 a.m.): I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Cook and the hon. member for Toowoomba on moving and seconding the Address in Reply. Those two young members made excellent speeches.

Another thing that pleased me was that the Government decided to open Parliament without all the falderals that have been

attached to that function in the past. I think it was a step in the right direction, and I hope that the future openings of Parliament will be carried out in the same manner.

As far as I can remember, you, Mr. Speaker, are the only man who has sat in that chair without wearing the robes of office. I contend that you are just as good a Speaker as any other man who has sat in that chair with all the robes on him. I notice that the Lord Mayor of the city, Mr. Chandler, has decided to do the same thing. It is remarkable that many people follow the lead given by the Labour Party. I congratulate the Lord Mayor of the city on deciding to fill that office without wearing the robes.

We never had the office of Lord Mayor of the city until the Moore Government came into power. I happened to be a member of the Brisbane City Council when the office of Lord Mayor was created. The late Alan Oxlade was the first to move that the machinery be put into operation so that we could have a Lord Mayor for the city. The Labour Party always opposed having a Lord Mayor. I maintain that the first mayor of the Greater Brisbane, Alderman Jolly, was just as good a mayor as he would have been if he had the title of Lord Mayor.

Another thing I wish to congratulate the Government on is the passing of the Patriotic Funds Administration Acts Amendment Act of 1939. Every hon. member of this Assembly must agree that that was essential. During the last war hundreds and hundreds of pounds that were donated for patriotic purposes were utilised for other purposes. The object of the Government in introducing the Bill I mention was to prevent that sort of thing and it has already been a great benefit to the people. It is reassuring to know that the moneys collected for patriotic purposes will be used solely for those purposes. During the last war men went round collecting with boxes, and returned to the back yard where the Strand Theatre was and opened the boxes, took the money out, and threw the boxes into the rubbish bin. I saw that happen not once but several times. That abuse has been prevented by the action of the Government providing that patriotic efforts must be gazetted.

**Mr. Yeates:** Did I not ask them to do it?

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** I don't know whether the hon. member asked the Government to do it, but I am quite sure that this Government are intelligent enough to do these things without his assistance.

I was very much surprised, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition should ask that £1,000,000 from the State development tax collections be given to the Commonwealth Government for war purposes. The hon. gentleman has always complained of this tax, and knows perfectly well that if his request was acceded to the tax would have to be increased.

I take this opportunity of offering my congratulations to Evans, Deakin, and Com-

pany, Limited. This young company was virtually at a standstill for many years, but since Labour obtained control of the Treasury benches in Queensland it has never looked back. The Brisbane "Courier-Mail" of yesterday published the photograph of a lighter, one of a number of naval ships being constructed by the company in Brisbane. This lighter will be launched in the near future, five months ahead of schedule. That is a credit to that company, and I am satisfied that it will progress by leaps and bounds. It has kept abreast of the times. It has the necessary plant, and I look forward with confidence to its being a very large concern in Queensland and Australia. The executives are energetic men.

I know Colonel Evans very well. I served under him in the militia years ago. He is full of the quality commonly known as "go." The company is to be congratulated on establishing an Australian record in ship-building at its first attempt. I hope it will not be the last. I am given to understand, too, that the company has done a really good job. I have inspected its works, which are up to date.

In Brisbane there was also the firm of Monteath Brothers. It was good to its employees, but never moved with the times. For that reason it has closed, not because of taxation imposed by the Queensland Government. The Government and the City Council gave the firm every possible encouragement. I remember that the defunct Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, when calling for tenders for the supply of sewerage pipes, offered Monteath Brothers 10 per cent. preference over Southern tenderers, but the difference between its tender and those from the South was too great, and the orders went to Southern firms. The State Government cannot be blamed for that. The blame lies with the firm itself, inasmuch as it continued to use the old method of constructing pipes.

Over 100 men have been dismissed from Monteaths simply because the orders went South. The Government cannot be blamed for this, because they were willing to allow that firm a margin of 10 per cent., and perhaps a little more, in order to keep the work in this State, but there is a limit to all things, and Monteaths' tenders were so high that the orders were sent South, with the result that the works is closed to-day. Evans, Deakin, and Company, Limited, on the other hand, is a go-ahead firm. It is keeping up with the times. Some of the best men from the shipbuilding yards in Scotland are working out there, and I am quite satisfied that it will forge ahead by leaps and bounds in its shipbuilding work in this State.

I was amused when I heard the hon. member for Wynnum speaking about this Government's having been returned to power on the minority vote. I have paid 5s. to see a comic opera on many occasions, but I think it was worth 10s. to hear the speech delivered by the hon. member for Wynnum in this

Chamber yesterday. I propose to give the true figures for the last State election.

There were 11 parties in the field. Of the total primary votes, 265,950 went to Labour, 127,170 to the Country Party, and 69,178 to the United Australia Party. I have always looked upon the Country Party and the United Australia Party as being one. The total votes gained by those two parties were 196,348, so that Labour had a majority of 70,000 votes over the two combined. The Protestant Labour Party was successful in gaining 48,608 votes, but, in my opinion, 40,000 of those were really Labour votes. I say that because I know that in my electorate over 1,000 of my votes went to the Protestant Labour candidate. The Social Credit Party obtained 26,030 votes, and the Independent Party 2,857. I propose giving the whole of the 8,500 Communist Party votes to the Opposition because they obtained the majority of the Communist contingent votes. The pollings for the remaining parties were—

Independent Labour .. ..	3,321
Independent Social Credit ..	2,524
Independent United Australia Party .. .. .	5,123

The Independent United Australia Party had only one candidate contesting the election, the hon. member for Toowong, so that he scored all the votes recorded for his party. On primary votes, alone, the Labour Party had a majority of 25,375 over the other nine parties, excluding the Protestant Labour Party.

**Mr. Dart:** That is not true.

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** I am willing to give £10 to the hospital or any other charitable institution if the hon. member for Wynnum can prove that my figures are not correct.

**Mr. Dart:** A majority of that number over the other nine parties opposed to Labour?

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** The nine parties combined in opposition to Labour, excluding the Protestant Labour Party. I am referring now to primary votes. The total number of primary votes cast in the State was 557,275.

Referring to the contingent voting, anti-Labour parties scored 19,155 and Labour 4,450. We will give them all those votes in, Mr. Speaker, and after all we were only down, roughly speaking, a little over 25,000 votes. I say that the hon. member for Wynnum made a mis-statement when he said that this Government were in power on a minority vote. I am pleased to see that hon. member re-enter the Chamber because I am going to say there is no hon. member sitting here on a minority vote as large as his.

**Mr. Dart:** You did not count the preference votes.

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** I am counting the preference votes. Of the primary votes at the last Wynnum election the hon. member for Wynnum received 3,687, Mr. Donnelly 4,041,

Mr. Ebbage 1,050, and Mr. Greene 2,290. The hon. member for Wynnum got only 3,687 votes against the 7,381 obtained by the other three candidates, and yet he accuses this Government of being in power on a minority vote. Why, 7,381 votes were cast against him, and I do not know how he can have the audacity to say that this Government are in office on a minority vote.

**Mr. Yeates:** You might as well say that I should not be here.

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** If the intelligence of the people had been observed the hon. member would not be here. I say that the hon. member for Wynnum is here on a contingent vote. Looking at the contingent voting for the Wynnum electorate, hon. members will see that the hon. member for that electorate received 984 contingent votes as against the 257 obtained by Mr. Donnelly. He accuses this Government of being here on a minority vote. Giving us the votes of the Protestant Labour Party we should have won the last election by over 25,000 votes. I am surprised at such remarks coming from a public man such as the hon. member for Wynnum. He is a man who has had experience in public life for many years.

**Mr. Dart:** You are there on a minority vote.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** I am of the opinion that Great Britain will finally come out on top in the Great War now being fought.

Every hon. member in this Chamber, indeed every person in the community, must throw his or her weight behind the war effort, otherwise if Hitler is victorious everything will be hopeless for us. If I am not allowed to live under the British flag I have no desire to live a minute longer. I desire to serve under no other flag than the British flag, because no other flag is symbolical of the freedom that we enjoy in British communities. Therefore, I urge every man and woman to throw his or her weight behind the forces that will inevitably lead to victory for us. I am a long way over military age, perhaps 20 years over it, but I am still capable of giving useful war service. I can use a pick and shovel and do similar work, and I suppose I could march 25 to 30 miles a day as well as many men only 40 years of age. I am told, in effect, that I am too old to serve my country, but, in my opinion, I am not too old. I can be of some service somewhere, and if I can then my services are available to the authorities at any time until victory is achieved for us.

His Excellency's Opening Speech does not contain a big legislative programme, but I am satisfied that when the measures outlined therein have been enacted they will prove of benefit to the people of the State. I hope that the war will be brought to a speedy conclusion and that we shall then be free again to proceed with our work of developing the country and helping the people. Of course, there will be a considerable amount of suffering to be endured, but I firmly believe that

after the war this will be a different world altogether, because I cannot see how it will be humanly possible for the various countries to pay their war debts under the present financial system. A new era will be ushered in.

Only the other day a man driving a lorry pulled me up in the street and said, "Look, John, I have a couple of hundred quid in the bank. What do you advise me to do with it? Do you advise me to pull it out and plant it? You know that this Menzies Government will take it from me." I replied, "If the Menzies Government take it from you they will take it from the other fellow, too. Do not be so silly as to take it out of the bank and plant it unless you plant it in a war bond or hand it over as a gift for war purposes for the duration of the war and six months thereafter. The authorities will look after it for you, but if the Germans took control of this country what use would the money be to you even if it was planted under your house or somewhere else? It would be no good to you at all. You leave it where it is or invest it in a war bond."

**Mr. Russell:** Very sound advice.

**Mr. J. I. BROWN:** Let us all hope that the war will soon be over, that we shall be victorious, and above all that this will be the last war between civilised peoples. We were told that the Great War of 1914-18 would be the last war, that it was a war to end war, and most of us held faithfully to that belief. However, war is upon us again, but we must be victorious. Every man and every woman in the community must make whatever sacrifice is necessary to enable the British flag to fly triumphant once more after the war is over.

**Mr. CLAYTON (Wide Bay) (11.15 a.m.):** I desire to address myself to this motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. Although I have been a member of this House for a considerable number of years, this is the first occasion that I have dealt with such a Speech as the one delivered by His Excellency at the Opening of Parliament.

In the course of his Speech His Excellency remarked—

"The British Empire is to-day facing the gravest crisis in its long history."

While that is very unfortunate, in another respect it is nevertheless fortunate, inasmuch as the dominions—the components of the British Empire—are standing loyally behind Great Britain in her splendid fight for freedom and democracy. It is essential that our efforts should be united, and that we should leave nothing undone to help in bringing this war to a successful issue. Not only this Parliament, but Parliaments in all States, and the Commonwealth are doing what they can to bring about the successful conclusion of the war that we all desire. I, in common with others, am alive to the fact that if we lose this war the whole fabric of the great democracy under which we and this great Commonwealth of Nations are governed, and have been living for so many years, will be

destroyed and brought under the heels of the great dictatorship. In that event, the liberties we now enjoy and prize will be taken from us, and we in Australia will not have a freedom-loving country, as we know it to-day, to live in. This is of serious moment to the inhabitants of Great Britain, Australia, and the sister dominions.

The Governor also told us in his Speech that he had travelled extensively throughout this State, and that everywhere the people were most willing and diligent to render service to their country in every possible way. Those of us who have moved about in our State know that the patriotic spirit is uppermost and triumphant. I care not whether one views the position of the larger cities, or in our far-distant western districts, or in the small farming communities, he will find that spirit of patriotism aglow and everyone willing to undertake his share of responsibility to help the Commonwealth in the great effort it is making to help Great Britain in her hour of trial. We have witnessed a wonderful demonstration of loyalty on the part of the people. Not only that, but many of our young men have heard the call, and have either departed for destinations overseas or are serving their country in Australia in a highly praiseworthy manner. We owe much to those young men who have seen fit to leave their homes and farms to go overseas to take part in the conflict that is now raging. (Hear, hear!) The splendid response of our young men to the call for service with the fighting units reflects a willingness to help preserve the Empire in this grave crisis. Some of these young men serving abroad may not return, but when peace is restored and their companions do return, we must not forget the promises made them when they left these shores.

