

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY 1943

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THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to Meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-EIGHT DAY OF JULY, IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1943.

WEDNESDAY, 28 JULY, 1943.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 8 July, 1943, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk of the Parliament read the proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. E. J. Hanson) at the bar, and accompanied to the dais.

Hon. members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

“GENTLEMEN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND,—

“It gives me great pleasure to meet you at the opening of this, the third session of the twenty-ninth Parliament of Queensland.

“When I addressed this House two years ago, I called attention to the days of unparalleled danger to the British Commonwealth of Nations which faced us then.

“During the past year Divine Providence has blessed the arms of our Empire and those of the Allied Nations.

“With dauntless courage, our fighting services and those of our Allies have won the initiative, in the war, on the sea, under the sea, on the land, and in the air, against the enemies of human freedom, and the officers and men of the merchant navy have gallantly endured and overcome untold hardships in the course of their duties on the oceans of the world. To these brave men we owe our undying gratitude. Our sympathy goes out to those who mourn the loss of loved ones in this titanic struggle, and we trust that those who are now prisoners of war will soon be with us again.

“With the help of the unswerving loyalty and self-sacrifice of all parts of the Empire, Great Britain and the Allied Nations, under inspiring and courageous leadership, have created justifiable hopes of a complete victory and permanent peace.

“That day has not yet arrived, and my advisers realise that from the people of Queensland more and more sacrifice must be asked before that essential aim is attained. The uncertainties of war are numberless, and the threat to Australia will stand until Japan is finally defeated. We cannot rest content until we, in this State, have put forward every effort possible to ensure that Australia, as part of the Empire, will retain that freedom to work out her own destiny which has always been hers.

“During the year I have visited very many parts of this State. Many, particularly those parts engaged in primary production, are suffering great disabilities due to the war effort, but all are endeavouring to meet their difficulties with fine patriotic spirit.

“A greater call than ever now is being made on Queensland and her citizens in view of her geographical position. The response has been a ready one, based on a determination to give all possible to ensure victory for the Allied arms, and so safeguard for all time the future of the generations yet to come.

“I join with my advisers in paying tribute to the excellent voluntary services rendered by members of the several branches of the civil defence organisations. The working of the many units of civil defence has been greatly improved, and the service has justly earned the approbation of the people and contributed materially to the splendid morale that has been maintained by the citizens of the State.

“My advisers have continued their utmost co-operation with the Commonwealth Government in the prosecution of the war and in all measures for the general security of the nation. This embraces defence works, civil defence requirements, food problems, and the

organisation and use of the resources of the State in the war effort, and for the general well-being. Included in the general scheme are plans to enable the people of the Motherland to receive much-needed food supplies from this country. It is therefore the aim of my advisers to give aid and encouragement for the further development of our lands and production.

"My advisers consider that an integral part of our war effort should be early preparation for post-war reconstruction.

"Rehabilitation of members of the services is primarily a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, but my advisers will eagerly co-operate with the Commonwealth in the work of placing as far as possible in congenial occupations those who have played their part in the war. Our standard in the world will be the treatment we are able to give to those who have served us, and we will have no attractions to the free men of other countries if we are not able to deal, not only humanely, but fairly with those who have done so much for us.

"The Government will so prepare its plans for post-war reconstruction that the development of the State, the utilisation of its natural resources, and the spreading of its ever-growing population will be the primary objectives. The establishment of the National Works Council recently agreed to at a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers will enable the State to join with the Commonwealth Government in giving effect to these plans.

"The wise provision of funds for post-war work will enable the Government, amongst other things, to pursue a policy of assisting local authorities in their development which will add greatly to the conveniences and amenities of home life. The policy of decentralisation followed by previous Governments is bringing to the Commonwealth a rich reward in the way of facilities which are of inestimable value in the prosecution of the war. Had this State not been so appropriately developed, war costs would have been immeasurably higher.

"Recognising, too, that it was essential that there should be in this State an instrumentality capable of aiding in the solution of post-war problems, my advisers took action during the past year to promulgate the major portion of the Co-ordination of Employment Facilities Act of 1941, and to set up comprehensive machinery to assist in the preparation of plans to cope with general employment problems and the effective repatriation of our gallant sons and daughters, on the war front and on the home front.

"This measure is collateral to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act, under which statutory enactment was given to the policy of an orderly system of Governmental and semi-Governmental works on a planned basis.

"My advisers have also prepared for post-war reconstruction in their financial policy. In March of this year the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund

Act was passed, having for its object aid to post-war reconstruction and the general benefit and economic welfare of the State by marshalling and conserving the finances on a planned system to build up an adequate Reserve Fund.

"Already an amount of £5,250,000 has been allocated from consolidated revenue to the credit of the Reserve Fund, including an amount of £1,250,000 specially set aside for railway purposes. It must be recognised that the Railway Department has performed excellent service in the matter of war transport. The volume of traffic handled will naturally entail heavy charges for maintenance and replacements, and it is with this in mind that the above sum has been reserved, to be utilised by the Railway Department when required.

"The transactions of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the financial year ended on 30 June, 1943, resulted in a surplus of £102,022, as compared with the Budget estimate of £39,146. The receipts totalled £29,284,073 and the expenditure £29,182,051. The surplus, which is the fifth in succession, was obtained after setting aside the amount of £5,250,000 to the Post-war Fund as previously stated. Expenditure from the Loan Fund totalled £1,964,000, and was confined to essential works connected with the prosecution of the war, loans to local authorities for civil defence purpose, and subsidies for sewerage works at present under construction.

"The proportion of the total works and developmental expenditure from State loan and consolidated revenue funds which has been incurred on projects of direct defence value has increased steadily since the beginning of hostilities and, during last financial year, some 50 per cent. of such expenditure was on account of projects within that category, including extensive harbour improvements and shipbuilding facilities, strategic roads and civil defence work.

"Railway traffic handled last year eclipsed all previous records in respect of the carriage of both passengers and goods, a large proportion of the traffic involving haulages for long distances.

"The railway cash collections for the financial year ended 30 June, 1943, totalled £16,917,791, being £6,470,000 in excess of the previous year's collections. Freights and fares were reduced by 5 per cent. as from the 1st March, 1943, and a further remission of 5 per cent. in these charges will become operative as from 1 August next.

