

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 1946

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Legislative Assembly.

THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1946.

TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1946.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 11 July, 1946, 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.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor came to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. S. J. Brassington) 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 affords me great pleasure to meet you at the Opening of this the Third Session of the Thirtieth Parliament of Queensland.

“His Majesty was pleased, on the twelfth day of March, 1946, to issue a Commission, appointing me Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Queensland.

“On the 24th April, 1946, the then Governor, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, left the State on his journey to England, and on that day the prescribed oaths were administered to me by the Hon. N. W. Macrossan, Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and I assumed the office of Lieutenant-Governor and the Administration of the Government of the State.

“Sir Leslie's term of 14 years as Governor expired on the 12th of June of this year. He came to Queensland during a very severe world-wide depression; he saw the State slowly, surely and successfully come through that difficult period; he saw Queensland, as a part of the British Empire, plunged into

war and become the base for operations in the South-west Pacific; and he was with us on the day of victory.

“Sir Leslie took an active interest in the welfare of the State, and made a close study of its primary and secondary industries. He was associated with all the patriotic funds operating during the war years, and discharged his duties in a manner that won for him the admiration and gratitude of the people of Queensland.

“Since the opening of the last Session of Parliament, we have celebrated Victory and begun the great task of reconstruction which follows in the wake of war.

“Victory Day was fittingly celebrated in Queensland, and our people gave full expression to their thankfulness.

“My Advisers join me in expressing our admiration of the heroism and devotion to duty of members of our Armed Forces, including the various Auxiliary Services, and appreciation of the valuable contribution which the people generally made to the Nation's war effort.

“One lesson learned from the war is that we must push on with the development of Northern Australia if we are to hold this continent.

“Recently at Canberra the Prime Minister presided over a Conference of Premiers and Ministers at which was formed the Northern Australia Development Committee to promote the development and advance the interests of Northern Australia.

“The Committee is actively engaged investigating, among other matters:—marine industries; the pastoral industry; the disabilities of families in outlying areas; land and irrigation development; mining and the welfare of natives. The Committee aims to submit, within six months, a report on all the matters mentioned for the decisions of the Governments concerned.

“Linked with the development of Northern Australia is the development of migration. My Advisers have repeatedly expressed the opinion that migration should commence with

the least possible delay and that opinion has been conveyed to the Commonwealth Government, who control the entry of migrants to Australia.

"It is now likely that migration on a limited scale may be resumed next year and My Advisers are making preliminary arrangements for the respective accommodation and settlement of these new Australian citizens in either primary or secondary industry.

"Shortly a Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers, and later, the Premier's Conference, will determine the final details of migration arrangements.

"The receipts in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1946, amounted to £24,774,406, and the expenditure to £24,759,538, leaving a surplus of £14,868 on the year's transactions.

"The receipts were £297,869 less than anticipations, and the expenditure was £306,161 below the estimate. The surplus of £14,868 was £8,292 higher than the budget estimate, and was the eighth successive surplus shown in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

"The receipts of the Railway Department, which totalled £11,607,889, were £477,889 in excess of the budget anticipations. Stamp Duties totalled £885,816, or £135,816 more than the amount estimated, and Succession and Probate Duties amounted to £890,782, which exceeded the anticipations by £140,782.

"The disbursements of the Departments generally were less than the amounts appropriated, notwithstanding the fact that substantial amounts had been found for salaries and payments for accumulated recreation leave of Crown employees who have resumed duty from war service.

"The Federal Government's monetary policy has been instrumental in stabilising interest rates at a low level. My Advisers have therefore decided to reduce the interest charges on local authority indebtedness to the Treasury from 4½ per cent. to 4 per cent. and to reduce the interest payable by clients of the Agricultural Bank and State Housing Commission from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent. as from 1st July, 1946. In this way the benefit of the lower interest charges payable by the Government will be extended to Government borrowers. The value of this concession to borrowers is estimated to amount to £67,000 per annum. Previous reductions in interest charges were applied in the same manner from 1st July, 1935, and from 1st July, 1943, respectively.

"Transport problems throughout the State are under review by My Advisers and legislation will be introduced to provide for a comprehensive use of our transport resources.

"The modernising of the metropolitan rail services is being examined by the Railway Department and a Committee of Engineers will be appointed to report on the electrification of the suburban railways. Provision of more comfortable travel on the Sunshine Route to Cairns is receiving attention and every endeavour is being made to improve the standard of our trains. Investigations are being made as to the practicability of

using oil-burning locomotives. Designs are being prepared for an air-conditioned train to operate between Brisbane and Cairns. Contracts have already been let for the construction of 32 locomotives, and the construction of other new rolling stock is being expedited.

"An inquiry is being made into the use of more efficient refrigerated transport by rail and into the question of the use of refrigerated rail wagons on passenger trains. Certain structural alterations are necessary in order to permit the use of such wagons on fast passenger services.

"The works programme for the present financial year has been designed to encourage land settlement and to widen the avenues of wealth production.

"The works to be included in the programme, apart from the emphasis on housing, will provide for an expansion of badly needed hospital and educational facilities and a vigorous programme of electrical, road, forestry and irrigation development. Ample provision is also proposed to cover anticipated requirements under the Government's Soldier Settlement scheme.

"The programme for 1946-47, however, is being planned in anticipation of improvements in the materials situation, and on the basis of a larger volume of labour becoming available for public works.

"The Co-ordinator-General was recently authorised to proceed with the construction of a high level road and rail bridge over the Burdekin River between Home Hill and Ayr, upstream from the existing low level structure, which is subject to serious flooding. All preliminary arrangements for commencement of construction of the substructure as soon as materials are available are well in hand by the Main Roads Commission.

"Construction of another major bridge project, over the Fitzroy River at Rockhampton, was also commenced during the year. This project is being carried out as a joint work by the Main Roads Commission and the Rockhampton City Council.

"The Report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938-1940, to carry out investigations with regard to port development works and facilities is now being finalised, and it is anticipated that it will be available for consideration by the Government at an early date.

"My Advisers are strongly of the opinion that Queensland has unrivalled tourist resources. Its winter climate is superb and its scenic attractions are unequalled in the Commonwealth. With a view to the maximum development of our tourist trade, My Advisers have set up a Tourist Development Board to make a survey of these resources and to report as to the method by which they may best be developed.

"The policy for the electrification of the State envisaged in the Regional Electricity Authorities Act of 1945 has been rapidly pursued during the year.

"Four Electricity Supply Regions have been created, embracing 39 Local Authority Areas, and involving the amalgamation of 15 Electric Authorities. Regional Boards have been created for each of these Regions representative of the Local Authorities and the State Electricity Commission, and these have become the sole operating electricity supply authorities within their respective regions.

"Concurrently with the establishment of new controlling authorities, the preparation of designs, plans and specifications for new central generating stations, and transmission and distribution systems have been undertaken by the State Electricity Commission and the Boards, and are now approaching completion.

"Following personal negotiations overseas by the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission and the receipt of very favourable assurances regarding deliveries, tenders have been let for several million pounds worth of new plant which it is expected will be installed and operating by 1948. Tenders for much other equipment and materials have also been called.

"The transmission systems designed for the new Regions provide for the extension of electricity supply into rural areas as rapidly as possible. My Advisers' decision to subsidise rural extensions to the extent of one-third of the capital cost will materially encourage this development, and make it possible to give supply at more favourable tariffs.

"Investigations are also proceeding into special problems associated with the supply of electricity in Western Queensland with the object of improving the conditions of supply and securing a reduction in tariffs.

"The Report of the Committee of Inquiry appointed under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940, to investigate the most advantageous methods of utilising the water resources of North Queensland from the Barron to the Tully Rivers, for hydro-electric generation and irrigation, was presented to Parliament during the year, and action is being taken to give effect to the Co-ordinator-General's recommendations. The State Electricity Commission has arranged for the necessary surveys and investigations to be carried out with respect to the Tully Falls Hydro-Electricity Scheme and a joint local authority, viz., Cairns-Mulgrave Water Supply Board, has been constituted for the purpose of proceeding with the Behana Creek water scheme to supply Cairns City and Mulgrave Shire areas.

"The Secondary Industries Development Committee has furnished a full report, which is under consideration.

"The State Secondary Industries Liaison Officer and staff have given direct and practical assistance to a large number of industries seeking expansion in establishment in Queensland. Although shortage of building materials is making the construction of new factories difficult, a very considerable and rapid expansion in secondary industries is taking place in Queensland.

"As a result of negotiations initiated by my Advisers the Rocklea Munitions Factory, a splendid industrial area, is being occupied by private industries as quickly as buildings in the area become available. Some of these are Queensland industries seeking room for expansion. Others are industries entirely new to this State.

"My Advisers have been negotiating with certain large industries and there is every reason to expect, in the near future, the establishment of several entirely new industries in Queensland.

"The services of Mr. H. J. Williams, of Leeton, New South Wales, were obtained to report on behalf of the Queensland Government on the prospects of canning and processing tropical and sub-tropical fruits in this State. Mr. Williams is at present undertaking the necessary survey. His expert opinion was also obtained as regards a suitable site in Brisbane for construction of a cannery for the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing.

