

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 1941

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

QUESTIONS.

NON-PAYING RAILWAYS.

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) asked the Minister for Transport—

“1. Did the following sections of railway pay working expenses in 1940-41, viz., South Brisbane to Southport and Tweed Heads, Park Road to Manly, Eagle Junction to Pinkenba, and Northgate Junction to Sandgate?”

“2. If all or any of such sections did not pay working expenses, what was the loss on each, (a) exclusive of interest, (b) inclusive of interest?”

“3. What was the gross loss per mile of line on each such section?”

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

“1 to 3. The result of the working of each section of railway referred to is not available in the same detail as formerly. These lines are now all included in the Brisbane section, the figures for which during the financial year ended 30 June, 1941, are as follows:—

	£
Revenue	2,227,851
Expenditure	1,835,918
Net revenue	£391,933

“After meeting interest on capital totalling £357,031, there was a surplus of £34,902.”

EMOLUMENTS OF MR. J. D. STORY.

Mr. LUCKINS (Maree) asked the Premier—

“What are the present positions and salaries and/or emoluments, respectively, of Mr. J. D. Story, ex-Public Service Commissioner?”

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

“Mr. Story is liaison officer attached to the Premier's Department, chiefly in reference to State development and public

works organisation. He is also an acting member of the State Transport Board and the Liquid Fuel Control Board, Vice-president of the Bureau of Industry, a member of the Stanley River Dam Board, the Bridge Board, the St. Lucia University Works Board, and the Cotton Stimulation Committee, and performs such other duties as may from time to time be allotted to him. For the above services, he is paid a salary of £1,000 a year."

PURCHASE OF METROPOLITAN FISH MARKETS.

Mr. DART (Wynnum) asked the Secretary for Labour and Industry—

"1. What is the purchasing price of the Metropolitan Fish Markets?"

"2. By whom are these markets controlled?"

"3. What is the outstanding balance of purchasing price?"

"4. In what ownership will the property be vested upon completion of purchase?"

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

"1. £25,000.

"2. The Fish Board.

"3. £23,438 3s. 9d. at 30 June, 1941.

"4. The Fish Board. The Act prescribed, with regard to the purchase price, that interest only was payable for the first two years, and thereafter 28 equal annual instalments compounded of principal and interest, the first of which was paid on 30 June, 1939. The board has paid £4,922 5s. 2d. in interest and £1,561 16s. 3d. in principal—a total of £6,484 1s. 5d.—and has met its obligations under the Act with respect to payment of purchase instalments and interest to 30 June, 1941."

DEFEATED MEMBERS IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

Mr. YEATES (East Toowoomba) asked the Premier—

"Which members defeated at the last State elections have since been given Government employment, and what are their positions and annual rates of salary respectively?"

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

"Mr. Herbert Williams was appointed Temporary Clerk-Inspector, Essential Food Supplies Branch, Department of Agriculture and Stock, at an actual salary of £311 a year.

"Mr. Roland William Hislop was appointed Welfare Officer, Office of the Apprenticeship Committee and Group Apprenticeship Committees, Department of Public Instruction, at an actual salary of £291."

Mr. Maher: What a great country!

The PREMIER: A wonderful country, yes.

Mr. Maher: To stand up to it.

The PREMIER: A wonderful country. The hon. member has been active in securing entry to the public service for as many as he could.

"Mr. Bernard McLean was appointed Temporary Officer under and for the purposes of the Income (State Development) Tax Acts, 1938 to 1939, at an actual salary of £291 a year."

Mr. Speaker, I object to being interrupted when courteously answering questions. I will stop answering them if that conduct continues.

Mr. Maher: You are very sensitive this morning.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: I will not allow you to behave as you like in this House.

Mr. Maher: I have my rights here.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: You have no right to interrupt.

Mr. Maher: You practise what you preach.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the hon. member will not observe my call to order I will deal with him.

PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Public Service Superannuation Board for the year 1940-41.

Report of the Police Investment Board for the year 1940.

DEATH OF MR. A. WIENHOLT.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay (10.37 a.m.)), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Arnold Wienholt, Esquire, D.S.O., M.C., a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

"2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland."

The late Arnold Wienholt was elected to the eighteenth Parliament on 2 October, 1909, as member for Fassifern, and continued to represent that electorate until he resigned during the course of the nineteenth Parliament in the recess of 1912-13. He was returned as member for that electorate on 28 June, 1930, in the twenty-fifth Parliament, when he succeeded the late Mr. E. T.

Bell. He represented Fassifern for the remainder of the twenty-fifth Parliament and for whole of the twenty-sixth Parliament, which terminated on 9 April, 1935. He did not contest the election to the twenty-seventh Parliament.

He was elected to the House of Representatives for Moreton at the general election in 1919, and retired on the expiration of the eighth Federal Parliament in 1922.

The late Arnold Wienholt was a man of very wide knowledge and experience. He was a great Australian and a great citizen of Queensland.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: During the whole of his life he sought as he best knew how to serve the State and his fellow-citizens. All of us who were associated with him in Parliament knew him to be an honest, courteous gentleman in the full sense of that term. He was a man who held strong views about basic matters affecting the Constitution of Australia and the welfare of the people, and at all times, without any party rancour whatsoever, he gave expression to those views clearly and succinctly in the House.

Leave to swear to Mr. Wienholt's death has been granted by the Supreme Court. It is supposed to have taken place in Abyssinia while he was leading a mission there in relation to the present war, one of the multitudinous activities that war involves. He was a great citizen, a good parliamentarian, and a great patriot. Queensland is the better because he lived.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (10.42 a.m.): Mr. Speaker, I desire to second the motion moved by the Premier. The late Arnold Wienholt was one of nature's gentlemen. He was a good comrade and, as the Premier has said, a great Queenslander and a great Australian. He had an unexcelled record in public service, both in the State and Commonwealth Parliaments. Being a man who lived the greater part of his life in the wide open spaces of this State, he had an unexcelled knowledge of bushcraft, which stood him in good stead in the great service he gave to the Empire during the first World War. His courage and initiative at that time earned for him the D.S.O. and M.C., and he was mentioned a number of times in dispatches for the great work he did in the East African campaign.

The late Mr. Wienholt was a fighter for the under-dog, as was exemplified by the way in which he went to help the Abyssinians when they were ruthlessly attacked by the Italians, and when the present war broke out he was one of the first to offer his services in their cause. He died serving his country. He died in an endeavour to help those down-trodden people to regain their country, and, no doubt, it was due largely to the efforts of Arnold Wienholt and gentlemen like him that the Abyssinians regained their country.

In this Parliament he always fought for the rights of the individual. As the Premier

has stated, he had very strong opinions on a number of questions, and he stated them forcibly in this House. The Premier has rightly said that Queensland and Australia are the poorer by the passing of Arnold Wienholt.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (10.44 a.m.): As successor to the late Arnold Wienholt, I should like to support the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. I can speak of the late Arnold Wienholt as a public man, a neighbour, and a friend. We all know that he had political views peculiarly his own, but I want to say that whilst he represented the Moreton electorate in the Federal Parliament and the Fassifern electorate in the State Parliament he won the respect and admiration of all people, including those who did not agree with his political views. I feel, too, that his work in the interests of charity—I refer in particular to his practical help in the support and maintenance of public hospitals in the electorate—will be remembered for many a long day.

As has been said already, Mr. Wienholt was a true patriot, and when Abyssinia was invaded he vowed that he would give his life, if necessary, to restore that country to the Abyssinians. I feel that the Fassifern electorate and this State will be the poorer by his passing.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CO-ORDINATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

INITIATION IN COMMITTEE.

(Mr. Gair, South Brisbane, in the chair.)

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (10.47 a.m.): I move—

“That it is desirable that a Bill be introduced to provide for a co-ordinated system of national education, to amend the University of Queensland Act of 1909 (as amended by subsequent Acts) in certain particulars, and for other incidental purposes.”

The objects of the proposed Bill were foreshadowed in the speech I delivered on the Address in Reply. Hon. members who are interested in educational matters may remember that on that occasion I set out the basic principles of these proposals. They were also referred to, of course, in the programme set out in the speech of His Excellency the Governor.

I might at this juncture give a brief review of the legislation that has led up to the need for the present measure. Till 1912 the State was mainly concerned with primary education, the department's contact with secondary education being principally through State-endowed but board-controlled grammar schools and the granting of scholarships to approved

secondary schools. After the inauguration of the University in 1910, the Government of the day in 1912 established a number of State high schools. Since that time the department has been giving serious attention to secondary education, by encouraging its teachers to study for university degrees, recruiting university graduates to the teaching service, and making the emoluments in the high-school branch of the service attractive to them.

The Government believe that the time has now arrived, after 25 years' carefully organised forward planning in national education, when through the department we should take a leading part in the revision of arrangements for post-primary education. Both the State, through the Department of Public Instruction, and the University have a direct interest in post-primary or secondary education. The department is interested because, in a scheme of State-wide education, it has the responsibility of—

(a) Arranging that students who desire to proceed to the University courses shall have full opportunities for obtaining a sound secondary education;

(b) Evolving suitable types of secondary education for those pupils who do not intend to proceed beyond the secondary stages;

(c) Securing a fair and reasonable return for the expenditure by the State on secondary education;

(d) Satisfying the ever-increasing desire of the citizens of the State that their children should be given a proper grounding in the various stages of secondary education;

(e) Meeting the requirements not only in the professions, but also in many spheres of commercial life, that an applicant for employment shall at least be of junior University standard.

The University is interested because a sound secondary education is a pre-requisite to a sound University course.

Hence a scheme must be evolved under which both the State and the University shall discharge jointly and in co-operation their national obligations in the interests of a sound national educational policy.

Since the University was established in 1910—and in that establishment Dr. Kidston and Sir William Macgregor played very important parts—it has grown very considerably in importance to the educational life of our country. When it was established, there were three main degrees, namely—arts, science, and engineering. There are now nine faculties in the University—arts, law, commerce, science, engineering, dentistry, veterinary science, agriculture, and medicine.

In 1940 there were 1,710 students at the University, as follows:—

Day students	658
Evening students	556
External students	496

Those figures indicate how the University has increased in importance in recent years. The

figures in relation to evening students, and what are known as external students, are of considerable interest. They show very clearly to me that the people of this country are endeavouring to equip themselves with knowledge, so that they will be able to play their part as citizens of a great country. (Hear, hear!). That is a basic principle of a sound democracy. Democracies can survive only to the extent that they are a well-educated democracy, and that they recognise all the responsibilities that citizenship in a democracy involves. Therefore, the building-up of our educational facilities in Queensland is at all times of supreme importance.

The basic principle underlying this measure is the co-ordination of all educational activities within the State, from the kindergarten to the University. It is the desire of the Government, and all others concerned, that each stage of education should be of the soundest character possible. There are, of course, many and varied views about various phases of education, and they have become more prominent in recent years. We read in the Press, in reviews in magazines, and hear over the radio, many very fine expressions of opinion about the need for education in various fields of human activity. Differences of opinion naturally arise, but that in itself is a good thing, because differences of opinion and wide discussion of a subject of vital importance such as this indicate to me a quickening of interest in these problems amongst the people.

I regard a sound education policy as being essential, not only to human liberty, but in order that men and women shall be able to live properly. Knowledge is power; it is the means of earning a livelihood. With knowledge one may venture into fields that would be closed entirely to many who lack it. Consequently, men and women should be taught to think, to think objectively, to reason, and to strive to understand.

Mr. Barnes: Bad luck for you if they ever started.

The PREMIER: I pity the hon. member who interjects. Whatever facilities he may have had in his youth have obviously been misused.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I, Mr. Gair, am dealing with the normal—not the abnormal. (Laughter.)

I repeat that the essentials of liberty and happiness are sufficient knowledge to understand the phenomena that surround us in our daily life, and to cultivate the mind in those countless different directions that elevate mankind and ennoble the human soul.

There is of course in this, as in every other important subject, a good deal of wishful thinking. A danger of a system of public education widely spread is to push every individual through the same mould and so turn out uniform types of individuals. The mass-produced scholar may be useful in a totalitarian State; for through him the will of the ruling minority can be given expression

to very quickly, but if human liberty is the objective of the human soul it is wrong to destroy individuality—it is wrong to discourage those qualities that later on will develop into natural leadership in the multifarious activities in which mankind is engaged.

Very few people to-day think objectively. People read books, they become absorbed in those books, and they immediately adopt the ideas set out therein. Very few read critically, and as a consequence they miss much that is of value in the pursuit of knowledge. The output of books, the syndication of the Press, and the growth of other mediums of public expression have given rise to certain evils. Books and newspaper articles often put forward expressions of opinion as if they were statements of fact. A critical reader can usually distinguish between the two, but it is necessary that all men and women should be able so to distinguish, and it would be wise for all of us at all times to do so. An expression of opinion is of extreme value; it indicates that the person concerned has undertaken some research, has thought about certain things, and has arrived at a conclusion about a certain problem; but it is of basic importance to distinguish between such an expression of opinion and a statement of fact, and it would be a good thing if readers were to adopt as their guide in reading the questions: is this fact or is it propaganda? if it is propaganda, whose propaganda is it, and for what purpose is it used? Established facts cannot be disputed, and so in all our investigations we should be careful to distinguish between matters of opinion and facts that have been definitely established; and that can be done if pupils are taught early enough in life to reason, to do their own thinking, to think objectively and to read and listen critically.

A mass of assembled data that may be in a geography or a history book and learned parrot-fashion is of little value. I understand that parrots can be taught to say certain things—I have heard them in more places than one—but that does not prove to me that they understand what they say. For example, a child may be given as an imposition to write out a sentence such as this, "To err is human, to forgive divine." The child writes that out 100 times, but it may escape his understanding entirely. But what a magnificent thing that is if we probe beneath the surface—"To err is human, to forgive divine." It covers the whole field of human psychology and attributes to the Divinity that wonderful forgiveness, mercy, and pity of which He is the embodiment.

Mr. Macdonald: It is not often practised.

The PREMIER: It is practised probably more than my interrupter thinks. And let us all heed and generally try to understand. We are all human.

External students of the University are given a valuable service, and it is proposed to extend it in every possible direction. I know some very great men in this country who got their university training as external

students. Some are in the service of the State, and others are professional men. A man or woman who has sufficient energy and determination to go to the University at night or to get lectures sent by post and study them by himself or herself is splendid material with which to begin. These earnest seekers after knowledge and truth should be cultivated in every way. Recently, the Secretary for Public Instruction indicated the various diploma courses and so forth that the University now offers; it has become and is becoming more the pivot round which centres all proper training of our students for the professions.

Attention is also given to bringing some part of university education to those who from lack of formal training or some other cause cannot take the regular courses offered to undergraduates. This movement is called the University extension movement, or adult education movement. This is dealt with in the Bill.

Shortly, the proposed Bill has for its object the attainment of a wider sphere of responsibility on the Department of Public Instruction in secondary education generally, in regard to proper co-ordination between the department and the University in the general conduct of the University, and also in regard to University scholarships, adult education, and matters affecting wider representation on the senate.

The Bill will provide for a reconstruction of the senate. At present 10 members are appointed by the Governor in Council and 10 elected by the University council. This Bill provides for an increase of five in the number. The Director of Education, who will in future be styled the Director-General of Education, will be ex officio a member. The president of the professorial board of the University will also be an ex-officio member. There will be 14 members appointed by the Governor in Council and nine elected by the University council.

The increased governmental representation will afford an opportunity of broadening selection, in that there will be scope to appoint to the senate persons well versed in the commercial, industrial, pastoral, and agricultural activities of the State, in addition to those with academic qualifications.

The Bill will also give statutory recognition to the academic standing committee, the board of post-primary study, the board of adult education, and the University scholarships board, and we shall also follow the example set by New South Wales by making provision in the Bill for the establishment of university colleges. These colleges may be established in various parts of the State, and are a further indication that the University is a State-wide institution, not one confined to the metropolitan area.

Provision is also made whereby patriotic citizens may donate or leave by will funds to any college.

The Bill will also remove the disqualification that prevented the principals of secondary

schools from being members of the senate. It will give the senate power to appoint and also dispense with the services of its deans, professors, tutors, and servants.

Under the original Act of 1909-22 the senate had power to initiate a form of university statute, but, strangely enough, it has never seen fit to give effect to that provision, and as a consequence we propose placing it in the Act.

The Bill provides for a deputy chancellor, as well as a vice-chancellor, and it will enable the Government to call upon members of the University staff to perform special services, or make inquiries in the interests of the State.

The Bill also provides for an increase in the endowment. The first Act provided for an endowment of £20,000. By the Financial Emergency Act of 1931 the Moore Government altered this provision to read, "not exceeding £20,000."

Provision is also made for a £1 for £1 subsidy on endowments up to £10,000 per annum.

This Bill will not interfere with the subsidy, but will lay down definitely that for a period of seven years there shall be paid to the senate from consolidated revenue an annual sum of £40,000 for University purposes. This sum will be reviewed at the expiration of that period by the Governor in Council, but if not reviewed it shall continue to be paid. We have provided that sum in this year's Estimates.

By this measure, coupled with the State Education Acts, there will be inaugurated a complete national system of education from the kindergarten to the university. Democracy is the true and just form of government, and I again emphasise the need for a well-equipped and well-trained democracy. Education in this State is no longer the privilege of a few; it is now the right of all.

The Bill provides for a continuance of the Government's policy, whereby the doors to education—and I include primary, secondary, and university education—shall be open to the citizens of the State and their children, no matter how humbly situated in life they may be.

Alfred the Great laid it down that the intellectual improvement of the people and their moral instruction were the only foundation upon which a Government could repose or a throne be established.