There is one other thought that occurs to me, Mr. Speaker, and it is that among the many volunteers who have gone overseas or are now in our military camps are a number of men who served in the last war. It is pleasing to know that it is so. In one of the military huts at Redbank two of the six occupants are returned men, and from conversation with the younger men I have learned that they reckoned themselves fortunate in their association with these two men with previous war experience, because they had been able to give them much help.

The great response that has come from the country districts is very gratifying. It has considerably depleted the available labour, of course, but we prefer these men to take on the bigger task. The daughters of many farmers I know are shouldering the responsibility of the work of the farm, in order that the sons may go overseas and protect our liberty.

Although the Commonwealth Loan is not what might be termed a good investment, it gives people the opportunity of sharing in the responsibility of providing for the protection of this country and the British Empire.

**Mr. Power:** Would that not make it a good investment?

**Mr. CLAYTON:** It is, but not from the monetary point of view.

The interest-free loan has been well supported. I think I am right in saying that £5,000,000 has already been subscribed. The large amount in straightout gifts to patriotic funds must be encouraging to the Commonwealth and State Governments.

**Mr. Russell** interjected.

**Mr. CLAYTON:** As the hon. member for Hamilton states, these patriotic funds are being collected, not in one centre, but throughout the State. The town of Goomeri, in my electorate, has only a small population. The proprietor of the picture-show in that town put a notice on the screen that he would give £5 5s. to the patriotic fund if 10 others would do the same. Within a fortnight the people who were willing to subscribe were invited to come to the Hall of Memory in the town. They did so, and, after a patriotic demonstration there on a Saturday afternoon, the sum of £760 was subscribed.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. CLAYTON:** That money was subscribed, not by the town people, but by farmers in the surrounding areas. But they were not satisfied with that effort. Many made gifts in kind that amounted to a very large sum. One man gave a horse to be sold to help the Patriotic Fund, and others gave cows, calves, and other livestock that were salable. The result of these two efforts was £1,400. The people of Goomeri desire that their contribution be used in the purchase of a bomber for Australia.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Treasurer:** The small town of Kileoy also raised over £1,000 one Saturday afternoon.

**Mr. CLAYTON:** I am very pleased to hear that. Large amounts have been obtained in a similar manner to that which I have mentioned in the towns of Murgon and Wondai.

Getting away from straightout gifts to patriotic funds we come to the wonderful effort being made by the people in the purchase of war savings certificates. That is of assistance to the Federal Treasurer and is also a good investment. They can be purchased to the value of £250 only, but what appeals to me very much in connection with them is the way the children attending State schools are contributing week after week to the purchase of certificates.

It is very gratifying to see the combination of the various dominions in their effort on behalf of the Empire. New Zealand, Canada, and Australia are getting behind Great Britain in her hour of need. Much criticism has been levelled at the progress of Australia's war effort. I know that New Zealand, with a Labour Government, has done excellent work, and I congratulate the Prime Minister of that dominion for the splendid work it has done. He has shown that his veins are

charged with patriotism. On the other hand, I do not intend to stand here to-day and criticise the Menzies Government for their effort. New Zealand, with a population of approximately 1,000,000, has only one Government, whereas Australia has a large area and is administered by six State and one Commonwealth Parliament, and consequently the task of the Australian Governments is much more difficult than that of a dominion controlled by one administration. The Menzies Government, although faced with difficulties, have done everything possible in bringing about the conditions that exist in the militia at present. When one considers that the Commonwealth Government had to make the change from peace to war conditions that we have seen in less than 12 months it is evident that those in control have been exceptionally active. Instead of indulging in pettifogging criticism of their efforts we should get behind them and give them every possible assistance. There should be unity throughout Australia. I cannot understand why there should be criticism of Mr. Menzies. He is the man selected to be placed at the head of affairs in the Commonwealth Parliament. When Mr. Churchill walks into the House of Commons to make a statement he is cheered from every part of the House, and I think it would be a great gesture on the part of the people of Australia if they got behind the man who has been selected by the people of Australia to control the destinies of the nation in this difficult war period.

**The Treasurer:** I think they did criticise Mr. Chamberlain.

**Mr. CLAYTON:** They may have done that.

**The Treasurer:** He was the Prime Minister when the war broke out. Do not forget that.

**Mr. CLAYTON:** It was a critical time in the war when Mr. Churchill took over. They do not criticise him; they cheer him.

I was very disappointed when Mr. Curtin failed to take advantage of Mr. Menzies's offer to take him and five or six of his colleagues into a national Cabinet. Had he accepted the offer we should have had all sections of political thought represented in the Commonwealth Government. It would have been a fine gesture on Mr. Curtin's part. He and Mr. Menzies are very friendly and each praises the other at various times.

I am afraid, however, that some outside junta prevented Mr. Curtin from accepting that very wise offer. I should like to quote the following extract on the matter from the Maryborough "Chronicle" of 16 May, 1940:—

“No All-Party Government.

“Mr. Curtin Declares Stand, but Praises Mr. Menzies.

“Mutual Co-operation.

“Canberra, 15 May.—Labour's unwillingness to participate in a national Government was declared in definite terms by the Leader of the Federal Labour Party

(Mr. J. Curtin) in the House of Representatives to-day. An opportunity for the House to declare its attitude towards a national Government was afforded by the adjournment motion moved by Mr. W. J. Hutchinson (United Australia Party, Victoria), who urged party leaders to come together and form an all-party Government as an example of unity to the nation in its war effort."

They even adjourned the House in an endeavour to bring all political sections into the Cabinet, but were unsuccessful.

That article continues—

"Stating that he was quite satisfied with the manner in which the Government was conducting Australia's prosecution of the war, Mr. Curtin declared that there was no real or practical necessity for a change of Government at present. When the elections came he intended to ask for a mandate himself."

I venture to state that when the next Federal elections are over Mr. Menzies will again invite Mr. Curtin to join his Cabinet, and I hope that Mr. Curtin will see fit to accept the offer.

I regret the necessity for a Federal election at this time. In my opinion, not only is it a waste of money, but it will upset all the good work of the various patriotic and other institutions. It would have been of immense benefit to the Commonwealth if we could have had a composite Government.

**The Acting Secretary for Public Lands:** The Menzies Government fixed the date of the election.

**Mr. CLAYTON:** Who does the hon. gentleman think would fix it?

I feel that all State Governments and the Federal Government should get together and investigate ways and means of doing something for those of our young men who return from service overseas. We all remember that during the last war all sorts of promises were made, but, unfortunately, many of them were never fulfilled. I trust that when our Premier goes to the next Loan Council meeting or conference of Premiers serious consideration will be given to the drawing up of plans for helping those young men who return and the dependants of those who may be killed overseas. I am not going to say anything further on that subject at this juncture, but I sincerely hope and trust that the conflict raging overseas will end in the near future and that we shall soon be back to peace conditions once again, when we shall be able to deal with party politics in this House.

**The TREASURER (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Bremer) (11.36 a.m.):** It may be necessary for me to say one or two things to correct some misapprehension that exists on certain phases of the present position. The hon. member who has just resumed his seat spoke

of unanimity of effort throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth—he said no matter to what part he went he found an intense feeling of unity everywhere. Continuing his speech, however, he criticised Mr. Curtin for not joining a national Cabinet. I think it might be as well for me to state one or two things that hon. members in this House seem anxious to forget. It should be remembered that Mr. Curtin made an offer to Mr. Menzies for the formation of a War Council.

**Mr. Russell:** Absolutely useless.

**Mr. Yeates:** With no responsibility.

**The TREASURER:** It is all very fine for the hon. member for East Toowoomba to think that a War Council would be without responsibility. The way was open for Mr. Menzies to accept the offer for the formation of a War Council, and I desire to stress the difference between a War Council and a national Cabinet.

**Mr. Macdonald:** Just back-seat driving.

**The TREASURER:** Mr. Curtin's offer was in connection with the formation of a War Council. They were not to be a somebody sitting behind; they were to sit in front and have the absolute control of the war effort. Naturally, matters such as the raising of money and the directing of departments would be in the hands of the responsible Ministers of the Menzies Government, but a War Council would have the control of all matters affecting the war. The matter was of such vital importance, it was one of such deep concern, that it took the Prime Minister three weeks in which to give a reply to Mr. Curtin upon his offer. If there was no responsibility in the matter and if it was a matter of no concern to anybody or a matter of cheap advertisement on Mr. Curtin's part, why did Mr. Menzies and his Cabinet take three weeks before giving a reply to Mr. Curtin?

That is all I want to say about that matter. I say that Mr. Curtin's offer for the formation of a War Council was a genuine one, and it was one that Mr. Menzies could have accepted. He could have made appointments to his Council as members of the Executive Council are appointed. It would not have disrupted his Cabinet nor would it have disrupted his party in any way. His party would still have been in control of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Minister for Supply would still have been the Minister for Supply, the Treasurer would still have been the Treasurer, and the Minister for External Affairs would still have been the Minister for External Affairs, and the Menzies Government would have been responsible for the government of Australia. It was in connection with the establishment of a War Council that Mr. Curtin was anxious to see this co-operation brought about. He offered to join two, three, or four members—as many as Mr. Menzies desired—and he did not ask for this or that particular position. He said, "We are prepared to give you so many men towards the

constitution of a War Council to direct the war effort of Australia in harmony and in association with the British Empire.<sup>3</sup>

**An Opposition Member:** It was only splitting straws.

**The TREASURER:** He did not withdraw the offer; Mr. Menzies declined the offer, and I say again that it took him three weeks in which to come to a decision on the point. That fact assures me that it was a genuine offer. It was an offer that took an amount of consideration, and I am not going to enter into any argument here as to why it was refused by Mr. Menzies. I am not going to make insinuations that this member or that particular member objected to its formation. After three weeks' consideration Mr. Menzies declined it and made another offer. (Opposition interruption.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**The TREASURER:** I have no desire at the present time to enter into any discussion on the question who is to blame for the war. All I know is that a war is raging, and I think it is up to us to do something about it, as we have been doing and as the whole of the Commonwealth admits. I also want to say I think that this is a bad time and a poor time to be fighting about the failure of the League of Nations, or to be saying what the League of Nations should have done or what it failed to do. I know that 50 per cent., 60 per cent., 70 per cent., and 80 per cent. of the people who criticise the League of Nations failed to raise a finger to help it. I have read the criticism of certain gentlemen about the League of Nations, but when I turned up the papers associated with that great organisation to see what their contributions were, or whether their membership subscription was paid in respect of the League of Nations or its various committees, I was unable to find any evidence of it. These men simply criticised a splendid organisation without any attempt to give it practical support. The League of Nations was an earnest effort by earnest people to find some way out of a difficulty and to remove a scourge that had afflicted the world ever since the world began. It failed in certain particulars, I know, but that is no reason why we should wholeheartedly condemn any attempt to overcome this dreadful scourge that has afflicted civilisation for so long.

**Mr. Moore:** It was successful in many respects.

**The TREASURER:** I agree with the hon. member for Aubigny, that it was very successful in many ways, and in passing might I refer the House to the remarkable statement of the gentleman who was responsible for the 18th Amendment of the American Constitution? The story is that when he died and went to Heaven he was twitted with the fact that his 18th Amendment had failed, that it had not prohibited the consumption of spirituous liquors in the United States of America. He had to put up with a considerable amount of jeering because of that, but in self-defence, he reminded his jeerers that 3,000 to 4,000 years ago a certain

gentleman had brought down from the mountain a tablet containing the 10 Commandments, and he also reminded them that the world was not observing all the Commandments to-day, although it had had 4,000 years to get into line with them. If an organisation is not entirely successful, that does not mean we should obliterate it altogether.