"Great credit is due to the railways staff for the splendid manner in which all sections of the service have responded to the heavy calls made on them to meet vital transport needs which is a basic and important part of the Commonwealth war effort.

"My advisers have decided that where local authorities have been paying 5 per cent. per annum interest on certain loans from the Treasury, those interest charges will be reduced to 4½ per cent. per annum.

"Despite the many factors caused by the exigencies of war, the health of the people of the State is reflected in the low incidence of disease. My advisers have ensured that

the closest co-operation exists between the Health Department and the local authorities, and have decided to reduce from 40 to 25 per cent. the local authorities' share of the costs of hospital services.

"In the early part of the year my advisers approved of a grant of a 50 per cent. subsidy to local authorities for implementing any approved scheme for the control and eradication of mosquitoes in Queensland.

"Shortly afterwards, my advisers also decided to allocate the sum of £4,500 to enable the University of Queensland to collaborate with the Department of Health, the Department of Public Instruction, and local authorities, in the campaign for mosquito control. The assistance rendered by the University in this connection would be mainly in the field of research and instruction. Co-operative Commonwealth and State action is now in train to combat the possible spread of malaria.

"My advisers have continued to be mindful of the welfare of the child who through the loss of a parent or other unfortunate circumstance needs the constant care and assistance of the community. The allowance payable to mothers, foster mothers, and licensed institutions for children has been increased by 2s. per week for each child.

"The officers and members of the Police Force are entrusted during the war with many extra duties in the maintenance of national security. These have been performed with credit to the force as a whole and to the satisfaction of the community.

"During the past year the demand for electricity has increased in many parts of the State in order to meet various war-time requirements, and though the position is becoming increasingly difficult, these demands have been met. The major development was the appointment of a controller of electricity supply by the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of mobilising and co-ordinating the generation, transmission, distribution, and supply of electricity in the interests of defence. In accordance with the policy of State and Commonwealth co-operation, the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission has been appointed Regional Controller for the Queensland region, the services of his trained staff being also available to the Controller. Wherever practicable, all constructional works necessary to meet defence requirements in any area have been so planned and located that post-war developmental needs in that area will be supplied.

"Remission or suspension of rents during their period of active service of Crown tenants has been granted to 1,326 tenants of Crown lands, embracing a total number of 1,822 holdings, with an annual rental value of £33,119. In addition, the lessees are relieved of the performance of certain conditions attaching to their leases.

"Suspension of the payment of principal moneys on mortgages to the Crown under the National Security (War Service Moratorium) Regulations has been availed of by tenants on active service in 350 cases, representing relief to the extent of £3,463 per annum.

"The demand for timber for military purposes continued to impose a heavy drain on the forests, and approximately 200,000,000 superficial feet of logs were cut. Shortage of man-power, haulage plant and parts caused difficulties and delays in supply. The department undertook and supplied to schedule numerous orders for round and hewn constructional timbers for military purposes.

"Recognising the importance of cotton production in the war effort, my advisers continue to encourage its production and have made funds available from the Cotton Production Expansion Fund to cotton-growers for preparation and cultivation requirements.

"Thirty-two plants were installed for cotton and vegetable irrigation, and water conservation work on schemes valued at £73,000 embraced three major projects for bridge and storage works.

"The policy of producing vegetables as near as practicable to centres of consumption has resulted in large scale production in North Queensland, both on the coast and tablelands.

"The Bureau of Rural Development continues to prove an excellent medium in the direction of co-ordinating and centralising facilities for loans and advances for agricultural and rural development. Advances for farm implements and various purposes connected with the land, with special attention to the production of vegetables and other essential crops, are made available on liberal terms by the bureau.

"My advisers have decided to introduce amending legislation reducing the maximum interest rate on all advances and liberalising terms of loans and increasing the maximum of the advances for the purpose for which the bureau was established.

"The report of the royal commission appointed in October last to inquire into various matters appertaining to the sugar industry, including the availability of man-power, was received early in the year and effect given in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government to certain of its valued recommendations.

"Activity in the mining industry has been directed to the production of metals and minerals necessary under the present conditions. Difficulty however has been experienced in finding adequate man-power. The stabilisation of prices of the major metals at satisfactory levels has served as an impetus to production. Drilling operations are being conducted on the oil shale deposits in localities regarded as having possibilities of satisfactory results.

"No effort has been spared by my advisers to approach those in whose hands rests the supply of coal and seek their co-operation to increase production to the maximum, and I am pleased to state that all sections have responded loyally and admirably and no industrial dispute occurred in this industry during the period under review. The coal-miners of Queensland have been unremitting in their efforts to maintain and improve

production, and coalmine figures generally have improved over the year.

“The State Government Insurance Office continues to carry out its obligations under the Workers' Compensation Acts and also the necessary insurance service under life contracts to members of the forces and their dependants. It may be stated that this office has subscribed £670,000 to war loans during the last financial year, and in all £1,187,600 during the present war. Premiums on fire policies were also reduced by a further 25 per cent. from October last. A measure further to liberalise benefits to injured workers will be submitted for consideration during the session.

“The Government has decided to further kindergarten education in this State. The Creche and Kindergarten Association, working voluntarily and with an admirable spirit of enthusiasm, has established institutions, on kindergarten lines, for pre-school children in certain metropolitan areas. A joint committee, representative of the Department of Public Instruction and the Creche and Kindergarten Association has been established to control the operations of the Kindergarten College, to consider the establishment of further kindergarten centres in the closely settled residential portions of Brisbane, and to advise on the extension of creche and kindergarten work to other population centres of the State.

“The success of the Primary Correspondence School has influenced the Government to extend correspondence instruction by the institution of a secondary correspondence course which will carry students up to University Junior and Senior standard.

“My advisers have decided to raise the compulsory school leaving age to 15. Owing to difficulties in regard to manpower and building material this decision cannot be enforced immediately, but the whole question of the relation of primary to secondary education has been carefully reviewed, and plans will be prepared to give practical effect, as soon as possible, to the Government's decision in regard to the school leaving age.