The success of this Bill will depend on its adequate, careful, and just administration. It will depend on the full co-operation of the University and the Department of Public Instruction, and also on the good will of the people. The people's interest in education is very great, and I am satisfied that a measure of this kind will appeal to all sections of the community.

One of the most valuable phases of citizenship and one of the things I never cease to admire is the determination of all good men and women to give their children a better chance in life than they themselves enjoyed.

Educational institutions are facilities devised for that purpose, and when I use the term "education" I do not mean merely mechanical training in arithmetic, English, mathematics, or science, but I include also what may be described as civics—the civic duty of all, each to the other. That is a very necessary part of education; a man's place in the nation is determined by his duty to the State and to his fellow-citizens. Civics should be included in any sound system of education.

Most important of all is the problem of character-building, because we must build character in our people if the nation is to achieve continued greatness. Character is essential to success in every field of activity, but is of supreme importance to the nation. On the character of the aggregate of its citizens the nation entirely depends. Ruskin put it very well in one of his writings when he said—

"All wealth is human life, and that country is the greatest that has the greatest number of healthy, happy men and women."

In order to be healthy and happy we must seek knowledge, we must strive to understand, and we must build up character. We must build up independence of thought, independence of action, and independence of mind. All those things are necessary in any sound educational system. Many and varied are the institutions established for this purpose, and in this Bill the Government desire to make a contribution to the vast amount of good will that exists in the community, and the great amount of recognition of the need for a more liberal system of education and training.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (11.21 a.m.): I think that all hon. members of this Assembly and all citizens of Queensland have a particularly keen interest in education. That fact has been evident particularly in this Chamber in the debates that have taken place on the Estimates of the Department of Public Instruction, and I am sure that all hon. members will support any measure that tends to give better opportunities for education to the citizens of this State, whether children or adults.

The measure the Premier proposes to introduce this morning is designed to co-ordinate and improve our educational facilities. I do not think that we as a State have anything to be ashamed of in our educational facilities.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN: Those gentlemen who were responsible for framing the legislation round which our educational system has been built up deserve a great deal of credit, especially when we realise that at the present time we are working on an Act that was passed by this Parliament right back in the latter part of the last century, so far as our primary education is concerned particularly. The fact that it has not been found necessary, up to the present, to make any drastic

alterations in that Act, together with the fact that a splendid educational system has grown around it, is a tribute to its designers. As the world progresses, naturally the educational system, as well as all our other facilities, is apt to improve and progress. I take it that this co-ordinated measure will bring about the progress in our educational facilities that the advancement of the times justifies. Doubtless, when we have had an opportunity of studying the measure in all its implications, in the main it will receive the unanimous approval of hon. members.

The Premier: We will give you until next Tuesday before moving the second reading.

Mr. NICKLIN: I thank the Premier for that consideration, because this is a subject worthy of the deepest consideration. It is not a matter we should rush into. I and other hon. members will appreciate the fact that we shall have the week-end to study its implications and effects.

A great deal depends, not so much on the system of education we may build up, as on the administration of the machinery that will be set up in consequence of its enactment. We may set up what may be seemingly perfect machinery, but if it is not properly administered it will not have the effect that machinery was designed to obtain.

It is essential, as the Premier suggested, that our educational system should not be designed along lines that would produce types of students. One of the weaknesses of our educational system in the past is that the individuality of the student in our schools and universities has not been taken into account to the full. There is another weakness that can be overcome, and that is that, although we provide all the facilities to enable our pupils to go through our primary schools and secondary schools, and latterly our University, very often we do not give them the necessary guidance to enable them to select the vocation for which they are best suited. Our educational system in the past has failed in that it has concentrated too much on the academic and not sufficiently on the practical side of life. We have been turning out too many young men and women fitted for white-collar jobs, and not enough tradesmen and others who are capable of going into our various machine shops and trades. I do not know whether this co-ordinated measure makes any provision for that.

The Premier: It deals with technical training.

Mr. NICKLIN: Technical training is included?

The Premier: Yes, as part of the secondary education.

Mr. NICKLIN: I am pleased to learn that, because, in my opinion, technical training is a particularly important phase of education.

The Premier: As a matter of fact, I believe that everyone should get some manual training.

Mr. NICKLIN: I am rather with the Premier in that respect. Our primary education, as imparted in our rural schools, is endeavouring to bring that about. Up to the present that phase of our educational system has been particularly commendable. Technical education, in particular, will in the future be of greater importance than it has ever been in the past. I am glad to know that this measure will take into account the importance of the part that technical education is going to play in the development of this country.

There is no doubt the University of Queensland has made rapid strides since it was established in 1910. As the Premier said, the courses it offers have increased from three to nine, and now the University is turning out a steady stream of excellent graduates who are playing a particularly important part in the life of this State. The extension of the University's facilities that the Bill will bring about will make it easier for people to avail themselves of its benefits, and will meet with approval from all sections of the community.

The proposals for the alteration of the constitution of the senate are, I think, wise. The senate should be as representative as possible of the various commercial and agricultural interests as well as having a strong academic representation. The policy of the University as directed by the senate has to be such as will provide for all our industries, and naturally it is only right to assume that all the great primary industries, such as the pastoral industry and the commercial industries of the State, should have their opinions represented on the senate.

I think it is also wise to take advantage of the educational experience that heads of our secondary schools have gained in the past, and to make it possible for those men and women to be co-opted for service on the senate of the University.

The other provisions that the Premier mentioned seemed to be of such a nature that they will be very helpful. I trust that as a result of the passage of this measure the excellent educational system we have in Queensland will be improved.

I shall reserve any further comments till a later stage of the Bill.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (11.33 a.m.): I presume the Premier has been moved to introduce a Bill of this kind by the fact that the new University is nearing completion. Apparently it was thought that the time was opportune to reconsider the control of the University, to enlarge its scope, to improve the position in general, and to develop more ways and means of making it a success. All those have been motivating factors in the decision to bring forward a Bill of this kind.

I was very interested in the fine speech delivered by the Premier this morning on

matters appertaining to the University and education generally. No doubt a University is one of the great needs of an intelligent and civilised people. The demand for a university in this State, I think, was first made in 1874, and two commissions were appointed to investigate the proposal, but it was not until 1909, when the late W. H. Barnes introduced the University of Queensland Bill, that the foundation for our University system was laid. Since then the Premier and his Government have interested themselves in the important question of establishing a University worthy of a great, prosperous, and rising State such as Queensland, and a fine structure is in the course of completion at St. Lucia.

Of course, it is a fine thing to have a university that attracts the finest types of young men and women and encourages the intellectual cream of the State to enter its portals and devote their lives to things that matter in the progress of the country. Although attendance at the University is undoubtedly of great advantage, some of the most distinguished people in this country never attended a University. Many of the ablest, most capable, and experienced men in this State were without the advantage of a university education. They passed through what is called the university of life, and have made the most of their experience. How far they might have gone had they had the advantage of a university education is another question.

We must not lose sight of the important fact that the great majority of people who contribute to the wealth, the product, and the advancement of the country do not enter a University at all. We have, therefore, to keep in sight the ordinary forms of education as well as those of the University—the need for an adequate primary and secondary education leading in particular to the junior University standard specified by the Premier this morning. It is by that type of young person—the fair-average-quality type—that the burdens of life are carried. They represent the great majority of the people. It is they who do the hard and practical jobs of life that enable the State to sustain itself, and, therefore, we must not lose sight of them.

The Premier: This Bill strengthens that side of education.

Mr. MAHER: I am glad to hear it. Passing along the highway of life I have frequently noticed men who are extraordinarily brilliant in some direction or other, but often lack some other component of success. Sometimes they are unstable. They do not hold the rails, as it were, as well as men of lesser attainments, and, therefore, it is the ordinary type of individual—men and women of fair, average quality—who do the world's work, and, therefore, we must not lose sight of the educational facilities that will meet their special needs and requirements.

The State has not been niggardly by any means in providing for educational activities in Queensland. I think that the Estimates for this year include a sum of £1,960,000, or

in round figures £2,000,000, for education. That represents a very substantial percentage of the revenue of the State that is being devoted to the education of the youth of the State.

One of the very fine things in our educational system of to-day, and a thing of which I am proud, is the excellent type of young people who have been attracted to the Department of Public Instruction—those young boys and girls who each year qualify in the junior or senior University examination and who by reason of the method of selection that obtains in that department are available not only to the densely populated cities, but also to the people in the remote parts of the State. They go out into the wide open spaces, to centres remote from the capital and many of the amenities of life. These young people are replacing the teachers of the past in the remote centres which often lacked an educational training because there were no thoroughly equipped and properly trained young people available for these centres. Under our present system we are able to have the most capable young men and women in these remote districts, and, therefore, the boys and girls at Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Quilpie, and similar settlements, distant anything from 500 to 1,200 miles from the capital, will have facilities for passing examinations and reaching the desired standard equal to those available to boys and girls in the more favoured city areas.

A highly important aspect of this subject is the question whether of the sum of £2,000,000 devoted to education in the State sufficient is being earmarked for the important branch of vocational training. The Premier, by way of interjection during the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, said that more could be done in respect of vocational training. That is so. We should endeavour to devise a system under which the hands of the young shall not be neglected any more than the brains. A boy or a girl has hands and should be given an opportunity to learn how to use them.

The Premier: If you train the hands the brain must be trained.

Mr. MAHER: Admittedly.

The Premier: The hand is the most wonderful machine in the world.

Mr. MAHER: This is an era of mechanisation. There is an ever increasing demand for those who are skilled in the use of their hands—skilled mechanics, tradesmen, and so forth.

To my way of thinking, it is of equal importance that we train boys and girls in the use of their hands as to equip their brains with the knowledge that is set down in the curriculum of the Department of Public Instruction. Too much money has been spent in the past in cramming boys and girls with the three Rs and all things relevant thereto, and not enough has been devoted to the training of their hands in order to give them some useful trade or

vocation by which they may be of great service to the country. Each year many boys are turned out from the schools at the age of 14 years completely unequipped. These lads have not been able to reach the junior or senior University standard and there is nothing definite ahead for them, but they are good material, nevertheless.

I remember an incident that occurred a few years ago when I was taking part in a Federal election in the Dalby district. I went out to a place called Brigalow to address a public meeting. Sitting round the dining table at the accommodation house there were about a dozen young men, all labourers judging by their appearance, and a man from one of the stations came in and took his seat at the table. One young fellow asked him if there was a job about. The station-owner asked what he could do and he replied, "I will take on anything that is going." He was asked, "Are you a fencer, a tank-sinker, or a ringbarker?" He replied, "No, but I will have to go at it." Three or four of the young men made a similar approach, but none of them were equipped for that work. None of them had any understanding of fencing, tank-sinking, ringbarking, or general bush work. They offered their services, but they were not equipped to command the ruling rate for the class of work offering. The station-owner was not able to employ one of them. But there was one young man who asked for employment, and when the station-owner inquired as to what he could do, he replied, "I am a horse-breaker." He was asked, "Are you experienced?" He said, "Yes." The station-owner asked, "Have you got your gear?" He replied, "Yes." He was then told to put his gear in the utility, and he was given a job. That is only a simple happening, but it takes place every day. Every day the man who has some knowledge or understanding of a special calling can find employment.

Mr. Healy: At what university do you learn horse-breaking?

Mr. MAHER: The hon. member is in a jocular mood this morning.

The Premier: In the university of life.

The MAHER: In the university of life. If any young man has a specialised knowledge of some calling there is always someone who is ready to avail himself of his services. If we proceed with an educational system that turns out thousands of young lads from school at 14 years of age—lads who have not reached the junior or senior University standards and who have no opportunity of qualifying for the higher professions—without training them in the use of their hands, then we are encouraging a system that will turn out numbers of drifters each year. The State is not doing its duty to those young men, when we know that there is a world to conquer. With all the intricate knowledge of mechanics and all the developments of this great era in which we live we are allowing this splendid material to go to waste.

It is time that we, hon. members of the Legislature, considered that aspect of the problem. We should endeavour to arrive at some means of devoting some of the huge amount allocated to education—approximately £2,000,000 this year—to dovetailing vocational work into the present educational system, or developing it separately in our technical schools, or extending them, or further developing our vocational classes in order to equip these young men and train their hands so that they may be of service to the State. We must evolve some means of getting the best value for money spent. We must equip these young lads and train them in the use of their hands so that they may earn an honest living.

Those are my thoughts on the introductory stage of this Bill. After the first reading, and when we see the Bill, I hope that we shall be able to contribute some further ideas to build up the University training, primary and secondary education, and vocational training.

Mr. MACDONALD (Stanley) (11.45 a.m.): I listened very attentively to what the Premier had to say on the proposed Bill and after considering his remarks, his opinions, and all the generalisations, one thing stands out prominently.

The Premier paid the highest tribute I have ever heard to the educational standard in Queensland. He quoted figures showing the pupils attending the University, although not within its walls. That is almost the perfect tribute. He also stressed the fact that education was not evolved for the purpose of having pupils repeat a lesson parrot-fashion; it was to cause people to think. He told this Committee of the number of pupils attending the University in their spare time, and it was interesting to learn that approximately one-third of the people at the University were those who followed their usual vocations during the day, and attended University lectures at night. There is always the outstanding individual who leads; we were not all born equal, and no man-made law will make us equal. There has always to be a leader. Individuality is a help, but it is utterly impossible to standardise certain people, because their heritage precludes them from falling into line with inferior persons, though the pull is to the mean of the mass, not to the individual.

One thing that has always struck me forcibly in this matter is the great difficulty the young boy or girl has in deciding what profession in life he or she will follow. When the boy leaves school he is not in a fit state to decide on his profession. His father may be so-and-so, and his brother so-and-so, and he usually follows his father or his brother.

The Attorney-General: Physical condition plays a big part in the choice.

Mr. MACDONALD: And more is due to environment. In the textile works of Lancashire the son follows the father. In fact, in many places in the old world we have employers who pay children coming from school to go into their factories and stand

beside the looms to see how they are operated by perhaps their brothers or sisters. By that means their interest is aroused.

There was formerly the cry that children should have a knowledge of the classics, and in this matter I can only speak of Scotland.

The Secretary for Public Lands: Nobody ever knew you came from Scotland. (Laughter.)

Mr. MACDONALD: In Scotland we had to study the classics up to the age of 14. Our school was divided into three parts—the commercial class, the professional class, and then the army class, from which our fellows went to Sandhurst. I say that at that age our young people are not in a position to decide what calling they will follow. It has usually to be determined by their parents.

The Secretary for Public Lands: And their parents usually put them on the wrong track.

Mr. MACDONALD: In Queensland it is certain that any boy who attains the standard of the seventh class is fit to go anywhere—if he has learnt to think. The whole world is open to him.

One thing must be stressed, and it is this: after we have provided this education for our people, we must see that the system does not fall to the ground. We must see that employment is open to our citizens who have been trained by it. Many people say that education is of no use after a certain standard, but, to my mind, that is absolutely wrong, if, of course, men are taught to think.

Mr. PIE (Hamilton) (11.51 a.m.): I listened with a great deal of interest to the Premier's introduction of this Bill, because I realise how vital it is not only to us, but also to the future generations of this State. I was pleased to learn of the great advance made in the faculties in university education, but I should like to suggest that a faculty of statesmanship be introduced in the curriculum. Too much stress cannot be laid on this important point, as we have to look ahead and realise that statesmanship, or service of country, will play a very important part in our life in the years ahead. There is no question that better education and better health are national assets. These two subjects will be closely associated in the future, and must indeed play a dominant part in our future development. I suggest that the Federal Government will also play an important part in this vital subject, because it is not only this State, but the whole of Australia, that will be involved in the problems of the years to come. I am sure I voice the hope and opinions of all hon. members that never again will this country return to the dole system.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. PIE: It is only by educating the people and thus enabling them to possess a wider knowledge, that we can hope to banish that terrible system. In my opinion, it is one of the curses of civilisation. I was in England during the depression. I actually met

people who had never worked, and who had never had the opportunity of working, notwithstanding they had reached maturity. They were uneducated and therefore could not get work to do. I do think that is a problem that has to be considered in a nation such as England, if she is to overcome the difficulties that lie ahead.

The Premier: As a matter of fact, England is suffering now in lack of skilled tradesmen by reason of her 10 years' depression.

Mr. PIE: I am speaking of what I personally witnessed nine years ago. Many people in that period had neither education nor the opportunity of being taught a trade. Those are matters that England and every nation will have to try to overcome in the new world order.

We all agree that the position to-day is entirely changed. Whatever the faults of war may be, war is certainly giving many people an opportunity to educate themselves, particularly in munition-making and the engineering trade. I know of men in our Army who as lads were never taught a trade, but in the armoured divisions are acquiring a technical education that will be invaluable to them in their future life. After the war they will have some trade to follow.

I believe that education helps all people to get employment, irrespective of class, and, therefore, we should all aspire to improving our educational system. Anything that can be done for education, which has for its object the making of life more attractive for our people, is desirable. I believe that brains and character will be the shock troops, the Australian troops as it were, in the future campaigns of this new world. Brains and character will win success in secondary and primary industries, as well as professional pursuits. Therefore, any legislation that will develop our people to the full and equip them for the grim struggle of life is something we should aspire to achieve.

We shall later be able to discuss this important Bill in detail. It is up to all hon. members to study the different conditions operating in other parts of the world, and examine the corresponding things in our own country in our own time, in order to deal with this measure constructively, with the object of establishing a system for Queensland that will lead Australia, and, we hope, the world. As soon as this war ends and we are able to concentrate on the work of building a better life, many vital problems will confront us. Those problems will affect finance, production, labour, transport—in fact, our whole economic welfare, our health and social wellbeing. They will be interesting problems. We have evidence of them at the present time, in Queensland's failure to obtain her share of industry. That will be more accentuated after the war.

Then we have our international problems. One nation will want this, and another will want that. We need equality of people throughout the world; all those difficulties can

be solved only by education and the building-up of character.