I am not worrying at the moment whether Mr. Chamberlain did the right thing, or whether he did not. All I know is that we are in trouble and it is up to us to see what we can do about it. As the chap who sits up aloft in the Press gallery said in his gallery notes, the house is on fire. I want to alter that phrase a little to say that it is our house that is on fire. If our own home was on fire and, while we were endeavouring to do our best to quell it, someone came along, tapped us on the shoulder, and said, "What about a fire insurance policy on the next house you build?" what should we say? We should say something to him that would scorch worse than the fire scorched him. Our job at the moment is to put out the fire, and we should bend every energy in that direction. I want to emphasise this point more than anything else—that it is our house—and when I use that phrase I also use it in the narrow party political sense. I want to point out that the Labour movement claims that the house is just as much our house as it is anybody else's. There has always been an inclination to exclude the Labour movement from anything of this kind.

**Mr. Edwards:** Now you are getting down to it.

**The TREASURER:** I am not getting down to anything; I want to get up to it. There has always been an inclination to exclude the Labour movement from these things and to speak of it as though it did not matter, and as though it were not in it. I want to tell hon. members that right along the line the Labour movement has been in the house and has always regarded itself as a part owner of the house. The idea among certain people has always been that the Labour movement has no time for the Empire, and that it has no time for the British Commonwealth of Nations.

**Mr. Yeates:** No, we do not say that.

**The TREASURER:** I know that hon. members opposite do not say it, but they do not relate the facts. I want to relate the facts hurriedly, if I may.

Before the foundation of our Commonwealth there were two main political parties in the various colonies. They were known as the Free Trade Party and the Protectionist Party. They offered nothing really to the nation except their squabbles of the day as to which would be the best policy under which to live. In both cases narrow political views were held for the personal gain, or personal betterment, of the particular section of trade. There was no very great feature about protection. The protectionist argued that his policy would give more employment

to the people. He was the man who wanted to start industries. The freetrader, who wanted to exist virtually by importing things from other countries and dragging them off a ship, argued that we should have a free breakfast table and it was cheaper to live under a free-trade policy than under a protectionist policy. But what Australia needed at that time, more than any other, was a lead; it was not getting that lead in any way in the fight about those things. It was the Labour Party that gave the lead.

In those freetrade-protectionist days there was a definite republican party. Republican views were very freely expressed by leaders of the political parties. If I am not mistaken, George R. Dibbs was known in the 90's as George Republican Dibbs. You can read that in the political history of New South Wales or the papers of those days. I am not sure, but I believe that the Sydney "Bulletin" had a policy that was called in those days "Cutting the painter." That was the policy of cutting free from the Empire. That policy did not come from the Labour section of the community, but the other political parties. The good Labour movement never stood for that sort of thing. The Labour movement grew out of the union movement; it realised that unity was strength. It realised that, as in the case of the nation, so in the things they really desired, unity made for strength and that it also made for power. It stood for union, which is evidence that it did not stand for disintegration.

The union movement in Australia sprang from the good old union movement in England. England was the cradle of the union movement. We had not much to go to in foreign lands for the union movement. It was the natural descendant of the Chartist movement and the positivist movement, and all those other movements that stood for the betterment of the people of the land. We are proud of the fact that the union movement, as we know it in Australia, is good for the nation. Most of our old unions, such as the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Moulders' Union, still have their affiliations with the great trades-union movement in England. The union movement knows that the greater the unity the greater the strength. The Labour movement grew out of that.

In the 90's there was a great strike in Sydney. There was talk of bullets. I understand at that time a train left here bristling with gatling guns for the purpose of shooting down the strikers. I know that in New South Wales there was talk of bearing arms and the great advice tendered to the Labour movement in those days was not the use of bullets but the use of the ballot. The unions in those days took up that slogan—not bullets but the ballot—and in 1890 the Australian Labour Movement sprang into being. Before that time there had been signs of the roots of that party, while before that again the party had been in evidence in England. It developed into a strong political party. It stood for adult franchise and equal representation. It was strong for the federation of the colonies so that we might have a Com-

monwealth in order that we might take advantage of the greater possibilities that existed. The federation of the States of Australia into the existing Commonwealth was the forerunner of the formation of other federations, which with it now forms the British Empire. The great trend of the unions has been for unity all along the line.

**Mr. Yeates:** Nobody wants the Labour Party out of the war movement.

**The TREASURER:** You are pretending it is not in it. I want to say that it is in it. The hon. member for East Toowoomba is inviting us to come in. That is the astonishing part of it—to think they are inviting us to come into our own house. I want to say it is our house, that we recognise that it is our house, that we are part-owners of it; and the idea of inviting us to come into our own house is a ludicrous thing.

**Mr. Yeates:** You are welcome to come.

**The TREASURER:** The hon. member says we are welcome to come. Fancy the son meeting the old man as he comes home and saying: "Welcome, father." It is just about as absurd. We have helped to build this house and it is the strongest and best house the world has known. We do stand for that house, not in the obstinate, domineering spirit that some people think you have to adopt if you are going to stand by Empire, believing that you have to stand on top of a step and sing: "We don't want to fight, but, by jingo, if we do, we've got the men and we've got the ships and we've got the money, too." That is the old jingo boastful spirit. I do say we have stood for greater unity because we believed there would be a greater liberty, a greater measure of justice, that you cannot reform the world by dividing it, that you cannot reform the house by dividing it, you cannot reform any institution by dividing it. You must have it on a solid basis, and the Labour movement is altruistic; it has had some faith that its movement would lift mankind to a higher plane, and it is old enough to know that uplift has taken place. It has the satisfaction of knowing all its propaganda, all its effort and work right from the nineties till to-day have had a tremendous effect upon the present position in Australia. Not only upon the individual State or the person, but upon the whole Commonwealth of Australia, we believe the effect of the Labour movement has operated.

**Mr. Yeates:** Labour lost the chance of its life by not coming in.

**The TREASURER:** The hon. member says that we lost the chance of our life by not coming in. We honestly offered to form a War Council that would control the war effort. Mr. Curtin wanted to make it particularly clear he was not concerned with internal matters, that he was content to leave all these things to the Government that had been elected by the people of Australia for that purpose, but he was anxious that he and those associated with him might help Mr. Menzies in the war effort by means of a

War Council. Nothing can be clearer than that.

**Mr. Yeates** interjected.

**The TREASURER:** The hon. member for East Toowoomba says that it is the others. What others? Mr. Cameron? Mr. Thorby? He was not very definite. I do not want to enter into those things; this is not the time. I wanted to clear up any misunderstanding that this Labour movement has done nothing to promote national unity in the house that it believes it has itself built.

**An Opposition Member** interjected.

**The TREASURER:** No political party in Australia has done more towards national unity than the Labour movement. The Labour movement has stood for national unity right from the very outbreak of this war. It has made every possible effort for national unity. The hon. member thinks that national unity is fully expressed and the whole thing is done when certain members of the Labour Party walk into a Cabinet that is formed by the national Government. That is not national unity, that is only joining a Cabinet; but so far as this country is concerned, no political party in Australia has done more for unity of Australia than the Labour movement.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**The TREASURER:** This Queensland Government, time and again, have offered to the Commonwealth Government all their resources and all that they can do in the matter of the war effort. They have offered to do whatever the Commonwealth Government ask.

**Mr. Clayton:** Why would not the Labour Party walk into the Cabinet? Can you tell us why they would not?

**The TREASURER:** It made the offer of a War Council. It believed a War Council to be the supreme thing. It did not want any part in the sentiment belonging to the Nationalist Party. It did not want to be associated with the internal policy of the present Government of Australia. That is their concern.

**Mr. Edwards:** It should accept that responsibility.

**The TREASURER:** We wanted to accept the responsibility of helping in the war effort. That offer is still open to Mr. Menzies whenever he likes to accept it. He took three weeks to decline that offer, and that is something that he has to explain. I do not want to labour that point.

Hon. members are somewhat concerned with things that have been done in other parts of the world. What are Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bevin doing in England? Are they worrying about the internal government of England? No, they are part of the War Council. What are those gentlemen, members of the Opposition in New Zealand, doing? Are they part of the New Zealand Government? Not at all. They are part of the New Zealand War Council. Hon. members opposite ask, "Why

not do as New Zealand has done?" We want them to do as New Zealand has done and we wanted them to do it before it was done in New Zealand. Hon. members opposite just cannot see that point. They want it their own way, and if they cannot get it their own way they will not have it at all. We say there is some decency to be observed when considering the destinies of other people.

I want to remind hon. members opposite that the Labour movement has stood for making Australia a greater nation and fit to be with the other nations of the British Empire, because almost from its inception it has had one thing in its platform and that is the cultivation of an Australian sentiment. There cannot be a nation unless there is a national sentiment, and the Labour movement has not only attempted, but has succeeded in creating a national sentiment—an Australian sentiment that one can find wherever one goes. Right from the time of the men who began the exploration of this country, through their zeal, enthusiasm, and risk they were prepared to make—one can read through all those who have written of Australia—the building of this Australian sentiment that makes Australia what it is to this day. One can see the thing personified. One can see it before one when one reads of the deeds of men who went from Australia in 1914 to 1918 to bear the burden of the Empire in that great clash. We honestly and sincerely believe that these men acted with the Australian spirit, the Australian sentiment that the Labour Party had been endeavouring, and successfully endeavouring, to build for them in many years. We have never decried Australia. We have never decried the manufacturers of Australia. We stood and we stand for everything that was and is Australian. You, Mr. Speaker, in your short lifetime, know how people have gone into a shop and when told that something was an article of Australian manufacture have refused to take it. They would not look at it. They wanted something from overseas.

**Mr. Yeates:** I always ask for Australian.

**The TREASURER:** I will give the hon. member credit. I do not think he has dealt in anything else but an Australian product—I will say that for him—but it happened to be Australian soil that was here long before he started. (Laughter.)

We have stood for everything Australian, and we can understand the swell of pride in the bosoms of people who come from another part of the Empire when that section of the community is mentioned. It might be rather difficult for some people to understand why others swell with pride at the mention of their native land or that from which their fathers came. I can understand it. I know what it means to me to read of the explorers and to think of our waratah and our wattle, our wide-open spaces and sunlit places—all these things mean something to me.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
'This is my own, my native land.'"

I am not an Englishman, but I can understand the swell of pride in the Englishman's breast when he hears the lines—

“This happy breed of men, this little world . . .

This precious jewel set in the silver sea . . .

This bless'd plot, this earth, this realm, this England.”

I can understand his bristling with pride at that. I can understand how the Premier and those people associated with him feel a quickening beat of the heart when they see a tartan or hear a Scottish sentiment. Similarly, the Leader of the Opposition must have some quickening of the heart muscles when somebody says something about the dear little Shamrock or something else in Ireland. Then those gentlemen who come from the little principality of Wales, when they hear sung, “The land of our fathers,” must feel some surge of pride through their veins; we recognise all these feelings and are, therefore, willing, even eager, to band together all these peoples for the better prosecution of this war and its ultimate success. For that reason above others we have stood all these years for democracy. We believe in democracy. We believe that the people should rule and should have a say in the ruling of the country. We know what it has meant to us. It has been bred up in us through the centuries. It came to us from England, where the mother of Parliaments lives to-day—from England, the place that was the cradle of trade unionism.

But democracy lives in not so many places to-day as it did 30 or 40 years ago; it lives in England and in the British Isles, it lives in New Zealand, it lives in Australia, it lives in South Africa, and it lives in Canada. It lives mainly in all those places that go to form the British Commonwealth of Nations, and if we lose in this effort we lose all those things that the forefathers of all of us have fought for. We boast of the pioneers and the work that the pioneers have done, and we should not be worth a second thought from the pioneers if we refused to do all that we can do to hold all the things that they gained for us and to better all the things that they gained for us. I believe that we are worthy of those people and I believe that Australia is making an effort, that every part of Queensland is making an effort, because we believe that we are in this and this is no time for us to worry as to who set our house on fire.