“An increase of £1 per annum has been made in the allowance payable to a scholarship-holder the income of whose parents did not exceed the basic wage or £40 per annum per dependent unit of the family which latter amount has now been increased to £50 per dependent unit.

“Tuition fees payable to approved secondary schools on behalf of scholarship-holders were also increased, as from 1st January, 1943, by £2 per annum for boys and girls being original scholarship-holders, and by £1 per annum for boys and girls being extension scholarship-holders.

“The allowances to students at the Teachers' Training College have been increased by £12 for First Year Juniors living at home, and by £13 per annum for First Year Juniors living away from home. The fees of Second Year Juniors and Seniors living at home have been increased from £14

to £39 per annum, and for those living away from home from £52 to £78 per annum.

“Satisfactory arrangements have been made by the Government in the provision of temporary premises for the reopening of the Agricultural High School and College.

“The National Education Co-ordination and the University of Queensland Acts Amendment Act of 1941, assented to on the 13th November, 1941, will be proclaimed during the ensuing year, and opportunity will be taken to give effect to the provisions of the Act, particularly those relating to adult education.

“My advisers have also given attention to the question of improved library facilities for our citizens, and a Bill to that end is being prepared.

“The depletion of staffs owing to the demands of war has placed an additional burden on the remaining officers of the public service, who have cheerfully co-operated in performing whatever additional work they have been called upon to do.

“My advisers contemplate the establishment of a Railway Superannuation Fund, and for this purpose it is proposed to discuss the matter with representatives of the railway employees with a view to devising a scheme that will be satisfactory to the railway service whilst being established on a sound financial basis. My advisers feel that the Government subsidy requisite to establishing a suitable scheme will be a broad reward to all railway employees for their magnificent war effort.

“A wider scheme embracing all workers will not be overlooked, and is a matter for consideration in conjunction with proposals which may be formulated by the Commonwealth Government.

“The Estimates for the current financial year are in course of preparation, and will be submitted to you as early as possible. These Estimates will be found to have been prepared not only with due regard to economy, but with full regard to the essential requirements of the State.

“During the session you will be invited to give consideration to the following among other measures:—

1. Audit Bill.
2. Building Societies Acts Amendment Bill.
3. Factories and Shops Bill.
4. Health Acts Amendment Bill.
5. Hospitals Act Amendment Bill.
6. Land and Water Resources Bill.
7. Libraries Bill.
8. Public Curator Acts Amendment Bill.
9. Succession Acts Amendment Bill.
10. Workers' Accommodation Acts Amendment Bill.

“In conclusion, while the course of the war is at present definitely in favour of the Allied Nations, we must not forget that our enemies are still formidable and reckless.

“Our task is not an easy one. But with that spirit of determination and with a resolution not to falter, we are confident that the future will bring to the Allied cause that victory to which we all aspire and which will lead us to a peace with honour and to a better and brighter world.

“I invite your earnest consideration to all matters that may be brought before you, and I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence attend your labours.”

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER left the chair at 12.23 p.m., resuming it at 2.15 p.m.

BY-ELECTIONS DURING RECESS.

OXLEY AND BARCOO.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, during the recess, in accordance with the direction of the 10th section of the Legislative Assembly Act of 1867, I issued writs on 26 March, 1943, for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Oxley and Barcoo in the room of Thomas Nimmo, Esquire, deceased, and Frank William Bulcock, Esquire, resigned; and that the said writs had been duly returned to me with certificates endorsed thereon by the returning officers of the election on 17 April, 1943, of Thomas Caldwell Kerr, Esquire, and the election on 1 May, 1943, of Edward William Davis, Esquire, to serve as such members for the electorates of Oxley and Barcoo respectively.

I have also to inform the House that an Order in Council was issued on 1 July, 1943, validating the election for the electoral district of Barcoo, notwithstanding that the writ was not returned on the due date, and extending the time for the return of the said writ until 12 June, 1943.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. E. W. Davis and Mr. T. C. Kerr were introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

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

William Logan Dart, member for the electoral district of Wynnum;

Eric Paul Decker, member for the electoral district of Sandgate;

Thomas Dunstan, member for the electoral district of Gympie;

David Farrell, member for the electoral district of Maryborough;

John Henry Mann, member for the electoral district of Brisbane.

LOSS OF PARCHMENT ACTS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been advised by the Private Secretary, Government House, that certain copies of Parchment Acts forwarded by His Excellency to the Dominions Office have been lost in transit as a result of enemy action.

The missing Acts are as follows:—

Session of 1941—Acts Nos. 9 to 21.

Session of 1942—Acts Nos. 28 to 39.

As the Dominions Office have asked that these Acts be duplicated, I have given instructions for the reprinting and supply of extra parchment copies. I have taken it for granted that the House is agreeable to this, notwithstanding the provisions of our Standing Orders which stipulate that only “four fair prints on vellum” shall be furnished of every Bill “which shall have passed the House of Parliament.”

It is also intended for the duration of the war to have five copies fair printed—one copy to be held in reserve to replace possible loss.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES; SHORTAGES OF PROCESSED FOODSTUFFS AND CLOTHING.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received letters from the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth acknowledging the resolutions passed by the House on 13 and 16 April last, in regard to the production of dairy and other products and the supplies of essential processed foodstuffs and essential clothing in Queensland.

The letters are placed on the table for the information of hon. members.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received a letter from Bruce Pie, Esquire, resigning his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as member for the electoral district of Hamilton, as from 30 June, 1943.

SEAT DECLARED VACANT.

The PREMIER (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Bremer): I move—

“That the seat in this House for the electoral district of Hamilton hath become and is now vacant by reason of the resignation of Bruce Pie, Esquire.”

Motion agreed to.

PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation, dated 15 April, 1943, under the Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1940, and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940.

Orders in Council under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1939.

By-laws under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1939.

Regulations and Amendments of Regulations under the Public Safety Act of 1940.

Directions by the Council of Public Safety under the Public Safety Act of 1940.

Orders in Council (5), dated 29 April, 6 May, 24 June (2), and 1 July, 1943, under the Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Act of 1942.

Order in Council, dated 10 June, 1943, under the Industries Assistance Acts, 1929 to 1933.