"In view of the social and economic importance of developing secondary industries in Queensland to the full extent of our resources it is the intention of my Advisers to establish a separate Division of Secondary Industries within the State Administration with a small permanent staff to promote and investigate all phases of secondary industrial development.

"The Queensland Housing Commission, in co-operation with the Commonwealth Government, is proceeding with the War Housing Scheme as rapidly as possible. Every effort is being made to see that man-power and materials for building are directed to housing as of first priority.

"In November, 1945, legislation was passed under which the State assumed responsibility for the control of building operations and it devolved upon the Bureau of Industry to administer the control of building operations.

"My Advisers felt that such a step was essential, owing to the acute shortage of building resources and because a great deal of potential building capacity was going into unessential construction.

"The Act provides controls where they are most needed but relieves citizens, wherever possible, of the necessity of applying for building permits. People need not apply for permits for small homes, and in country areas there is very little restriction other than the necessity for securing Local Authority approval of the proposed building. These arrangements have worked admirably, and the Town and Shire Councils have carried out their part very well.

"The effect of the control has been to increase private construction of houses; but at the same time permits amounting in value to £666,000 were granted to allow of commercial and industrial building.

"In the twelve months ended 30th June, 1946, 418 new houses were built by the Queensland Housing Commission, and at the close of the year 665 were under construction, many of them approaching completion.

“To provide land for rental houses, 1,437 building sites were acquired in various parts of the State. The Commission's expenditure on home construction during the year amounted to £592,640.

“In addition to construction by the Queensland Housing Commission, it is estimated by the Bureau of Industry that homes constructed through private channels total 3,582, and 1,335 were under construction at the end of the financial year 1945-1946.

“Although assistance has been rendered by the Industries Assistance Board to certain brick and tile manufacturing works, the production of bricks is still below demand. My Advisers are considering ways and means of increasing the production of this important building material.

“My Advisers have not been satisfied with the method of testing of gas meters in recent years and as gas supplies constitute an important feature of home economy it is proposed to introduce legislation to give greater control in the testing of meters.

“The Bureau of Investigation appointed under the Land and Water Resources Development Act of 1943 has continued its operations on the lines laid down and has made very definite progress in many important investigations.

“Observations of water levels in relevant bores near weirs constructed on Lockyer Creek show that these weirs have had the effect of raising the level of water in wells in their immediate vicinity.

“The Board's Irrigation Research Station at Lawes for ascertaining data regarding the application of water to crop cultivation was established during the year and the earliest experiments will embrace pastures and potato growing.

“Intensive investigations on the Burdekin River have continued and, after inspection of the Bowen River, co-operation with the Department of Agriculture for research into suitable fodder grasses for pasture irrigation has been arranged.

“A survey of the Condamine River was completed for the purpose of defining storage sites and the arable country suitable for irrigation along its banks. A survey was also made of Sandy Creek, a tributary, where a possible storage site is being examined.

“A technical officer of the Bureau staff made a reconnaissance survey of the soils of Callide Valley, and with officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock has collated information regarding the quantity and quality of underground water. Testing of the quantity of water available from underground beds here is one of the early objects of the Bureau.

“On the Nogoa and Comet Rivers, storage sites and irrigable lands were defined. The testing of foundations by borings on the storage sites will be done in the near future. Other western rivers to receive attention are:—

Flinders, Walsh, Thomson, Alice, Barcoo, Leichhardt, Gregory, Warrego, and Maranoa.

“Legislation is being brought forward to ratify an agreement between the New South Wales and Queensland Governments for the control and utilisation of the waters proposed to be stored on the Border Streams between Mingoola and Mungindi.

“The Bureau is giving the matter of soil conservation its earnest attention with the intention of averting the serious consequences of indiscriminate destruction of timbers, overstocking, and careless agriculture which have been experienced in other countries.

“The Main Roads Commission has now constructed a total of 8,380 miles of road.

“Last year the Commission expended £653,729 on permanent road works and £641,122 on maintenance works.

“The plant position is still unsatisfactory but with the repair of Main Roads Commission plant (which is being expedited), acquisition of plant from the Disposals Commission, and long delayed supply of new plant, which is just beginning to come forward, it is hoped during the coming year to undertake a larger programme of permanent works.

“With the object of relieving traffic congestion and diverting more traffic to the Story Bridge, My Advisers propose to examine the possible effects of removing the present toll under an arrangement with the Brisbane City Council to take over the Bridge on a non-toll basis on advantageous terms to the Council and whilst obviating the possible construction of another Bridge by the Council.

“The Report of the Royal Commission on Abattoirs and Meat Works has submitted comprehensive recommendations which are being examined. The possibilities of the ‘Channel’ country of the south-west, which the Commission brought to notice, are being investigated by the Bureau of Investigation with a view to deciding what may be done to increase the stock carrying capacity of that area.

“Under the sponsorship of My Advisers, a Delegation was sent by the Queensland Meat Industry Board to the United States of America in the latter part of last year, for the purpose of investigating matters relating to the livestock and meat industry of that country, especially the processing equipment and practices. The investigations covered a wide range of subjects, and the Report of the Delegation indicates that certain practices and processes established in that country can be adopted here with advantage to both the domestic and export trades. Arrangements have, therefore, been made to scientifically test these processes at the Brisbane Abattoir laboratories with a view to their application on a commercial basis.

“The securing of suitable areas of good quality lands for the purpose of settlement of discharged members of the Forces in terms of the Commonwealth-State Agreement has engaged the attention of all available officers of the Department of Public Lands. Because of the lack of suitable vacant Crown land with reasonable communications, it is neces-

sary to acquire land already alienated or held under lease from the Crown. This process, involving as it does a very careful examination and classification of the land, expert valuation and negotiations of a preliminary nature, is a lengthy one and causes unavoidable delay in settlement.

"The investigation of an area of 372,981 acres has been completed and an area of 162,284 acres is under investigation.

"During the year a Classification Committee comprising three discharged servicemen was appointed to examine and classify applicants for land under the scheme. A total of 363 applicants have been examined by the Committee, and of that number 241 have been judged suitable for settlement and 33 unsuitable, whilst 89 have been deferred.

"No areas of good quality land suitable for grazing sheep or cattle were made available for new settlement during the war years. Steps have now been taken, however, to open for selection sheep lands in the western districts. The first of these lands were made available at Hughenden on 26th June, 1946, when portions were balloted amongst discharged members of the Forces, in accordance with the provisions of the War Service Land Settlement Act of 1946, which was passed during the last Session of Parliament.

"Further surveyed blocks of sheep land in the Central and South western districts will shortly be available for balloting amongst ex-servicemen. The subdivision of about 5½ million acres of sheep land, comprised in large pastoral holdings, the leases of which have expired, is now proceeding. Of this area, about a quarter of a million acres have already been allotted as additional areas to small landholders in the neighbourhood, in order to bring their holdings up to reasonable living areas. The work of designing the balance of the lands into suitable areas for grazing settlement, prior to actual survey, is proceeding. During the next few years the leases of a number of further holdings will also expire, and they will be similarly dealt with in due course.

"In view of the drought conditions which have prevailed over a large area in the south-western part of the State during the past 3½ years the Government has decided to review the terms and conditions of grazing selections in the drought-stricken south-western districts, which have been materially affected by drought.

"These lessees may surrender their leases and be granted new 28-year term leases, rental and other conditions being determined by the Land Administration Board.

"During the year new or adjusted selection tenures were granted over 570,096 acres, comprised in 149 selections, and new or adjusted pastoral leasehold tenures were granted over 2,317,200 acres.

"To date, remission or suspension of rents during their period of Active Service has been extended to 1,775 tenants of Crown lands embracing a total number of 2,378 holdings. The total estimated value of this concession to the lessees concerned is £136,000.

"The possibilities of laying baits in remote dingo breeding areas by means of aeroplane is being investigated, and experimental flights have been made and will be continued.

"The end of the war and consequent easing of the manpower position has enabled the Forestry Department to resume active reforestation operations. Planting has been recommenced, and in all departments of field reforestation there is increased activity.

"The Government's programme for post-war forestry has been well launched. The field strength of the Department was increased from 351 at 30th June, 1945, to over 1,000 at the end of the financial year.

"In addition, a survey of lands suitable for reforestation in North Queensland will be undertaken.

"It is proposed in this Session to bring forward a measure to strengthen the organisation for the control and prevention of rural fires.

"An important feature of the re-organisation of the Division of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture is the establishment of a chain of regional experiment stations. One of these, situated at Biloela, is now handling a considerable range of problems. A second regional station has been established at the Hermitage, near Warwick, on the site of the old State farm, primarily to serve the interests of the Darling Downs, and during recent weeks the old Kairi State farm has been returned to the Department by the Army authorities.

"My Advisers are much interested in the cultivation of the Soy bean on a large scale in Queensland, and it is hoped to initiate extensive experimental work with this crop during the forthcoming summer months.

"There still remains a large unsatisfied home market for cotton, and the growth of the industry, to meet the demand, depends entirely upon security to the producers in the industry. My Advisers have submitted representations to the Commonwealth Government in the matter.