I believe, too, that every generation is destined to have its own problems. I feel that this world, after this war, will be a better world.

If we in Queensland can pass legislation that will improve the people in this State and give them a broader outlook in life, surely we are contributing something worth while to that better world. I am not among those who fear the war heralds a period of decay. In every country after the last war there was a period of prosperity. People learned as a result of that war, and although this war is wrong in every detail, it will bring about a better standard of education of the people, and after it is over, the people will be looking for a better life, and all classes will be brought closer together, and thus be able to appreciate one another's problems more fully.

With those thoughts in my mind, I am in complete agreement with the purpose of the Bill—the co-ordination of the whole of our educational system. There is something lacking in it to-day. We have partly educated children going on to the secondary schools, and we find that in the secondary school they are doing third-grade arithmetic, whereas when they left the State school they were doing sixth-grade, and at the secondary school they are doing sixth-grade English in comparison with fourth-grade at the State school. All those things have to be co-ordinated, and I think this Bill will tend to bring about a better system—a co-operative system.

In my opinion, we need unswerving leaders for the future life that is ahead of us, not only in our Parliament, but in industry, both primary and secondary, in commerce and in the professions. They must all be highly developed in character and education, these men who will have to lead our State in the days that are ahead.

The Premier stressed the importance of character. I say that character, perhaps, is better than education; but the combination of the two is what we need.

The desirability of educating people's hands was brought up by the hon. member for West Moreton. It is very desirable, but we must not overlook the fact that when we educate hands the brain directs that education. There should be co-ordination of the two: one is no good without the other. I cannot use my hands in industry. I know it is wrong, but I can use my brain, with my hands. I realise my disability, and I shall overcome it with my children. My eldest child can now work a lathe. We wanted the supervisor in my own business to bring in his son to learn to work the lathe, and he said, "No, my son is going to have a university education," whereas I was wanting my son to learn to use his hands before he had a university education. I think those are the things we should bring out. For a man to be a good allrounder he must be able to use his head as well as his hands. I think the hon. member for West Moreton requires a little information to relieve his mind on that subject.

I think it is just about 30 years since the University started, and it has made wonderful progress during that period. Our University has suffered in comparison with the universities in the other States, because of the lack of benefactions. We did not have the wealthy people here to give big bursaries to help the University as they have helped universities in other States. That is because we have a more even spread of wealth in this State. I appeal to all people, particularly those who have had a university education, to contribute more to the development of the University. I make a suggestion that may appeal to the Government—that is, that the State contribute an amount equal to the amount of any such benefaction. In my opinion, a university cannot stand still. It is like a business—it is like a Government—if it stands still it must decay or go out of existence; therefore, being fully aware that this problem must be solved, we must see that sufficient funds are given to finance our University.

There is one matter I should like to bring under the notice of those responsible for the Bill—that is, the question of research in industry. In my opinion, if we are to get the best out of our industries they should be developed to a greater extent. Secondary industries must play an important part in the life that lies ahead. We must get population and bring it to Australia if this country is to develop, and those people will have to be absorbed in secondary industries, because we cannot put them on the land.

I discussed this matter just two days since with a man from England representing a firm investigating the question whether they should manufacture here the poplin used for shirts. It is desirable that that material should be manufactured here, inasmuch as Australian requirements are sufficient to keep a very big mill working. He was of the opinion that after this war British industry will come to Australia. Even now they are sending out people to investigate the position here, and I think that we should endeavour to proceed further in university research in order that when these industries do come to Australia we shall have technical men fitted to take their places in such industries.

There is no better investment than education. Education is an asset of the mind that cannot be taken away even by an enemy. It is something that the possessor has over those who have it not. We all should seek education to the full. This must be especially true of the age that is to come. May I quote from "Canadian Occasions" of the late Lord Tweedsmuir (John Buchan)—

"It is obvious that no nation can be strong unless it can enlist for national purposes the help of its best citizens. You educated young men and women are the cream of the citizenship. It is only if you are willing to give each in different degrees thought and work to the welfare of the nation that your country will achieve that greatness every patriot desires."

With that quotation in our mind, let us all give our concentrated, sincere thought in

debate to passing a Bill that will give, as the Premier said when speaking on this subject, "a truly national system aimed at providing the type of education most needed, and removing as far as possible inequalities of opportunity."

I feel that a truly national system of education should aim at providing the type of education suited to all and not only the brilliant people, as was mentioned by the hon. member for West Moreton. All people are not brilliant; brilliant people do not always make the best citizens. Those who have fought from the bottom usually come through to the top. If that object is accomplished this Bill will be something of which Queensland can be proud, and something that will stand as a lasting monument to this Government.

Mr. BARNES (Bundaberg) (12.9 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to add to the suggestions already put forward by hon. members. A child is in the care of its parents for 19 hours of the day, whereas it is in care of its teacher for only five hours. Its education is going on all the time, and parents should make a note of the inclination of the child during the time it is in their care. I know that when I was two years old I made a picture frame of which the four corners were perfectly square. I remember the incident only because I was never allowed to forget it. When visitors came my father and mother would proudly say, "Look at what Frankie made." At a very early age I nailed a paling on a fence in the perfectly perpendicular position. These things are very important from the point of view of the future education of children. For example, had my parents kept a note of such incidents they would have probably made an engineer out of me instead of a politician. When 19 years of age, although I had no previous experience, I overhauled a motor bicycle and made piston rings for it, thus proving that I was practical.

As another example to support my point, permit me to instance the engineer on the Pinkenba sewerage job. He qualified by examination at the University. He became an engineer probably because Uncle John was an engineer and Uncle Tom was a doctor, and his parents decided that he must be an engineer. They provided him with £200 a year pocket money, and sent him to the University to become an engineer. That boy may have been better fitted for any other work. Perhaps he would have made a better barrister or dentist, and had his parents kept the necessary data during his young life they would have realised it.

All children in their early years show signs of an aptitude for certain callings, and I suggest that it would be of advantage if in this year of 1941 this Parliament of a modern world introduced some law or made a request to the effect that parents should remember and be guided by the signs of aptitude shown by children during their first five years of life. Then, when those children started going to school the teachers could be informed of the bent of each one of them and this could

be encouraged and developed and the children so equipped for the vocation in life that they prefer.

It is a fallacy to make a child a doctor, a dentist, a barrister, or anything else simply because Uncle John or a close friend of the family followed one of those professions. To-day, there are thousands of people filling jobs for which they are not suited, and there are thousands more who will not work. At the moment we will not discuss the reason why they will not work, but we do know that many of those people cannot get work that is suitable for them. We all have our hobbies. We all enjoy those hobbies, and I suggest that it should be possible to make every person's job his hobby and in that way make his life interesting. With proper training, both at home and at school, such a state of affairs can be brought about eventually. As an illustration, take the driver of the sanitary cart. He is doing that work only because circumstances have not allowed him to do anything else.

Mr. Devries: That is an honourable trade.

At 12.14 p.m.,

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

Mr. BARNES: Fancy the hon. member saying it is an honourable trade! In this modern world there should be no such thing as sanitary carts. Had that man's parents kept some record of his inclinations when a child, and had those inclinations been developed under a proper system of education, that man might have been one of the leading artisans of the country to-day. If these records are kept by parents and these talents developed during a child's growth, we should have no waste of energy. Men who otherwise might be driving sanitary carts would be giving yeoman service to the country.

In the same way, if the engineer in charge of the construction of the Pinkenba sewer had not been forced by his parents to become an engineer, simply because Uncle John or someone else was an engineer, that work might not have broken down as it did. We know that many people who can neither read nor write are better at the practical side of various professions than are some of the educated persons who hold diplomas for that work. Had the engineer on the construction of the Pinkenba sewer not been forced to become an engineer that work would not have been messed up and the country might have been saved a good deal of money.

I should like to give the child every facility for education from the kindergarten through to the university. For instance, I should like to provide all children with motion-picture education in schools. We cannot do that now because of lack of money.

Mr. Turner: They have them in State schools now.

Mr. BARNES: Only to a limited extent. I suggest that if we had the money to install

100 times more motion-picture equipment in schools our education would be improved considerably.

Another improvement would be the appointment of more teachers who have specialised in certain subjects. To-day, we find teachers instructing classes of 50 and 60 children. If we had more teachers we could divide those classes into two and give both the children and the teachers a better opportunity of achieving results.

It is obvious to all hon. members that if such classes were divided the educational facilities offering to the pupils would be greater. The children would have a better chance of learning. We know that there are certain children who had no real chance at school, but if we could find the means of getting more money to finance our school system we might be able to set up special classes for the backward children. Because children were backward in their school days, it does not follow that they will be backward citizens in after life. I know my own experience at school, because on one side of me there was a man who afterwards became a barrister, and on the other side one who became a solicitor. On the other hand, some really brilliant students at my school are now working on the roads for the simple reason that when they left school they went into some minor profession selected by their fathers or mothers, as their financial circumstances permitted, and never had the chance of doing what they were cut out for.

Mr. Devries: The navy is as good as the barrister.

Mr. BARNES: No man is better than another man, unless that other makes himself worse. Everybody is born equal, but, unfortunately, through circumstances, some get a better chance than others. The time is fast approaching when such circumstances will have ceased to exist.

I was saying that in my class at school brilliant pupils went to work on the roads. I have in mind one who, if he had been allowed to follow the walk of life he was cut out for, would have been a leading citizen in this State to-day. When a man becomes a labourer, it usually follows that he is not successful. If one cared to look through the slums to-day, one would find burglars and notorious criminals, although many of them were in good circumstances. What has happened to them? In most cases their parents forced them to follow a calling in life in which they had no interest, and the only avenue open to them was roguery.

We have to consider the ways and means of getting money to finance all these things. There is only one way—

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member must not depart from the principles of the Bill.

Mr. BARNES: I beg to differ with you, Mr. Brassington. I am not getting away from the principles of the Bill. If I can prove that all these things should happen, I

am entitled to prove how it is possible to make them happen.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! The hon. member will not be allowed to open up a discussion on that point.

Mr. BARNES: You anticipate what I am going to say, Mr. Brassington. Wait until I say it, and then if I am out of order, you have the right to call me to order.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I am warning the hon. member.

Mr. BARNES: There is no need to be warned in this Committee. Why threaten in this Assembly? I represent as many people as anyone. As a matter of fact, I think the Bill provides for finance up to £40,000, and if that is so I am entitled to get away from orthodox finance if I so desire.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I rule that the hon. member is not.

Mr. BARNES: You definitely rule that I am not entitled to discuss the financing of the proposal? I have every right to talk about finance.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Order! I remind the hon. member that he has every right to talk about the question of £40,000 which is to come from consolidated revenue.

Mr. BARNES: A previous speaker said that there was no doubt that there was something lacking. We all admit that. When I come to point out what is lacking and endeavour to show this Committee a way out of the difficulty I am told that there is one hour in one year in which to debate finance. What a ridiculous statement to make! Just fancy, an hour in one year. It is a fine state of affairs when the most important thing in this world is finance. All our troubles revert to finance, and yet I am allowed one hour in a year to debate it!

Mr. LUCKINS (Maree) (11.24 a.m.): This is a very important subject and it is pleasing to know that the debate on it synchronises with the construction of the new University at St. Lucia.

Many problems affect both parent and child to-day. The Premier, in outlining the principles of this Bill, did not tell us what it would cost a parent to educate his child from the kindergarten to the University standard. Those facilities are availed of to-day only by those parents who have the wherewithal to meet the cost. My one desire, and the desire of many others, is to see that children of parents unable to pay the cost of higher education can continue their studies by winning scholarships. It is important that our educational facilities should be availed of by children of our poorer classes, in order that they may attain to something greater, perhaps, than their parents.

I am very proud of the fact that all my education was obtained in Queensland and in our State schools. It may be said by some that I did not avail myself as much as I should have done of the opportunities that presented themselves to me, but that is my

misfortune. Unfortunately, I am one of those men who had to get out early in life to keep the home fires burning. I was a victim of the lack of facilities existing in those days.

I have spoken in this Chamber on the influences at work to-day in keeping the opportunities offering to our children from them and for doing so I had to suffer in no small way abuse from hon. members opposite. That caused me to think that the influences at work to-day are mainly political. If we have a Parliament dominated by political parties, no matter of what colour, then that fact must have an important influence on the outlook of our younger generation. I should like to see some provision in this Bill whereby a child gifted with brains could, if the parents were not in a position to enable him to do so, pass with State assistance, from the kindergarten through the various stages of our education system to the University. Some of the most brilliant men and women in the world rose from the humbler classes. We see that illustrated in every walk of life. Those who have had to fight their way through life, and have come out on top, make the best citizens, no matter what education they may have received. We know from experience, too, that those people make the better citizens.

There is the human side of education to be considered. Queensland is a very young State compared with other parts of the world. We desire that the education the State offers should be at the service of the child without extraordinary cost. It cannot be gainsaid that if I desire to educate a son in the faculty of medicine at the University it would cost me from £500 to £600 a year.

At 12.29 p.m.,

The CHAIRMAN resumed the chair.

Mr. LUCKINS: There is something wrong with our educational system when it does not provide for the education of our brilliant young pupils in our State primary and secondary schools. The population of this State, as mentioned by the hon. member for West Moreton, is about 1,000,000, and the cost of our educational system is about £2,000,000. Although that is a considerable amount of money, I do not begrudge its expenditure on education, but we might well ask what becomes of the scholars who pass from our State schools to our University?

The Secretary for Mines: They hold leading positions in Queensland and other parts of the world.

Mr. LUCKINS: Not in Queensland.

The Secretary for Mines: Yes.

Mr. LUCKINS: Very few of them are in Queensland. We come to the point, then, that we are educating our people for the benefit of communities outside Queensland. I do not deny any man the right to go to the place that is most attractive to him, but I maintain the facilities should be offered to men in Queensland. I am going to castigate the Treasurer for bringing outsiders into our Bureau of Industry when we have

Queenslanders with the same qualifications for those jobs.

Mr. Power interjected.

Mr. LUCKINS: The hon. member talks about the Brisbane City Council. Two Queenslanders have been appointed to two of the highest offices in the City Council—Mr. Price and Mr. Slaughter.

The Premier: They are not provided for in this Bill.

Mr. LUCKINS: There is the point. The Premier may be quite right. In the Bureau of Industry you have one or two men introduced from other parts of Australia.

The Premier: You can deal with that on the Estimates; it is not provided for in this Bill.

Mr. LUCKINS: I was dealing with the question of giving our own people an opportunity to serve in their own State. I think the highest tribute we can pay to our State school education is to fill our jobs with men and women educated according to our own ideals and standards. I may be parochial, but I am very pleased indeed to know that opportunity will be offered now; nevertheless, it is a bit belated.

The Premier: It is not belated.

Mr. LUCKINS: It is. The Government are a long way behind the other States in the British Commonwealth of Nations so far as university faculties are concerned.

The Premier: You cannot blame us for that.

Mr. LUCKINS: You have been in power for 25 years.

The Premier: We have an additional six faculties.

Mr. LUCKINS: We know that there has been no public support by outside people, with the exception of one or two, whereas in other parts of the Empire there have been men and women who have been willing to put their hands in their pockets in the cause of university education.

I am sure the Premier will agree with me that wars have played havoc with our educational system. In 1914-18 we had the spectacle of brilliant young teachers going overseas, many of whom, unfortunately, were lost to the State. To-day many of our teachers have volunteered, others have been called up in the militia, and our children have not the same service that they had prior to the outbreak of this unfortunate war. I know that at the Kangaroo Point State School one or two teachers have several classes. It is unfortunate that such a set of circumstances prevails. I am not blaming the Government. I realise the difficulty of replacing teachers. We cannot altogether overcome the conditions that bring this about.

However, I shall give the Bill my support because I know it is a big step on the road to developing the minds and the qualities of our children so that they will be able to take their place in the many walks of life open

to them, and in years to come thank the State for fostering their intellect and giving them a start in life.

Mr. DECKER (Sandgate) (12.34 p.m.): After hearing the remarks of the Premier, we expect a very advanced move in the educational system of this State. According to the hon. gentleman, a very important stage in our educational system is being developed by this Bill. We have a wonderful educational system, particularly in primary education. We find that from the earliest Parliaments educational matters have always been to the fore and succeeding Governments have introduced legislation to develop the educational facilities of the State; and now we have arrived at a stage at which our system has reached a very high peak indeed.

We all owe a great deal of gratitude to our State school teachers. There is no doubt that their position has been improved year by year until to-day we have teachers of a very high standard who are carrying out the great work of educating our children.

I say without hesitation that any child who reaches the seventh standard of a State school in Queensland and who has natural ability and force can make his way in life successfully. I agree with the Premier that parents like to give their children a better education than they had themselves. They give their children the best education within the limits of their resources, sometimes aided by the State, so that they will have a better start in life than they had.

The scholarship standard as set by the Department of Public Instruction is a fair standard for admission to our secondary educational system, and if a child does not possess the ability to reach that standard it is scarcely worth while, from the point of view of the State, encouraging it to proceed to a secondary education. If a child does not show the progress or adaptability necessary for secondary education the matter then rests with the parents. If they think their child worthy of the opportunity of attending a secondary school and can afford to pay the fees they should allow it to do so; but if the child has not shown the necessary promise, its having reached the seventh grade in the State school has more or less fitted it to make its way in the world.

The Premier was not very clear as to how this Bill will operate as between secondary education and the University.

The Premier: Details of a Bill are not given at this stage. That comes later.