Orders in Council (5), dated 27 May, 10 June (3), and 8 July, 1943, under the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund Act of 1943.

Order in Council, dated 25 March, 1943, under the Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904.

Regulations (2), dated 6 May and 24 June, 1943, under the Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Act of 1942.

Orders in Council under the Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1941.

Proclamation under the Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1941.

Orders in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Orders in Council under the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1942.

Order in Council under the Elections Acts, 1915 to 1942.

Regulations under the Friendly Societies Acts, 1913 to 1942.

Regulations under the Possessory Liens Act of 1942.

The fifty-eighth annual report of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1941.

Regulations under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1940.

Regulations, dated 22 April, 1943, under the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Acts, 1941 to 1942.

Return under the Mining Machinery Advances Act of 1906.

Orders in Council under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1941.

Regulations under the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1941, the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1941, and the Second-hand Fruit Cases Act of 1940.

By-laws Nos. 431 to 433 under the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1934.

QUESTIONS.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton), without notice, asked the Treasurer—

“As the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund Act provides that all credits to the special trust fund created by it shall be appropriated by Parliament, what is meant by the phrase contained in the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor in the Chamber this morning which reads as follows—

‘Already an amount of £5,250,000 has been allocated from consolidated revenue to the credit of the Reserve Fund.’

Is this another instance of Cabinet rule as against parliamentary rule?”

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

“No, Mr. Speaker, it is not an instance of Cabinet rule as against parliamentary rule; it is evidence of misunderstanding by the hon. member of the paragraph of the Speech.”

FODDER FOR MILK PRODUCERS.

Mr. DECKER (Sandgate), without notice, asked the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock—

“Will he take immediate steps to investigate the acute shortage of fodder at the Roma street markets, supposedly caused by inadequate transport facilities. This matter is of vital interest to the city warm-milk producers.”

The SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE AND STOCK (Hon. T. L. Williams, Port Curtis) replied—

“The hon. member might have submitted that question somewhat earlier. Only to-day, about lunch-time, representations were made by me at the Roma street markets with a view to seeing that in future supplies of chaff and fodder suitable for milk producers were made available to them in proportion to their needs.”

DEATH OF MESSRS. ANTHONY OGDEN AND DONALD GUNN.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Bremer) (2.39 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Anthony Ogden, Esquire, and Donald Gunn, Esquire, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the relatives of the deceased gentlemen the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.”

Mr. Anthony Ogden was elected to this Parliament as one of the two representatives for Townsville on 20 January, 1894, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. George Robertson Burns, and he held the seat until February, 1896, when he was defeated by Mr. W. J. Castling. The Parliament to which Mr. Anthony Ogden was elected—the eleventh—was a historical one, inasmuch as it contained men who greatly reinforced one side of the House, and who reinforced the House in general. Mr. Andrew Fisher, who eventually became Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, made his first appearance in it, and with him were Henry Daniels; John Dunsford; Robert King; Harry Turley, who became President of the Senate; Cross; Anderson Dawson, who afterwards was called upon to form the first Queensland Labour Ministry, and who later on became Commonwealth Minister for Defence; Mr. Mat. Reid, who became a Senator; Mr. George Kerr, the Barcoo blacksmith who became a Minister of the Crown; and Mr. George Jackson, who is credited with having pioneered old-age pensions, and who was Chairman of Committees and a Minister of this House. To that Parliament also came Mr. H. F. Hardacre, who was the first Labour Secretary for Public Lands; Mr. Charlie McDonald, who ultimately became Speaker of the House of Representatives; and Mr. Browne, who represented the constituency of Croydon in this House. It was a remarkable influx of men who later became distinguished in many ways in the life of the Parliaments of Australia. As a matter of fact, they emerged into public life in what might be called the stirring nineties. We have heard many descriptions of the nineties, we have heard them described as gay and fascinating, but there is no question that those men lived in years that were truly stirring. They lived in a period of purposeful men, men whose faces were illumined with the dawn of a better day, of better things for the people who toiled and moiled in a way that made their lives just drudgery.

Anthony Ogden was one of those men. He was a pioneer, and a pioneer of a social era. He filled a definite place in the industrial field. Mr. Ogden held the esteem and confidence of the men with whom he worked in Townsville to the end of his days. It was a remarkable career in that alone—the high respect with which he was held by all sections of the community in Townsville. Mr. Ogden won it because he firmly believed that a man who had a purpose and who aimed at an appointed thing should keep to that single purpose and not stray along many paths. Life to him had a meaning because it had a very definite purpose.

Then there are some of us who know that there was another side to Mr. Anthony Ogden's life. There are many of us who are nominally Christians, there are many of us who profess to be and who call ourselves Christians, but Mr. Anthony Ogden lived the life he professed, and I can assure you there are no tricks in plain and simple faith. Mr. Ogden was a man who lived a life for the community, who gave much to the community,

and who was a very worthy citizen of Queensland.

Mr. Donald Gunn was born at Bombala, New South Wales, in February, 1856, and came to Queensland when he was six years of age. His life was spent in the south-western district of Queensland, and he associated himself with every progressive movement in that area. He was elected to Parliament as the representative of Carnarvon on 18 May, 1907, and he sat through the 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st Parliaments until the latter was dissolved on 9 September, 1920.

On all matters relating to the pastoral and agricultural industries Mr. Gunn brought to bear a wisdom gained from long association with the land. Those of us who sat with him in this Parliament know that he was never bitter in his opposition, preferring rather that quiet, persuasive way which achieves greater results, particularly when it is backed by a sound knowledge of the matter under discussion. In this House his personal charm and unflinching humour endeared him to us all. No-one had a greater love for Queensland than Donald Gunn. He was one of its pioneers; he was a direct link between the very early days of this colony and the present day, and a link between the time when Queensland was a part of New South Wales and ultimately became a sovereign State. He will be remembered by everyone who knew him for his transparent honesty, his decency, and his good works.