"Proposed legislation during the coming Session will provide for the declaration of protected areas into which the introduction of diseased stock will be prohibited and within which control measures for the elimination of disease will be enforced.

"Early estimates of the 1946 sugar crop gave rise to expectations of greater production than for the previous season; but adverse weather conditions which have prevailed in all sugar areas have caused a substantial reduction in the earlier estimates.

"Present indications are that the 1946 yield of sugar in Queensland will be some 80,000 tons below that of last season.

"The Sugar Agreement with the Commonwealth Government has been renewed for a further five years, i.e., to 1st August, 1951.

"Marketing prospects for our surplus sugar for the next few years appear bright. The continued support of the British Government is greatly appreciated, and augurs well for the future.

"The Royal Commission appointed to investigate the settlement of returned soldiers on sugar lands has completed its investigation and presented its report. My Advisers will give sympathetic consideration to the recommendations with a view to affording the maximum opportunity to servicemen to engage in the sugar industry consistent with long range needs and marketing prospects of the industry.

"Butter production was 45,200 tons, compared with 42,400 tons in the preceding season. The Commonwealth Government continued its subsidy payments to the industry; the amount now contributed is estimated to bring the return to the dairy farmer up to 1s. 7½d. per lb. of commercial butter.

"Cheese production was 12,000 tons, as against 10,100 tons last year. This increased production was due to favourable seasonal conditions throughout most of the year on the Darling Downs, the main cheese-producing district.

"Systematic control of the milk supply was continued throughout the year with a view to ensuring a safe and adequate milk supply. All pasteurised milk is regularly examined in the laboratories and advisory services are rendered to producers, especially those whose milk is shown by the tests regularly carried out at the factories to be of low standard.

"The Veterinary Staff of the Department of Agriculture and Stock are continuing to test for tuberculosis all the dairy herds supplying warm milk to Brisbane. The incidence of the disease in these herds is now under control, and will, within a reasonable period, be eliminated. This work will be extended to other parts of the State.

"The State is at present in the grip of one of the most serious droughts in our history. The lack of rain has made more difficult the lot of the primary producer, who is still hampered by shortages of tractors, tyres, spare parts, fertiliser, labour, &c. The effect of the drought will be reflected in the reduced primary production for the year. However, in view of the world shortage of food, it is essential that every effort should be made to increase production.

"A drought relief scheme financed jointly by the Commonwealth and State Governments was approved during the year. This scheme is intended to assist farmers who were affected by the drought in 1944-1945.

"The Government has made available the sum of £100,000 through the Agricultural Bank to be distributed through the Dairy Associations under the Drought Relief Act of 1940 for the purchase of fodder or water.

"Legislation will be submitted during the coming Session to stabilise the wheat industry and to give wheat farmers a greater measure of security. Several requests have been received for the establishment of new producer-controlled commodity boards. The interests of consumers must also be considered in the formulation of such marketing organisations if they are to operate success-

fully. Under the amended Fruit Marketing Acts passed last session the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing has established several retail distribution centres in country districts far removed from Brisbane.

"In the interests of producer and consumer these activities will be further extended throughout the State.

"During the Session, a measure to promote and facilitate co-operation in business and industry generally will be submitted for your consideration. The co-operative principles in the marketing of primary products were largely developed in the post-war period following World War I. My Advisers feel that consumers and workers in industry and business should be encouraged to co-operate along lines similar to those which have proved so successful for this State's primary producers, with particular attention to the enactment of principles providing for the distribution of profits amongst the consumers supporting, and the workers engaged in, the industry or business concerned.

"Queensland has had a particularly good record of freedom from industrial disputes of a major character. The acceptance of the policy of conciliation and arbitration by the great bulk of workers in industry, and the endorsement of this policy by the people generally, combined with the just administration of the industrial code, has contributed largely to this satisfactory position.

"The recent dispute in the meat industry, and the subsequent involvement of other industries, produced much dislocation and inconvenience to the community generally, all of which could reasonably have been avoided by resort to the machinery so readily available for the settlement of industrial disputes. The strike was finally settled by recognition of the principle of arbitration.

"My Advisers reaffirm their adherence to the policy of conciliation and arbitration, and feel that the circumstances associated with the recent dislocation in the meat industry have strengthened the industrial unions' confidence in the value of arbitration machinery as against the policy of direct action. There can be little hope for the settlement of international disputes by arbitration if the application of the same principles to their internal affairs is not accepted by a Nation's people. A review of the existing conciliation and arbitration machinery is proposed by My Advisers with the object of effecting such adjustments as may be found necessary to meet any changed circumstances arising in the post-war period.

"With the lifting of manpower controls, action has been taken to apply the Juvenile Employment Bureau Constitution Act of 1941 to all non-apprenticeship callings followed by minors and to all areas of the State.

"The extension of the State's hospital system, which was held up during the war period, has now been resumed. The closing of private hospitals and the shortage of private medical services during the war

caused a great burden on the State hospital services, yet no person in need of attention was denied the services of the State's hospitals.

"In the year ended 31st December, 1945, the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate were the lowest on record for the State and for the metropolitan area, notwithstanding that the number of births was the highest on record. These record low infant mortality and maternal mortality rates are largely attributable to the policy associated with the establishment of Maternal and Child Welfare Services.

"Local Authorities will be afforded further opportunity to rid their urban areas of mosquito breeding grounds by the continuation of the 50 per cent. subsidy scheme for mosquito eradication in this financial year. The scheme is aimed at preventing malaria becoming endemic in Queensland.

"In addition to the Government subsidy approved last year to the Queensland Country Women's Association towards the cost of establishing school hostels in country centres, a subsidy scheme on the same basis has been introduced to provide hostels for waiting mothers in approved country centres. The Mothercraft Hostel is also subsidised on £ for £ basis on funds raised for the maintenance of this service.

"With a view to the still further betterment of facilities for the training of medical students the Foundation Grant for the Faculty of Medicine within the University of Queensland has been increased from £5,000 to £10,000 per annum, and a grant of £1,000 per annum has been made for the establishment and maintenance of a Chair of Pathology.

"The past year has been notable because of several educational developments.

"Due to the heavy expansion of the activities of the Queensland University, including the training of returned men, it has been found necessary to provide temporary accommodation pending the completion of the new University at St. Lucia. Following representations to the Commonwealth Authorities, suitable buildings have been secured in the Domain and Victoria Park for the purpose. In addition, some temporary buildings have been erected in the vicinity of the University at George street.

"Sites have also been acquired in central and northern Queensland for the erection of University Colleges when circumstances permit.

"The Board of Adult Education has appointed an Assistant Organiser at Rockhampton and at Townsville to develop adult education in the areas of which these cities are the centres. In Brisbane an Adult Education Centre has been established as the Headquarters. The public interest in the Courses of Lectures arranged by the Board has been encouraging; certain of the Courses of Lectures were in such demand that several of them had to be duplicated to meet the numbers desirous of attending.

"The development of a library service for the State has received close attention by the

Library Board. Large numbers of new books have been purchased for the Public Library, and the resultant strengthening of the various reference sections has been reflected in the greater use which has been made of the Library by readers and students. Local bodies have been encouraged by aid of Government subsidy to purchase a greater number of books, and excellent results have been obtained. A State Librarian has been appointed and he will be the Executive Member of the Board.

"Plans for extended post primary education and establishing consolidated schools in the country have been advanced and will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

"In order to provide additional accommodation for the Central Technical College, Brisbane, the Industrial High School is being moved to a new location in the city.

"The desire for extending the use of films and radio in schools has prompted the Government to assist the schools to acquire film projectors and wireless receiving sets by paying half the cost of purchase. This will entail an increase in the numbers of films available, and this demand will be met largely by the Departmental production of films bearing upon and illustrative of the Syllabus requirements in Queensland schools. Several films were made during the past year, and an order for sound film recording equipment has been placed, which will facilitate this work of film production.

"The State String Quartet has visited many parts of Queensland, given recitals in many schools, and, as an adjunct to the activities of the Board of Adult Education, has given recitals to adults in many centres. Arrangements have been made for the continuance of the work of the String Quartet for a further period.

"The Department of Public Instruction has undertaken the training and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen for the Commonwealth Government. Though there has been some difficulty in finding equipment, this is being overcome, and the latest returns show that Queensland has a greater number of full-time trainees undergoing instruction than has any other State or Education Department in the Commonwealth.

"The Agricultural Bank Acts were amended in the 1945 Session of Parliament to provide for a three-year interest-free and redemption-free period on land mortgage advances by the Bank to eligible discharged servicemen or servicewomen. The prescribed repayment term does not commence until this three-year period has expired. Advances of this kind approved during 1945-1946 amounted to £671,065.

"By agreement with the Director of War Service Land Settlement, the Bank also makes advances to service personnel under the agricultural loan provisions of the Commonwealth Re-establishment and Employment Act. Advances granted by the Bank under this Act total £40,275 to 30th June, 1946.

"Total advances approved by the Bank in 1945-1946 amounted to the record sum of £1,078,864. Servicemen's advances alone

exceeded the total amount approved for all purposes in any previous year since the Bank's inception in 1902.