All I want to emphasise is that we recognise that it is our house and we are responsible for the building of it and we will take, as far as we possibly can, the responsibility for its preservation and its rebuilding after the scrap is over. It is because we recognise all these things that we want to be sure that we will be in a position to rebuild it as we want it, that we shall be in a position to make it the house that we believe it should be, the house that we have been building for the last 40 or 50 years, and we do not want to see anything relinquished that will help in the rebuilding of this great house of ours when this oppressor is finally put under our heel. But he cannot

be put under our heel while people pretend that we are being invited into this house of Empire that I say we did diligently, over the last 50 years, put all our endeavours into building correctly and properly for the people of Australia, which I believe we have succeeded in doing.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. POWER** (Baroona) (12.4 p.m.): I desire to congratulate the mover and seconder of the Address in Reply on the very able manner in which they handled their case and the very plain way in which they put it before the people of Queensland. In a very clear and concise manner they placed before the people the attitude of the Australian Labour Party. I say “Australian Labour Party” because of the repeated interjections from hon. members opposite asking, “Which Labour Party?” There is only one Labour Party in Australia—the Australian Labour Party.

Certain people who have been rejected by the Labour movement have been setting themselves up as a party and claiming that they belong to the Labour movement. They have adopted the same tactics as were adopted by the Opposition for many years. For quite a number of years our opponents have been known under various names—first of all they were called the Conservative Party, then the Liberals, the United Australia Party, and the Country Party. They have changed their name many times for the purpose of trying to mislead the public as to their true identity. The men I refer to are the people who were thrown out of the Labour movement—a sound and wise movement—and who, for their own individual benefit, and not for the benefit of the people of Australia, are still claiming to be members of the Labour Party. We are members of the only Labour Party that exists in Australia to-day; that party is known as the Australian Labour Party.

The mover and seconder of the Address in Reply placed clearly before the people of Australia the policy of our party with regard to the defence of Australia, which defence we consider necessary to preserve the democracy under which we live. As a result of Labour legislation we have built up conditions far superior to those existing in other parts of the world. The only way to preserve those conditions is by throwing our weight into the successful prosecution of the war in which we are engaged. No hon. member, or no person resident in Australia, who is not willing to throw his whole weight behind the British Empire in this, our hour of crisis, has the right to live or exist in this country of ours. It is the duty of every decent citizen in Australia to throw his or her weight behind the Commonwealth and the British Empire to defeat the Nazis and the Fascists. I feel sure that we are all playing our part in that direction.

Hon. members of the Opposition would lead the people of Australia to believe that they are the only ones doing anything and that the Labour Party is not playing its part. At the outbreak of war, the Premier, on

behalf of the Parliament and people of Queensland, informed the Prime Minister of Australia that he would place the whole of the resources of the Queensland Government in the hands of the Commonwealth Government to help them in the war effort. I am sorry to say that they have not used those resources to the full, nor in the manner in which they should have been used. We have heard a great deal about the question of a national Government—we have read about it in the *Tory Press*, and over the wireless. We know that those people who are endeavouring to get the Australian Labour Party to join with the Commonwealth Government in a national Cabinet are desirous of obtaining the support of the Labour Party so that that party will sink its identity and accept the responsibility for many of the tragic mistakes made over a number of years by the present Menzies Government.

**Mr. Yeates:** The man who makes no mistakes made nothing.

**The Premier:** The hon. member must have made a lot.

**Mr. POWER:** The father of the hon. member who interjected made a mistake. One of the main reasons why the Commonwealth Government want Curtin and company to join in a national Government is the number of defeats they have suffered at various by-elections; they are beginning to realise that the position is serious, and they believe that if the Labour Party joined them they would have the golden opportunity of postponing the forthcoming general election and thereby be able to carry on for a longer term. I am happy to know that the Labour Party did not agree to the formation of a national Government, and, at the same time, I am happy to know that it was willing to help in the formation of a War Council in order to give all help for the successful prosecution of this war.

The Menzies Government are more interested in finding highly-paid positions for their political friends than in winning the war. I have in mind two appointments, one being that of Sir Keith Murdoch to the position of Director of Information. We know that Sir Keith is associated with the Murdoch Press, and that he has control of a number of radio stations throughout the Commonwealth. Recently the Press gave it out that he was seeking a seat in the national Parliament under the anti-Labour banner. By virtue of his position as Director of Information, he has the right to give whatever information he thinks should be published, and when one reads the newspapers on subjects relating to the war, one is inclined to liken the news to a boarding-house stew—the same thing dished up differently in the various columns from day to day. The people of Australia are entitled to a frank statement of the real position. We are told that we are fighting the system of dictatorship, but here in our own Commonwealth we have a dictator in the person of Sir Keith Murdoch, Director of Information. I mentioned earlier that Sir Keith also exercises control over a number of

radio stations throughout the Commonwealth, and his associations could well be described as a radio ramp. At the moment the Commonwealth Government are looking round for increased revenue, but there is one direction in which they could obtain many thousands of pounds if they only had the courage to adopt my suggestion. It is well known that the number of licenses for B-class radio stations is limited, but we also know that the license fee is only £25. However, the rates for advertising and for the use of the station usually are out of all proportion to the fee of £25. If a member of Parliament used a station to make a political speech over the air, he would be charged £5 for a quarter of an hour. Listeners' licenses cost £1 ls. a year, but they have no option but to listen to a lot of tripe and dope that is put over the air from time to time. This matter requires investigation.

**Mr. Moore:** They are not compelled to listen.

**Mr. POWER:** The radio stations are forcing this stuff into their homes, and the people have no control over the matter. For instance, they may tune into a radio station with the idea of listening to a certain programme, and in the middle of it there comes, as a kind of flash, an advertisement for a certain line of products.

**Mr. Moore:** It is the only revenue that the radio station can get.

**Mr. POWER:** I should like to own one.

**Mr. Moore:** You can.

**Mr. POWER:** I cannot, because the number of B-class radio licenses is limited. The Commonwealth Government should cancel all B-class licenses, and call public tenders for the right to conduct B-class stations, instead of continuing the present system of licensing a number of stations upon payment of the small fee of £25. If my suggestion was accepted, the Commonwealth Government would receive many thousands of pounds, and the revenue could be spent in many useful ways.

On the one hand, we have Sir Keith Murdoch, a supporter of the Menzies Government, in a highly-paid position, while, on the other hand, the men doing the actual fighting for the Empire are not receiving anything commensurate with the risk they are taking. The treatment that has been meted out to men who have enlisted, or who have joined the militia, and who later have been found physically unfit, is simply scandalous. I have in mind the case of a man who joined the militia because he was over the military age for active service. He was passed by the doctor and sent to a place that I do not propose to mention. After he had been there for a while he became ill and had to go to hospital. This man made an allocation of his pay to his wife. I will not give his name, but if hon. members opposite doubt my statement I will furnish them with it. This man was admitted to hospital, where he remained for some months, his allocation in the meanwhile being paid to his wife. It was then discovered that,

because he was an inmate of a hospital, he was not entitled to receive his allowance, and, consequently, his wife's allotment was stopped. His wife had no money to pay her rent and feed herself and child. I say that if a man enlists for active service, or in the militia for home duties, nothing should be too good for him, because he is endeavouring to do his bit for his country. He is entitled to the best that Australia can give. I deplore the treatment meted out to many of our returned soldiers under the regime of the Moore Government. Many of them who were unemployed were compelled to travel 25 miles before they could get rations. We do not want a repetition of that. Our soldiers are taking great risks in going overseas and playing their part in this grim struggle, and we must avoid the treatment meted out to them on many occasions after the last war.

When the case was referred to the military authorities, they decided that a refund of the amount allegedly overpaid this soldier should be made by instalments. The wife could not do so, but the authorities in Brisbane could do nothing, and they referred the matter to Melbourne. After a lapse of about four weeks the wife received the paltry sum of £2 to feed herself and child. That is not the kind of treatment that should be meted out to our soldiers. The Menzies Government appear to be more concerned with highly-paid men in newly-created positions than the men actually doing the fighting. Greater consideration should be given to them.

The Menzies Government have been responsible for a considerable waste of public money. We have the spectacle of their climb-down after the introduction of the childhood endowment scheme in the Federal Parliament. Organisation to deal with this important social question was set up throughout Australia. What happened as a result of pressure on the Government? The whole scheme was jettisoned, and approximately £200,000 expended in organisation was wasted. This was another instance of muddling and bungling by those in charge of our national affairs. Over £40,000 was wasted in the compilation of a national register.

There has been waste also in other directions. Although the State Government offered to place the whole of the State instrumentalities at the call of the Commonwealth Government to carry out war work, what do we find? Only one or two jobs were carried out by the Main Roads Commission under the supervision of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, while hundreds of pounds were wasted because other work was let on contract. We have an instance of this waste in the construction of the huts at the soldiers' camps in Queensland. Many of these huts were constructed at Redbank and elsewhere at prices out of all proportion to their value, notwithstanding that the State had offered the Commonwealth Government the use of its instrumentalities to carry out the work. They preferred to hand this work over to their friends. Yet, in spite of this lavish waste of money, the Commonwealth Government advised the State Governments to economise in every

possible way, and their friends in Opposition in this Parliament urge economy on this Government.

I decided to have a look at what was being done at Redbank. If the work had not been done for the time being by the Main Roads Commission there would have been a further waste of money. Everything was upside down till the State took it over. Before the State took it over they had a man brought up from the South with an apparatus to put cement pipes into position, but the State stopped that.

**Mr. Brand:** Are you referring to a contract for main roads?

**Mr. POWER:** No, I am referring to work carried out by the State on behalf of the Commonwealth for defence purposes.

**Mr. Brand:** Under contract?

**Mr. POWER:** Works have been carried out by contract that should have been carried out by day labour.

**Mr. Brand:** By the Department of Public Works?

**Mr. POWER:** No, by the Federal Government.

By appointing a Co-ordinator-General to control the works of the Commonwealth Government the Federal Government have followed the lead given by this State.

I regret the way in which Mr. Theodore's name was bandied about when the appointment of a Commonwealth Co-ordinator-General of Public Works was under consideration. The Commonwealth Government may urge the necessity for national unity, but when the appointment of Mr. Theodore came up Mr. Cameron threatened to wreck the Commonwealth Government if Mr. Theodore was appointed. The objection to Mr. Theodore was that he was a Labour supporter, but there was no opposition to the appointment of Sir Keith Murdoch because he has always been an ardent supporter of the opponents of Labour.

**Mr. Clayton:** He employs blacks in Fiji.

**Mr. POWER:** You employ black boys on your farm.

Another matter I wish to deal with is the attack that is being made on the conditions of the workers in this country by the Commonwealth Government in forming labour battalions for the carrying out of defence work in Australia. Labour battalions have been formed here and the men are called upon to do work that should be carried out at rates paid to civilians. These industrial conscripts have been forced into camp as a result of unemployment and they have to do work that should be done by day labour. Carpenters attached to the labour battalions are receiving 9s. a day, and miners doing labouring work are getting 6s. a day. The whole thing is fundamentally wrong, and is detrimental to the interests of the worker. The men who are in the labour battalions should be paid the award rates of pay for that class of work. Sir Keith Murdoch and

these other people who have been appointed to high positions are receiving high salaries.

**Mr. Macdonald:** No salary.

**Mr. POWER:** They are getting high salaries. (Opposition interruption.)

**Mr. Moore:** You are trying to create prejudice in the minds of the people.

**Mr. POWER:** I am dealing with the position. Naturally, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the financial position of the Government, but I was rather amazed at the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition that this Labour Government should make £1,000,000 available to the Commonwealth Government for the purchase of bombers. The hon. gentleman must know as well as I that money collected under the Income (State Development) Tax Act is being used for the development of Queensland and the relief of unemployment. To adopt his suggestion would increase the number of unemployed. Moreover, it is the unemployed who would be asked to make a larger contribution than members of the capitalistic class who to-day control the affairs of Australia. The suggestion does not merit any consideration. Queensland is playing its part in the war effort, and we should not be called upon to shoulder a greater share of the responsibility for defence than any other State. The best line of defence for any country is a happy and contented people. Give the people conditions that make it worth while and they will be willing to shoulder a gun and accept their responsibility in the defence of their country. The standard of the living conditions of the workers of Queensland would be lowered if such a contribution was made. The suggestion is not reasonable.