Donald Gunn was in every respect a pioneer. It was Andrew Carnegie who said that pioneering does not pay, but the man who does the work of pioneering always finds that it does pay. Donald Gunn was that type of pioneer. He was one of the souls that pegged the paths that later generations turned into highways, highways of a better cause because of the fine work that the pioneers did. We remember his quiet unassuming kindly nature, yet always ready to break a political lance with those who opposed him or held contrary views. To-day we speak of our possibilities in primary production. We count our sheep in millions, we count the return of wool in millions of pounds. We count our dairy cattle and talk of the immense quantities of butter produced in Queensland and Australia. There were leaders in those enterprises—men who beckoned on those who were somewhat afraid to follow. Donald Gunn was an earnest leader, a great pioneer, a man who—to use a hackneyed phrase—blazed many trails. He was a dauntless man who plodded on clearing, building, and establishing—unquestionably a real pioneer.

I think we can say of both these men, Anthony Ogden and Donald Gunn, that they remind us of a verse that we learnt in our school book called "My Aim," written by a man named Banks. I am sure that many of us recited it in our school days because it was something that appealed to us. In it there are some lines that are so well-known to us and meant so much to us that

we can say that they were our aims. They run as follows:—

“I live for those who love me, for those who know me true;

For the heaven that smiles above me, and awaits my spirit, too;

For the cause that lacks assistance, for the wrong that needs resistance,

For the future in the distance, and the good that I can do.”

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (2.49 p.m.): I desire to associate the Opposition with the motion so ably moved by the Premier extending condolences to the families of the late Anthony Ogden and Donald Gunn. I join with the Premier in expressing our deepest sympathy with their relatives.

Not many of us remember the late Anthony Ogden. He was a member in one of the early Parliaments, but undoubtedly he served his constituency and his State well while he was in Parliament and during his associations with the movement of which he was one of the pioneers. Most of us knew the late Donald Gunn. We respected him for his good qualities, for his kindly nature, and for what he has done for Queensland. His passing undoubtedly severs a link with the early history of this State, and particularly the early days of the pastoral industry in this country. He was one who pioneered the pastoral industry in South-western Queensland and on the Darling Downs, and he played no small part in developing it not only in those areas, but also in other parts of the State. He was one of those men who when they took up a task did it well, and the mark of Donald Gunn will remain for very many years on the sheep and wool industry of the State. Not only did he take a keen interest in its organisation, but he was a renowned breeder, and contributed in no small measure to the improvement of our stock and the quality of our wool clip.

In the organisation of the grazing industry Donald Gunn was again a pioneer. He pioneered the organisation known as the United Graziers' Association, which now speaks on behalf of the industry in this State. He was a man who during his association with it and with those organisations of our State in which he lived and worked was highly respected by all. The greatest tribute that can be paid to him is what is very often said of Donald Gunn by the old pioneers of the area in which he was best known, that Donald Gunn's word was his bond.

Donald Gunn graduated through local-government work to this Assembly, where he undoubtedly served this State well. As the Premier said, he had a way with him that enabled him to get things done and he expressed his views in a way that was inimitable, that was just Donald Gunn. One of his pastimes, if one can use that term in this respect, was his encouragement of agricultural shows in this State. There is no doubt

that he did a great deal towards firmly establishing the holding of many agricultural shows in the south-west part of this State and in this city, as is now seen in the Royal National Show. We shall always have a record of his life and the early history associated with his life in the book he wrote, “Links With the Past.”

Donald Gunn lived to a grand old age and during the whole of his lifetime he gave service to this State. One can truly say of him that he gave a life of service to his country and was an example to all us citizens of this State.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

DEATH OF MR. T. NIMMO.

REPLY TO MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received from the widow of the late T. Nimmo, Esq., M.L.A., an acknowledgment of the motion of condolence passed by the House on 24 March last.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. GRAHAM (Mackay) (2.54 p.m.), who was received with cheers, said: I move—

“That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this the third session of the twenty-ninth Parliament of Queensland:—

‘May it please Your Excellency,—

‘We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

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

‘We join with Your Excellency in expressing heartfelt gratitude to the men of our fighting services and to our Allies for the magnificent courage and quenchless spirit they have shown in combat with the enemy,

and pledge ourselves to do our utmost to hasten the hour of decisive victory and the coming of peace.' ”

I am fully conscious of the high honour that has been accorded me to-day in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply. I am also conscious of the fact that my selection for this duty is an honour to the constituents of my electorate.

One cannot but be impressed with the promising and constructive address delivered by His Excellency. We are indeed fortunate that we have as our King's representative in this State a gentleman of the calibre of Sir Leslie Wilson. We who have been residents of this State for many years keenly appreciate the interest that Sir Leslie has shown in all matters pertaining to the welfare of this State.

Sir Leslie Wilson is in his third term as Governor of this State. Travelling throughout the State as he has done has given him a full knowledge of the possibilities of this great State; and by his association with the various bodies throughout Queensland and his keen interest in the activities of the people in general, he has endeared himself to all alike. May he be long spared to continue in his high office.

I should like to place on record some appreciation of the honourable and valuable service the ex-Premier of Queensland, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith, has given to this State.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: As his successor in this Parliament, I feel honoured to follow a man of the calibre of William Forgan Smith. For 27 years he graced the floor of this Parliament, and who can reasonably say that he did not do a job equivalent to that done by the best of our statesmen? No words of mine can adequately convey the respect with which Mr. Forgan Smith was held by the electors of Queensland, particularly the electors of Mackay. I am sure his going out of Parliament will be a great loss, not only to the electors of Mackay, but also to the people of Queensland; and I am sure when the annals of Australian history are written the name of William Forgan Smith will be included in the list of her great statesmen.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: Queensland has been particularly fortunate in having had such great leaders as T. J. Ryan, E. G. Theodore, William McCormack, William Forgan Smith, and our present Premier, Mr. Frank Cooper, to lead this great Australian Labour Party. It has been their inspiring leadership that has brought the Australian Labour Party to the stage it has reached to-day. For 27 years, with the exception of the three years between 1929 and 1932, when we had a change of Government, we have had Labour in office in Queensland. Queensland enjoys its present prosperous condition because of the able, capable, and honest leadership of the men I have mentioned. They guided Labour through the troubled waters of government

until to-day we find that Labour has done all that it said it would do; and I am sure that so long as the people of Queensland in their wisdom return Labour to the Government benches of this State so long will the progress of the State continue.