Mr. DECKER: In that regard I have an idea and I do not think I shall be disappointed; financial aid from the State will be given to the brilliant student to take the step from the secondary educational standard to the University standard. If that is so the opportunity will be given to every student of promise irrespective of the financial position of his or her parents. If that is the object of the Bill, we will support it heartily. The brilliant child should be nursed by the State. He should have the opportunity of reaching the highest possible

standard of education, if he is deserving of that opportunity, in order that he may be an asset to the State. But I agree that whereas we give the highest possible form of education to the children of the State it does not always follow that each and every one taking advantage of such opportunity will be an asset to the State. Every person attaining the highest educational qualifications will not turn out to be just what was expected. There are those who cannot apply the knowledge they gain by education.

The Premier: Such a man is not properly educated.

Mr. DECKER: There must be application and initiative.

The Premier: Some are educated beyond their intellectual capacity.

Mr. DECKER: If he has not the intellectual capacity to make a success of himself after the State has provided him with the opportunity the State cannot help him; but at least we can do our best as members of Parliament to give to the poorest in the community the opportunity to get the highest form of education. I think that is the underlying feature of the Bill, and if that is so, I support it.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (12.42 p.m.): First of all, I want to say that I appreciate the manner in which this debate has been conducted. It is quite evident that members of Parliament generally are considering this Bill from the point of view of the best interests of the State, and that is an excellent thing.

The University of Queensland has done very valuable work. Only three faculties were established in the first instance, but they were well established, and the men who graduated from them can be found holding high and responsible positions in various parts of the world. Take, as examples, the faculties of engineering and science. In chemistry Professor Steele did tremendously valuable work in the University, and the men who were trained under him and his successors have had no difficulty whatever in receiving suitable appointments not only in Australia, but elsewhere.

Professor Steele was a great research scholar also. During the last war he did extremely valuable work, not only for the Commonwealth, but for the British Government also. It must be remembered, too, that he was the chairman of the Royal Commission on Prickly-pear, whose recommendations enabled us to control that pest. The value of work of that nature cannot be assessed in terms of any figures that I might put before the Committee.

Then take the Queensland engineers who have been trained under Professor Hawken. The Diploma in Engineering that is given under our apprenticeship scheme is recognised as being of tremendous value in any part of Australia. The training that is given in technical colleges is equal to two years' study in the Faculty of Engineering at the University. If students are unable to go to the

University from the colleges they may get their Diploma in Engineering, and later, when finance permits and the opportunity offers, they can go for their degree as Bachelor of Engineering, and so on.

In the gradual unfolding and development of a State we must improve each year. A complete University cannot be established in one year. It must be an everlasting growth. If it does not continue to grow it is not doing its job. The University is never finished. It should be so based as to be able to adapt itself to all new needs of the people.

I could go on talking about the wonderful men, such as the late Professor Bagster and Dr. Jones, whom we have had at our University. In Queensland we have been singularly fortunate in the men who have had charge of our various faculties and departments. The men and women who have graduated from there have proved the equal of any others I know. After all, it is the man or the woman that counts. If a man has ability, if he is given training in the basic essentials of education, he will get along quite well. He finds ways and means of looking after himself.

Why is it that there are well over 1,100 external students at the University now? That fact is proof that the men and women who have the determination and the will to succeed are able to equip themselves for life with the aid of the facilities that are offered. It is an excellent thing that we should have such facilities available.

In 1935 the University published a jubilee brochure, and hon. members would be well advised to read it, for in it they will find a complete account of the most important work that the University has done.

I desire to emphasise, however, that the proposed measure is not purely and simply a University Bill. It is not designed for those who go to the University. It is a machinery Bill to control education from the primary stages to the University. It will make the best educational services in various grades available to our people. If a boy leaves school at 14, 15, or 16 years of age he will get the best equipment that can be given up to that stage. If he goes on to the secondary education, then he will be given the best equipment that can be made available there, and so on. It has all to be co-ordinated.

You cannot educate people by Bills in Parliament. You merely provide the machinery; the machinery is here, and we are endeavouring to put it together. We have now reached the first stage, and from to-day we go through the other stages. The success of the measure will depend on the intelligent and faithful administration and co-operation of the school teachers in the various grades and the various faculties at the University, as well as the officers in the Department of Public Instruction.

I think that the Bill is one that Parliament should pass in the interests of the principles I have enunciated.

Motion (Mr. Forgan Smith) agreed to.

Resolution reported.

FIRST READING.

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr. Forgan Smith, read a first time.

SCARTWATER STATION TRUST EXTENSION BILL.

SECOND READING.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS
(Hon. E. J. Walsh, Mirani) (12.51 p.m.):
I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

In moving the second reading of this Bill, I should like to add a few remarks to those I made yesterday. I said that the Bill is designed to extend the provisions of a trust created by an indenture entered into by the late Mr. Coyne, who was Secretary for Public Lands in 1920, and certain trustees who have managed Scartwater Station in the interests of soldiers who enlisted in the last war. We are now extending that trust, which was set out to be for the benefit of—

“Returned soldiers who enlisted during the Great War from or were residents of the area comprised within the boundaries of the State electoral districts (as then constituted) of Bowen, Townsville, Mundingburra, Charters Towers, Queenton, Kennedy, Flinders, and Herbert, so much of the electoral district of Gregory as is comprised in its divisions of Hughenden and Muttaborra, and so much of the electoral district of Leichhardt as is to the north of the southern boundaries of Doongmabulla, Labona, Moray Downs, Durdham, Frankfield, Kutchi, Barcombe, Kileummin, Logan Downs, and Logan Downs East stations; and

“Wounded or disabled soldiers who enlisted during the Great War from or were residents of the area aforesaid; and

“The widows, children, and other dependants of all such soldiers as aforesaid.”

The Bill is designed to extend that trust to those who have enlisted or enlist in the present war.

The areas that will benefit will be the same as those covered by the original trust in 1920 irrespective of any alteration that might have been brought about in electorates as a result of the redistribution of electorates.

Mr. Nimmo: Who was the man responsible for the property in the first place

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: As I said yesterday, it was a pastoral holding that was already in the hands of the Crown, and it was proposed to cut it up into grazing properties. The proposal was made to the then Government, through a certain gentleman interested.

Mr. Nimmo: Who was responsible?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I am endeavouring to explain to the hon. gentleman if he would be good enough to be

patient and listen. I have already told the House that the late Mr. Harry Coyne, the then Secretary for Public Lands, agreed to a proposal placed before him to enable this property to be vested in certain trustees, to be managed for the benefit of those who enlisted in the last war. That is how the trust started. Naturally, as the years have passed the number of those benefiting from the trust has dwindled and this Bill will enable the trust to extend the benefits to those who have enlisted in the present war.

The Bill is a result of a request made to the Premier by Mr. A. W. H. Cunningham, one of the original trustees, who is living. After examining the proposal the Government thought it was desirable to extend the trust and allow the present trustees to continue to manage Scartwater Station and allow the proceeds to benefit not only those who enlisted in the last war, but also those engaged in the present war. The trust has been very faithfully managed over the years by those associated with it. The trustees have had considerable support from the North Queensland branch of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, which body is in agreement with the proposal to extend the trust as provided in this Bill.

A considerable amount of money has been handed over to the Returned Soldiers and Sailors and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia in North Queensland—something like £9,000, which has in turn been distributed by the league in the Townsville district as desired.

The trust further provides for an annual scholarship to be known as "The Scartwater Scholarship," and also an annual scholarship to be known as "The Cunningham Scholarship." There is also provision to make a Scartwater grant. That is not limited. The trustees can make such grant as they deem fit, as distinct from the scholarships. That is to say, they can make a grant of £10 or £20 to any child of any returned soldier who may not have been sufficiently well advanced to win a scholarship. A considerable amount of money has been distributed in that manner.

Mr. Nimmo: That is over and above the £9,000?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The £9,000 I mentioned is a direct contribution to the Returned Soldiers' League.

Mr. Nimmo: It is a wonderful thing.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: That the trust has been faithfully managed over the intervening years is evidenced by the profits made from working the property. I mentioned, when introducing the Bill yesterday, that over the last 20 years the number of stock on the station increased from 1,500 to over 11,000.

Mr. Nimmo: What a difference to the State stations, eh!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The hon. gentleman cannot keep away from

Pinkenba, even on a Bill of this nature. (Laughter.)

In any case, the Government intend to do the desirable thing, and I do not wish to make any political capital out of this Bill even though the hon. member for Oxley may desire to do so.

The figures I quoted show that the departmental officers appraise a correct value of these properties, for although the carrying capacity of the station was originally set down as 6,000-odd cattle, it is now carrying over 11,000, and has been carrying over 9,000 since 1934.

Mr. Nimmo: The trust may have improved the property.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: If they have it is all to their credit. All that we are concerned about at the moment is to do the right thing by the trustees. They are the people concerned in the management of the property. The Government have never interfered in the management. This Bill simply extends the benefits of the original trust to those who have enlisted in this war and their dependants.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: The trustees also invested £10,000 in war loans, and have a fixed deposit of £5,000 and a credit balance of £83. Hon. members will agree the trust has been used to good purpose.

For the information of hon. members I will point out what the scholarships provide for. The Scartwater scholarship is awarded on the result of the Queensland junior university examination and is intended to assist financially a boy of outstanding ability while he is studying for the senior university examination. This scholarship will be to the value of £26 per annum to a boy who can live at home and attend the secondary school, and £52 per annum to the boy who must live away from home to attend the secondary school.

The Cunningham scholarship is awarded on the results of the Queensland University senior examination to enable a boy to study at the Queensland University. It is worth £100 per annum. The trustees may award one Scartwater scholarship and one Cunningham scholarship. Then there is the Scartwater Trustees' Grant of a sum of money not to exceed £10 in any case to provide financial assistance in special cases to sons or daughters with the qualifications as in Part II. of the trust deed who are studying or who have undertaken specialised study at or apart from a secondary school to fit themselves for a particular profession.

In that way hon. members can see the trustees have contributed a good deal to the sons and daughters of the returned soldiers from the last war, and that good work will be carried on when the Bill is passed.

As a result of the good management of the property the stock has increased very considerably over a number of years. The latest returns show 11,190 head of cattle and 129 head of horses. Seeing the carrying capacity

is put down at only 6,726, the property is apparently well developed or the departmental officers have taken a very reasonable view in assessing its carrying capacity.

I mentioned also the profits that had been made. I notice that the net profit for 1940 is set down £6,125, which is a remarkably good return considering the number of stock on the property. Again, Mr. Speaker, that shows that every attention has been given to the property.

Mr. Massey: Is that allowing for taxation?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: No, owing to the nature of the undertaking the Government would not expect them to pay taxation.

Mr. Massey: Do they pay a Federal tax?

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS: I cannot answer for the Federal people. The State has not in any way assessed income tax on the property, owing to the nature of the undertaking. The reasonable thing is to relieve the trustees of that responsibility.

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (2.20 p.m.): When we consider the very worthy object of the trust, the gentlemen responsible for its establishment deserve every commendation. The purposes of the trust also deserve every commendation. As the Minister has stated, the gentlemen responsible for creating the trust have also taken a keen interest in its working since, and the results achieved show that the property has had careful management and that the objects for which the trust was established have benefited considerably. I know that the Northern branch of the Returned Soldiers' League appreciate the operations of this trust and the help they get from it. Reading the report of the last State conference of the Returned Soldiers' League, I noticed very favourable comment on the aid the returned soldiers in Northern Queensland get from the operations of this trust. Although the last war occurred 25 years ago and that perhaps the trust may not be called upon in these days to give the same measure of assistance to the soldiers who enlisted and fought in that war, it also provides for their dependants. Notwithstanding this, I suppose the calls on the trust will be less as the years pass by. But we are now engaged in another war and this Bill extends the operations of this trust to soldiers who fight in the present war and their dependants and it will be many years before there will be no need to call for assistance from the trust.

The example set by the gentlemen responsible for the creation of the trust is one that might well be followed by others. Undoubtedly, it has been of great benefit to the men of that district who served their country and I hope as a result of the passage of this measure the trust will continue to give the same excellent service as it has given in the past.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (2.23 p.m.): I should not like a measure of this kind to go through the House without having a few words to say in appreciation of the patriotic

and very public-spirited gentlemen who created this trust and who during the period of the last war and again during the period of the present war have banded together to operate a large pastoral holding for the purpose of earning profit to help returned soldiers and their families. That is practical patriotism and frequently, as you know, Mr. Speaker, in our political discussions we do not stop long enough to ponder on the work, effort, and time that must be given by men such as Messrs. Cunningham, Pott, Wilson, and Toms named in the Bill as managing trustees of the Scartwater Trust. It is only right that Parliament should record an appreciation of the work of these men, who with their own properties to manage find the time to manage a property such as this, on which, as was stated by the Minister this morning, 11,000 head of cattle run. To look after that number of cattle and to earn the profits mentioned is not a light task by any means. It demands much care and attention by those entrusted with the responsibility of managing the trust. It is a generous-spirited action on the part of these men, as I am sure every hon. member will agree. I am glad to have the opportunity to pay my tribute to them.

I hope that they may be long spared to continue this excellent work of rendering service to those who have enlisted and those of their families who may be in want during their absence.

Mr. JESSON (Kennedy) (2.25 p.m.): I feel that I should be lacking in my duty as the representative of the Kennedy electorate if I did not voice the appreciation of the many returned soldiers in that electorate of the help that the Scartwater Trust has been to them over a long period of years.

Hon. members do not realise just what this trust has done for our returned soldiers. Its scope is wide, and I have personal knowledge of cases in which returned soldiers with its aid have been able to go as far South as Melbourne to seek the treatment of specialists for complaints that have developed often as a result of their service overseas during the last war. What has been done for those men and their dependants by the trust is deserving of the highest praise. I know, too, of a number of returned soldiers who have been settled successfully on the land, who have been helped to buy cattle and to put homes on selections by this trust, and I feel certain that I am voicing the opinion of every member of the community when I say that Mr. Cunningham, one of the original trustees, and the branches of the Returned Soldiers' League in Townsville and other districts in which the trust operates are to be highly congratulated upon what has been done.

I am glad to notice that Mr. Cunningham and the other members of the trust had the foresight to ask this Government to amend the trust deed in order that they might help those of our soldiers who may be returning from the present war. Already a number of men who enlisted from the North have

returned. It is well known that on a population basis the northern districts of Queensland have the highest percentage of enlistments in the State. That being so, it is obvious that a greater number of men will be returning to the northern districts than to other parts of the State. I congratulate the trustees, those branches of the Returned Soldiers' League that make recommendations to them and the Government for what has been done in this great work.

Motion (Mr. Walsh) agreed to.

COMMITTEE.

(Mr. Gair, South Brisbane, in the chair.)

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3—Extension of objects of the Trust—

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS (Hon. E. J. Walsh, Mirani) (2.30 p.m.): I might point out that this clause includes a definition of "soldier." The term means a person who is or was a member of any of the naval, military, or air forces of the Commonwealth. That is a wide definition, and will be useful to the trust in deciding the persons to whom assistance will be given. I personally raised the question whether a nurse engaged in the war might be able to derive some benefit from the trust.

I might mention also for the information of hon. members that the selection of new trustees is provided for in the indenture; they are chosen by the remaining trustees.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 6, both inclusive, and preamble, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

BUFFALO FLY CONTROL BILL.

SECOND READING.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK (Hon. F. W. Bulcock, Barcoo) (2.34 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

In the debate of this Bill yesterday, one or two points of more than passing importance were raised by hon. members of the Opposition, but the most important or significant statement I think was that made by the hon. member for West Moreton. He contended that there was no reason to believe that the buffalo fly had not reached the limit of the area it was capable of inhabiting. I am inclined to think that he made the same statement when we were debating the Buffalo Fly Control Bill last year.

The point that is vital to the statement made is that since the hon. member made his statement during the last session of the last Parliament, the buffalo fly has invaded new territory. To-day it is within a stone's throw of Mungana. That being so, the argument advanced by the hon. member for West

Moreton is abundantly disproven by the facts of the case. It is true that all scientific opinion and all opinion based on a knowledge of the case and on investigation into the habits of the buffalo fly point to the conclusion that so long as you have the conditions necessary for the multiplication of the fly it will persist to multiply. The conditions that are favourable to multiplication are as stated by the ex-leader of the Opposition—namely, a humid atmosphere and abundant rainfall. I go so far as to say that there are three conditions that make for the multiplication of the buffalo fly in any habitat—a moist climate, a high rainfall, cattle and the excreta of cattle.

Given those three major things, you have everything necessary for the multiplication of the fly. However, it has been reasonably quiescent in past years because it did not have those favourable conditions. It has been held in subjection, or held in abeyance, simply because that combination of circumstances did not arise, but the closer it gets to the coast the closer it gets to that desirable combination of circumstances.

Mr. Macdonald: Are those the limiting factors?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The limiting factors ought to be well known to the hon. member. The limiting factors that existed in the Northern Territory where the buffalo fly was originally discovered permitted its multiplication under adverse conditions in comparison with those it needs for maximum multiplication. Now it is moving towards the coast, where the conditions are infinitely more satisfactory for multiplication. Hon. members know, or they should know, that the buffalo fly multiplies by propagation in the excrement of cattle. If there are only one or two or three beasts to the square mile the multiplication factor is limited both because of the want of enough hosts and because of the lack of food for the sustenance of the fly. However, a territory that carries one, two, or three beasts to the acre connotes a much more abundant rainfall, which also connotes a much more extensive multiplication of the buffalo fly, because there are more animals to serve as their hosts. Under those circumstances it would be futile to argue that we should adopt the policy that the ex-leader of the Opposition hinted should be adopted—that is, one of laissez faire, leave things alone. In my opinion that would be fatal, and if I were to do that I should be doing a great disservice to the dairying industry of the State.

It is true that no man can say what are the confines of the buffalo fly. We can only observe the conditions that are favourable for its multiplication and mark Australia into territories where those conditions prevail, but there is really no limit to its multiplication except, perhaps, in the dead heart of the continent.