Certainly, the Leader of the Opposition qualified his remarks to this extent: That we should control our expenditure. Should we control our expenditure along the lines adopted by the Moore Government from 1929 to 1932? The hon. gentleman did not suggest in which way the expenditure should be controlled.

**Mr. Yeates:** Party politics.

**Mr. POWER:** The hon. member should keep quiet. He is making more noise than a Ford motor car.

It was easy enough for the hon. gentleman to seek popularity by making such a suggestion, but it is an altogether different thing to put it into practice. I ask him, does he suggest that in order to obtain that £1,000,000 Crown employees should be outlawed again from the Industrial Court and their salaries reduced, that our social services be reduced, that our Police Force be cut down, that we take 1s. a week off the State children? All these things were done by the Moore Government between 1929 and 1932. If the hon. gentleman has anything constructive to show how his proposal can be carried out he should place it before Parliament and not merely stand in his place and endeavour to make himself popular by making such a suggestion. He endeavours to make out that he and his party are the

only loyal people in Queensland. We on this side accept our responsibilities. We are as loyal to the British Empire as any member of the Opposition or any person in Queensland, and many of us proved that in the last war.

Queensland has been told that she is going to get large defence orders. We are told that men are to be trained for the purpose of manufacturing munitions in Queensland. The war has now continued for almost 12 months and we find that the number of men trained in Queensland to-day for the manufacture of munitions under a scheme established by the Commonwealth Government is approximately 32. I verified that information yesterday.

The Commonwealth Government are satisfied that they are playing their part, treating Queensland fairly and prosecuting this war successfully, but I contend that the people of Queensland are not receiving a fair deal by any means when we discover that only 32 men are being trained for the manufacture of munitions in this State. The already large number of unemployed men has been swelled by the throwing out of employment of men engaged in the motor industry. Quite a number of them know how to work a lathe and could be easily trained to manufacture munitions.

While petrol rationing was being discussed the Commonwealth Government again capitulated because, although Mr. Menzies stated when the scheme first came out that they would not alter their decision, they did give the matter further consideration after he was told in his own electorate that it was going to stifle secondary industry and would tie up the whole community. In the meantime, however, young men employed in the motor industry were thrown out of employment.

With a maximum war effort every man available in Australia should be used either for the manufacture of munitions or in the defence of our country. Such an effort is not being made. All that we get from the Opposition and from the Menzies Government is lip-service. Speeches will not win wars. It is no use enlisting our men, training them, and sending them away, if we are not going to give them munitions with which to fight. Greater effort should be made to speed up the manufacture of munitions. The Commonwealth Government should be ashamed of themselves when all they can say about Queensland is that they are training only 32 young men for the manufacture of munitions here.

We find to-day that after passing a medical examination and being in camp for a short period, the young men in our military forces are being taken out of Queensland and trained in Southern States. I can see no logical reason whatever why they could not be trained in Queensland. Queensland has ample territory and there is every opportunity for making suitable training grounds for our men here. These men's homes are in Queensland, and they should be allowed to remain

as near their homes and families as possible for as long as possible. In addition to that, the transferring of these men to other States is having a detrimental effect upon industry in that it is taking out of circulation money that should be expended here. The Commonwealth Government should train Queensland soldiers in Queensland so that Queensland industries might benefit from the spending here of the wage allotments that these men receive while in camp.

The hon. member for Wynnum stated that this party obtained power on a minority vote. I am sorry that the hon. member is not present, because I propose quoting figures that should be illuminating to him. In the Wynnum electorate the following votes were recorded:—

Mr. Dart .. .. .	3,687
Mr. Donnelly .. .. .	4,041
Mr. Ebbage .. .. .	1,050
Mr. Greene .. .. .	2,209

Approximately 11,068 votes were cast, and of these only 3,687 were in favour of the hon. member for Wynnum.

At 12.35 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. King, Maree) relieved Mr. Speaker in the chair.

**Mr. POWER:** After the allocation of preference votes, the hon. member for Wynnum received 4,671 votes, or approximately 42.2 per cent. of the votes cast. Some 6,397 votes were cast against him, or approximately 57.8 per cent. The hon. member for Wynnum has the colossal hide to say that we on this side of the House were elected on a minority vote, when he himself received only 42.2 per cent. of the votes cast. He is here on a minority vote, and should be the last one to make the suggestion he did about the election of this Government on a minority vote.

The same hon. member also referred to the Brisbane City Council, and whilst I have no desire to delve into municipal affairs, I cannot let him get away with some of the statements he made yesterday. The hon. member should have told the whole story, and should have said how this saving was brought about. It was brought about by the fact that engineers in the employ of the City Council are allowed to buy from the council only 10 gallons of petrol a week. Any further supplies required must be bought from outside sources.

**Mr. Dart:** That is all rot.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. POWER:** I desire to assure the hon. member that it is not all rot; it is a plain statement of fact. It is true, and we know it, that the hon. member for Wynnum does talk a lot of rot, and I can assure him that if he listens to me he will learn something of value to him.

**Mr. Dart:** My figures came from the chairman of the works committee.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the hon. member for Wynnum to obey my call to order.

**Mr. POWER:** The hon. member said the figures came from the chairman of the works committee. I do not doubt that they did, but that gentleman belongs to the same political party as the hon. member for Wynnum. He makes as many irresponsible statements as the hon. member for Wynnum and the hon. member for Oxley. I repeat that the number of gallons engineers are allowed to buy from the City Council is 10 a week and no more.

Furthermore, the hon. member for Wynnum did not mention that between 600 and 700 men had been dismissed from employment with the council. Approximately 30 men a week are being sacked, and it follows that as trucks are thrown out of commission the petrol consumption would be less than when the trucks were on the road. The hon. member should be fair enough to give the true position.

The hon. member for Hamilton, in his speech on the Address in Reply, stated that the Labour Party was associated with the Communist Party, and, in fact, he endeavoured to read a Communist paper in this House. I want to give his statement the lie direct. Another hon. member, whose name for the moment I cannot think of, mentioned Mr. Fallon, the Federal president of the Australian Labour Party. I advise the hon. member for Hamilton to peruse some of the circulars sent out by Mr. Fallon, who is also president of the Queensland Central Executive, showing the Labour Party's attitude towards the Communist Party. I have in my hand a pamphlet published by Mr. Fallon, which contains some rather interesting information. In that pamphlet it is stated—

“Will the Communist Party Explain:

“Why the secretary of the party at Ayr appeared in the Industrial Court on behalf of an employer when the A.W.U. was fighting the employer to prevent the victimisation of dinkum unionists?”

So far from tacking the Communist Party on to the Australian Labour Party, that statement is evidence that the secretary of the Communist Party at Ayr appeared in the Industrial Court against the Australian Workers' Union representative, who was fighting the employers to protect the interests of employees.

**Mr. Nimmo:** You have no right to read from a Communist paper.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I was speaking to the Secretary for Mines while the hon. member for Baroona was quoting from a paper. Was he quoting from a Communist paper?

**Mr. POWER:** No. I am willing to table the paper. I was quoting from a pamphlet issued by the Australian Workers' Union over the signature of Mr. Fallon. No-one can say that he is associated with the Communist Party, but we do know that at Ayr the secretary of the Communist Party there appeared in the Industrial Court in the interests of the employers when the Australian Workers' Union was trying to protect the interests of genuine unionists.

I have here many other pamphlets issued by the Australian Workers' Union. That union is not associated in any way with the Communist Party. In fact, it has done everything it possibly can to awaken the workers to a realisation of the aims of the Communist Party. For a number of years Communist candidates have on numerous occasions urged their supporters to give their preference votes to the opponents of the Labour Party. In the recent Brisbane City Council elections the Communist supporters gave their second preference to the Tory candidates. I know that of my own knowledge, because I was present when the votes were counted. We know that the Communist Party is definitely opposed to the Labour Party, and we have evidence to prove that on one occasion at least the Tory Party paid the expense of a Communist broadcast. The Commonwealth Government have done at least one good thing in declaring the Communist Party an illegal association. It is high time that Communism was stamped out of Queensland, and indeed out of Australia. We as the members of the Labour Party have no time whatever for the Communist Party, and we are not associated with Communists in any way. If a number of the Communist leaders only knew the methods adopted by the Communist Party in collecting and using its funds they would not be associated with that party. For instance, I have here a copy of a balance-sheet of the Communist Party published on 27 January, 1939.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Is it the balance-sheet of the Communist Party?

**Mr. POWER:** It is a copy of it.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I rule it out of order.

**Mr. POWER:** All right, Mr. Deputy Speaker; your ruling is consistent with your previous ruling. I was endeavouring to explain the methods adopted by the Communist Party. It is not associated in any way with hon. members on this side of the House, but on the contrary, is associated with the hon. member for Oxley and other hon. members opposite.

**Mr. WALKER (Cooroora) (12.43 p.m.):** During this debate we have listened to a number of speeches, but the one that appealed to me most was that delivered by the Treasurer to-day. I was impressed not only by the subject-matter of his speech but by his choice of language and the fluency with which he delivered it. It must have appealed to all fairminded hon. members.

I am sure I can say that 99 per cent. of the people of Queensland and of Australia realise that we are confronted with a very difficult task in bringing the war to a successful issue, and that they are viewing the matter very seriously indeed. His Excellency the Governor gave a very fine lead, indeed, when upon the outbreak of war, or shortly afterwards, he decided to make an extensive tour of the State for the purpose of stirring the people to the greatest possible war effort. He has always carried out his duties as

Governor in a very efficient manner, and it was quite in keeping with his past performance to tour the State to impress on the people the enormous task confronting the British Empire. Of course, we are well aware of the difficulties that have been created by the failure of neutral countries surrounding Germany to take the steps that they would have liked to take in this war. At the moment Great Britain is almost isolated, and it may be said that she is fighting against very strong forces in the interests of the entire world. The airmen of the British Empire, which, of course, includes Australia, Canada, and South Africa, are doing excellent work in keeping the foe at bay.

We all realise that to-day the British Empire is facing the greatest crisis in its history. It faced a great crisis 25 years ago, and, at the successful conclusion of those four years of war, we all thought that peace had been won. The reason why that peace was not a success is not what the Premier attempted to convey to us. One of the causes of the failure of the peace was the leniency shown by Britain and her allies to their defeated enemy. They did not march into Germany and occupy her territory and so humiliate her people, because they realised that, as a Christian and educated people, their enemy should be placed on an equal footing with themselves. Another reason was the consideration Britain and the whole of the dominions showed their people and industries. In other words, they reduced taxation at the expense of armaments, whereas Germany put most of her income into armaments in order to build up an army and air force to enter a war of revenge and kill practically the whole of the civilised world. We hope and trust that 99 per cent. of the Australian nation are behind the British Empire in this struggle, and that we shall emerge successfully, although it will take a particularly big effort. The Governor made that quite clear in his Speech. In fact, there are two or three references in it which are worth repeating by hon. members in the forthcoming election campaign. I take my hat off to His Excellency for his remarks. I do not know whether they were included in his Speech by command or whether they were an inspiration, but, irrespective of how they came to be uttered, they are worthy of repetition to our people.

The Governor set an example, not only to the people in this Chamber, but the people up North, and in the rest of the State, and throughout Australia. Unfortunately, the advice he tendered has not been followed in this House. The debate on the Address in Reply has degenerated into a political quarrel that is doing a lot of harm, not only to ourselves, but the whole country. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, but I was sorry to listen to some of their remarks, as some of the subject matter should never have been touched on in this Chamber during such a war. It has, however, been mentioned throughout this debate. We hear hon. members opposite, for example, criticising the national Government for not doing a certain thing, but they really do not know what they are

talking about. They forget that the national Government, in their war programme, are guided by the advice of experts. Take one matter only, the transport of our soldiers and foodstuffs overseas. That is a big problem. The problem is not the growth of our foodstuffs but transporting them to Britain. We do not know when transports are coming here. Even some of our boys have had to leave these shores at short notice and have not been able to say good-bye to their relatives. This must show to each and every one of us that the national Government must at all times in a war emergency act on the spur of the moment. In this respect we are no different from any other country that is at war or on the verge of war.