Labour has given to the people such things as the Industrial Court, our industrial laws, land settlement, agricultural development, so that we find the standard of living has so improved that we can truthfully say that Queensland enjoys a standard of living comparable to anything else in the world.

Mr. J. F. Barnes interjected.

Mr. GRAHAM: The present Federal election that is coming on is, in my opinion, the most momentous in the whole of Australia's history, and it is up to us to stand to the policy of the Australian Labour Party to do our very utmost to see that the Government who have been so capably led by Mr. John Curtin are returned. The hopeless mess left by the previous Hughes-Menzies Government was sufficient in itself to warrant their dismissal. The disgraceful neglect of North Queensland was in keeping with their inability to handle an all-in war effort.

Mr. J. F. Barnes: I will give you the strength of the Brisbane line.

Mr. GRAHAM: Give it to Mr. Ward.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I warn the hon. member for Bundaberg that if he continues his interruptions I will deal with him.

Mr. GRAHAM: Their scrambling for ministerial positions and their inability to handle the reins of government has shown that were they to regain office during the war period this nation would be sacrificed, as it would have been sacrificed had not John Curtin been capable of taking the leadership as he did.

I quote the following from the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 29 April, 1941:—

"They (the Government) are starting behind scratch with a country unprepared for war, a country that even after two and a-half years of war still lacks essential weapons and supplies."

There is no-one who can say that the "Telegraph" was supporting John Curtin in any way, yet it had to admit that. The Menzies and Fadden Governments left the country, as that paper said, unprepared for war.

Mr. Macdonald: Whose fault is that?

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. member for Stanley can obtain verification of it in the right quarter. But in the face of these facts Messrs. Fadden, Menzies, and Hughes have the effrontery to appeal to the people of Australia to return them to the Federal Parliament. But enough of that. It needs no eloquence of mine to tell the people of Australia the type of men who compose the unholy three—Messrs. Menzies, Fadden, and Hughes. We shall get an effective reply on

21 August by the return to power of John Curtin, who has given us outstanding leadership.

I was very much impressed by Mr. Curtin's concluding remarks in his policy speech when he said, "Victory in war; victory in peace." Might I ask, what then? The solution of the problems that will confront the Government of the day in the post-war period must supply the answer. Must we accept the conditions that followed the last world war, conditions under which those who had made the sacrifice and those who had undergone the trials and tribulations of war were cast onto the industrial scrapheap or are we going to demand something better? The people of this continent, in fact the peoples of the world are to-day seeking for something denied them by past Governments. We know that in Australia we have had Labour in power for only a very short period, but I am certain we shall retain it in the Federal sphere from now on.

Mr. Macdonald: You are a super-optimist.

Mr. GRAHAM: Thanks for supplying the word. We can ensure to the people economic security, the right to work and to live. Those who have been asked to make sacrifices during the war must be provided for when the war is over. We hope that that time is not far distant. The men and women in the fighting services, the merchant navy and the various other war activities of the nation expect something in return for the sacrifices they are making and if we have any spark of human kindness within us it is our duty to see that this is given. We must not have a repetition of the conditions that existed prior to this war and during the last post-war period.

Mr. Dart: We want a national Government.

Mr. GRAHAM: A national Government will not solve the problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: We of the Australian Labour Party know that we have in the planks of our platform sufficient to supply the answer. If it is possible—and I do not doubt it will be possible—we shall provide for the people in the way in which they should be provided for in the post-war period. The rehabilitation of the members of the fighting forces will no doubt be the most difficult problem for Governments to contend with when the war is over, but in their wisdom the Labour Governments in Queensland and the Federal Parliament have been and are making provision that when peace reigns once more we shall find the groundwork will have been prepared for putting these people back into work. The Commonwealth Government have established what is known as the National Works Council. This will greatly assist in post-war reconstruction. The Co-ordination of Employment Facilities Act, passed by the Queensland Parliament, in conjunction with the National Works Council, will give large scope to provide for general

employment. The Government in their wisdom, as has been mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, have made arrangements for financial backing for the work proposed to be undertaken.

As His Excellency the Governor mentioned this morning, the sum of £5,250,000 has been allocated to a reserve fund. Whilst that is admittedly a small amount, it will form the basis upon which this Government can start the work of rehabilitation.

The amount that has been allocated to railways replacements and repairs—£1,250,000, also will form the foundation upon which our railways will be reconstructed. It is well known to everyone that our railways are doing a job to-day that is unprecedented in the history of Queensland. If anyone had suggested that with single lines running throughout the length and breadth of the State our Queensland railways could have carried the traffic they have during the last two years one would have been inclined to disbelieve it, but with the close and loyal co-operation of the railway employees we find that although we have a certain number of late trains our railway traffic is carrying on. For seven days each week and from morn till night on each day trains are running continuously, and we cannot give enough credit for this to those railway men who are doing such a splendid job for this country's war effort. Having been a railway man prior to my election to this Parliament, I know something of the vicissitudes besetting railway employees. I know that while every man in the fighting services is making a great sacrifice for his country the railway men also are making a supreme effort to bring this war to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Brand: Working 180 hours a fortnight.

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes, and even 200 hours in some cases. No man wants to work 200 hours a fortnight, but the railway employees are doing that with a good heart and a strong spirit.

Whilst I know that our Government are doing their best to alleviate some of the railway employees' troubles, such as long hours and shortage of accommodation, I honestly think that greater consideration must be given to these men, as there is a limit to their ability to work.

Mr. Brand: Then you have Curtin wanting to confiscate them.

Mr. GRAHAM: Curtin does not want to confiscate them any more than my Government do.

Mr. Brand: He wants to take them over.

Mr. GRAHAM: And it might be a good thing if he did, but the fact remains that the Queensland railway employees are doing a remarkable job to-day and I appeal to this Government to see that greater consideration is given to them.

