

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST 1950**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

## WEDNESDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1950.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Brassington—Fortitude Valley) took the chair at 11.57 a.m.

### PRESENTATION OF Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Brassington, Fortitude Valley): I have to report that yesterday I presented myself to His Excellency the Governor at Government House, as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker of this House, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election as follows—

“Government House,  
“Brisbane, 1 August, 1950.

“Mr. Speaker,—I congratulate you very sincerely on having been chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker.

“I feel confident that you will fulfil with ability the responsible and onerous duties of that office, and will justify fully the trust which has been reposed in you. I heartily wish you all possible success and happiness in the high sphere of duty for which you have been chosen.

“John Lavarack, Governor.”

### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker at the Bar, and accompanied to the dais.

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

#### “MEMBERS OF THE THIRTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND—

“You have been called together to give your attention to, and make decisions upon matters concerning the welfare of the people of this State.

“We meet at a time of crisis; in one part of the world open and unprovoked aggression has succeeded the uneasy peace of the years since the fighting of the second World War came to an end. It is heartening to see the forces of law and order being led by our great ally, the United States of America, representing the almost unanimous United Nations. The immediate future we cannot foretell, and early reverses are inevitable, since the aggressor always has the initial advantage, but when the peace-loving nations exert their full strength we can be sure of a successful issue.

“There is no information yet as to the possibility of a Royal visit in the near future, but it is pleasing to learn that the King's health has improved to such an extent that a visit to Australia is once more considered possible. However there are many factors, such as the political position in Britain, and the world situation, which must influence the eventual decision.

“During my tours of the past twelve months, I have visited many more parts of the State, including places as far away as Cooktown, Normanton, and the Mitchell River Mission Station. The vast potential of our State of Queensland is common knowledge, but the almost desperate deficiency of population for its development must be experienced at first hand to be fully realised. Living conditions, on the whole, are slowly improving, through the efforts of the central and local governments, and, last but not least, of private individuals.

“The receipts of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 30 June, 1950, totalled £37,119,291 and the expenditure £37,089,902, leaving a surplus of £29,389, the eleventh since 1 July, 1938.

“Revenue exceeded the estimate by £728,056, and expenditure was £734,032 greater than estimated.

“The expenditure from Loan Fund in 1949-50 on essential capital and developmental works, main roads, railways, land development, including irrigation, housing and loans and subsidies to local bodies, was £9,035,152.

“An index of business activity constructed for the period 1927-28 to 1949, by the Bureau of Industry, clearly demonstrates the remarkable rise in the business prosperity of Queensland since the depression of the early ‘thirties.’ Record heights are shown for real national income, the number of people in work, and the general industrial activity of Queensland.

“True unemployment is practically non-existent.

“Last year a record number of factories (4,083) employing 68,385 males and 14,560 females had an output valued at £154,670,000, or 25 per cent. over the highest ever recorded for Queensland.

“Future prospects for greater secondary industrial development of Queensland are very bright.

“Overseas and southern industrialists continue to seek opportunities for the establishment of new or branch works in Queensland.

“A joint investigation is being made by English and American companies into the possibility of establishing a nitrogenous fertiliser works in Central Queensland.

“Most of the land industries received good returns during the past year, and prospects for the immediate future are extremely favourable. Cattle now being marketed are in excellent condition and an extended killing season is assured. High wool yields may be expected for all districts.

“Dairy production has been maintained at a satisfactory level, and the dairy cattle population is increasing.

“The Department of Agriculture and Stock expanded, during the year, its direct advisory and research services to give greater assistance to primary producers in coping with farming problems. The value of these services is reflected in higher crop yields, healthier herds and flocks, and improved quality of dairy produce.

"Expansion of acreage during the year was a pleasing feature of important agricultural crops, including wheat, grain sorghum and tobacco.

"Tobacco was grown on 2,500 acres in 1950 and the anticipated yield of cured leaf is over 2½ million lbs.

"Experiments in the Burdekin irrigation area give good promise of the successful production of such crops as tobacco, maize, sorghum, jute, sunflowers and pasture plants.