The people of Queensland are looking to Parliament for a lead, and some of the speeches we have heard during the past few days have not been conducive to unity. Unity in Parliament is not as important as unity of the people. Irrespective of which party is returned at the Federal elections, it is absolutely essential that we continue to put forward our maximum effort in the interests of this country and the Empire.

I adopted the same attitude when this war began as I adopted in 1914. Even if Mr. Curtin is returned I shall not criticise one of his actions, because I know nothing about the inside movements of the Commonwealth or the British Empire. A Government often acts on information of which the average man has no knowledge. When the last war broke out in 1914 the late Mr. Andrew Fisher was in power, and, under the voluntary system of enlistment, approximately 350,000 Australians went overseas. At that time we all worked in unison. There was no criticism of Mr. Fisher; we stood loyally behind him and gave him every help we could. We went further than that; we complimented the Government for many things they did. The same thing should have taken place in regard to Mr. Menzies. It does not matter whether you are with him in politics; you are with him in the war.

The hon. member for Baroona related the grievance of a certain man about his pay. No doubt, that is an isolated case. All I can say is that the men are being treated much better now than they were treated in 1914. One never hears complaints nowadays in regard to food, accommodation, or leave. Their treatment is excellent and the pay is a little better than it was during the last war. This proves conclusively the Menzies Government are doing the best they can for our soldiers.

Complaints such as the lack of uniforms and the need for refrigeration in camps are inevitable, considering the tremendous organisation that is essential to carry on a war. Anyone who has a knowledge of what war is like realises the gigantic task confronting the Commonwealth Government. During a war, conditions alter rapidly and arrangements have to be made to meet them. At the beginning of this war we had our best infantry in France, then our Navy was engaged in Norway, and now we are relying on the use of aeroplanes. These changing conditions

require tremendous organisation. Strategy is one of the greatest qualifications of a leader.

I regret the line the debate has developed. I shall continue to support the Government the same as I did in 1914, irrespective of the politics of that Government. We have much to lose, and it should be remembered that a little help may be of great value to the Government in this trying time.

We all realise what it would be like to have to live under a hostile country. Our savings and the lives of our young men are at stake. While we have the opportunity of conducting our own affairs we are able to enjoy liberty. If we lost the war the chances are that we should no longer have that liberty. We might even be ruled by the Italians. We might cause no end of trouble. We might have a revolution, but we should not be able to go forward because we should be disarmed. Everyone must share in the fighting or producing. If we cannot fight, then surely we can produce, but that must be done with organisation, by the co-operation of the State and Commonwealth Governments. It is for them to say what each State and what each one should do. The Commonwealth would gain very considerably by that. Surely the very fact that England, Canada, and New Zealand have seen fit to co-operate in an alliance convinces us that it would be well if we could fall into line with them and say: "Yes, we are right behind the British Empire. We are right behind our respective Governments." Politics should be left out completely. Would that not be a wonderful incentive to our young men who are to do the fighting? They would refer to "Our Australian Government." They would not care whether it was a Government of a Labour or a United Australia or any other party. They would look to the Government for relief, guidance, and assistance after their return home, as with the returned soldiers from the last war. New Zealand has done particularly well and living conditions there are similar to those in Australia.

As free Australians, we have the right to criticise—I do not deny that—but criticism should be sound and constructive. We should not criticise what we do not understand clearly. Some of our military men may know all about strategy and the conduct and movement of an army on the field of battle, but when it comes to questions of equipment and conveyance of our troops overseas, the Government must be trusted. They will play the game because it is their Australia as well as ours. The best that can be done will be done. The Government of Australia did great things in the last war, and the present Government have done remarkably well up to the present in this.

Without in any way desiring to make comparisons, I would say that the same remark applies to the British nation. We must not forget that in certain things they have the 1914-1918 war as a guide. It is a gigantic undertaking. One can scarcely imagine its ramifications. For instance, take the evacuation from a small fort near the Red Sea.

The retirement of the British forces involved the destruction of enormous quantities of food and armaments. These losses must be made good. Ships have to be got for that purpose; one can visualise the ramifications of the whole thing.

The enlistment, examination, treatment, and the training of recruits in Australia has been a gigantic task, but we must admit that the work has been well done. We see our recruits marching through Queen street or on their way to camp and we observe that they are thoroughly trained. Then there is the Air Force. It is not every man who is suitable to form a member of an air crew. These men have to be educated. For a night flight, particularly, they must have a sound knowledge of navigation. Taking it by and large, it requires a man with a fair education to be trained to reach the complete efficiency required by that arm of our services. The Commonwealth Government are doing that, and, consequently, we have nothing to fear so far as our air, land, and naval forces are concerned.

And that reminds me that we have in this Assembly two men who have seen fit to enlist for overseas service. I wish them good luck and a safe return. We who remain probably are basking in reflected glory.

At 2.15 p.m.,

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair.

**Mr. WALKER:** It is very difficult for us laymen to give advice, or even criticise with any degree of accuracy. We must be guided by the responsible men who are in power. Naturally, we try to do our best, and I am sure that the present Cabinet endeavour to do their utmost, according to the Government's policy, always having in mind the need to show fair play to all concerned. I think it is only right that we should believe the same thing about those in charge of affairs in the Federal sphere, especially when we remember that at least seven Cabinet Ministers in the Federal Government are returned soldiers. Those men will have certain ideas as to how war should be conducted overseas, and I think we can safely say that organisation and training of men will be their responsibility to a great extent. Knowing these things, I say we ought to be careful about criticising or attacking the Federal Government's actions.

I was sorry to hear one hon. member say that we should never send a man away from Australia. That hon. member, and those of his colleagues who advocate these things, would squeal the loudest if Australia was attacked and the Royal Navy did not come to our aid. The only way to remain strong in these matters is for the whole British Empire to stand united.

Another matter that those who use these selfish arguments should remember is that we are essentially a primary-producing country, that we are relying upon England in particular at the present time to take the whole of our over-production. The Imperial Government have met the Commonwealth and

State Governments and agreed to take our over-production at remarkably good prices from the producer's point of view. Knowing all those things, those people should be ashamed of their selfish attitude. If England did not come to our aid to repel an invader, what should we do with our over-production? It would become a burden to us and cause misery throughout the land. Surely hon. members can see that it is only right that we stand behind the British Empire?

We have heard many statements that munitions are not being made here. Those hon. members who made those statements know perfectly well that only a few years ago munition-making here proved to be a failure. Since then, however, we have improved and modernised our plant, with the result that munitions are being made in Queensland with all plants working to capacity. The only way in which Queensland's output of munitions can be increased is by installing more lathes and other machinery and obtaining more tools for the manufacture of the many things that are needed for war.

The place in which Australia can give most aid in this war is the Middle East.

Australia is not in the front line of the fighting. The Middle East, from what we can gather from newspaper reports, is about to become the front line of the fighting. The best thing for us is to keep the enemy quiet and as far away from Australia as possible.

Another matter that should receive consideration is the equitable treatment of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and their dependants. We were fairly successful in our efforts in this direction at the conclusion of the last war, but we should go further and see that returned men get preference in all work that is offering, all other things being equal. A full use should be made of all Commonwealth, State, and local authority machinery and we should co-operate with the Commonwealth Government as much as possible. Local authorities and public bodies should co-operate with the Government, and if effect can be given to this co-operation much good will come of it. Let us all try to work in one with the other. Any man with a grievance should hold it over until the war is finished or compel his opponent to keep quiet. In England many of the industrial workers are working 12 hours a day for seven days a week, with no complaint at all. In the stress of war we have many in Australia to-day who are squealing because they are asked to work six hours a day.

Finance is another problem on which there is a diversity of opinion among people who are not altogether conversant with it. I doubt if there are more than two hon. members in this Chamber capable of giving an opinion upon finance. It is, no doubt, a very big question, and one that is causing great concern not only in Australia but also in other parts of the world. We know that money to finance the operations of a country has to come out of loan funds, taxation, or the expansion of credit. The consideration of expansion of credits is a matter for the experts of the Commonwealth Government

in power for the time being. Naturally, the directors of the Commonwealth Bank in conjunction with other financial institutions should advise us on this matter. It was very interesting to read what took place in New Zealand. Even in that dominion there was much diversity of opinion. Their loan expenditure is far greater than that of Australia, but their system appears to be sound. It is a very big question if it is to be carried out successfully. We have floated loans in this country at 3½ per cent. Surely that is cheap money. If the floating of loans has proved inadequate or not effective and we have to conscript wealth, let us conscript it. I am of opinion, however, that it is hardly worth while doing that because any man with money at his disposal will invest it in war loans or buy Commonwealth savings certificates returning him 3½ per cent. on his investment. I have pointed out the need for us to keep together. We must remember that we in Australia made mistakes, Great Britain has made mistakes, the Allies have made mistakes, and I think by the way he is going on Hitler is making a mistake that will mean the end of him. A very fine feeling has been demonstrated in this House, with one or two possible exceptions; we must continue to live up to that standard. Both the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Curtin, set a splendid example to the nation when they agreed to confer not on questions of party policy but on vital questions concerning the war with a view to establishing the best defence arrangement possible for Australia.

At 2.26 p.m.,

Mr. BRASSINGTON (Fortitude Valley), one of the panel of Temporary Chairmen, relieved Mr. Speaker in the chair.

**Mr. WALKER:** The Prime Minister spoke very appreciatively of the attitude of Mr. Curtin when he said—

“John Curtin has day after day sat in my room and discussed the business of the war with me. I would ask for no more honourable and co-operative leader of any Opposition. Indeed, he has given me very frequently in these dark days a human friendship and a human comfort that I have valued, and I acknowledge it to-night. He knows, as I know, that there can be no national Government in Australia worth anything to you, worth anything to the winning of this war, that does not mean that Labour members of Parliament will not only bring themselves into the Cabinet but will also bring with them the great trade union movement of Australia.”

Does that not clearly indicate that both Mr. Menzies and Mr. Curtin are actuated by a desire to bring the war to a victorious conclusion for us as speedily as possible?

Similar sentiments were expressed by the late Mr. Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand, who said—

“With gratitude for the past and confidence in the future, we range ourselves

without fear beside Britain. Where she goes, we go. Where she stands, we stand. We are only a small and young nation, but we march with a union of hearts and souls to a common destiny.”

Sentiments like those fill me with admiration because I realise that the Empire is faced with an enormous task, but I am confident that she can bring it to a successful issue. Our policy should be to support whatever Government are in power, whether Liberal or Labour. If a Labour Government are returned at the next Federal elections I shall support them fully, because I honestly believe that they will be imbued with the same sense of fair play to all subjects and with the same desire to prosecute the war successfully as any other Government. I am sure that they will be imbued with the same sentiments that fired the late Mr. Andrew Fisher who, when Prime Minister of Australia, said of the last war that Australia was with Britain “to the last man and the last shilling.”

During this debate I had hoped that the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock would have given us an outline of how his department proposes to increase the productivity of the State. Time is getting on, we are now in the spring, and if we propose to increase agricultural production we must get a move on now. There is no use in beginning in, say, a month or two hence, because it will then be too late and so a further 18 months will elapse before the leeway can be overtaken. If we move now we can increase production considerably in six months. I do not know whether the Commonwealth Government have given the State Government any idea of what commodities should be produced in greater quantities, but it would appear from the Press that greater quantities of agricultural produce are still required. First of all, we must grow enough to feed our own people, but it behoves us to grow enough to meet demands overseas. That is the only way in which we can make the country solvent. We must rely on our export trade to meet our liabilities overseas. One of the difficulties confronting the United States of America to-day is the fact that she has not given adequate attention to a sensible scheme of export.

It has been rightly suggested that there is room for increased production of cotton in this country. It can be grown in almost every district throughout the State, although perhaps not quite so prolifically as in the Burnett or Callide Valley area. When cotton production was first launched in Queensland it was grown as far south as Laidley and is even grown there to-day. Let us double our production of cotton and, moreover, let us be moving now, otherwise there may be the fatal loss of 18 months in agricultural production. I should like the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock to nominate bands of volunteers to explain a policy of increased production to the agriculturists throughout the State. Indeed, I should be happy to be nominated the leader of one such group. I know other

hon. members on both sides of the House who are also willing to do similar work.