The buffalo fly can become a national scourge of major consequence. Has it ever occurred to any hon. member that we have never felt the full force of its possibilities?

I hope we never shall. Up to the present it has been held by our system of control, which I frankly admit was initiated by my predecessor in office, the hon. member for Cooroora. Now it is making a tremendous bid, under favourable weather conditions, to penetrate to a much more favourable environment. It had in its older environment a limiting factor and another limiting factor in the number of its hosts, but almost immediately it comes in contact with the living host that it requires it will multiply alarmingly. Because of these circumstances we have heard stories of losses, and we have heard grave stories of buffalo-fly worries. I know that stockowners estimate that their cattle have lost 20 and 40 lb. because of the buffalo fly.

We have to remember, too, that the Gulf cattle are less sensitive and therefore less susceptible to the gentle ministration of this marauder than dairy cattle. When the buffalo fly comes to the coast, where we have a highly sensitised dairy animal, we shall see the fly in all its malignancy.

The dairy beast's skin, of course, is much thinner than the skin of the average Gulf breed. When it does come to the coast, if it does, the perpetual worry that will be associated with the stock and fly in conjunction will have a very grave effect on the dairy beast. If that were the only thing that would happen it would not be so serious, but the consequences might be much greater than that. I should not be willing to accept the opinion of an hon. member who will say that the buffalo fly has reached its limits. Rather would I accept the very grave warnings of competent individuals in Australia and elsewhere who from time to time have uttered grave warnings of the possibilities of this pest.

Let me first refer to my own officers. During the past recess I sent two or three of my officers to the Gulf country to make a survey of the incidence of the fly. Like many other hon. members who have some sense of their responsibility, I was, and am still, seriously alarmed at the spread of the fly. One of those officers was Dr. Roberts, a gentleman of international reputation who is regarded as one of the pre-eminent entomologists and veterinary pathologists in Australia, and a man who has made a material contribution to world literature in specified lines. He spent some time in the North. Some sections of his report were quoted here recently. I think his report was of sufficient importance to be published in the "Agricultural Journal." If any hon. member can read that report without a sense of apprehension then no treatise of a similar character would raise any apprehension in any reasonably-minded hon. member. It is a report fraught with the gravest consequences if its warning is not heeded.

Then let us turn to the professor in veterinary science at the University, Professor Seddon. At my request he has completed a report on the fly. It has been one of his most important worries during the last 12 months. He is quite adamant in the opinion that any action that can be taken should be taken and must be taken in view of the menace that is

represented by the intrusion of this very small but very destructive little insect.

Let us turn now to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It may be claimed that I have been quoting the opinions of my own officers. Let me then discharge that burden from my conscience, if it is a burden, and let us see what the Commonwealth officers had to say about it. Sir David Rivett, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Council, frankly confessed to me last year that all their attempts at biological control had failed, but the general consensus of opinion among the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research workers—and we will concede that they are the most highly trained body of men engaged in scientific research of this kind in Australia—is that some very effective action should be taken to prevent the spread of the buffalo fly.

One would be blind indeed to one's duties and derelict to one's responsibilities if one did not heed this warning. I heard one hon. member yesterday discuss the buffalo fly without any knowledge whatever of it. I heard another hon. member suggest that he was going to put plants on a station to control it. I believe that there are probably only two men in this House who would know a buffalo fly if they saw it, although I am open to correction on that point. I believe that the ex-Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, the hon. member for Cooroora, who made a trip to the Gulf country and came back and reported to his Government that there was an absolute need for immediate action, and I, are perhaps the only two hon. members who have seen the buffalo fly.

Mr. Jones: I have seen it.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I beg the hon. member's pardon. Only those who have seen it have an opportunity of assessing the damage the buffalo fly can do.

Mr. Maher: The hon. member for Cook has seen it. It is in his electorate.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member said it was not; he said the fly was not making east. When I informed this House that it had been necessary to put in two additional plants, making three clearance spray plants, the hon. member interjected and said, "A waste of time; a waste of money."

Mr. Maher: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member confirms his interjection. In effect he says that these spray plants are a waste of time or a waste of money. I cannot understand the mentality of a man who makes a comment of that nature. I am not willing to accept the unguided opinion of the hon. member as against the ascertained, tested, and scientific opinion of men who have dedicated their lives to these problems.

Mr. Maher: If there is not any justification.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: If the hon. member says that we should not be doing this thing, then we should not be doing it in countless other directions.

Mr. Maher: You would have to clip his wings.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member chooses to be facetious, but it seems to me I am compelled to accept the opinion of those men who are competent to express an opinion about these things. I am afraid I cannot put the case in that class.

Mr. Clayton: Why not clean up the tick before you deal with the buffalo fly?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member talks about cleaning up the tick. That is another question. Much effort has been spent in the cleaning up of the tick both here and in New South Wales, and the hon. member knows that. There would probably be very little tick problem in this State if the people had faced up to this problem when the tick first appeared in Northern Queensland. It has actually been said that we allowed the tick to develop in the way it has before we sat up and took notice of the possibilities of this marauder.

Mr. Muller: You cannot stop the spread of the tick.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I am afraid the hon. member has a very poor knowledge of the spread of the tick if he makes that statement. There is a fairly large body of uninformed opinion that apparently thinks the tick has reached the limit of its habitable area in Queensland and New South Wales.

Mr. Muller: That is pretty right, too.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I do not hold that view at all. I have occasionally to deal with isolated outbreaks of tick. There is an isolated outbreak at the present time and we have been to all sorts of pains during several months past to stamp out that outbreak. I remember an outbreak of tick in an area some years ago, and people like the hon. member said that the tick would not survive there. The tick is surviving there—

Mr. Sparkes: For a few months.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I am glad the hon. member says that because it took three years to eliminate the tick from that area. If the tick can survive for three years he can survive for 30 years or 300 years, as the case may be. Control measures in relation to the tick have preserved a vast area of our State from the spread of the tick.

There is no doubt that some hon. members opposite take certain small areas where there appears to be some physical or pathological prohibition against the tick and endeavour to apply that to the whole of the State. If the tick had reached the limit of its possibilities, then all tick control would

be futile, but there is not an authority in the world that knows anything about the tick who will admit the truth of the argument that the tick has reached the limit.

Mr. Sparkes: How much did New South Wales spend to keep the tick out of that State?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I am unable to say. I am not in any way responsible.

Mr. Sparkes: You know that it was a large sum.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I know that the New South Wales-Commonwealth Tick Board claims to have cleared up a fairly large area that was tick-infested. I hope it has. There is some agreement in operation that provides when it has cleaned up the tick in New South Wales the organisation moves to Queensland and clears up the tick here. I am not very optimistic about that. However, this argument does not concern the tick but the buffalo fly.

Mr. Nicklin: Do you think the buffalo fly could live in the southern part of the State?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I will quote several examples to show that it can, but I might answer the question at once with a most emphatic "Yes." I refer the hon. gentleman to the Natal coast in South Africa. The buffalo fly thrives there in a climate not materially different from that of our eastern seaboard and with a rainfall of 30 inches. Another proof is that the Western Australian Department of Agriculture bred out several generations of buffalo fly under natural conditions at Perth.

Mr. Maher: Laboratory conditions.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Not under laboratory conditions. I said that they were bred out under natural conditions. If the hon. member suggests they were bred under artificial heat and all that sort of thing I will entirely disabuse his mind of that. They were bred out under natural conditions in Perth. The Department there bred out six generations and then became apprehensive of the possibilities of the liberation and spread and extinguished it.

The buffalo fly has been located in Central China. It is the same species of buffalo fly, *Lyperosia exigua*, that is here. Surely to goodness, Central China, with its cold winter and Western Australia, with the climatic variations somewhat similar to those here, represent a very wide range of climate. The work that has been done in Mexico, Texas, and some of the other Southern States of the United States indicates that it is not a question of acclimatisation but a question of limitation. If the fly happens to find it is in an area that is not favourable to it, sooner or later it will go, probably to an area that is favourable to it, and then multiplication takes place at an incredible rate.

The point has been made from time to time and will be probably made in this debate that the work the Bill contemplates should be a charge on the Crown.

Mr. Macdonald: Hear, hear!

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Of course, hon. members opposite say, "Hear, hear!" I cannot understand an attitude that suggests that one should not face up to all responsibilities. Why should this be a charge on the Crown?

Mr. Macdonald: Because it is a national matter.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member says it is a national matter. Let us multiply his assertion and say it is a national matter.

Mr. Macdonald: Have you approached the Commonwealth?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: As members of the Australian Agricultural Council, we have carried resolutions until we are black in the face. We have approached the Commonwealth Government from time to time and pointed out their responsibility in this matter, but so far nothing has been done.

Mr. Muller: Perhaps they are acting on the advice of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and do not think it is worth while.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Can the hon. member produce any evidence that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has ever expressed that opinion?

Mr. Muller: No.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Then why does the hon. member make that statement? Let me tell him that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research looks upon this as an extremely grave problem for Australia.

Mr. Muller: It is remarkable that the Commonwealth Government are not willing to act on that opinion.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Is it? In my opinion it would be remarkable if the ex-Commonwealth Government were ever willing to make any contribution of any character to any problem in Queensland, and the hon. member knows that. So far as contributions to research in Queensland are concerned, the Commonwealth Government—which, no doubt, the hon. member helped to create—have given this State the most niggardly treatment and most meagre help. Queensland has made material contributions to such work, but she has had to do these things at her own expense.

Mr. Barnes: I have changed the Federal Government for you. You should be able to get it now.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I am pleased if the hon. member did succeed in doing that.

It is not only my complaint but that of the graziers, the people who are associated with research work, and agriculturists in general, that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has pursued a policy of centralisation. The hon. member for Fassifern was associated with some plant investigation, I understand, and some proposal for the establishment of a laboratory and research organisation in Queensland for pasture improvement. The Commonwealth Government turned that proposal down.

Mr. Massey: That is all dealing with the past.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Can the hon. member tell me of any undertaking of an agricultural character of any importance with which the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is associated in Queensland? He cannot, because, beyond a few small grass plots at Gatton, which are ill-planned, no Council for Scientific and Industrial Research work is being undertaken in agriculture in this State.

Mr. Edwards: Why do you want to make a party political question of this?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Let me point out to the hon. member that these things far transcend party politics.

Mr. Edwards: I agree with you.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I know of half-a-dozen problems of outstanding national importance in Queensland with which the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, a national organisation, should be associated. No matter on which side of the House I may be sitting, I will say that. Of course, the blame does not lie at the door of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; it lies with the Government who find the finance for this work. I do not want to create any false impression; Sir David Rivett, who, in my opinion, is one of the finest research workers that Australia has ever produced, a very distinguished son of Australia, and Dr. Richardson, a man who is held in great esteem in the world of agriculture, a man who is probably one of the greatest soils authorities in the world—

Mr. Edwards: Tell us what he says about buffalo fly.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I have said already that the chief responsible officers of the Entomological Division of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research look upon the buffalo fly as one of the gravest menaces ever found in Australia. Can I say any more than that?

I was about to say that the claim has been made that the work of controlling the buffalo fly should be a charge on the State. It has been a charge on the State since 1923, a period of 18 years.

Mr. Muller: Why alter it?

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Why should it not be altered? Does the hon. member subscribe to the doctrine that the public should be levied upon to protect the private individual and the private undertaking, or does he subscribe to the better and the only doctrine, that the people concerned have some responsibility for the protection of their assets? They would be protecting themselves, because they would be protecting their earning capacity, as the hon. member knows.

In any case, for the edification of hon. members of this House, might I inform them that the State has contributed £419,640, by way of deficits and contributions, to the Stock Diseases Fund up to June of this year. The fund to be established—and it will be established—will start off with a material deficit, which I have no doubt will be ultimately written off. It is futile to suggest that the revenue from this Bill that I am budgeting for is all that will be required to do the job. It will not be, because over the past years our expenditure has been a great deal more than that, and as control difficulties will become greater owing to the need for patrolling wider areas, it obviously will be an increased amount each year.

Mr. Macdonald: The thin edge of the wedge?

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: If the hon. member had taken the trouble to read the Bill, he would have seen that there is a specific limitation of the levy that may be imposed under this Bill.

Mr. Macdonald: The poor old cocky!

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: There is no possibility that any sum in excess of the sum required will be raised. The Crown will make some contribution, as the Crown has done in the past, but it is obviously necessary that the people whose interests are being protected should make some contribution towards that protection.

I heard hon. members opposite yesterday talking about the colossal sums filched from the pockets of the unwilling dairy farmer. I do not believe that the dairy farmer is unwilling to make a contribution towards his protection. The amount involved is 1d. in every £5 received on the sale of cattle. What has amused me is that hon. members have no sympathy for the men protecting the dairying industry from the invasion of the buffalo fly. They have no sympathy for those men who for many years have been putting up a fight under adverse circumstances. No mention has been made of the men engaged in the beef-cattle industry, who will probably make a bigger contribution to this fund than those engaged in the dairying industry, but the men engaged in the dairying industry will probably get the greater benefit from this protection. I dislike the attitude that says that these men are 1,000 miles away in the Gulf country, and asks, if they have borne the burden for so long, why not let them continue to bear it? That is the attitude of

hon. members opposite, and it is to be deplored.

It has been said by hon. members opposite that this matter is a national problem. It is to be remembered, however, that I have no power to invade the State of New South Wales, physically or metaphorically, and require that State to make contributions. Nor have I the power to make the Commonwealth make contributions. It cannot be argued that, in view of the seriousness of the problem—and it is a serious problem, and it cannot be mitigated without control—I should sit still and do nothing, fearful that I might incur the criticism of hon. members opposite, and let this fly become the major menace it promises to become. Such an attitude would be cowardly, hard, and wrong. What is the gravamen of the charge by hon. members opposite? That it should be a charge on the Crown? All right. If it is to be a charge on the Crown, then every activity of the Department of Agriculture and Stock should be a charge on the Crown.

Mr. Barnes: So it should; it is a national matter.

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Financed by national credit? (Laughter.)

Mr. Barnes: We agree.

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: There is a limit to the capacity of Crown funds. No doubt before this session is over hon. members opposite will be raising the question of taxation on an Appropriation Bill or some other measure. I have heard hon. members opposite raise the question of taxation both inside the House and out of it. Has it occurred to them that every additional charge incurred by the Crown means an increase in taxation?

Mr. Massey: This is not an additional charge.

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Why?

Mr. Massey: Because you have been paying it for years.

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member suggests that because we have been paying it for years we should go on paying it, but I resist that suggestion because I believe that the time comes when the people should carry some share of their own responsibilities. I have always endeavoured to mould the policy of my department so that the people who got a benefit would also make a contribution towards the benefits that they obtained. I can see no justification for taxing the working man for the purpose of preventing the buffalo fly from coming down from the Gulf country.

Mr. Barnes: Neither can I.

THE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I can see no justification for asking interests in no way allied with the dairying and beef-cattle industries to make a contribution towards the protection, preservation, and health of those industries. It is

obvious that each industry should carry some part of its own burden, and if hon. members opposite try to controvert that idea, then all I say is that they have not a proper sense of the principles of responsibility in Government finance and the attitude that should be adopted to the public purse. Hon. members opposite always want to raid the public purse in order to achieve their end. I have heard them advocate that time after time in this House—"Make it a charge on consolidated revenue." Make the basic-wage earner contribute something towards the protection of some industry. Hon. members opposite have raised that question time after time. Is it not about time that they looked this question squarely in the eye, realised their responsibilities in regard to it, and agreed, as they must in their own hearts, that industry should make a contribution to its own wellbeing.

Mr. Muller: Why do you not try it all round?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: We do. The hon. member makes all kinds of statements and when he is challenged he weakly retorts, "You're another." That does not solve any problem at all. There must be distinct cleavage between Crown responsibilities and industrial responsibilities, whether in the secondary field or the primary field. I do not know whether the hon. member yet knows that he has been returned unopposed for another term of office on the Butter Board.

Mr. Maher: Congratulations!

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I extend my congratulations to the hon. member. It is true that on the Butter Board the hon. member has observed the principle that industry should bear a share of its responsibility. That has been well recognised, well defined, and well practised. Will the hon. member deny that? The principle that he applies to one phase of industry he denies to another phase of industry. There must be some consistency in these questions.

I am sorry that hon. members have taken a parochial view of this national question. I say in all sincerity that my opinion, my reading, my knowledge, and my observation all lead me to believe that there is a national responsibility and the duty reposes on my shoulders, as head of the agricultural services of this State, to face up to that responsibility. I propose to face up to that responsibility. I propose to offer some relief to the people who have held the fort in the Gulf country. I propose to spread this burden over those people who should carry it.

In conclusion, just let me put these people in the Gulf country in the witness-box. Hon. members opposite say that the buffalo fly is not a menace, it does not matter because it is a thousand miles away, and because it does not worry us, we, therefore, should not worry about it.

Mr. Yeates: I never said that.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: I will omit the hon. member

from that charge. That is the general tenor of the debate of many hon. members opposite. I remind those hon. members that at a meeting of cattle-growers in the infected area held in a little Gulf town this attitude was taken: they want the buffalo fly controlled, but they do not want the cost of that control thrown entirely on their shoulders.

Mr. Macdonald: Why was the Bill not proceeded with last year?

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: The hon. member knows why last year's Bill was withdrawn.

The people in the Gulf country suggest that the cost of control should be a charge on the stockowners of the State. I agree, to a degree, that these Gulf people should have their burden lightened; in fact, I am of opinion that their burden should be lightened. I will tell the hon. member for Stanley why it was withdrawn last year.

There was a drought prevailing and the probabilities are that the capacity of cattle-owners to pay was very gravely lowered. If hon. members opposite do not want sympathy and practical help extended to the dairying and beef-cattle industry, let them say so. The only reason why this Bill was withdrawn last year—

Mr. Macdonald: Was because an election was pending.