"The production of sugar for the 1949 season approximated 896,000 tons. The value of the season's output was almost £24 million, exceeding that of the previous season by a little over £750,000, and was the highest figure yet attained for a Queensland sugar harvest.

"Consequent on representations made in London towards the end of the last year by an Australian delegation led by the Hon. the Premier, the British Ministry of Food agreed to extend the arrangement for the purchase of the whole of Australia's exportable surplus of sugar until the 1952 season.

"Australia's export quota represented by the 1953-57 period of the arrangement is 600,000 tons, or 200,000 tons more than Australia's quota under the International Sugar Agreement of 1937.

"Provision is made for annual review of the prices payable under the guaranteed section and consideration of further annual extensions of the period of the Agreement.

"Queensland sugar producers are therefore aware of the extent of their market for at least the next eight seasons, and this knowledge should greatly assist the industry in the planning of orderly production.

"To provide for the settlement of ex-servicemen, 145 properties comprising 168,835 acres have been acquired in the Atherton, Bundaberg, Cairns, Dalby, Gladstone, Gympie, Ingham, Innisfail, Ipswich, Mackay, Nanango, Toowoomba and Townsville districts.

"To date 337 ex-servicemen have been established on mixed farming, tobacco, sugar and grazing lands.

"By the end of June last 647 eligible ex-servicemen had obtained priority in the purchase of cane assigned lands and approval of the transfers under sale agreements had been given in accordance with the provisions of the War Service (Sugar Industry) Land Settlement Acts.

"Advances approved under the provisions of the various Acts administered by the Agricultural Bank in 1949-50 reached a record total of £2,127,186.

"Of the amount of £1,210,697 approved under the Agricultural Bank Acts, £736,726 was granted to 413 ex-servicemen who were new applicants, and £49,072 to 153 ex-servicemen who were existing borrowers. In each case the amounts borrowed are free of interest and redemption for three years

"In addition to loans granted to ex-servicemen under other Acts the bank has approved of advances amounting to £1,127,347 to 288 successful selectors under the State War Service Land Settlement Acts since the inception of the scheme in 1947.

"Since June, 1949, a further 33 blocks of sheep country totalling 1,208,449 acres and 14 blocks of cattle country totalling 607,532 acres have been made available for new settlement.

"A substantial part of the investigation of the Taroom-Wandoan lands for closer settlement has been completed and similar work in the Calliope area is almost finished.

"To encourage the development of difficult country in remote parts of the State, concessions have been given to 14 applicant lessees with a total of 20,647 square miles of country. None of the leases is suitable for subdivision.

"The lessees are committed to an expenditure of £348,000 during the next seven to ten years, and the completion of these developmental works will, it is estimated, yield an increase in the carrying capacity to the extent of 57,000 head of cattle.

"In a limited number of cases, and where conditions are suitable, provision has been made for the cultivation of fodder crops. Should the experiment prove successful it is anticipated that approximately 1,500 acres will be so utilised within the next five years.

"The year just past has been marked by record activity in reforestation. The expenditure of over £875,000 is the highest yet and for the first time the acreage of plantations established exceeded 5,000 acres for the year bringing the total to about 47,000 acres.

"Expenditure by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission last year was £952,614, an increase of £314,712 as compared with 1948-49.

"During 1950-51, it is proposed to have aerial surveys made of the Burdekin River Gorge (in connection with determination of storage at the proposed diversion dam), the Fitzroy and Boyne Rivers, Barambah and Barker Creeks, Lockyer Valley, and further areas on the Balonne River.

"A preliminary report on the investigations into the water resources of the Nogoa River has been made and authority given for the testing, by diamond drilling, of the foundation at the Nogoa Gap Dam site, detailed soil surveys of the commanded lands and experimental production of crops.

"The programme for 1950-51 includes commencement of construction of the Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River; stage 2 of the Clare Irrigation Area to provide for a further 20 farms; weirs on Atherton Creek, near Mareeba, Barambah Creek, near Murgon, and at Barcaldine and Charleville; the development of the Moura irrigation area; and completion of the Theodore pumping and generating station.