"The year has been marked by gratifying progress in the Life Department of the State Government Insurance Office, outstanding features being the increase of £282,809 in the Life Fund, making the total Life Fund £6,066,018.

"As from 1st November, 1945, the Office granted a Profit Distribution of 33½ per cent. on Fire Renewal Premiums. Since the Office commenced writing Fire Insurance, the public of Queensland has been saved £9,500,000 Fire Premiums, made up of reductions in premiums £7,750,000 and distribution of profits £1,750,000.

"In addition, a Profit Distribution of 20 per cent. was allowed on Motor Car Comprehensive Renewal Premiums and a Profit Distribution of 33½ per cent. on Marine Premiums received for the year ended 30th June, 1945.

"Under *'The Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1944,'* further rate reductions were granted to owners of motor vehicles.

"The demand for coal has greatly increased throughout Australia during recent years, and has outpaced production. My Advisers view this position with concern, and action is being taken to step-up output whilst improving the quality of coal available for marketing.

"My Advisers have therefore brought to the notice of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister a proposal by which the Blair Athol Coal Field would be developed. There is at Blair Athol a quantity of coal estimated at 200,000,000 tons with vast quantities yet to be surveyed, and experts are of the opinion that by the use of modern methods this coal can be marketed at a reasonable price. A proposal has been submitted for the development of the field by a Commission representative of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, and this important matter will be advanced further by the Premier at the forthcoming Premiers' Conference and by the Queensland representatives on the Northern Australia Development Committee.

"The development of the coal resources in the Callide Valley is also being assisted in every way, and substantial contracts for coal supplies for Government purposes have been offered to the lessees concerned.

"Drilling operations are being continued in the Ipswich coalfield and at Styx, under the direction of the Government Geologist, with a view to locating further coal reserves.

"Tin production remains at a high figure, the largest individual producer being Tableland Tin Dredging No Liability at Mount Garnet.

"The unique copper and silver-lead-zinc deposits at Mount Isa play a major role in the mineral statistics of Queensland. During the war period Mount Isa Mines became the premier copper producer in Australia. Such production has been temporarily suspended and work on the silver-lead-zinc deposits resumed. It is extremely gratifying to note

that the company has recently announced a big scheme for new development both in the production and treatment of copper and the production of lead, which is expected to result in a big increase in employment.

"All branches of the State Public Service continue to render loyal and efficient service. The difficult staffing position which existed in Departments of the Service during the war period is now being alleviated by the return of officers from war service, enriched by overseas experience.

"My Advisers have been mindful of the interests of officers of the Public Service who enlisted for service with the various branches of the Defence Forces.

"Officers of the Public Service were granted special leave of absence from their duties to enlist for war service, and their compulsory contributions to the Public Service Superannuation Fund were paid by the Government. Before entry upon special leave any recreation leave on full pay which had accrued to the officers was allowed, and, in certain cases, where the officers so desired, long service leave on full pay for which they were eligible was granted.

"Promotional rights of officers were protected during their absences. When positions involving promotion became vacant the claims of officers absent on war service were considered and promotions were granted when the absent officers were so eligible.

"The period of war service was recognised for the purpose of computing salaries payable to officers on their return to duty and also for the purposes of seniority and for calculating extended leave, sick leave and recreation leave of absence.

"The recognition of war service for assessing recreation leave resulted in officers, upon their return, having to their credit accumulated leave for lengthy periods, varying according to the duration of their absence on war service. Officers upon their discharge from the Forces were allowed to exercise one of the following options:—

- (i.) To take the whole of such leave; or
- (ii.) Be paid the cash equivalent of the leave; or
- (iii.) Be paid the cash equivalent of half of the leave and take the balance either upon discharge or at some future date.

Accumulated leave was allowed even to those officers who, upon their discharge from the Forces, did not resume duty in the Public Service, and in these cases the cash equivalent of the leave was paid upon resignation.

"Special leave of absence is being granted to officers who upon their discharge from the Forces have been accepted by the Commonwealth Reconstruction Authorities for full-time courses of study which would be of benefit to them in the discharging of their duties as officers of the Department in which they are employed.

"A proposal to set up a Free Legal Aid Bureau with the particular object of assisting poor people in their legal difficulties is being considered by the Attorney-General.

“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:—

A Public Accountants Registration Bill.

A Transport Bill.

A Legal Assistance Bill.

A Wheat Stabilisation Bill.

A Matrimonial Causes Acts Amendment Bill.

An Australian Consular Officers' Notarial Powers and Evidence Bill.

A Money Lenders' Acts Amendment Bill.

A Supreme Court (Commonwealth Payment to Judges) Validation Act Amendment Bill.

An Irrigation and Water Supply Bill.

A Rural Fires Bill.

A New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Bill.

A Co-operative Societies Bill.

A Bill to amend the Milk Supply Act of 1938.

A Bill to amend the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1941.

A Bill to amend the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1941.

A Bill to amend the Gas Acts, 1916 to 1933, in certain particulars.

A Bill to make better provision for the execution of work in the Radio Industry by competent persons.

A Bill to amend the Financial Arrangements and Development Aid Act of 1942, to enable certain refunds in taxation to be paid.

“I invite your earnest consideration of 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 12.58 p.m., resuming it at 2.15 p.m.

BEREAVEMENT OF PREMIER.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with the business of the session, I would wish, on behalf of hon. members of this House, to make sympathetic reference to the irreparable loss suffered recently by the Hon. the Premier in the person of his wife and helpmate. From the universal feeling of regret made manifest at the time—and from all sections of the community—I am sure the Premier would derive a consolation that greatly helped to support him and his family in their sad bereavement.

As Speaker, and on your behalf, I conveyed the sympathy of the members of the Parliament to the Premier and his family.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

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

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

George Henry Devries, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gregory;

John Edmund Duggan, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Toowoomba;

Thomas Dunstan, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Gympie;

Duncan Macdonald, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Stanley.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BREMER.

RETURN OF WRIT.

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 my writ on 7 May, 1946, for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Bremer in the room of Frank Arthur Cooper, Esquire, resigned; and that the said writ has been duly returned to me with a certificate endorsed thereon by the returning officer of the election on 25 May, 1946, of James Donald, Esquire, to serve as such member for the electorate of Bremer.

MEMBER SWORN.

MR. JAMES DONALD.

Mr. James Donald, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Bremer.

DEATH OF MR. E. B. SWAYNE.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

Hon. E. M. HANLON (Ithaca—Premier) (2.18 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 Edward Bowdich Swayne, Esquire, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman 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. Swayne was one of the two representatives for the electoral district of Mackay through the 16th, 17th, and 18th Parliaments, being first elected on 18 May, 1907. He was contemporary with the late Mr. W. T. Paget,

who also represented the seat. When, under the provisions of the Electoral Districts Act of 1910, Mackay reverted to a single-seat electorate and the electorate of Mirani was created, Mr. Swayne became the first member for that district, being elected on 27 April, 1912, to the 19th Parliament. He served continuously onwards until the end of the 26th Parliament.

The late Mr. Swayne was an identity in the sugar industry. He was associated with it prior to the establishment of a White Australia and the abolition of black labour in that industry in this country. He was in the industry during the kanaka days. He came here as a young man from the Hunter River district and worked in the pastoral industry before taking up sugar land.

I had the pleasure of serving through several Parliaments with Mr. Swayne, who was one of those quiet, unobtrusive gentlemen who without any flamboyancy or the adoption of methods that seek the limelight did a thoroughly good job for the constituency he represented. He was liked and respected by hon. members on both sides. (Hear, hear!) I do not think that in the many years he served in this House he ever made an enemy of any hon. member in this Chamber.

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba—Leader of the Opposition) (2.21 p.m.): I desire to second the motion moved by the Premier, and to associate hon. members on this side of the House with it. It relates to a gentleman who served for many years of this party, and as the Premier has said, Mr. Swayne was a member who was universally liked by all of those who came in contact with him. He worked hard and long in the interests of his constituency and in the interests of the State. He had a record in this Parliament of service to this State of which anyone could well be proud. He had an almost unique record, too, Mr. Speaker, in that he was one of the few private members who introduced a Private Members' Bill and piloted it through this Assembly. It was a Bill designed to introduce arbitration in an endeavour to prevent legal proceedings. His name will be long remembered in connection with that worthy objective, as it has saved many people from expensive legal proceedings.

I have just had an opportunity of visiting the electorate represented by the late Mr. Swayne. Undoubtedly the name of Ted Swayne will long be remembered by the people of Mirani. He was a man who spared no effort to carry out his duties. I was told that there were times in the wet season in his electorate when he even swam creeks to carry out appointments he had made with members of his constituency. A man who gave such service to his constituents and the State will be long remembered by people whom he served. The State is the poorer by the passing of Mr. Swayne, and we join in extending condolences to his relatives.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

PAPERS.

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

Report of the Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1945.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Amendment of Direction under the Public Safety Act of 1940 (11 April, 1946).

Regulations under the Patriotic Funds Act of 1942 (24 April, 1946).

Regulation under the Public Safety Act of 1940 Repeal Act of 1945 (2 May, 1946).

Order in Council under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1945 (16 May, 1946).