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK: Was because it might have imposed some hardship on the people who may have had to contribute. If the hon. member thinks that was nothing, and I thought that was nothing, let him disabuse his mind in that respect. I regret that he should sink into a quagmire of that character.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (3.30 p.m.): Despite the eloquent pleadings of the Minister, I am not one of those who are going to fall for his blandishments. The Bill is obviously one designed to raise taxation. There is nothing in the Bill that sets up the method of control or eradication of the fly. The Minister did not in any way meet the arguments I submitted on the initiatory stage. He has his point of view and I have mine. I quoted a letter from a practical grazier who does not live in the area where the fly flourishes, but whose station property is continuously linked up with properties in the affected area. He made a statement—and he has no axe to grind—in which he advocated the discontinuance of spraying as it was a waste of time and money. Mr. Nicholson has been in the habit of buying store cattle in the Gulf country, and he has found that as the cattle reach the higher altitudes the fly leave them altogether.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: He probably brought cattle away from non-affected country.

Mr. MAHER: No. He clearly stated that the cattle were heavily infested with fly and he gave the name of the station where he bought them.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: He could not get cattle out of buffalo-fly country without spraying.

Mr. MAHER: This was in 1928. I do not know whether the Minister had his spraying arrangement set out so effectively then. I do not think the hon. gentleman was Secretary for Agriculture and Stock at that time; I am not sure that it was not the Premier who occupied the office then.

There is a practical cattleman who says that there is much loose talk about the buffalo fly and the alleged danger to cattle in other parts of the State.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: His statement is an opinion; my statements are facts.

Mr. MAHER: His opinion is based on practical experience. He lives amongst the cattle and he says, "Here is a continuous link of cattle stations from my property to the Gulf, and if the fly could successfully penetrate the climatic barriers then there is nothing to prevent it from going from beast to beast and station to station and linking up from Burketown to the Ingham district." Those are things that one cannot lightly set aside. Mr. Atkinson knows the position and he is willing to buy infected cattle in the Gulf country and take them down to his own country and take the chance of infesting herds at home.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: To test the sincerity of your statement, will you let me release buffalo fly on your land.

Mr. MAHER: I am not going to tempt Providence; I do not think that is a fair proposal. I am afraid the Minister is crying "Wolf" when the wolf is not there. He desires to get the £6,000 in taxation and fear is one of the most potent weapons to make taxpayers pay a tax without murmuring; therefore, the Minister instils fear into their minds when the evidence seems to suggest that this fly cannot survive in these southerly latitudes.

Mr. Collins: What was the opinion of the ex-Minister?

Mr. MAHER: The ex-Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, my esteemed colleague, the hon. member for Cooroora, went up to the Gulf country and he was certainly impressed with the danger to the cattle in that area. He regarded the buffalo fly in the Gulf country as a scourge and on his return he made a recommendation for the expenditure of a substantial sum in order to prevent the possible visitation of the fly to Southern Queensland. The ex-Minister stated here the other day that at that time he thought it would be only a short time before the buffalo fly would be here if steps were not taken to prevent its spread. That was 10 years ago. The ex-Minister frankly said that when he visited the Gulf area in 1929 or 1930 he thought the fly would be here soon after. The Premier was Secretary for Agriculture and Stock at one time, and he had to deal with the same problems; no doubt, he feared as a result of information placed before him by

his officers that it would not be long before the buffalo fly would be amongst the herds in the South. Yet time has gone by and the fly is still in the Gulf area, where it has been for 100 years.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: How do you explain its consistent spread year by year towards the eastern seaboard?

Mr. MAHER: There, again, it brings us back to the unassailable fact that the fly is an insect with wings, and despite all spraying of railway trains and infected cattle can unfold its wings and depart to other regions. There is a waste of time and money in trying to control by spraying an insect that can fly. One sees the height of the absurdity when one looks at it in that light—trying to control a flying insect by spraying. The Minister must take into account that irrespective of the flies killed by spraying operations, there remain millions of flies not controlled at all, which can fly to another region not so very far away in which the humid conditions enable them to live. For all I know, the buffalo fly may thrive on spraying.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, that some years ago an old friend of mine in the Yelarbon district was concerned about the rabbit infestation of his property. He was persuaded to buy, at a cost of £100, some sort of plant that was on display at the Sydney show. It was some sort of cyanide-gas plant. The cyanide was pumped into the rabbit warren. He told me after using the plant for about six months he thought the rabbits were getting fat on the cyanide. I do not know whether the buffalo fly in the Gulf will not thrive on the spray. But seriously there is a factor to be considered here. The Minister asks, "How do you account for the eastern progress of the fly?" He has not indicated how far this easterly movement has proceeded, but it is possible that the fly might fly so far easterly in the season of the year helpful to him.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Does the report of Dr. Roberts, part of which you read yesterday, suggest that the fly is mainly distributed by flying?

Mr. MAHER: No. It was an interesting report, but we cannot escape from the fact that the main progress is made by flying. There are cattle all along the route and the insect could travel with the cattle and fly from beast to beast and make progress in that way, but the important point is that the only progress that the fly can make is as far as the natural barriers of climate, humidity, temperature, and excessive rainfall will permit it to fly. The limitation is as hard and fast as the laws of the Medes and Persians, which history records were unalterable. These natural barriers to the fly are unalterable. They have stood like a rock for 116 years—since the fly first came to the northern shores of Australia.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Where are the limits of these natural barriers?

Mr. MAHER: There is a line—it must be known to the Minister's officers—that

varies according to the ebb and flow of the seasons. As the humidity and the heavy rain-falls of the monsoonal conditions progress east, west, or south, to that extent the fly can go, but as the monsoonal seasons retreat, so the fly retreats to its natural habitat and environment in which it thrives. If the buffalo fly was the danger to our southern herds that the Minister would have us believe, there would have been a movement of the fly to the south long ago—with the great movement of stock from the Northern Territory and the Gulf country down through the back country of Queensland and New South Wales to the South—and the herds of Southern Queensland would have been infested long ago. In fact, the herds of the Commonwealth would have been infested.

The Minister states that this fly is also a source of trouble in South Africa. According to Dr. Roberts's statement, it is a different type of fly there. In his interesting article on the buffalo fly, contained in the "Queensland Agricultural Journal" of 1 July last, Dr. Roberts says:—

"Closely allied species occur in America (*Lyperosia irritans*) and in South Africa (*Lyperosia minuta*), where they are known as horn flies from their habit of resting on the horns of cattle."

I do not know the differences between the irritans, the minuta, and exigua, but it is clearly a different species that we have here. The exigua might live in Natal, but the Natal fly is not the same fly with which we are dealing in Queensland.

I had occasion to ask the Minister the other day about the spur-throated locust at Muckadilla. I asked him if it was the species known as the dreaded spur-throated locust of Africa. The Minister said that it was not, that it was a spur-throated locust but not the African species. The African locust is a devastating insect, as its name—dreaded spur-throated locust—indicates, but according to the Minister the Australian locust is of the spur-throated variety but not the dreaded species. Apparently there is a difference in the effects that the buffalo fly has on stock. The type that may live and thrive in Natal might not thrive so well in Queensland. We are dealing with the fly that we know, the buffalo fly, and comparison with Africa, therefore, will not help our case.

Then we have the expert opinion of Professor E. Handschin, who investigated this matter in Java and Northern Australia, and in a report published by him in August, 1932, says—

"The results of the work so far done indicate that temperature controls the spread of the fly and humidity its local abundance. High humidity alone does not provide a condition in which the fly may live."

Therefore, in areas of the State, or of Australia, with low humidity, and in the low temperature areas, this fly has no chance at all.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: The professor qualifies that by saying, "So far."

Mr. MAHER: He says—

"On the other hand, the fly will not flourish, even with a suitable temperature, without sufficient humidity. So in Northern Australia, in the dry season, *Lyperosia* is confined to moist and damp situations round lagoons and swamps."

Then he goes on to say—

"From the data which have been amassed on humidity and temperature, we can say of the possible distribution of *Lyperosia*, that the southern portion of Western Australia is out of danger since it experiences long periods with low temperatures during the winter months. So also, New South Wales and Southern Queensland are probably excluded."

There is an expert opinion that supports the case I am making.

Whilst I said in reply to the Minister that it is a waste of time and money to establish spraying plants, I do not want that statement to be taken too literally. I do not object to the taking of any reasonable steps to control the spread of the fly as far as possible. I admit that the Minister has a responsibility to do that, and to the extent that he is honestly endeavouring to discharge that responsibility he has my good will and support. When it comes to the means of raising the money for this purpose, however, I find myself in disagreement with him. I do not agree with the method by which it is proposed to raise these funds.

The Minister is imposing a tax amounting to 1d. for every £5 realised and calls upon the cattle-owner or vendor of cattle to give a receipt to the purchaser for the amount involved in the sale. Thereafter the vendor must affix a cattle duty stamp to the receipt. You see, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very awkward thing for the cattle-owner to do. It is not always easy for gentlemen situated in remote parts of Queensland to have supplies of these stamps on hand. I say that it is an inconvenience and the system is an irritating one, because not only must the receipt bear the cattle duty stamp, but also the duty stamp provided for under the Stamp Duties Act. Apparently, two sets of stamps have to be put on each receipt relating to the sale of cattle. When one considers the hundred and one obligations on stockowners in these days, such as the returns they have to furnish and the stamps they have to buy, one sees that the business becomes complicated. The stock-owner has to make out his stock returns and pay taxes on the stock he holds; he has to make up his pay-roll tax, deal with unemployment insurance returns, keep wages books, keep ordinary duty stamps, and keep in store a supply of cattle duty stamps. I say that the system that the Minister is employing to raise the money for the purpose of easing the burden on the cattle-owners in the Gulf country is one of the main objections the Opposition have to the Bill. We object to the principle of the stamp and contend that

if a tax is to be raised the amount should be incorporated in the diseases in stock tax, so that one tax would apply instead of a number.

Another important aspect of the matter is that if there is any basis for the Minister's argument about keeping infestation in the Gulf country or confining its operations to that area, a community service is being rendered. I have noticed in this House the Government's inclination to discriminate between sections of the people. If it comes to the establishment of an Industrial Court for the benefit of workers in industry no special tax is placed upon trade unionists and associated workers in industry to provide the money to maintain the court, and there is no tax levied upon employers who have access to the court. The cost of the court is a charge on the revenue of the State, because a community service, the Premier would argue, is being rendered. All these things constitute a community service and are financed from consolidated revenue, but when it comes to a measure relating to a primary industry the Government seem to have adopted the principle of discrimination, and compel those engaged in rural industries to pay a special tax in addition to the manifold taxes they pay to the Commonwealth, the State, and semi-governmental authorities to-day. Here an amount of only £6,000 is involved and it would not be worth arguing about if it were being raised from the right source. The Stock Diseases Fund has been fairly buoyant and I quoted figures the other day to show that for 1939-40 £46,000 was available to the Minister. For the following year the fund was more buoyant still. A sum of £51,000 was available to him from that fund in that year. If he is determined to collect the money there are two fields available, the first—if he regards this work in the Gulf as a community service—to draw on consolidated revenue, and the second to incorporate this tax in the stock-diseases levies and thus have one tax to deal with the control and eradication of diseases in stock. Then all would come under one appropriate head. There is the proper line of action.

I submit that his proposal will amount to a very irritating imposition on the cattle-owners of the State who will have to meet these payments by the use of stamps. There are many stamps in use now. When I go out to my own property and go through the books and see all the different types of stamps that I use they are highly confusing and the stock-owner will have to be a kind of bookkeeper or keep a man entirely for the purpose if he operates in any important way to deal with all the different returns and stamps. Therefore, I feel that in all the circumstances I should say that I have no real objection to the Minister's carrying out the work if he feels that he is achieving some useful result, but I am not going to let my opposition to the Minister's idea, as advised by his officers, to extend so as to prevent his checking the spread of the buffalo fly.

No doubt the spraying has done some good. With spraying so many flies are destroyed

and naturally fewer are left to breed, but apparently, with the buffalo fly, as with any other fly, there are millions left and therein lies the Minister's problem. For the sake of the £5,000 or £6,000 that is involved in the Bill I am not raising my objection to the extent of actually opposing the Minister's efforts. I merely hold the honest belief that the fly cannot be controlled by the methods he proposes. It has been controlled for over 100 years by climatic barriers. That is the line of demarcation between my thoughts and those of the hon. gentleman. However, I wish him success in his efforts. I suppose that nothing the Opposition can do can prevent the passage of the Bill and so the cattle-owners will simply have to grit their teeth and take it. It will be very unpopular amongst the cattle-owners of the State. I do not think it is fair to single them out in this way. If what the Minister says is right and he succeeds in checking the spread of the buffalo fly then he will have done a service to the whole community and to Queensland.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Would you not admit that if there had been no spraying of the buffalo fly at Kajabbi it would have come in contact with cattle further south?

Mr. MAHER: How long has the spray been operating?

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Many years.

Mr. MAHER: Was it operating during the term of office of the previous Secretary of Agriculture and Stock?

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Yes.

Mr. MAHER: Did he not inaugurate it, and did he not find the money for it?

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: I believe he did.

Mr. MAHER: That only goes back for 10 or 11 years. What happened before the adoption of the spraying system at Kajabbi? There was a railway system there. Cattle were railed away and driven away. Mr. Atkinson says that he took 1,090 head infested with the fly off a station at Burketown, but the old drovers and the old cattlemen of the North say that when they reach certain latitudes where there is a change of climate the fly leaves the cattle. They simply leave the cattle. They were able to proceed on their journey without any further infestation of the cattle. The fly found the change of climate uncongenial, and in consequence left the cattle. That is the position. That has gone on for 50 years, even before the hon. member for Cooroora authorised the establishment of the spraying outfit at Kajabbi. Therefore, the Minister's question to me loses weight. What happened during the 50 years previous to the establishment of spraying at Kajabbi? There was a movement of cattle from the fly-infested area, before there was any spraying at all. We all know that vast herds of cattle travelled from the Northern Territory and Gulf districts to Southern

Queensland, and, in fact, every State of the Commonwealth, during that period.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: You have not proved that the buffalo fly was on the runs where the cattle came from.

Mr. MAHER: I submit that the evidence submitted by Mr. Atkinson showed that when he bought the cattle they were heavily infested with fly.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: I do not accept that.

Mr. MAHER: That is his statement, and he was there.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: The fly invaded Queensland in 1923.

Mr. MAHER: The buffalo fly has existed in the Gulf for many years.

I submit, in conclusion, that the Bill is not one so much for the control of buffalo-fly infestation in the Gulf area as it is one to raise money. It is a taxation measure. It is bare of any reference to methods of control or eradication. It is merely a taxation measure—that is the important point. To the extent that it takes further taxation out of the pockets of the cattle-owner, and regarding it solely as a taxation measure, I am personally opposed to the Bill.

Mr. JONES (Charters Towers) (3.43 p.m.): I have listened carefully to the arguments advanced in this debate by hon. members of the Opposition. I have a certain interest in this subject as cattle areas in my electorate border very closely on the areas affected by the fly.

This question has received consideration over a period of years. When I was in this Chamber in 1931 I remember the then Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, the hon. member for Cooroora, stating he had paid a visit to the Gulf country and had thoroughly investigated the ravages of this pest. He was quite sincere then in suggesting the establishment of a buffer area. At that time, the buffer area was to cost approximately £300,000, but that was without taking into consideration compensation to be paid to certain properties that were to be taken over. There was quite an argument in the House at the time regarding the merits of the hon. member for Cooroora's proposal. The then Premier, the Hon. A. E. Moore, was opposed to his Minister's recommendation. He said he did not think it was effective. I argued then against the effectiveness of the buffer area, as I said there were 20,000 or 30,000 brumbies in the Gulf country, and possibly 10,000 within the buffer area, which would prevent the authorities from keeping the fences intact.

There is one important point that has been overlooked—namely, that over a period of years the buffalo fly has consistently moved closer into Queensland from the Territory. In 1912 Dr. Gilruth, then Director of the Northern Territory, warned the Commonwealth authorities that the buffalo fly was gradually moving further south and if action was not taken it would not be long before Queensland would be infested.

One important point overlooked in this debate is that some 20 years ago—it may be a little longer—all the cattle bred in the Territory were killed at Darwin. With the closing-down of the Darwin meatworks, the stock were brought to Queensland, and as they travelled through this State we found the fly gradually spreading in this State. In 1931, when I was in this Chamber previously, I remember the buffalo fly was somewhere about Burketown, and now I know that it is at least another 300 miles this side of Burketown. That indicates that it is consistently working east. I agree to some extent with the hon. member for West Moreton that it is affected to some extent by climatic conditions; nevertheless, I believe the fly will come down some hundreds of miles further than it was 10 years ago; it will probably come to Ingham, and it is possible that it will go into the districts about Hughenden and Charters Towers, where there are huge areas of cattle country.

I know a buyer who visits the Gulf country every year—no man knows the Gulf better than he does—and I discussed the question with him about two months ago. He said it was giving concern to people in the Gulf country, but especially the people on adjacent properties who feared the fly would eventually get into their herds on the properties further South. I am satisfied it is a live question. I think the Opposition have adopted a parochial attitude in discussing this question. Hon. members opposite represent dairying electorates and very few represent Northern constituencies, and possibly they are not very conversant with the local feeling about this problem. I know this is a matter of concern to the cattlemen in my own area. I have discussed it with them and they all appreciate the action taken by the Minister. The fact that it is necessary to strike a small levy—and it amounts to little or nothing—will not concern the cattlemen for one moment. I think the Opposition have exaggerated the position and attempted to make political capital out of something that does not matter from the monetary point of view.