**The Secretary for Labour and Industry:** That is already being done.

**Mr. WALKER:** This is necessary in order to imbue farmers with the necessity of increasing cotton production.

**The Secretary for Labour and Industry:** We are doing that now.

**Mr. WALKER:** The hon. gentleman might be doing that in the Rockhampton district, but that is only a small area of the State.

**The Secretary for Labour and Industry:** No, it is being done throughout the State.

**Mr. WALKER:** It is quite necessary that this work should be undertaken in the Rockhampton district, but, as I have said, the area there is limited. Take, for instance, the Brisbane Valley, the Mary Valley, and the Burnett Valley districts where cotton has been grown extensively. Many of the farmers there know only one variety, that is, Durango, but, as the Minister knows, other varieties are being very successfully grown. Surely we can take some step in the direction I have indicated, as many farmers have paddocks fenced off and the necessary sheds and machinery for the growing of cotton. This would not mean that they would give up dairying, but merely utilise an additional 5, 10, or 20 acres.

**The Secretary for Labour and Industry:** We are doing that now.

**Mr. WALKER:** We have not read of or seen the results.

**The Secretary for Labour and Industry:** We are even financing farmers to enable them to install irrigation plants to ensure the successful growing of cotton.

**Mr. WALKER:** We must go further and send lecturers round, because the varieties of cotton might be new to the farmers.

**The Secretary for Mines:** Field officers have already been sent.

**Mr. WALKER:** These lecturers could advise farmers on the cultivation methods to ensure a good crop of these new varieties. My suggestion applies to many rural commodities we are producing to-day. Take, for instance, butter. The butter industry is flourishing and expanding. Previously large areas of cotton were sown in the Mary Valley, but the farmers in time discovered that they could make more money out of dairying; in other centres, however, some of our agricultural industries are dormant, and I should like to see the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, in addition to what he is already doing, act with the Secretary for Labour and Industry to form committees in various parts of the State with himself, or, say, Professor Murray, as president, to further this movement. Professor Murray is a particularly keen man and thoroughly British. If that was done we should have something doing inside a few months, and

cotton production, instead of being 14,000 or 15,000 bales, would go very nearly to the maximum of Australian requirements—35,000 or 40,000 bales. As I said, if increased butter production is required the dairy farmer will require to sow some feed crops in the spring with a view to increasing his production. Possibly, he could also increase his pig production. He might be persuaded not to get rid of his second-class milkers, but keep them for this and next year. They would be of some value. There is also the question of fats and pig meats required more particularly on the other side of the world.

This increased production would not only keep the English soldiers fighting but also assist Australia to keep her machinery going uniformly without turmoil and materially assist her economy by creating a favourable trade balance, which is a very big factor indeed. Queensland is doing wonderfully well in primary production owing to increased supplies from year to year. The sugar industry need not be shut out of our consideration. The English worker has shown that he is willing to give us a protection of approximately £4 a ton on our sugar. That is showing an Empire spirit, and yet we have people here who, if they had their way, would prevent us from sending soldiers to the other side of the world to fight in order to defend and preserve our Empire! I am diffident about speaking on war matters because, like most hon. members, I know nothing about them. The metropolitan papers are our main source of information on what should be done. I have merely endeavoured to treat the matter in a common-sense way.

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS** (Hon. H. A. Bruce, The Tableland) (2.35 p.m.): The Address in Reply gives us an opportunity of reaffirming our loyalty to the Crown; not that I think that is necessary, because I believe every member of this Assembly and every person in Queensland is loyal to the Crown.

Various opinions have been expressed in regard to the war position, but I think one thing was omitted—the question of not separating British defence and Australian defence. Many hon. members maintain that the two are wrapped up in each other, but the position to-day is that Great Britain is fighting the whole of Europe on her own front. She has all the fighting forces that she possesses, with the exception of a few troops in outside places, within her own boundaries. The main thing in Great Britain to-day is probably foodstuffs; therefore, Great Britain is not likely to require any further troops from any of the dominions. There are Australians in Palestine, apart from our air-men who are overseas, and it is the duty of Australia to reinforce those troops in Palestine, if it is necessary, for the defence of that part of the Empire. I think, from the general view of things, that that is all we shall be called upon to do, as far as the defence of Great Britain is concerned.

The Labour Party have affirmed that principle of the need for reinforcing the troops who have gone overseas. At the same time,

we are naturally anxious, in common with many others, that the defence of Australia should be properly looked after. The defence of Australia, as part of the British dominions, is a vital matter. Several Commonwealth Governments have failed to take the advice that Great Britain had plainly given them for years past—that is, that they should attend to the defence of Australia. I do not blame the Menzies Government only; more than one Federal Government have failed to take the advice offered them by leaders of British thought and those in authority in the Old Country that we should attend to the adequate defence of Australia.

No-one can reasonably assume that the Labour Party does not stand four-square for the support of the British Empire and the defence of this country.

Various opinions have been expressed during this debate and criticisms have been offered, but that is what we are here for. We are here to express our opinions freely. It has been stated by our opponents that caucus has repressed members of the Labour Party and forbidden them to express their opinions. During the course of this debate our members have expressed their opinions freely, and they have been criticised for their expressions. That has happened on both sides. Everyone has freely expressed his opinion, and I am pleased to have the opportunity of hearing the views that have been stated.

The main complaint that Queensland has is that, in the defence of Australia, Queensland has been neglected. Considering the potentialities of Queensland for the production of materials essential for war, it should have been the first State to be developed for those purposes.

Before the last war had reached the stage of the present conflict, William Morris Hughes, then in charge of the Commonwealth Government, had appointed Dalgety and Company, Limited, to buy metals. Prices were fixed and miners knew what they were going to receive. In Queensland there are many metals very valuable in the production of armaments, and it is well worth while to enumerate our resources in these and other things. Coal seams are to be found from one end of the State to the other. Fish abound along the Barrier Reef—sufficient to feed a nation. The Northern hinterland to well into the coast is our cattle country. Sheep, of course, are grazed in many places. Gold is found in Queensland. There was an exhibit of £10,000 worth of gold at a recent Cairns show. That is quite a tidy sum of money, and it was a nice piece of gold. That gold represents only a fraction of the gold that has been won, and can still be won, in the area from which it came. That was from one mine, and there are other gold-producing mines in the peninsula, but little is known of them. Copper mines are also there. To-day we are importing 15,000 tons of copper to meet a shortage in Australia. Had adequate measures been taken, that copper could have been produced in Queensland.

**Mr. Nimmo:** Were we not looking after our own mining industries?

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:** I wish the hon. member would not make ridiculous interjections. He will have his opportunity to speak on this motion. I am expressing my opinion at present. Queensland and other States could have supplied that copper had provision been made in the matter of price. One cannot expect miners to produce copper when the value of that metal is not sufficient to give them a livelihood. Leaving the copper belt, we come to the Herberton area, in which tin to the value of £200,000 or £300,000 is produced annually. The Tableland Tin Dredging Company is producing an average of a bag of tin a day.

**The Secretary for Mines:** A ton of tin a day.

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:** I am corrected by the Secretary for Mines. That is a very important factor to Queensland and Australia, and also affects our defence.

Cabinet timbers, unexcelled in any part of the world, are produced on the Tableland. If we work on them at the present pace—or even exceeding that pace—for the next 100 years, there will still be cabinet timbers to work upon. The land when cleared is some of the richest dairying country in Australia, and together with other parts of Australia, produces very large supplies of butter. These are valuable products for the prosecution of a war.

Coming further south, we find some of those products mentioned by the hon. member who has just resumed his seat as being required by the Commonwealth Government. We have areas that have produced tobacco leaf that has for many years attracted the highest price—I do not say the highest average price—reached in the market. Irrigation would increase our tobacco areas considerably. The land is already cleared, and is of a type that does not require much clearing. Our production of tobacco could be considerably increased.

Molybdenite, wolfram, and a number of other rare metals that are extremely valuable for war purposes are to be found in considerable quantities in Queensland, and nothing has been done so far to collect them. After all, I think we all agree that we shall have plenty of men, but we want also the necessary machinery to enable those men to meet the enemy on an equal footing. What we have to do is build up the proper type of mechanical defence so that the men who are willing to face the enemy for us will be adequately prepared to do so—armed and equipped. The whole downfall of Europe was due to the fact that Hitler had built up his mechanised units to such an extent that flesh and blood could not stand up against them. We have had ample time to take steps to prevent our being caught as the European countries were.

Further down the coast we have several million-pound sugar towns producing sugar,

and we have gold also. The Mulgrave River has been bored by various mining companies and considerable gold is known to exist in it, but it also serves a very rich agricultural area, and whether gold can be won in large enough quantities to warrant replacing the agriculture by mining is a matter that will have to be considered later on.

**Mr. Moore:** Are they going to use the Mulgrave River for dredging?

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:**

It would be dredged if they could win the gold, and there are methods in various parts of the world by which they are replacing alluvial soil and loam.

Now let us take a trip west. The other day one hon. member was asking about iron. From any balcony in any hotel in Cloncurry one can see what are known as the iron hills. Those hills are so rich in iron that no vegetation will grow upon them. The estimated surface deposit is 50,000,000 tons, and I do not know what the underground tonnage is because they are dome-shaped. The iron may not go down very far. The domes may have been thrown up by volcanic eruption, but they may have ever-spreading bases and the deposit could go down to a considerable depth. It would be extremely difficult, indeed, to estimate what the underground deposit is. I have already referred to copper. Several of the copper mines in that district that were closed down during the slump after the last war still contain an average of at least 10 per cent. copper. I refer to such mines as the Mount Elliott, Mount Cuthbert, Great Australian, Mount Oxide, and dozens of others, although it would cost a great deal of money to recondition them.

Now we come down through the sheep country. The finest merino wool in Australia is grown in the belt from Hughenden through Winton and Longreach to Rockhampton. From Rockhampton to-day one can go along a top-gear road to Mount Morgan. Here, again, we have gold being won from the old Mount Morgan mine. Gold is considered to be very valuable to-day from the point of view of carrying on a war. Although this precious metal is not being won at Mount Morgan in the same quantities as in the past, it is still being obtained in considerable quantities.

**Mr. Nimmo:** Large quantities of copper, also.

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:**

Yes, copper also. We have now come down to the coast towns of Bundaberg and Maryborough, and we go to Kingaroy, where one of our hon. members grows peanuts. We have all that area out to Dalby, where wheat is now grown and where previously only sheep were raised. We proceed on our journey from Dalby to Goondiwindi—another fine sheep-producing area. We then go across to Stanthorpe, where we have our orchards, our tobacco-growing areas, and our tin. We come to the Darling Downs, a rich belt of country—probably no better ground is to be found on any part of the earth's surface—where all agricultural crops are produced. Coming

further south we arrive at Ipswich, the point of commencement of our coal areas.

I have only made a brief survey, because I am dealing briefly with some of the places I have visited recently. One could go much further—to Gayndah and Mundubbera, for instance, and traverse all the cattle country.

Now I desire to quote a Press statement of what an hon. member said in this House. That statement is taken from the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 28 August, 1940, and reads—

"Labour Speaker Rebuked in House.

"'You are a disgrace to your party to talk like that,' Mr. E. H. Clayton (C.P., Wide Bay) said in the Legislative Assembly to-day to Mr. J. H. Mann (Lab., Brisbane) after Mr. Mann had stated, 'If we were invaded to-day, we would have to fight with pick handles.'"

**Mr. CLAYTON:** I rise to a point of order. I definitely say that I did not make that interjection. I did not make the interjection that the hon. member for Brisbane was a disgrace to the Government.

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:**

I am quoting something stated in the Press. You explain that you did not say it?

**Mr. Clayton:** I did not say it.

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:**

My point is that the Press article states that a Labour speaker was rebuked in the House and that the hon. member for Brisbane made this statement—

"'If we were invaded to-day, we would have to fight with pick handles.'"