Regulation under the Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, 1915 to 1941 (30 May, 1946).

Order in Council (20 June, 1946) and Proclamation (20 June, 1946) under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1945, and the State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1945.

Orders in Council under the State Transport Acts, 1938 to 1943 (26, 28, 29 June, 4, 5, 9, 12, 18 July, 1946).

Proclamations under the State Transport Acts, 1938 to 1943 (26, 28 June, 1946).

Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1945 (18 April, 1946).

Regulations under the Mental Hygiene Act of 1938 (4 July, 1946).

Regulations under the Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946 (1 August, 1946).

Regulations under the Land Acts, 1910 to 1946 (13 June, 1946).

Order in Council under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1946 (18 July, 1946).

Amendment of Order in Council dated 9 August, 1945, under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Act of 1944 (24 April, 1946).

Proclamation under the War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act of 1945.

Proclamation under the Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1937 (16 May, 1946).

Orders in Council under—

The Burdekin River Trust Act of 1940 (16 May, 1946).

The Fauna Protection Act of 1937 (11 April, 6 June, 1946).

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1941 (11 April, 6 June, 1946).

Regulations under—

The Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1944 (4 July, 1946).

The Fruit and Vegetables Acts, 1927 to 1939 (4 April, 27 June, 1946).

The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1945 (16, 30 May, 27 June, 4 July, 1946).

The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1941 (28 March, 11 April, 16 May, 6, 27 June, 1946).

Regulation under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1945 (9 May, 1946).

Proclamation under the Jury (War Emergency) Act of 1942 Extension and Repeal Act of 1946 (11 April, 1946).

Order in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921 (16 May, 1946).

Regulation under the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1945 (27 June, 1946).

Balance Sheet of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Ltd. for the year ended 28 February, 1946.

Order in Council under the Bureau of Industry Acts, 1932 to 1934 (9 May, 1946).

Orders in Council (2) under the Industries Assistance Acts, 1929 to 1933 (16, 23 May, 1946).

Order in Council under the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund Act of 1943 (2 May, 1946).

Order in Council the Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904 (9 May, 1946).

DESTRUCTION OF TREES IN PARLIAMENTARY GROUNDS.

Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (2.47 p.m.): I desire to ask you, Mr. Speaker, who gave authority for the destruction of some beautiful trees between the Parliamentary Building and the Lodge. I should like to know in particular whether the destruction of those beautiful trees was authorised by the Parliamentary Buildings Committee and who takes the responsibility for it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member addressing that question to me as Speaker of the House, or as the chairman of the Parliamentary Buildings Committee?

Mr. MAHER: To you as the Speaker of the House, as the custodian of the rights of hon. members.

Mr. SPEAKER: In reply to the hon. member I desire to say that it was with my permission that the trees, which were known as banyan trees, were removed. Their growth had become excessive and they impoverished every bit of soil in proximity to them. Their roots were pushing up the soil, they had overturned a fence, and their retention was not in the best interests of the Lodge itself. Acting on expert advice, the advice of men who know their job, I decided to have them removed.

Mr. MAHER: With all due deference, I should like to know whether it is not in the best interests of Parliament to refer such matters to the Parliamentary Buildings Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

QUESTION.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH—

ALLEGED LEAKAGE.

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

“Has his attention been drawn to the statement that appeared in the Press last week which contained a forecast of all the Bills that were likely to be mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament? Does he not think it is an affront to the Lieutenant-Governor and this Parliament that such leakages should occur and that the Press should have prior notice of the Bills of which the Lieutenant-Governor gave notice in his Speech from the Throne?”

Hon. E. M. HANLON (Ithaca) replied—

“Naturally I saw the reports published in the Press of surmises by the Press representatives of what would appear in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. There is nothing to prevent a pressman, any more than the hon. member for West Moreton, from making a guess of what would appear in the Speech. Any hon. member who heard the Speech this morning would understand that the pressman only guessed what would appear in it because the most important things mentioned have not yet appeared in the Press.”

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Lieutenant-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?

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. WOOD (East Toowoomba) (2.53 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said—

I move:—

“That the following Address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this the Third Session of the Thirtieth 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.

“We desire to express our appreciation and gratitude to the men and women of our fighting services for their sus-

tained efforts during the long years of war, which ended in victory for the United Nations. We thank those nations who joined with us in the fight for freedom, and extend our sincere sympathy to those who lost loved ones in the fight. We trust that the peace conferences will bring real peace to the world, based upon the principles of justice and permitting all peoples to enjoy economic security and happiness.

“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.”

In moving the Address in Reply to the excellent Speech delivered to us today by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I should be very remiss if I neglected to congratulate him on his elevation to the very high office he now holds. After many years of meritorious and distinguished service in the sphere of legislation, it is very pleasing to see his abilities recognised by such an appointment. I know that I shall be speaking for the big majority of Queenslanders in expressing pleasure at his appointment and confidence that he will fill this high office with distinction.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WOOD: In all countries of the world today—no matter what the system of government be—times are very troublous. There is an uneasiness abroad that is very disturbing. All governments are faced with grave problems, on the solutions to which the future of the world so much depends. Never before was sound government so vital to us as it is today; so much rests on the result of decisions to be made that irrevocable damage can be done by unwise government or weak leadership.

The successful prosecution of the war was a tremendous job, and to win this war the entire resources of the Allied nations had to be mobilised. The successful prosecution of the war involved intricate planning, infinite capacity and patience, and the courage to make momentous decisions on the part of the nation's leaders; and it involved also great courage and endurance of hardships by those who made up the nation. The successful planning for a lasting peace is just as important, and no simpler. It is not enough to plan for a gradual conversion, from a nation engaged in the stern business of war to one going about its ordinary everyday life. That is difficult enough; but this planning is useless unless the design is to create a State that can live without being haunted by the constant spectre of war. That is one of the great problems that face the nations of the world today. It is not enough that a Government labour to restore a nation as speedily as possible to its former position. That nation must work in co-operation with

other nations to bring about a mutual desire for a more secure world, and to see that this desire is given practical expression.

One of the greatest bars to this co-operation today is the degree to which the great nations of the world suspect one another's intentions.

It is appalling that so soon after a calamitous war has been concluded the possibilities of future strife are freely speculated upon. It is essential for the future of the world that this suspicion be broken down and it is vital that nations, by the frank discussion of their problems and a sincere desire to understand the problems of other nations, work in the close harmony that is the only foundation on which a successful future can be based.

Democracy has survived a very serious challenge—and just survived. It was a close call; it was at times doubtful whether or not democracy would come to an end. As a result of tremendous work and infinite suffering, the challenge has been temporarily defeated, but it is wrong to assume that it has been entirely eliminated. We were opposed in this contest by nations that were frankly and openly opposed to democracy, but today there are still forces operating against our ideals and our system that, although insidious, cannot be regarded any the less lightly for that. We in this Government Party believe in the democratic way of life and it is our firm conviction that there is greater possibility of a bright future under that system than under any other that we know. It would be foolish to contend that it has attained perfection—no human person or agency has ever done or will ever do that—but we do contend that much has been done and that much more will be done by a system of democracy than any other form of government we have yet experienced.

Democracy is not a rigid form of government that sets a pattern to be followed slavishly. It allows for change and I think that this is one of its greatest features. If the people feel that the system is not just as they would like it they have every right to bring about the desired alteration. This change by consent is a great factor in democracy: thus the people have full liberty of determining their Government. We hope that that system will never be taken from them. This Government aim at the retention of democracy and its development. We believe that while we follow the principles of democracy we shall continue to build up our future. If a better way is devised we can adopt it, but in the meantime democracy is the best. It has taught us much and achieved much and we shall be perfectly safe in pinning our faith to a continuation of that system.

I mentioned previously, Mr. Speaker, the world-wide uneasiness that is now so apparent to all. It is tragic that the possibilities of future strife are more than slight. It would be shocking if we, as sensible nations, had not by now learned the grim lessons to be drawn from two great wars within a quarter of a century. There is such a great oppor-

tunity today to break down barriers between nations, to improve progressively the conditions under which peoples work and live, and to lay the lasting foundation for peace, that it would be criminal for our nations' leaders to neglect any opportunity they have of laying those so greatly-desired foundations.

This need for security, for understanding between nations is, to my mind, the chief problem confronting the world today, and I believe that it can be justly contended that Australia has played, and is playing, her part in determining world affairs and endeavouring to set them on a firm basis.

Not only is this uneasiness evident in nations; it can be seen in individuals also, both in industry and in the homes, in that industrial unrest is widespread in the world, although it is felt to a far greater extent in other countries than it is in our State. I feel that we should endeavour to examine the causes of this unrest before we try to arrive at the solution of the problem.

Firstly, the peoples of every major country in the world today fear the possibility of future wars. They know that situations are developing today, that friction becomes so common that at times events can get beyond control. Again, many millions of people in this world today feel that the hardships they endured over many trying years of war merit something better than a mere return to the conditions in which they lived before the war. We refer to those conditions as the "good old days." They may have been good days, but they were good days only to the extent that they represented an improvement on previous conditions. The people of the world today will not be satisfied if the only hope that the future offers them is nothing more than those good old days. The people of the world today hope that the same energies that were directed to the winning of the war will be now extended in a two-fold manner; firstly to see that lasting peace is assured, and secondly to see that the living standards of the peoples of all nations are progressively improved.