The Government's intention to provide a railway superannuation scheme has much to commend it. Hon. members will recall that

some years ago there was such a scheme, but that was abolished, and I feel that the railway men to-day will accept another scheme so long as it has a sound foundation. Superannuation offers an incentive to railway men in that they can look forward to some security in their old age and be free of the fear of being worked to death as they are being to-day. It will moreover give them some encouragement to retire when they are eligible to benefit from the scheme and so make way for younger men. One of the worst features of railway life, especially in the locomotive section, is the slowness of promotion brought about to a great extent by the large locomotives, lack of new construction, and the breaking down of gauges. I feel sure that with co-operation between our Minister and the railway unions many of these difficulties can be overcome and a satisfactory railway superannuation scheme that will encourage men to retire earlier in life and make way for the younger men who desire promotion can be evolved.

Mr. Yeates: It is 75 years overdue.

Mr. GRAHAM: That may be so, but we shall be pleased to accept it even at this late hour. I feel confident that when the Government give the necessary consideration to the matter a satisfactory railway superannuation scheme can be produced.

The Government's decision to reduce railway freights and fares was necessary, and I am in full agreement with it. It gives relief not only to the travelling public but also to primary producers and others who find it necessary to use the railways.

The Government have made a very important decision, too, in reducing the interest rate payable to them by local authorities from 5 per cent. to 4½ per cent. This will mean very acceptable relief to the local authorities, especially to those who have incurred heavy expenditure. It is a further indication of the interest taken by the Government in local-authority affairs. No doubt the Government are able to do this at the present moment because of their improved financial position.

Another important step made by the Government has been to reduce hospital precepts payable by local authorities from 40 per cent. to 25 per cent. This relief will be very acceptable to the hospital districts concerned. The Premier has mentioned that a move will be made to induce the Commonwealth Government to accept some of the responsibility for hospital upkeep. That is long overdue.

Mr. L. J. Barnes: It is long overdue.

Mr. GRAHAM: That may be, but we cannot have everything as we should like it, and we must be content to proceed step by step. These reforms will mean advancement for everybody.

The Government have also decided to raise the school-leaving age to 15 years. That decision perhaps is long overdue, too. I have always held the view that it was not desirable to have the school-leaving age as low as 14 years and that it should be extended

even to 16 years so as to give the child a better opportunity of getting secondary education, which may to some extent be denied to-day with a school-leaving age fixed at 14 years. In arriving at the decision to make the school-leaving age 15 years I have no doubt that the Government have in mind further provision to see that a better education is given to the child in the last year of schooling.

There are many other matters to which I should like to refer, the most important of which relates to post-war problems. There have been much talk and many promises concerning a new world order, and as a member of the Government party I look forward to the day when we shall see a social order that will give the people of the State and the Commonwealth generally the economic security they have a right to expect. We can hardly expect to be able to change the economic system in the twinkling of an eye. For over 2,000 years we have continued under the system commonly known as capitalism, but what benefits have we derived from it? Within the last 25 years we have witnessed two world wars, and they can be attributed only to the fact that we have used our instruments of production for profit instead of for use. I believe that it is possible to establish a social order without the degradation and poverty that exists in the world now, and it is the duty of every one of us who has even a spark of human kindness in his make-up to endeavour to bring about such an order as will rid us of our present hard taskmasters. We desire a civilisation that will permit us to live in a degree of comfort, and as I said before that can be achieved only by the grand old Labour Party. The following sentiments, expressed by F. W. Pethick-Lawrence, are in point:—

“Labour is a mighty force to conjure with, it reaches up from the humblest to the grandest service which men can perform for the physical, moral, and spiritual wellbeing of the race. On us who take this name for our political standards rests the sacred task of preserving our banner unblemished by selfish ambitions or weak compromise for personal or party ends. Its folds must float high above the crowds, uplifted by the strongest arms, the most steadfast faith, the noblest thoughts, and the purest passions.”

If we could set up a new social system based on those sentiments we should be able to get away from the misery and the suffering inflicted on humanity to-day. We must develop within the minds of our people such thoughts as were expressed by this man. We must educate our people so that they will be uplifted to do the right thing.

I have said that we have witnessed two world wars during the last two and a half decades. I am strongly of the opinion that although we won the last world war we certainly lost the peace, and it was because we lost the peace that the second great world war occurred. Is it any wonder, then, that we see so much agitation to break down the Fascist and anti-Labour policies that have

prevailed in some countries. The people are looking for a lead that will change the present forms existing in our civilisation. It is only by the application of the principles of Labour to world conditions that we can overcome the problems confronting us to-day. Labour has governed and will govern, and Labour must govern. Labour is the only party that can meet the needs of the people. It is the only party that understands these needs. In developing our country it has no personal or party interests. (Opposition dissent.) We have found on the other hand that even during this war Menzies, Fadden, and Hughes have been more concerned with such a question as party leadership than with organising this country in order to win the war. We have witnessed continual disruption within their party because of personal ambition. Even to-day we find that Menzies, Fadden, and Hughes are fighting among themselves as to who shall be leader. As I said, F. W. Pethick-Lawrence gives us a lead and encouragement to go on in our endeavour to uplift humanity and thus do our best for those who suffer by the imposition of legislation upon them by those opposed to Labour.

In conclusion, I desire to thank hon. members for their patient and impartial hearing. I trust that the deliberations that will be given to the legislation foreshadowed by His Excellency will lead to good results.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAVIS (Barcoo) (3.25 p.m.), who was received with cheers, said: In seconding the motion so ably moved by the hon. member for Mackay, I should like to thank His Excellency for the Speech he delivered this morning in this Assembly. I want to assure him that he is well regarded in the West and has the complete confidence of the people in that part of the State. That is because of his long and impartial reign as Governor of this State.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAVIS: I should also like to congratulate the hon. member for Mackay on his thoughtful and constructive speech. He demonstrated that the whole of his thoughts are in accord with the policy of the Government, which we interpret as justice to all.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAVIS: I was particularly pleased with the part of His Excellency's Speech in which he made reference to the men of our fighting services. We must all admit that without them this Parliament could not have met to-day.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAVIS: We must all agree, too, with the post-war reconstruction policy reflected in the Speech. It emanates from the principles of Labour. I am profoundly surprised, when I review the policy of Labour, which, after all, is the common ethics of Christianity, that we find an Opposition in this House at all.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DAVIS: The policy of Labour is not a parochial one; it is one in which provision is made to give justice to all. In the part of this State from which I have come many sacrifices are being made by the people, but I can assure the House that I have heard less complaint from those who are making the greatest sacrifices in the out-back portions of the State than I have heard in the city of Brisbane, where I can see no great sacrifice being made.