I am satisfied the cattlemen in the areas likely to be affected in North Queensland will appreciate the action taken by the Government.

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) (3.48 p.m.): After listening to the remarks of the Minister on the introductory stage of the Bill, and again this afternoon, I am still at a loss to know what it is proposed to do.

The hon. member for West Moreton very effectively dealt with the difficulty of dealing with the spread of this insect. While it is possible to deal with the spread of ticks, which are to be found on a host of some description, it is a much more difficult matter to deal with a winged insect. We can effectively deal with the mosquito by treating its breeding ground, and the sandfly lives only within certain territory when weather conditions make it suitable.

Having listened to the debate on a similar Bill last session, and to the debate that has

taken place on this Bill, I still find it difficult to ascertain what the Minister proposes to do. After all, the £6,000 that it is proposed to raise by the levy is not a very big matter, although we complain of the method of collecting it; nevertheless, if we are going to sanction the collection of £6,000 for a purpose, we should know what that purpose is. The Minister has told us he has no practical knowledge of the habits of the buffalo fly, but he has been prompted to take action because of recommendations made by departmental officers and members of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. During his speech to-day the Minister complained very bitterly of the attitude of the Commonwealth Government and their failure to give some assistance. I cannot help feeling that if the Commonwealth Government thought the recommendations of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research were worthy of consideration they would have provided money to combat the spread of the fly. I have the highest regard for the work of scientists, and the efforts of the council, but I should like to tell hon. members of one or two instances that I have had in my own experience to show why we are sometimes inclined to lose faith in its work unless it is not coupled with some practical knowledge. I am reminded of what occurred in the control of the spread of other diseases in stock. I am a member of an Australian board that is subscribing large sums of money for research purposes, and we have looked to the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for much assistance in that direction. I have in mind what was done in the control of the spread of mammitis and contagious abortion in cattle. We have established a farm in Victoria. It was a clean farm and it was double-fenced.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Whom do you mean by "we"?

Mr. MULLER: The Australian dairying industry. I am speaking of the Australian board of which I am a member.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Surely you know that this State makes a large contribution!

Mr. MULLER: I am not complaining about that at all.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: You did not mention that we do. The State is making an annual contribution for the maintenance of that board.

Mr. MULLER: I am not dealing with finance at all. We have been providing a large sum of money for the research I have mentioned. We have received help from some of the State Governments, from the Commonwealth Government, and also from commercial organisations. At present I am more concerned with the result of that experiment. We look to the scientists, the trained men with much knowledge, for advice, but here is an instance of what can occur. A farm was established in a district in Victoria. The property was surrounded by a double-fence to prevent either invasion of it or the near approach by other cattle. Every precaution

was taken to prevent an outside beast from entering that land, but what has happened? Contagious abortion and mammitis have been discovered on that farm. The so-called scientists have not been able to prevent these stock diseases from spreading to the cattle on that farm. There is no doubt that research work is a very big task, and it is very difficult always to follow the recommendations of scientists. I am justified in assuming that the Commonwealth Government were not willing to make contributions to combat the spread of the buffalo fly on the recommendation of scientists only, and for all such measures as this the Minister should require recommendations from practical men. The control of the spread of the buffalo fly is first and foremost a matter for practical men, but the assistance of the scientist should not be overlooked.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: The buffalo fly is continuing to spread. Since 1923 it has spread from the Territory border to Mungana. It is spreading each year.

Mr. MULLER: I have no reason to doubt what the Minister says. He has inspectors in that area. From what the hon. gentleman and the hon. member for Charters Towers state, this insect has invaded certain new territories, but, as the hon. member for West Moreton has stated, the spread is governed by the climatic conditions. As weather conditions permit, this insect comes further south but retires to his old haunts when those conditions alter.

Let us accept the Minister's statement that the time has arrived when something must be done. I do not complain about the efforts that he puts forward so long as I am sure that what is being done will be effective. When I say that I am disappointed with the Bill I mean that the Minister has not told us what it is proposed to do. If it is merely proposed to spray cattle in the infested area, then I suggest that there will be thousands of cattle that will never be sprayed. I understand that the insects are sprayed only as the cattle move out of the district. That cannot prevent the spread of the fly at the same rate at which it has been spreading during the last 20 years. Although the flies on the cattle that it is proposed to move are destroyed, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are thousands of other cattle in the area that are not being moved and upon which the flies are working, and it is possible that they will move south.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: He has a very limited flying capacity.

Mr. MULLER: The fact remains that he can move. The tick has no flying capacity, but it went through the State in a very short time. It was on the southern border almost as soon as it arrived at Townsville. Although the buffalo fly has a limited flying capacity, the fact is that it can fly from beast to beast, and in a short time it, too, could be right down to the border. If the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was prepared to make a recommendation to

this Government as to how to combat the fly, I should like to know what it is. I should like the Minister to tell us what it is proposed to do. So far, all he has told us is that spraying is being done in the affected area. If that is all that it is proposed to do, then I suggest we shall have no effective control over this pest.

The Minister suggested that the stock-owners of Queensland owed the Government about £500,000. That is a wild statement to make, for he should realise that the Government collect that money from the cattle-owners of the State. The whole of the State, the commercial interests and others, benefit from the work done in the cattle industry, and it is not right to suggest that the cattle-owners should bear the whole of the cost of combating the fly.

The Minister also suggests that it was our duty in the buffer area in Southern Queensland to spend money to protect their cattle. I should like to remind him of what is being done in the south to prevent the spread of the rabbit north. A rabbit tax is paid by the people on the southern and south-western borders to prevent the spread of the rabbit north. I do not say that the methods adopted will prevent its moving north, but these people are willing to pay this serious impost because they understand what a problem it is, and they are satisfied that what is being done is being done for the best. The people of Southern Queensland are not satisfied, however, that what is being done in the North will be effective in preventing the move of the buffalo fly to the south.

I think I have enumerated the points worthy of consideration. We object to the imposition of the tax on one section of the community because, after all, it is a tax confined to the sale of a few head of stock. The method by which the money is to be raised is an irksome one, and I am sure that there are better ways of handling the business. I cannot see any reason why the Minister should not apply the tax to stockowners generally if the protection to be afforded is to benefit all stockowners. It must be appreciated that under the proposed system of collection the tax will apply only to the cattle sold, and many people might not make any contribution towards the fund for years. For instance, a dairy farmer raising his own cattle would only on rare occasions have any cattle to sell, except perhaps a couple of crackers or rejects. His contribution will not be a heavy one, but the man dealing in cattle will be contributing every day. I submit that there is no equity about the system, and furthermore the taxpayers are not assured that what will be done will combat the spread of the fly.

Mr. SPARKES (Aubigny) (4.2 p.m.): It is not my intention absolutely to condemn the Bill introduced by the Minister, because I believe that that hon. gentleman is sincere in his effort to control the fly. I attack the method it is proposed to adopt.

I do not wish to be parochial, as the Minister suggested some of us might be. He has

told us that he thinks the fly will spread over the whole of Australia. If that is a possibility—

The Premier: The natural law is survival, not death.

Mr. SPARKES: I agree.

The Premier: Adaptability to environment is a tremendously important point.

Mr. SPARKES: Quite so. The Premier holds much the same view as I do, but I wish to direct my remarks to the Minister's suggestion that there is a danger of this pest's spreading throughout Australia. The amount of the tax and the sum it is proposed to collect are small in my opinion and will have very little effect in stopping the spread of the buffalo fly. If this is the big question the Minister suggests it is, much more money will have to be spent in preventing the spread of the buffalo fly, and I therefore suggest to him that if this is going to be the menace to the stock industry of Australia he has described, why should it not be dealt with by Australia? After all, although I happen to live in Queensland I am none the less an Australian. The cattlemen of New South Wales are as much concerned as I am. I say that every person in the community is concerned, and if the cattle industry is affected all the workers connected with it are affected. The State as a whole is affected. The revenue from the Treasurer's point of view is affected in the payment of income tax. Therefore, I say it is wrong to single out any one industry to bear the burden of the charge. I make these remarks in all sincerity and free of all this party feeling.

The Minister must know that the beef-cattlemen will be called upon to pay the biggest part of this tax and so I ask him in all sincerity as a beef-cattlemán; will he consider a simpler method of raising the money than by the use of stamps? There is nothing more annoying than being forced to use a large number of stamps for various purposes. Indeed, there are so many in use now that one finds difficulty in deciding what one should put on an envelope for postage purposes. I know that the hon. gentleman is sincere—indeed, the most sincere Minister in the House. He is sincere in doing what he thinks is right in the interests of his department. It may not be possible to do as I suggest. Perhaps he has considered the proposal already and has decided that it is not a practicable one. The stockowners are called upon to make stock returns at the beginning of every year and they are levied on at the rate of so much a 100 head. Would it not be possible to arrive at a percentage figure on those returns so as to give the Minister the equivalent of what he expects to raise by the proposal in the Bill? Apparently, he has considered the relevant statistics in deciding that he will be able to collect £6,000 by the imposition of the 1d. stamp for each cattle sale amounting to a value of £5. Would it not be better to collect the money as I suggest instead of by means of stamps? A man may sell 10 or a dozen head of cattle and then have to find stamps to cover the value of the

sale in accordance with the Bill. It would be especially irksome and annoying to a farmer who took in three dairy cows that realised, say, £15 for the lot to find three 1d. stamps to place on the receipt that he gave to the buyer.

I listened very carefully to the speeches by the Minister and I think he will agree that I did not interject in any way to throw him off the thread of his argument. According to his views, the whole of Australia is interested in this problem because—again according to him—it is a menace that threatens the cattle industry of the entire Commonwealth. If the problem that exists in Queensland or in the Northern Territory threatens to become a grave one for the whole of Australia—again according to the Minister—then it resolves itself into a Commonwealth problem. Therefore, let it be dealt with accordingly.

I am not going to suggest for one moment that the scientific investigations that have been carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Stock and other departments of the State have not been a great help to the cattlemen and to the people on the land generally. The Minister asked the hon. member for West Moreton if he would allow him to liberate some flies on his property. He walked out as if he were going to get something, as the Premier suggested. I make this proposal to the Minister. I am willing at my own expense to fence an area on my property, not the property in the tick-infested area, but the property I hold in a clean area. I am also willing at my own expense to allow 10 of the most ticky cattle to graze on that area. I am willing to erect any fence that the Minister prescribes within reason and, at any rate, to guarantee that there will be one that no stock can break through. I am willing to allow those cattle to remain there for two years and I make bold to say that at the end of that time it will not be possible to find any ticks on the cattle or in that area. If at the end of two years a tick remains on those stock, I will, in addition to paying all the expense entailed, make a donation of £100 to any patriotic body he names or, if no such bodies are in existence then—and I hope they will not be—to any hospital that may be named. If, on the other hand, I am able to prove my contention, I ask that the department reimburse me all my expenses.

Mr. Maher: The climatic conditions are responsible.

Mr. SPARKES: I will give further specific instances of how changed climatic conditions affect two of our pests. First of all, take the tick. When I took up my present property in 1910 I paid frequent visits to Maryborough to buy poddies, which I took to my property, and there fattened them. I dealt in cattle at that time. In those days there were practically no restrictions in travelling cattle. If the tick was likely to be spread by the removal of cattle from an infested into a non-infested area, then it could have happened in those years. The tick is affected by climatic conditions. We find that the tick-infested country practically follows the Great Dividing Range down

through Queensland into New South Wales, and that range seems to be a barrier to the spread of the tick. We know that some millions of pounds were spent by the New South Wales Government in preventive measures before the tick infested that State. We know how severe the restrictions imposed were, but notwithstanding all these precautions, the tick travelled down the coast into New South Wales although it did not extend inland.

Now let me instance the prickly-pear. I crave your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, to allow me to give these illustrations to show how climatic conditions probably affect the buffalo fly. The hon. members for Maranoa and Dalby can bear me out that if a leaf of prickly pear was hung on a wire fence it would grow. In fact, for some years some prickly-pear was hung on a wire fence adjacent to the Lands Office, Roma, and at the end of that period was still green and showed no signs of decay. If a prickly-pear leaf was thrown on the ground in that district it would grow. Now take some prickly-pear to Dubbo, New South Wales, in the same longitude as Dalby, and you will experience the greatest difficulty in getting it to grow. In fact, to-day at my old home there is the remains of the prickly-pear plant planted in the homestead garden by my parents. During my visits there I advised that this pear be rooted out of the garden, but it is a preserved plant, as it will not grow. That is due to climatic conditions.

Now let me take the rabbit. I claim to know as much about the habits of the rabbit as any other hon. member. I was reared in a rabbit-infested area in New South Wales. I gave evidence before the royal commission of which Mr. Payne was the chairman, in which I stated that the 700 or 800 miles of rabbit-proof fencing in this State had no more to do with preventing the inroads of rabbits into Queensland than the action of any hon. member of this House. If that fence, for the upkeep of which I pay a tax, were a barrier stopping the rabbit from coming north to Queensland, should we not find rabbits right up to the fence? Of course, we should. After very heavy rain, when miles of that fence are knocked down by floods, would not sufficient rabbits come through to infest the rest of Queensland? Of course, they would. In my old district we have a 20,000-acre block of country. We have the river frontages netted and the country cleared of all sticks and netting along the several subdividing fences, yet rabbits are there to-day. The netting-fence I speak about does not keep the rabbit out. I am not in a position to tell the Committee why, but nature apparently prevents the spread of the rabbit north. The rabbit comes from a certain latitude and it crosses the border of Queensland, but only goes to a certain latitude.

I am not saying this with the object of showing that the buffalo fly may not spread. I am only pointing out these things, which I can prove, to the Minister. The proposal that I made to the Minister about allowing tick-infested cattle to go on my property and be placed inside a 10-barb wire fence, was

also made by me to the then chief stock inspector, who said that the tick would not be acclimatised if taken direct from the North to my area. I have a property right on the divide, and I am willing for them to put those ticks there. One does not get up and make such a statement in this House unless one is confident he is right.

The Minister has indicated that he will go on with this tax, and, as a cattleman, I appeal to him to make that tax collectable on the return we make on 1 January of each year instead of a stamp tax. I object to the method of raising the tax, but if it has to be—and the Minister assures us it has to be—then for Heaven's sake at least give the man who has to pay the tax the right to pay it in the simplest way possible.

I have heard hon. members on both sides get up in this Chamber time after time and suggest that we should consolidate our taxes as much as possible, and aim at having one tax, if it is possible, yet this Bill creates another instrument of taxation.

I again earnestly appeal to the Minister to consider my suggestion. I know the hon. gentleman will not consider my remarks in regard to the other pests—he is guided by the scientific viewpoint, with which he has been brought up, while I have been brought up in the hard school of practical training—but I do appeal to him to help us cattlemen out by collecting the tax in the manner I suggested.

Mr. COLLINS (Cook) (4.20 p.m.): I am surprised that hon. members of the Opposition complain about a Bill that is brought in to help them and other owners of cattle. The hon. member for Aubigny has mentioned a number of pests, but he must admit that all those things he mentioned have cost this country a tremendous amount of money. For instance, prickly-pear may become a pest again. It has cost Queensland millions of pounds. It has destroyed or taken from the use of selectors a large area of land, and, consequently, has resulted in a loss to the State revenue. Had prickly-pear been taken in hand at the beginning when it grew in a small garden plot, probably not the size of the table in this House, it would not have cost the State millions of pounds for its eradication. To-day the buffalo fly exists in one area of Queensland only, and to confine it to that area will be to the benefit of the cattle-owners of the whole of the State.

I am not prepared to say that the buffalo fly will acclimatise itself to any locality, but I venture the opinion that it will acclimatise itself probably to any area to which the cattle tick has spread, and that is a very large area. It comprises all the coast country of Queensland and the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, and the Gulf country in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The tick has not acclimatised itself successfully in Central Queensland, but we know that if given suitable climatic conditions in that locality it may cause untold damage by reason of the spread of redwater. That could occur very easily if tick-infested cattle were taken to the Central area and a

wet period followed. The tick would breed on the immune cattle and would eventually wipe out the herd. No hon. member opposite can deny that that is correct.

Mr. Muller: That would become a menace, too.

Mr. COLLINS: It would be very difficult for it to be a menace to dead cattle. I do not venture an opinion that the buffalo fly would cause the same number of deaths in cattle as have resulted from redwater in tick-infested cattle. The probability is that the buffalo fly has made the buffalo a water-inhabiting animal. The probability is that originally the buffalo was a normal grazing beast, but because the fly settled on it and ate holes in its hide it had to seek a means of getting away from it and took to the water. Ordinary cattle take to the water to get away from molestation and the ravages of the buffalo fly in the Gulf country, where the fly is particularly bad. Do we desire to see the herds of Queensland becoming inhabitants of waterholes and creeks? Do the hon. members who oppose this Bill wish to see our dairy herds molested by this terrible pest, and it is a terrible pest when it becomes bad. The buffalo fly settles on various parts of the beast and remains until it has made a sore. After having made the sore it breeds in the sores and millions of flies are produced until the beast either dies or gets out of the way of the fly by keeping in a waterhole during the day and grazing only at night. When the seasonal conditions alter, the fly is not a pest. This is the very thing that we desire to prevent the spread of to the herds in the remainder of the State, and they will be infected if this spread is not stopped.

I am not going to say that it will not spread to the coast eventually, but surely it is our duty as legislators to do what we can for the whole of the cattle people, not for the small section who are complaining? I venture the opinion that the reason why they are complaining is that they feel that they themselves live in an isolated area—an area in which this fly will not become a menace—and, therefore, they are willing to abandon the whole of the dairy industry so long as they are not levied upon to protect the rest of the State against the inroads of this scourge.