Capitalising on this uneasiness that is evident today, we find forces that are only too anxious to spread this unrest and to create discord, with the ultimate aim of overthrowing democracy. We must do all in our power to combat these undermining influences, and the best way by which we can do that is to see to it that our system reaches such a standard that there will be no soil on which these seeds of discord can germinate.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is security above all that the nation should aim at. For the security of the nation the whole of its energies should be directed to the task of building up the conditions of our people and the improvement of their lives. The chief asset of any nation in the world is a population with a happy home life. Material benefits alone will not assure it but they are a necessity if we desire to have it. No matter in what other direction we might endeavour to build our nation, the home life of the people is still the predominating factor. Any

nation that is composed of happy homes cannot be other than successful. In the pursuit of this objective the Labour Party in Queensland has always shown the greatest and most humane interest. It has always helped and will always continue to help in this development of a happy home life.

The scientific age in which we live should ensure that this improvement in home life will be simple. Science has made tremendous advances in medicine, surgery, agriculture, industry, entertainment, and transport, but, unfortunately, many of the benefits that science makes available for us are not always within reach of the wage-earner. I hope that the time is not far distant when labour-saving appliances in the home—the refrigerator, for example—can be produced at prices that will enable every wage-earner to possess them, and that they will be regarded as necessities, not as luxuries.

Just as is the case with other nations, so has Queensland her problems. Whilst our problems may not be on the same scale as those of other nations and may not be as acute as theirs, nevertheless, they exist and are obstacles to be encountered and overcome. I am confident that this Government have the desire and the capacity to solve our problems and that they will meet them as they arise.

In dealing with the problems of our State we cannot afford to have a narrow and parochial outlook. I submit that we must first realise our relation to world affairs; we must have an understanding of the problems of other nations before we can hope for effective government within our smaller horizon. Australia cannot be regarded as a number of watertight, separate entities. Federation was essential to us, and if we desire the continued growth and greater well-being of our State we must be loyal to the idea of working with the Commonwealth. We in this State must regard ourselves first as Australians and then as Queenslanders.

Much can be said of the gradual development that has taken place in this State over the past 30 years, and it is notable that for the greater part of that period Labour has been in office. There was a short three years in that period when Labour did not hold office, a time of depression and destruction, and on that I think we might mercifully drop the curtain. I do not intend to deal at length with Labour's achievements over that 30 years; it is sufficient to point out that on all sides we see evidence of gradual improvement in many things. Queensland has led the Commonwealth, just as Australia has led the world, in many phases of social and industrial development. Our medical and health services are second to none in Australia, and in maternal and child welfare Queensland leads the Commonwealth. Our standard of education is extremely high. Indeed, Queensland has every reason to be proud of its healthy children and the education they get. Conditions of work have been progressively improved. We have set up very comprehensive arbitration machinery to deal with disputes in industry. Our standard of living has shown a gradual

rise, and it would not be claiming too much to say that grand strides have been made in every direction since Labour first assumed office in 1915. There are some, no doubt, who are impatient, who complain that progress has been too slow. They may be right. There are others who are critical and complain that mistakes occasionally have been made. That also may be true, but it often happens that valuable lessons are learnt from such errors. It is from the failures of the past that we find wisdom sometimes in dealing with the future. However, if we are fair and judge the record of Labour in Queensland in its broad perspective we cannot come to any other conclusion than that this State owes much to the way in which it has been governed during the many years that Labour has been in office.

But it is not the past that concerns me so much as the future. The past is interesting to us principally according to the degree in which we can use it to build the future. Admittedly, it would be presumptuous for any Government to seek continued support on the score of past deeds alone. Admittedly, on the other hand they could not seek support unless they had that record of past deeds. But it is chiefly on their ability to legislate for the future and to continue to improve the present, combined with their past records, that any Government can go before the people. And in this regard the Queensland Labour Government hold their heads high. I sincerely believe that the Labour Party has that ability to govern, and that it has no cause for shame. I hope that it will never lose its humane outlook, which so distinguishes it from its opponents, and that it will never lose the common touch, which is the first essential to humane government. I believe that in the past the Labour Party has shown its capacity to govern, and proved that it is more fitted to overcome the difficulties of the present and plan for those of the future than any of the political parties opposed to it, all masquerading under constantly changing and confusing names, but all imbued with the common idea of opposing the uplift of the ordinary, everyday worker who is the real strength of the State.

No other State has greater opportunities for development than Queensland. It is a State, Mr. Speaker, that is big in size, and big in the character and physique of its people, and therefore it must be a State that must be big in its outlook. Its climate ranges from tropical to cool temperate, with a resultant diversity of products, and its landscapes pass from rain forest, to scrubland, to fertile plains and rolling downs and, finally, to arid desert. With this range of climate and this change in landscape a legion of crops can be grown, and great developments have taken place in the realms of both agriculture and pasture. I contend that the greatest credit for this development must be given to the Queensland railways, which have ably helped in this development by the opening up of the country.

Transport in this State is a major problem today. I was pleased to hear in the speech of His Excellency that it is proposed in this

session to bring down amendments in our present State Transport Act. Transport is the life-blood of a State. This Government are wise in taking this opportunity of increasing our transport systems and of improving our existing one. The large area of Queensland, and the relative sparsity of our population makes the cost of financing the railways a tremendous job. There are many who either do not realise this or do not admit it, and as a result much loose and unfair criticism is often directed at our railways. Some of them serve the thinly populated areas and thus are not profitable, but none the less they must be maintained if we have the interests of the development of our State in view.

Let me mention briefly the part played by our railway system during the war. Especially after Japan came into the war they bore a terrific burden. Queensland was the marshalling yard of all the men and material of Australia and her Allies that passed north to the Islands. The amount of traffic that used our railways was far beyond that for which they were established. The loads carried were tremendous. They rolled along constantly day after day, night after night and week after week. Although our system was strained almost to bursting point and although the patience and health of our employees at times were severely taxed, at no time did the department fail to deliver a load and at no time did the efficiency of the employees break down.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WOOD: Queensland has nothing finer in its industrial record than the loyalty and industry of the Queensland railways and its employees during the war just completed.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WOOD: It is obvious that with this terrific strain our railway system could not have escaped unscathed. Tremendous damage was done to the rolling stock, the engines and railway installations. It is not to be expected that all this damage could be repaired immediately. The Government have this matter in hand, and contracts are being called—as may be gathered from the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor—for the construction of locomotives and the renovation of our damaged railway stock or for its replacement if it has become obsolete. Whatever anyone may think to the contrary, the railways are still the most effective means of handling traffic in Queensland today.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. WOOD: There are many who would like to see the Queensland railways given the job of carrying the heavy, bulky, unprofitable lines, while private enterprise was left to pick out the eyes of the profitable lines to be carried. We must realise that this cannot be allowed; that no matter how else we develop our system the railways must remain pre-eminent as our chief means of transport. We cannot arrest progress, however, and if we think that our State can be better developed by the extension of road transport, I submit that we must give every

encouragement to that extension. We cannot afford to shut our eyes to the fact that science has made tremendous advances, and if these advances will help us to modernise our transport systems, we must utilise them. We cannot afford to ignore progress. It has been aptly said—

“Man must keep moving.
Behold, all things move;
The sun, the moon, the earth, the stars,
The breezes that blow, the waters that
flow.
Man must keep moving;
Only the dead remain in one place.”

So I submit that if we can see that science offers us any means of improving our system, whether it be by the modernisation of our existing system or the wide extension of our road transport, we should give it sympathetic encouragement.

I can think of nothing more foolish in governmental history than the action of the Minister for Transport during the three years when Labour was out of office in advocating a back-to-the-horse movement. Any move that we make must be forward and not backward.

In considering transport, there are three points that I believe to be important, and I shall deal with them briefly. First, it is not enough that we extend road transport merely because there is an opportunity of a good living in a particular area for somebody. That should not be an argument to influence us when we are considering whether extensions will be granted. I say sincerely that if the road extension is in the interests of the development of the country, we cannot afford to do other than consider it sympathetically. Secondly, the finances of the State must be protected. If there is any deficit, or any gap in the revenue, through the loss of income by the extension of road transport, then the sponsor of road-transport extension must be prepared to help to pay for that loss. Thirdly, any such extension of road transport must be restricted. It must be subsidiary to and closely co-ordinated with the railway system.

I mention, too, Mr. Speaker, the high standard of education in this State. Plans have been drawn for the raising of the school-leaving age, and when these are put into operation they will involve great reorganisation in the department. Labour has always contended that no child should be denied its birthright of a sound education, and anything that Labour could do to see that the child received that birthright has been done.