I have not quoted all the areas I have personally been through, and I can only say that one mistake was made by the hon. member for Brisbane. Only in the mining areas should we have pick handles; I suppose in the dairying areas they would have pitchforks with which to fight. I say quite definitely that in all those areas where people are carrying on industries they would only have pick handles—using the expression as a general term—with which to defend themselves. I am suggesting that the great trouble with the Commonwealth Government is that they did not have at any time an adequate Defence Department. They had Ministers for Defence and leaders in the Air, Navy, and Army. They did not have a properly equipped Defence Department. What are the Commonwealth Government responsible for? They control the Customs Department, a department that produces huge sums of money. It is a tax-collecting activity of the Government. The Commonwealth Government also control the Post and Telegraph Department, which is another source of considerable revenue for that Government. Of course, I readily admit that the Commonwealth Government are responsible for the payment of old-age pensions, running into many millions pounds a year. However, they have had charge of the defence of this country, but never at any time have they

had a Defence Department worthy of the name. They should have had a Defence Department manned with efficient defence officers, just as we have departments of State with competent officers to carry out the duties appertaining to them. I am not suggesting that in times of peace the defence policy should be expanded at a war-time rate, but at least they could have established a sound nucleus of a defence scheme to be expanded as circumstances required, just as the Department of Public Works in this State increases its activities and employs more men as circumstances warrant. Then, to use a phrase often adopted by the Premier, there would have been an orderly and well-planned system of defence.

The appointment of Mr. Essington Lewis to an organising position in the Commonwealth sphere has been criticised, but I do not join in that criticism, because I realise that as the Commonwealth Government did not have a proper Defence Department they had to look outside for someone to organise such a scheme for them, and I am satisfied that no better man could have been found than Mr. Essington Lewis. The trouble with the Commonwealth Government is that they omitted to spend reasonable sums upon the development of a proper Defence Department. In Queensland there are 10 departments of State, but there are fewer, although bigger, Commonwealth departments, which are called upon to deal with bigger subjects than those dealt with by State departments. My point is that the Commonwealth Government failed adequately to build up a Defence Department, otherwise they would now be in a position to expand their defence activities.

Someone asked if I had a proposal to make to remedy this defect. I have a proposal to make. Under the proposed national training scheme or militia system, all militia men are to be brought to big camps for a period of training and then, I suppose, scattered throughout the State, again without arms or any military equipment. Roughly, my proposal is that the State should be divided into four or five divisions with suitable militia camps in each. When the camps are disbanded the men should be issued with .303 rifles, machine guns, and anti-aircraft guns, for serious use if necessary and not for purposes of practice or play. Then the militia men could be of service in the various parts of the State instead of their being confined, say, to the Brisbane district. These militia units in the different divisions of the State would prove very useful if we were invaded. I can tell hon. members seriously that the people in the North are worried about what may happen at any moment.

In the time at my disposal I can deal only in a very sketchy way with my proposal. If we were attacked the militia units in the North, who would be armed with proper military equipment, would be able to hold off an invader at least for a while. They would have a thorough knowledge of the hilly country of the North and of the sources of food supplies, and so would be able to hold

an invader in check until support was sent, say, from Brisbane, after Brisbane had been notified of the invasion and had set up its own defences. Similarly, Sydney and Melbourne would be notified of the invasion and would have time to prepare their own defences and to send reinforcements to the small band that was holding the invader in check in the North. We must also have a fleet of aeroplanes in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland, with reserve fleets and reserve supplies in Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide.

Unless these precautions are taken Queensland will be exposed to great danger and North-Western Australia and probably the whole of Western Australia will be sacrificed to an enemy. If an invader gained a foothold in Queensland he could establish himself fairly comfortably in the North and at a suitable and convenient time march South and seize control of Sydney and Melbourne. We should not feel happy about that.

The point is that Queensland, and her importance as an integral part of this Commonwealth, have not been recognised. To support my contention, I have only to quote the allocations made by the Federal Government for defence work throughout the Commonwealth. The aggregate expenditure is £20,946,570, allocated as follows:—

	£
New South Wales .. ..	5,596,550
Victoria .. ..	4,327,282
Queensland .. ..	1,383,818
South Australia .. ..	4,217,348
Western Australia .. ..	1,194,098

Roughly speaking, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia absorbed £14,000,000 of this vote. That huge sum was spent within a small triangle with its apex on Melbourne, and embracing Sydney and Adelaide. I want to emphasise that only £1,383,818 was promised to be spent in Queensland. Already millions have been spent on defence in the area I mentioned. There might be an argument, and a sound one, too, that engineering and mechanical appliances centred in this triangle have forced the national Government to spend larger sums in this area than in Queensland, but if we examine the position we see how fallacious it is.

The neglect of this State by the Federal Government is, I think, due to a lack of knowledge of Queensland and what Queensland can do. Too much money altogether has been spent in buildings in all States. Most of the £1,383,818 is to be spent in Southern Queensland on buildings. The fact is that the necessary tools are not to be had to be installed in them. Some time ago the Federal Government were talking of getting second-hand tools from America by 1941, but, I understand, since then considerable advance has been made in this connection, and steps are now being made to manufacture them in Australia. Tools must be available before manufacturing armaments. My complaint about much of this expenditure in defence is it comprises bricks and mortar, and the

difficulty will be get machinery to install in the buildings. It is machinery that is vitally necessary to manufacture implements of war necessary for our adequate defence.

There is one other factor showing how slow the Federal Government have been to recognise industry in Queensland that would be of material aid in national defence. That Government have now appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities of the manufacture of power alcohol. Although the manufacture of power alcohol has been discussed in this Parliament and this State from time to time, it is only in recent weeks that the Federal Government have appointed this committee to make investigations, as they consider this spirit to be an important factor in the defence of Australia. The power-alcohol industry has been considerably assisted by the Government I represent. In 1933 the Motor Spirit Vendors Act was introduced by me in this House. It made it compulsory for all Queensland motor companies to include a proportion of power alcohol in all petrol marketed by them. At that time the distillery at Sarina was producing only 100,000 gallons a year. At the present time, power alcohol to the extent of approximately 1,000,000 gallons is being produced by this company. By regulations made in January, 1935, the number of gallons of power alcohol to be purchased and paid for by the holder of a motor spirit vendor's licence for every 100 gallons of motor spirit sold by such holder was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. By regulations made in January, 1939, such number of gallons of power alcohol to be so purchased was increased from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent. By further regulations made in January, 1940, the number of gallons of power alcohol to be purchased was altered and further increased from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

The production of power alcohol is purely a distilling process. The greatest expenditure is in the building of the large concrete vats to hold the molasses from which it is produced. Smaller vats are necessary for the distilling operation. The smaller vats are only rivetted, therefore it would cost little money to increase the plant that is now at Sarina for producing power alcohol. When the plant was established at Sarina they had to pay a large amount of money in royalties to some French firm; but even if those patent rights still exist, seeing that France is now occupied by the enemy, we should not have to pay the royalties and the cost of building the plant would be comparatively small.

There is no necessity to institute an inquiry as to the efficacy of power alcohol as a mixture with petrol. That can be regarded as proved. I have driven cars thousands of miles since 1932, and I have used Shellkol and other mixtures of power alcohol. Shellkol, or any mixture of power alcohol, with petrol makes automatically an anti-knock mixture. All the information in regard to the use of power alcohol in European countries, such as Sweden and France, is available to the Federal Government, yet they think it necessary to appoint a board of enquiry to go into

the question. Everybody knows that power alcohol can be produced from any form of vegetation. Some people think that the third boiling of sugar could be used for the making of power alcohol.

**Mr. Moore:** It could be used, but is it economical?

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:** That is the question. It has been stated by people in the sugar industry that it is a question whether the amount of power alcohol obtained from the third boiling of sugar would more than equal the value of the sugar on the overseas market. That has to be decided.

I conducted the negotiations regarding power alcohol with various companies, and I obtained information on the subject from South America and various European countries, such as France and Sweden, where power alcohol is being used entirely in driving heavy vehicles. We have also had experience in the use of various petrols containing power alcohol, and there is no doubt about its efficiency; yet the Federal Government have seen fit to appoint a board to go into the question, thus wasting much money that could be used in building more tanks for producing that product.

Another matter I wish to draw attention to is that from the declaration of war to 30 June last the expenditure by the State Government on providing special patrol watchmen for Government buildings amounted to £5,186. I was asked by the Federal Government to appoint these watchmen to public buildings, and the whole of that expenditure has been borne by this State. No part is borne by the Commonwealth Government. The Main Roads Commission has to date incurred an expenditure of £9,129 for special guards on bridges on main roads. I venture to say that no other State has been asked to expend this money for this purpose. From time to time I have passed through New South Wales by car and I have found uniformed soldiers with bayonets watching the bridges in that State, and also in Victoria, whereas in Queensland the Government were asked to put men on, and the State has borne that expense.

As members of Parliament, each and every one of us has the honour to represent some part of this wonderful State of Queensland, but a gentleman appointed by the Commonwealth Government to inquire into the facilities and equipment for the training of artisans for defence purposes in Queensland, Mr. E. P. Eltham, now Federal Director of Training, on his first visit to the State, spent two days in Brisbane. This wonderful State of Queensland took up two whole days of this gentleman's time. And what did he find? He had time to come in and say "Good-day" and "Good-bye" to me. He must have been busy looking at our equipment for the remainder of the two days, but when I went South to attend a conference I discovered he had decided that the State of Queensland could train 11 fitters. The Commonwealth representative, after a complete survey, decided that Queensland could train 11 fitters for a period of 24 weeks.

At a subsequent meeting of the Australian Educational Council, the urgent need for the provision of adequate means of training ground staffs for the Air Force and the provision of technical training for defence purposes was stressed by the Commonwealth Government's representative. We had met in Hobart previously. They then did not appear to realise any need for this, but at Canberra they stressed the need for ground staffs. Mr. Spender was the Commonwealth representative. At the conclusion of that conference I sent the Director of Education, Mr. L. D. Edwards, back to Brisbane direct with instructions to put into operation any action we could take to assist the Commonwealth Government in qualifying men for the Air Force under the State department. A scheme was formulated whereby Queensland could undertake the immediate training of 100 men as fitters. This offer was conveyed to the Federal Government, and the late Mr. Fairbairn, Minister for Air, sent me a telegram thanking me for, and congratulating me on, the work that was done. Subsequently, I received a telegram from the Air Board. It regretted that it could not accept our offer, and had I not published these telegrams, not only in the local but also in the Southern Press, I guarantee that we should not be taking any more than 11 fitters to-day. The exposure of what they were doing, their refusal to accept what we were trying to do, made the members of the Air Board change their minds. They know nothing of Queensland. That was palpable. They refused this offer for the preliminary training of 100 fitters. With proper assistance we could be training 500 fitters and machinists, men urgently required for building up the defence that is necessary.

At the present time there are being trained in Queensland—

26 fitters for the Royal Australian Air Force, though the present equipment at the Central Technical College is sufficient to train 50 and the present building can accommodate 100.

20 turners and machinists at the Central Technical College and 12 at the Ipswich Technical College.

10 artificers for the Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

As a result of the action taken by the State Government and the Department of Munitions, it is expected that within a fortnight there will be 80 men being trained in Brisbane as turners, and as soon as additional equipment is to hand, 40 in Ipswich.

**Mr. Nimmö:** Did they have to get that equipment from outside?

**The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC WORKS:** We had the equipment. We were ready to do this. We told them we could train 100 fitters and machinists straight away, but this gentleman from the South told them we could train only 11 fitters.

I think I have built up a good case to show that I stand for the voluntary reinforcement of those Australians who are already at the front, that Great Britain probably will not be

asking for more men because she has the whole of her fighting forces within her own boundaries and probably will not want to fill extra mouths when she has the men and equipment there, that Australia is an essential part of the British Empire, and that we should give time and deliberation to the training and equipping of men for her adequate defence, as well as supplying men to those outstations such as Darwin, Singapore, and other places that are vital to the defence of this country.

Debate, on motion of Mr. McLean, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 3.17 p.m.