It is all very well to say that it is not likely to become a menace, but what did hon. members say about the likelihood that the blowfly in sheep would not become a scourge? The blowfly has been in Australia for about 100 years, and it is probable that for the first 70 years it has not been a pest at all, but as time has gone on it has multiplied to a tremendous extent throughout the western sheep areas of the State and chosen a different host from the one it had originally. At the beginning the blowfly fed only on carrion carcasses, but as it multiplied and carrion became scarce it moved to the wool and sore spots of the sheep. It has adapted itself to a new environment and thriven to such an extent that it is one of the greatest scourges with which the sheepmen of Queensland have to deal to-day. This was the ordinary common blowfly that nobody thought

was capable of doing anything more than very minor damage!

Mr. Macdonald: It has been blowing sheep for the last 200 years.

Mr. COLLINS: If the hon. member thinks that it has been blowing sheep in Queensland for the last 200 years he does not know much about Queensland. Until 30 years ago it caused no worry, but as time has gone on it has altered its environment, and it is possible that the buffalo fly will alter its environment just as the blowfly has done.

I repeat that because the opponents to the Bill are living in isolated areas they do not want to protect the cattle industry as a whole. If they thought this pest was likely to affect them they would be wholeheartedly behind this measure. I believe that the buffalo fly will live wherever the tick lives. It has been proved scientifically that the buffalo fly will live in latitudes as far south as Perth in Western Australia, and that being so, there is no reason to suppose that it will not live in latitudes as far south as the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. If we sit idly by and do nothing to check the spread of the fly, then I say we shall be criminally negligent in our duty to the State.

I submit that the method of levying the tax is fair and reasonable. I can understand the objections of some hon. members opposite and their desire to make this work a charge upon the stock diseases fund. If that was done a number of cattle-dealers would be exempt from the operations of the tax in that probably they would see to it that they did not own cattle at all on 1 January of each year.

Mr. Sparkes: That is unfair and narrow-minded.

Mr. COLLINS: The hon. member knows that that could happen. He knows that dealers could bring cattle from the Gulf country to the fattening areas without paying one penny towards this tax, but if a tax is levied on the sales of cattle every time they change hands a small amount of revenue goes to the Government funds in order to repay those people who are doing their best to-day to prevent the spread of the fly over the rest of the State.

The spraying of the buffalo fly does not kill it. Spraying only prevents the fly from being carried in the train or moving with the cattle. Spraying only keeps the fly in the territory concerned and is no good whatever to the men who to-day are paying the costs. They get no advantage, but suffer all the disadvantages, and, furthermore, they have to suffer the disability of walking their cattle hundreds of miles in order to truck them at a particular trucking place. All this is done to stop the fly from getting into Southern Queensland. After all is said and done, I say it is unfair to ask the people right out in the outback country to pay the cost when the people down here who are going to get the benefit should be paying.

Mr. BARNES (Bundaberg) (4.31 p.m.): I do not know why the Government attack these things half-heartedly. One of the first statements made by the Minister was to the effect that he was seriously alarmed at the position of the buffalo fly, and he followed that up by saying that the buffalo fly could be a serious menace to Australia. He also said that the fly had been found in Perth, Western Australia. If that is a fact, then it is apparent that this becomes a Commonwealth matter and it is for the Government of Queensland to recommend to the Commonwealth Government steps for the elimination of the fly in Australia. Why should Queensland as a whole and the dairying industry in particular—an industry representing the majority of the cattle in Queensland—pay for the elimination of the buffalo fly from Australia, when the whole of Australia will get the benefit? I could understand a half-hearted attempt being made if we were dealing with lions and tigers, but we are talking about buffalo flies, blowflies, rabbits, and ticks. It would not be possible to fight lions and tigers, but after all we are only concerned with a common fly and we have the man power, when there is no war on, to deal with that fly. We could put the men who have been unemployed for many years to the job of eliminating the fly and ridding us of the menace for all time. Whilst we sit in this House and tell one another pretty stories about taxing somebody 1d. on £5 worth of cattle sold, we are only cheating ourselves and not the fly. The fly will continue. What is the use of arguing about a small tax to do the job? Once again, it comes back to the same thing. We are only messing about, consoling somebody whilst we are talking. If the job is there we have to do it.

Somebody spoke about the efforts of the men 1,000 miles away. The same argument would apply if it was 1,000 years hence. We are here to stop this disease from spreading. The buffalo fly can be a menace to Australia, and the Minister has given us statistics to prove that the fly has moved some 200 or 300 miles from its original place of abode. The fact remains that it has moved. Time is nothing, when all is said and done. It is obvious that the fly has moved and the fact that it is likely to move further is justification for eliminating it.

Mr. Riordan: Are you supporting the Bill?

Mr. BARNES: I am supporting it, but not the half-hearted attempt the hon. member's Government propose to make. The Minister said that some very effective action should be taken, and yet his Government turn round and impose a 1d. tax. With the raising of a lousy few pounds, what can be done? What is it raised to do? I can see no other reason unless it is to quieten someone, perhaps the hon. member for the electorate, or the hon. members for the electorates.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I am not going to allow the hon. member to impute improper motives to any hon. member in this House.

Mr. BARNES: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. Let us suppose, for argument's sake, that we were in another country, in a progressive country, the most progressive country in the world—Germany. I regret to have to make that statement, but it is a fact. Suppose we were there. How would they tackle the buffalo-fly menace? Would they raise the money by the imposition of a tax of 1d. in £5? No. In Germany they have the men and they have the instruments to do the work, whether in the form of a gun or poison. They would send enough men to the buffalo-fly area and eliminate the fly completely in two or three years.

The Minister spoke about the advantages of research in this country, but has the field of research been advanced far enough? It has not. If it had been advanced to the extent that it is required, we should have been rid of more pests than the prickly-pear. Unfortunately, only a limited number of people are engaged in research. Let us consider the research in the field of medicine, as an example. The Carnegie and Rockefeller institutes provide so many thousands or millions of pounds for the purposes of research and this permits of the training of a limited number of doctors to carry on research throughout the world. Let us suppose that that number is 100. It should be 1,000,000. Under a sound financial scheme we could have 1,000,000 doctors engaged not only in research in the field of medicine, but in research in every other direction. Research is only in its infancy to-day, and it will reach its maximum development only when we realise how Germany has been able to flog Europe. If there is one hon. member in this Chamber who can prove that I am wrong in my opinion about how Germany was able to finance the war in Europe, then I will sit down and never speak again in this House. Germany has financed the war with unorthodox finance by using her manpower and her machinery. We have the men and the machinery, and we should use them to eliminate all menaces, including the buffalo fly, the tick, and the rabbit. Why should a little rabbit or buffalo fly frighten us?

The hon. member for Kennedy mentioned the ravages of the fruit fly and said that apples were sold at 4s. a dozen. Am I to be deterred by a little maggot in an apple that is taken to say, "I am too big, you cannot beat me"? No, the buffalo fly, the blowfly, the tick, and other parasites are little things, and can be eliminated, but they can be eliminated only when we use the necessary funds, the nation's money, the money that belongs to the people and the nation.

To-day we have taxed the people to such an extent that we cannot tax them any more without creating disaster. If we take from the people one-half of their income, the rest is not sufficient for them to survive on. Bill McCormack, an ex-Premier of this State, said to me on one occasion when coming from Cracow, when I asked him "How can you get over the difficulty with orthodox finance?"—"Only by taxing the people 10s. in the £1, and once you do that you ruin them all."

That is what an ex-Premier of the State said. If you tax the people to the extent of 10s. in the £1 you take that money out of circulation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is wandering away from the principles contained in the Bill.

Mr. BARNES: I cannot see why the necessary money cannot be found to eliminate the buffalo fly. And I cannot see why I should not be allowed to suggest ways and means for raising the money.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BARNES: Let us allow our imaginations to run away with us for a moment and let us suppose that my idea of finance is right—and I will not take my hat off to any man, so far as that is concerned. It is my duty, not only to this House but to the people of Australia, to set forth my ideas, for in doing so I might convert one or two hon. members to the use of national credit—the people's money—in a national work of this character.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I will not allow the hon. member to proceed on those lines. He must deal with the principles contained in this Bill.

Mr. BARNES: I may be wrong, but I will ask you, Mr. Speaker, this: can I not state, on the second reading of this Bill, how the work the Minister proposes to do can be financed by national credit?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must resume his seat. I am not going to allow him to continue his speech.

Mr. A. J. SMITH (Carpentaria) (4.41 pm.): As the member for the electorate that embraces this infested area, I heartily commend the Minister on introducing this Bill. I have listened attentively to the speeches of hon. members opposite, but I know full well that their knowledge of the subject is nil. Their main concern is what the cattle-owner in Southern Queensland will have to pay.

Apart from his present expenses in combating buffalo fly, the grazier in the Gulf country is already paying dearly on the cattle market for its ravages. He is becoming what one may call "the beggar." The cattle-buyer, knowing full well the conditions under which he is operating, instead of proceeding along the usual business lines and making an offer for his cattle on the basis of so much per 100 lb. or per beast, makes an offer much below the real value, which he knows the owner must accept. In addition, land values in the infested area have been affected. In fact, during the last few years the value of that cattle country has been practically nil.

We know that in very severe winters the buffalo fly migrates to the warmer latitudes. Some hon. members referred to conditions existing in 1923 and 1928. I speak of conditions as they exist in 1941. This year the winter in the Cloncurry and Carpentaria districts has been the coldest for 25 or 30 years, but, notwithstanding this fact, the

buffalo fly was discovered on Fort Constantine cattle which were being trucked to the Lakes Creek meatworks. That disproves the arguments we heard to-day that the buffalo fly will not migrate or acclimatise himself. Fort Constantine is 230 miles south of the original habitat of the buffalo fly during the winter months. This all goes to prove that he is migrating and acclimatising himself very quickly.

I was present with the Minister last June at Kajabbi when the fly was very prevalent. The day was a cold one, not a real winter's day, nor a summer's day. A local herd was put through the spraying yard for our benefit, and it was as badly infested as it would have been at any time during the summer months. That was additional proof that the fly is quickly acclimatising itself, notwithstanding the precautions and restrictions taken by the department. The additional work proposed will be of some benefit to the State, especially the dairy herds in the South. I should not like to witness among the southern dairy herds the ravages of the fly I have witnessed in the Gulf area. If that occurred not only should we lose our dairy herds, but the hon. member for Fassifern would lose his seat on the Butter Board. We should lose our exports of cheese and other things connected with the dairying industry.

Members opposite apparently view the matter from the point of view of having to pay 1d. in every £5, but we must take effective measures to keep this fly from spreading so that our butter and cheese industries will be protected.

On 8 July this year the graziers of the Gulf country—Normanton, Croydon, and Burketown districts—held a conference in Normanton, at the conclusion of which it was stated—

“The cattlemen of the North-West will also be pleased to know that it is the intention of the Minister for Agriculture and Stock to make the expense of fighting the fly a national matter and that the persons who really benefit by the buffalo fly legislation, the dairymen of the eastern coast, will have to bear their share of the burden.”

That request is coming from the graziers themselves; not from what the Opposition might regard as a hostile Government.

As far as the 1d. in £5 is concerned, I think it is really nothing to be concerned about, and £6,000 is not much to pay towards the eradication of the buffalo fly when one considers the cost it would be to cattle-owners if it migrates south amongst the dairy herds.

About 1930 I was in the Gulf country and travelled a few hundred miles before my notice was drawn to the buffalo fly, and now we find it down as far as Dajarra, Cloncurry, and Gilliat. It is moving down on the Flinders and the Cloncurry rivers, which are protected areas. As I stated previously, it was in the Cloncurry district this year in one of our coldest winters for 25 years. That

proves that the argument of hon. members opposite that this fly will not migrate or become acclimatised except in mild climates is an irresponsible statement.

On behalf of the graziers who are suffering loss in the price of their beef and the value of their properties through the ravages of the buffalo fly, I commend the Minister for bringing down this Bill. I think the 1d. in £5 will be negligible compared with the value of the experiment to prevent this fly from migrating to our dairy herds.

Mr. NIMMO (Oxley) (4.49 p.m.): I did not intend to say anything until the hon. member who has just resumed his seat spoke. He impressed me with the fact that there may be a very serious menace to the State in this area. The hon. member for Cooroora was alarmed about the buffalo fly when he was Secretary for Agriculture and Stock and he took certain measures providing for spraying, which have since been carried out. If the present Minister for Agriculture and Stock has allowed the fly to spread to the alarming extent stated by the hon. member for Gregory, then I say the menace necessitates more effective means to combat it than is provided for under this Bill.

This Bill tells us nothing of what is going to be done by the Government. When I spoke on the introductory stage of the Bill the Minister said, “Wait till you see the Bill. Where are they going to spray? On the farm or where?” When we get the Bill we find that it is purely a taxation measure. There is nothing in it except a provision for the raising of money.

I am of opinion that the spraying that is being carried out at present cannot be arresting the spread of the fly in this State, and the menace warrants our handling it in a much bigger way than that in which it is being handled at the present time. It needs attacking in a very much bigger way than the small way in which the Minister proposes.

There should be a very close investigation of the buffalo fly and this should be carried out by the whole of the people of the State. As a matter of fact, an hon. member—I think the hon. member for Aubigny—said that a Commonwealth investigation should be made. This pest may or may not spread, but it is a matter for very close scientific investigation.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: It has been going on for years.

Mr. NIMMO: It may have been going on for years but the paltry methods now suggested to deal with the problem will not eradicate the pest.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Do you want me to increase the rate?

Mr. NIMMO: I am suggesting that no rates be imposed. As a matter of fact, it appears to me that this will be another “Kathleen Mavourneen”: Once imposed it will continue for all time. Governments have a habit of continuing a tax once introduced and increasing it. The Minister is handling this

problem in a very lackadaisical manner, and after listening to the hon. member for Carpentaria, who pointed out that this pest has spread south of Cloncurry, I suggest the Bill be withdrawn and a real effort made to grapple with the problem.

When the hon. member for Cooroora, as Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, brought down the provisions to deal with the buffalo fly, he did not impose a tax on the cattlemen.

Mr. Jones: He suggested a buffer area.

Mr. NIMMO: He also suggested the carrying out of the work from consolidated revenue.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: He did not. He made use of the Stock Diseases Fund.

Mr. NIMMO: It is exactly the same thing. I go further and suggest that this work should be undertaken in a very much larger way than is suggested. All hon. members are really serious in endeavouring to arrest the spread of this pest in this State, but £6,000 will not do very much if the matter is as serious as the hon. member for Carpentaria has said it is. Every hon. member realises that £6,000 cannot go very far, and there will be certain costs of collection.

Moreover, the fund would enable only two or three men to operate and spray all the cattle that may come to southern meatworks from that area. Is that all that is to be done? The buffalo fly is or is not a menace. If it is a menace the Minister should withdraw the Bill and have additional investigations made rather than impose a tax that will become permanent. Measures to combat the fly have gone on since 1931, and spraying has been undertaken during all that time, but the hon. member for Carpentaria informs us that the fly has spread at a rapid rate in the past two or three years.

I ask the Minister to withdraw the Bill and not to impose this tax, which will raise such a small amount of money. Let there be a full investigation of this pest to ascertain if we cannot do something to eradicate it from the State.

Large sums of money were expended in an endeavour to eradicate the prickly-pear by poisoning and other means, but without effect until science came to the aid and discovered the cactoblastis. It is possible that if scientists were to investigate this pest they might discover a parasite in the country from which the fly originally came.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: Do you not think that has been done?

Mr. NIMMO: It may have been done, but on a very small scale. There has been no very serious attempt at it.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: A very intensive and costly biological investigation extending over a number of years was undertaken. Certain hosts were introduced but they failed.

Mr. NIMMO: But it does not follow that you are not going to get a suitable host. I suggest that the investigation is worth continuing. We all remember that the cochineal insect was tried first for the destruction of prickly-pear but it and other insects failed and eventually we discovered one that did the work. I think that in this Bill the Minister is only playing with the job. He is asking for a very small sum of money but is imposing an irksome tax.

The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock: But that £6,000 does not represent the total cost by any means. That is only the producers' contribution to the cost.

Mr. NIMMO: If that is so, then why does the Minister bother with it? Although it is not much money, this paltry £6,000 will cause a great deal of inconvenience throughout the State.

We all realise that the man on the land has to work very hard. He puts in all the hours of daylight on his farm, then, when he comes in at night, he has to sit down and stamp various documents. From memory I think he has to have a number of little boxes each holding a different stamp. He has to have postage stamps, duty stamps, State development tax stamps, ordinary taxation stamps, petrol-rationing tickets, and now the Minister proposes to require him to have another type of stamp. I leave it to the common sense of the House to decide whether it is fair to bring forward such a Bill as this for the purpose of raising a paltry £6,000.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time (Mr. Bulcock's motion)—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 30.

Mr. Brassington	Mr. Larcombe
„ Bulcock	„ Marriott
„ Clark	„ Moore
„ Collins	„ Moorhouse
„ Conroy	„ O'Keefe
„ Copley	„ Power
„ Devries	„ Slessar
„ Dunstan	„ Smith, A. J.
„ Farrell	„ Smith, W. Forgan
„ Foley	„ Theodore
„ Gair	„ Walsh
„ Gledson	„ Williams
„ Healy	
„ Hilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
„ Jesson	„ Mann
„ Jones	„ Turner

NOES, 13.

Mr. Barnes	Mr. Sparkes
„ Clayton	„ Walker
„ Decker	„ Yeates
„ Edwards	
„ Maher	<i>Tellers:</i>
„ Muller	„ Luckins
„ Nicklin	„ Macdonald
„ Nimmo	

PAIRS.

AYES.	NOES.
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Plunkett
„ Cooper	„ Deacon
„ Hanlon	„ Dart

Resolved in the affirmative.

The House adjourned at 5.4 p.m.