Before concluding I should like to touch on a matter of local interest. We in Toowoomba are proud of our schools, both of the buildings and of the standard of the education imparted in them. It is a high standard; there is no other city in Queensland that I know of that has a higher scale of teaching than Toowoomba. But the parents there labour under one grave disadvantage. Five months ago I was teaching at East Toowoomba in the largest school outside the

city of Brisbane. It was a very fine building and the school had a splendid scholastic record, but it suffers from the lack of a minor improvement. It is a factor that operates in most Toowoomba schools. Toowoomba is a city of red dust and red mud. Other towns have their dust and their mud, but I have never seen any other in which the problem is so acute as Toowoomba. I have seen cleaners there having literally to use a shovel to remove the mud from the schoolroom, and I earnestly request the Government to give consideration to the putting down of permanent hard surfaces over assembly areas. That would do away with the greater part of this menace.

I have dealt as much as I could in the time at my disposal with some of our problems. There are many more, and some may be graver than those I have mentioned, but I can sincerely say that I believe this Government of which I am proud to be a supporter have the capacity to grapple with these problems, and I am confident that while Queensland has the guidance of a Labour Government its future development is assured.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DONALD (Bremer) (3.33 p.m.): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so ably moved by the hon. member for East Toowoomba, and I take this opportunity of congratulating him on his splendid effort.

I preface my remarks, too, by extending the sincere congratulations of the people of Queensland and my personal congratulations to my old friend, the Hon. F. A. Cooper, on his elevation to the position of Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Queensland. The appointment is a wise and popular one and has the approval of the people of this State. This approval has been given because of the excellent service His Excellency gave to Queensland for many years; first as a private citizen and later—for 31 years of faithful duty—in this Legislative Assembly, and also because of his wise and capable leadership of the Government who brought many benefits to Queensland, the Commonwealth and its people.

Mr. Cooper was one of that band of stalwarts which made history in 1915 by laying the foundation for a long series of Labour Governments who have blessed this State, with one short and unfortunate interruption, over the last 30 years.

Although too young at the time to qualify for a vote, I can recall the rejoicing on that Saturday night in Ipswich when it became known that Dave Gledson and Frank Cooper had been elected to Parliament. The knowledge that with the return of a Labour Government came hope for the future of the youth of this State was the cause of our rejoicing. I have every confidence that Mr. Cooper will fill the position of Lieutenant-Governor with the grace and dignity for which the position calls and with credit and distinction to himself and his State. I trust that my term of service here will be as use-

ful and as creditable as that of the Hon. F. A. Cooper, and I should like to thank the electors of Bremer for giving me the opportunity of following one who has established such a brilliant record.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DONALD: In recalling the events of 1915, when the return of the Ryan Labour Government virtually began a new era in the history of this State, I am compelled to refer to recent happenings in this State and the circumstances that preceded the return of the first Labour Government. I think the vital part the bitter industrial strike of 1912, with its black Friday and special constables batoning the heads of the people, played in disgusting the people generally with the old Tory regime and ensuring the return of the Ryan Government and its many successors is within the memory of many hon. members. My friends opposite may be inclined to remind me that we still have our industrial troubles, despite that long period of Labour rule, and I will not deny it. As one who has recently transferred from a leading position in an industrial trade union, I must confess that I should hate to see the day when the workers and the unions of this State would lie down passively and allow the employers to trample upon them. My own contact with the members of the union with which I was connected has made me only too familiar with the widespread discontent and impatience of the mass of the people at the failure of the so frequently promised new order to materialise after the war.

I should like to take this opportunity of saying that whatever system of arbitration may operate it will not hold the confidence of the masses of the people unless those who administer it are prepared to make themselves acquainted with the spirit that is abroad and to attune their judgments to it. The people are only too well aware that the war against the reactionary forces of the world was won only by their efforts, and they are expecting something in the nature of a new deal as recognition of their efforts and sacrifices.

As our own State court is at present subject to the decisions of the Federal courts, I should like to record the opinion that the judges of the Federal Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, in publicly admitting their ignorance of what is meant by the term "new order," and in holding up an important issue like the 40-hour week with a prolonged discussion such as is taking place at present, are not doing much to convince the people that arbitration is a better, speedier and more effective method of winning conditions than direct action.

I feel that it would be wise if the members of the Arbitration Courts in Australia were to pay some attention to the Federal Government's White Paper on full employment, particularly paragraph 77, which I intend to quote. It reads—

"A sense of the responsibility of the trade-union movement to the community is more likely to be fully developed if unions generally are satisfied that the system of wage fixation is such as to pass on to workers a fair share of increased output, flowing from the growing productivity of labour as technical processes improve, and our resources are further developed. It should be possible to have a periodical review of the standard of consumption which the basic wage is to represent—a review designed expressly to ensure that the normal upward trend of real output, available per head is duly reflected in the level of real wages. The main factor affecting this trend will be progressive technical improvements increasing the productivity of labour."

The industrial troubles in the coal-mining industry of Queensland have been adjusted with little arbitration but plenty of conciliation. The policy very wisely introduced into this industry by the present Attorney-General some years ago has with few exceptions been successfully and loyally carried out ever since.

Reverting to my recollections of the 1912-1915 period, it has given me a great deal of satisfaction to compare the methods adopted by the present Labour Government in dealing with industrial troubles, particularly those which occurred recently, with those of that earlier period. We have had a tramway strike within recent times without batons and bashing; we have had what amounted to almost a general strike without panic and without the adoption of desperate measures. In each case, as in the recently threatened general railway strike in my electorate over a certain issue, reason prevailed and the workers concerned won some of their demands with a minimum of sacrifice and a minimum of casualties and bitterness. If the parties in opposition have any nostalgic regrets for the good old days—good old days in the minds of the bosses of those times, when a man who dared to go on strike might be expected to be bashed and gaoled—I suggest that any thought held by them of ever occupying the benches of this side of the House will prove to be an illusion.

I congratulate the Premier on the masterly manner in which he has kept everything under control during the past eight or nine months, the period when the post-war industrial discontent has come to a head. The Premier has at least kept his head and refused to be provoked by the reactionary criticism of hon. members opposite. He has refused to be stampeded by the inspired propaganda appearing in our daily Press. The result of all this can only mean the enhancing of his reputation and the reputation of the Government that he so capably leads and the strengthening of the forces of progress.

I firmly believe that if the Government keep in touch with the progressive demands of the workers and people generally there will be no recurrence of our troubles and

that we are likely to move into a long period of steady progress. During the last 30 years I have watched the social progress made in the control of public utilities, such as tramways, electric light and power, in addition to the long-established social control of our railway system.

I have seen the development of State insurance, the extension of legal services by the Public Curator's office, the extension of hospital service, dental clinics, dental and medical service to school children, child welfare, pre-natal clinics, maternity hospitals, an increasing measure of social control of sugar mills and the regulation of the sugar industry itself and the peanut industry. I have seen the growth of marketing control of our primary products and some progress in the regulation of the mining industry, from which I have come, and I believe that there are great possibilities of very considerable development in the same direction, particularly in the period in which we now live.

I am not convinced, as the Communist Party firmly believes, that the achievements of socialism can be realised only as the result of the catastrophic collapse of capitalism, the raising of barriers in the street, and a prolonged period of civil war. I agree with the Communists that if such a struggle does prove the only method for the achievement of the social objective, it will demonstrate the failure of our democratic theory, and it will be the responsibility of a small minority of Big Business owners and controllers of industry for forcing such a struggle on the workers. But I personally believe—and I am encouraged in this belief by the large measure of social control that we were able to achieve through our Parliamentary mechanism to meet the emergency conditions of war-time—that we can achieve socialism by our democratic methods. I believe that just as the first firmly-established Labour Government in Britain is proceeding with its programme of nationalising the Bank of England, and nationalising the coal industry and other key British industries, and as the Commonwealth Government are proceeding to extend a measure of governmental control over the Australian coal-mining industry, so any Parliamentary Labour majority are at present in a position to implement just as widespread measures of nationalising or increasing the social control of industry as they may feel the bulk of the people at the moment are willing to accept.

I must say something on the question of full employment. I have here a small pamphlet issued, I believe, in 1942, by the Federal Council of the Australian Railways Union, a union that I think stands next in strength to the miners' union among my constituents in Bremer. This pamphlet is called, "A Trade-union Plan for Post-war Reconstruction," and it was compiled by the members of the Federal council of this great union of nearly 100,000 members. Here is the main burden of their message, their proposals for the post-war world—

"There can be no return to the world of pre-war days; the economic situation

that will arise from the cessation of war will require a new method of approach; and if we are to avoid economic chaos and collapse in the period immediately following the war, we must commence now our preparations for that period."

After professing their faith in the ultimate realisation of Socialism, they go on to urge immediate planning for the post-war period, and they project a programme involving the achievement of full employment, the sustaining of purchasing power among the people, the reduction of the length of the working week, and the raising of the school-leaving age, linked with housing plans, widespread public works and the extension of social services. In support of these varied proposals they raise the question so often asked by the suffering multitudes during the last prolonged depression.

They assert their belief that if our financial position is elastic enough to find money for war, as it has been found, then money can be found to finance the requirements of peace. I firmly believe that this programme as set forward by this union is one that could meet the immediate demands of the workers, and I also believe it to be a desirable and practicable one.