Every department of this Government has done good work in the interests of all. The Department of Public Lands, with which I am particularly concerned, is administering an Act that was passed by the House whereby equality of sacrifice is gained for every man on the land in the out-back areas. I have complimentary letters from men on the land about the legislation that was introduced in this House by the Secretary for Public Lands. Some men on the land do not support the policy of Labour. It appears to me, however—and this must appear to all other hon. members in this House, too—that the policy of Labour is beneficial to them—and I believe eventually they will realise that fact—realise that the policy of Labour is beneficial not only to a few but to the whole of the people; and when that occurs we shall find no Opposition in this House of Parliament of Queensland, for they will not support any candidates who oppose Labour.

These things have happened. I am not speaking in fables. We have the concrete facts before us. Wherever I look in the four corners of the State I see evidence of the constructive policy of Labour facing me. The social services given by Labour are, I believe, unprecedented in any portion of the world. The hospital service, under the guiding hand of the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs, has given to the people of Queensland a service unequalled in any part of the world.

The Secretary for Public Instruction, the Hon. Arthur Jones, administers an educational system—and I speak feelingly on this because I have had experience of it—that is unequalled throughout the whole of Australia. Under our system it is possible for the working man's child to go from the kindergarten to the university. On many occasions I have, as an A.W.U. organiser, acted as a mailman, carrying correspondence lessons to the children in the outback portions of the State, and at night I have sat and listened to the kiddies doing their lessons. I have heard the remarks of parents and children, and I have seen the notes made by teachers, such as, "Well done, Marjorie; you will do better next time," which supply an incentive to the children. I believe that our correspondence system also is unparalleled throughout the world.

We have also the Department of Agriculture and Stock, which is a very important one to me. It has given and is giving splendid service, service to the man on the land that I think members of the Opposition must agree with me is unequalled in any other State of the Commonwealth. Evidence to support that contention is found in the fact

that recently the previous Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, Mr. Bulcock, was appointed by the Federal Government to a very high position in our war effort.

That proves to me, Mr. Speaker, that the efficiency in the Department of Agriculture and Stock of Queensland was greater than in any other similar department in the Commonwealth. The Hon. T. L. Williams has taken the office vacated by Mr. Bulcock, and I feel sure that the hon. gentleman will tread the path made in the past by Mr. Bulcock and give to the agricultural section of the people of this State a service equal to that given them in the past.

The hon. member for Mackay ably spoke on the strain imposed on our railway system at the present time and the wonderful job the railways are doing. Who is there to deny that fact? Our American friends have made the statement that it is a great little railway, and when one looks at facts it is evident that it is a great little railway. We, a nation of 7,000,000 people, are faced with the greatest crisis in our history. It was unexpected, and the transport system of the Commonwealth had to face a problem that was never anticipated. The job has been done, I am pleased to say, faithfully and well. The railways are doing a wonderful job, and none of us can deny the fact.

Legislation to be passed by this Government relieving local authorities from the burden of certain moneys due by them for the maintenance of hospitals has been well received throughout the State. I have already mentioned the receipt of congratulatory letters from men on the land regarding certain legislation sponsored by the Secretary for Public Lands to bring about equality of rentals for grazing selections, but I have received also from many local authorities and men on the land congratulatory letters on the 15-per-cent. reduction in the cost on local authorities for the maintenance of hospitals. These are things done by a Labour Government, and they must be recognised as being valuable to all sections of the community. That is evident when we find people who do not generally support our policy congratulating Labour on its administration. Labour is proving that it is capable of governing in the interests of the people of this Commonwealth.

I am primarily interested in the land, because my electorate is purely a grazing one. I know the trials and tribulations of the men on the land. I have discussed them with them, and they have discussed them frankly with me. Frequently they have been subjected to control from without; indeed, that constitutes probably 95 per cent. of their difficulties. They call it "Office Administration." I agree with them. The financial institutions that govern their destiny will not permit them to use their land in the best interests of the men who nominally hold it.

Another department that is controlled expertly is that of the Secretary for Labour and Employment, Mr. Foley. Men on the

land have spoken to me of the excellent work done by this department in administering the Workers' Accommodation Act. These included men who were involved with financial institutions to such an extent that they controlled no finance of their own with which to meet their obligations, and they have asked me to have the conditions of which I speak made compulsory by enactment in the Act, because the financial institutions will not permit them to carry out the desired improvements voluntarily. In saying that, I am not telling any fable, I am giving plain facts.

I know that the Opposition say that Labour wants to take everything from the men on the land. In their hearts they know they are making misstatements. All Labour seeks to do is to provide for the security of the people as a whole. Labour's policy is not to deprive anybody of anything he may have gained lawfully; it is to ensure that he shall derive benefit from his labour.

We have heard much about the post-war period and a great new world. Many of these statements have been made by persons who speak with their tongues in their cheeks, persons who are opposed to mere humane legislation. The Opposition have started a zephyr from which a gentle wind has been born. I ask all hon. members opposite to beware in post-war years, because from this zephyr a tornado may develop and the people will reap destruction.

We have reached a stage in our history when we are at the crossroads. On those crossroads Labour has planted a signpost with the simple inscription, "Security and Justice to all." The Opposition has planted alongside it a signpost which points to another road, a road that has been built and maintained by the Opposition through the centuries, a road to perpetual poverty and war. On 21 August next the people will be asked to decide which road they wish to take. Labour, organised both industrially and politically, has given the people this privilege of deciding the road upon which they wish to go, and the decision that they will be asked to make on 21 August will be vital to them. I speak now not to this Parliament, but to the mothers of Australia and the prospective mothers of the Commonwealth. Are they going to leave suspended over the head of every mother's son the sword of Damocles, or are they going to do as Labour seeks to do—snatch it down, place it on the anvil, and beat it into a ploughshare from which peace and security will come to the world for all time?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr. Nicklin, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. F. A. Cooper, Premier): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 10.30 a.m. to-morrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.48 p.m.