I want to assert very definitely that we must remember that we are now living in the post-war period that has been talked about so much. We are living in a period when the promises of the new order must be fulfilled. The workers and the people generally are becoming impatient because these promises are not being fulfilled, and no talk of constitutional difficulties will stave off their demand for the fulfilment of those promises indefinitely. I am sure that no-one in this Parliament desires to see this country go through again what it went through in the 1930s, a position aggravated in this State by the particularly reactionary programme implemented by the Moore Government. If we do not want to go through such a period we must do something about it very speedily. I realise that the Federal Government, with their plan for full employment, are today endeavouring to do a great deal. I am certain they will do a great deal, especially if they get the additional powers they seek, as I am sure they will, in the referendum to be held at the forthcoming Federal elections.

The Queensland State Government are to be congratulated on their foresight in passing such legislation as the Employment Exchanges Acts and the Juvenile Employment Bureau Constitution Act, for this legislation does show the desire of the Government for a planned economy and their realisation of the need of eliminating the fear of unemployment ever present in the homes of the working people. A former Labour Premier of this State once said in this House that Labour stands for the right to work, the right to earn, and the right to enjoy. Consequently the economic instruments of the State must be so controlled that work is available for everyone, that everyone has the right to

earn and that everyone has the right to enjoy. I feel convinced that the Premier and his Government will do their level best to see that Queenslanders get the right to work and earn and that they will be able to enjoy the fruits thereof.

However, full employment will give rise to many problems. I recognise these problems, and I know their solution will tax our ingenuity and good will, but I am willing to believe that the people will face up to them rather than revert to the waste and bitterness of unemployment. The dangers of excessive spending, of immobility of resources, of inefficiency, of instability of wages, of unstable public finances, and of inadequate overseas funds are all problems which have to be solved if our living standards are to derive the greatest benefit from full employment and if prices are to be kept sufficiently stable to avoid an inflation that would seriously threaten the welfare of large sections of the community. If we value full employment and high living standards sufficiently, we need not fear that solutions will be impossible to find. Australian Governments will need to study closely economic and financial trends in Australia and overseas and the extent to which the available measures of government policy are adequate to deal with this problem. There must be great emphasis on collaboration between Australian Governments and between Governments and private business if we are to ensure not only that full employment will be maintained but also that it will be maintained without running into the dangers of inflation.

The achievement of full employment itself without any other change would add largely to our material wealth, but that is not the least of the changes that it would make. It would add far more to happiness than to wealth, and it would add most of all to national unity by removing the misery that generates hate. By changing the conditions under which men live it would affect the working of many of our social institutions and raise new problems, some of which have already been mentioned. As full employment of itself would add greatly to our material wealth, it supplies the answer to those people who contend that increased production is necessary to cure our economic illness, and as it adds more to happiness than to wealth, it provides us with a happy population; and where is the man who is prepared to deny that this is a valuable national asset? It adds more to national unity than to anything; it gives us a nation that has been united by the elimination of the fear of unemployment, which in turn generates hate and prevents national unity, which we want so much. That being so, everyone should set up full employment as his objective; everyone who desires to see a united nation, of happy, prosperous and healthy people should.

It is because of this that I feel it is necessary that there should be much more widespread discussion of the implication of

this full-employment plan. Perhaps the Secretary for Public Instruction might be helpful in this direction through the Board of Adult Education by fostering widespread discussion on full employment and the economics of post-war reconstruction. I have heard from many servicemen of the popular weekly discussions conducted—often very close to the firing line—by the admirable organisation set up for war-time education, and I should like to see the Adult Board of Education fostering such discussion along similar lines. If the boys in uniform appreciated these discussions when they were in the middle of the fray, I think they would appreciate it even more now when they are right up against the difficulties of rehabilitation, housing, and other problems. I do not think there is any reason why developments in the post-war period should follow the pattern of what occurred in the years between the last two wars. If they should, and in doing so bring us to another and third world war, that would be absolute disaster. Incidentally, I deplore the revival of the anti-Soviet propaganda in widespread sections of the Press; and I urge all sane democrats to set their faces against any move to promote hostility towards our great war-time ally, just as they must set themselves against any revival of the noxious growth of Fascism.

It has been a commonplace to say that democracy is on trial. Never was it more true than it is at the present time. But I firmly believe that democracy will not survive by adopting panicky moves to suppress opposition. My upbringing in this democratic State and the very considerable achievements I have seen recorded during the last 30 years of almost unbroken Labour rule have led me to the conclusion we can achieve socialism and by so doing save democracy.

I should like to say a few words now about the coal-mining industry. There is a need for amending the Coal Mining Act to ensure better ventilation in our collieries, the elimination of 2/3 places, the provision of better change and bathroom facilities and amenities, particularly in the outside districts.

The assurance given by the Secretary for Mines to the executive of my union that the Government were contemplating such action has brought rejoicing to the minefields of Queensland. Whereas it is doubtful whether any Government in the Commonwealth introduced legislation to stabilise the mining industry more than the Queensland Government when they introduced the Coal Production Regulation Act in 1933, there is need for that legislation to be brought up to date. As you are aware, Mr. Speaker, this Bill was introduced at a time when the coal-mining industry was in a state almost of economic collapse, when the demand for coal could not keep those employed in the industry working half-time. It will be perfectly obvious to honourable members on both sides, therefore, that with the industry working full-time and with very little interruption and unable to meet the nation's requirements this Act needs amendment to bring it up to date.

I should like to make slight reference to the penalty and compensation clauses applicable to the West Moreton District Coal Scheme. The object of these clauses is to allow the fortunate to help the unfortunate and prevent unnecessary competition. With this there can be little objection, especially when production is greatly in excess of consumption, but when they prevent enterprising companies from equipping their collieries to meet the extra demand for coal, which would also improve the working conditions of their employees and provide decent amenities, it is wrong. I believe it to be wrong to penalise any person for producing a commodity, particularly when the supply of such commodity falls short of the nation's requirements.

Attention must be given to the problem of eliminating the dust hazard in the coal-mining industry. Too many men, and far too many young men, are becoming victims of the dreadful scourge that follows from it. There are mining men in this Chamber who from practical experience know the suffering the unfortunate victims of this disease endure. Although there are considerable obstacles in the way, I feel that workers suffering from silicosis, anthraco-silicosis, or pulmonary tuberculosis, if the disease is the result of working in a particular industry, should receive the same rate of weekly compensation payments as are paid to workers who meet with an injury from accident in industry.

Although I welcome the extension of Government control by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments over the coal-mining industry I regret those responsible for the preliminary talks neglected to ask representatives of the Queensland Government and the Queensland mining industry to participate. The result can be only that the proposed legislation will be incomplete because the views of those controlling the industry in the second-largest coal-producing State of the Commonwealth have not been sought.

Mr. Pie: A shame!

Mr. DONALD: It is neglect, an oversight, and perhaps a shame. As we have in our coal-mining industry problems that are not met with in New South Wales, the absence of Queensland representatives from these conferences before the proposed legislation was placed before Parliament is to be regretted.

In the proposed extensive exploitation of open-cut mining at Blair Athol and the Callide Valley I counsel caution. I believe that this venture is to cost in the vicinity of £2,000,000 or £3,000,000. Although we have not in the West Moreton district the quantity of Aberdare coal that we had, or that we should like to have, I can assure the House that the coal-mining industry there is not dead, nor are its seams exhausted by any means. The foreign material that is being

filled from the poorer seams now being worked could be removed by the introduction of machinery by the installation of a picking belt and washing appliances. I have been informed by good, reliable authorities that there are excellent seams in the Lowood and Harrisville districts, and I ask that those seams be worked and exploited before the mine workers of the West Moreton district are asked to leave the homes they own, which have been described by Mr. Justice Davidson as being easily the best mine workers' homes in the Commonwealth. I plead with the people who are contemplating this extensive open-cut mining in the Callide and Dawson Valleys to provide amenities for the mine workers. I assure hon. members that none exists there now. With a little more foresight and a little more enterprise I feel that Queensland could supply coal to the fuel-starved States of the Commonwealth, and I urge that the possibility of building up an export coal trade from Queensland be neither ignored nor ridiculed.

Great concern is felt by employees at the Ipswich railway workshops at the amount of work that is being let out to private enterprise, some of it even going to other States. As the workshops employees turn out better work than these at lower cost, this policy is hard to justify. Much of the discontent prevailing at the Ipswich railway workshops could be eliminated by putting into operation the suggestion forwarded by employees to the State Employment Council in Brisbane through the Ipswich Employment Exchanges Board, and by the appointment of a liaison officer between the Minister and the employees.

Before leaving railway matters, I should like to urge, as the Attorney-General has done in this House so often, the necessity for getting on with a new railway station at Ipswich. We want a station that will be in keeping with the importance and prestige of the district.

It has been written that Britain's victories on the battlefield were won on the playing-fields of Eton. Knowing as I do the importance of playgrounds to our school children, I shall conclude with a plea that our Queensland school children be given more of that splendid medical and dental treatment that they have been receiving from the Government, and that they be provided with better playing-grounds and playing fields so that they may enjoy their games and sports without risk of physical injury.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Nicklin, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. E. M. HANLON (Ithaca—Premier):
I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn till 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.12 p.m.