"In addition to these works 12 weirs are under construction in other parts of the State.

“Work on the Burdekin River project during the year included topographical survey of the irrigable area, hydraulic and engineering investigations, diamond drilling of foundations for the main storage dam, agricultural experiments and pasture work at the Ayr Regional Experiment Station and experiments at the Clare tobacco experiment station.

“Arrangements have been made for the Main Roads Commission to complete the location of access roads to diversion and main dam sites and to prepare plans, specifications and estimates of cost.

“The Burdekin River Development Act of 1949 was proclaimed in force on the 8 July, thereby constituting the Burdekin River Authority under whose direction engineering and other investigations and plans for road construction will proceed.

“Although the Burdekin Falls dam will require a number of years to complete, endeavours are being made to plan operations so that water may be stored and power generated progressively, to be stepped up to full output as the construction proceeds.

“River-bed work for the Burdekin River Bridge was seriously interfered with by floods in 1949 and 1950. Three of the six caissons have yet to be sunk to the planned depth. Approximately 50 per cent. of the earthworks, together with culverts to the southern approach bank, have been completed.

“Increased production marked practically all phases of the operations of the mining industry during the past year.

“Gold production proved to be the best recorded since 1942 and showed a noteworthy increase of 6,636 fine ounces over that of the previous year.

“The production of copper was 4,924 tons or 1,775 tons over the total produced in the preceding year.

“It is anticipated that the Mount Isa copper smelting plant will be operating by 1952, and may put Queensland in the lead as a copper producer in Australia.

“Total output of lead for the State during 1949 was 37,696 tons, or 6,917 tons more than for the previous year.

“Zinc concentrates showed a slight fall in production, but the value rose by £266,674 over that of the previous year's output.

“Coal production reached an all-time record of 1,970,388 tons valued at £2,874,062.

“The development of Queensland's vast coal resources is attracting Australia-wide attention and must inevitably become an important factor in the solution of the problem of Australia's overall shortage of coal.

“My Advisers will continue to press this viewpoint for consideration by the Commonwealth Government.

“Following a discussion between officers of the Mines Department and Dr. H. G. Raggatt, Director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources, the Queensland Government has agreed to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in comprehensive

geophysical and other surveys of the mineral resources of Queensland. A beginning will be made in the Cloncurry District. Progress reports on all areas investigated will be published yearly, or twice a year if warranted.

“The estimated cost of works which the State Electricity Commission and public electric authorities now have in hand amounts to approximately £22 million.

“Principal features of the programme of works are the establishment of three new central generating stations at Howard, Rockhampton, and Townsville, the construction of a vast network of transmission lines, the construction of the Tully Falls Hydro-electricity Scheme to serve the Cairns region, and the establishment of new subsidised electricity supply schemes for small townships in Western Queensland.

“Traffic operations on the Queensland Railways in 1949-50 constituted a peace-time record.

“The paying tonnage of goods and live-stock carried on the Railways, including the South Brisbane-Border section of the uniform gauge railway, was 6,980,073 or an increase of 91,664 tons over 1948-49.

“Cash collections in 1949-50 were £15,458,390 or £555,159 greater than for 1948-49.

“Notwithstanding improved operating efficiency, as shown by better train loads and greater daily mileage, uncontrollable expenditure has risen by more than £3 million a year, largely because of basic wage and automatic salary increases, award variations and heavier costs of stores and fuel. It became necessary, therefore, to increase freights and fares from 1 July, 1950.

“Every available source of supply has been tapped to find the means to provide the railways with modern and efficient locomotives and rolling stock, and heavy expenditure has been incurred in strengthening permanent way and bridges in all parts of the State.

“Main Roads Commission's expenditure in 1949-50 under all headings was nearly £4½ million or about £600,000 more than for the previous year.

“The Department of Harbours and Marine is constructing new wharves in the Brisbane River and is supervising major improvements in the Port of Bowen.

“Harbour Boards are receiving generous aid from the Government in carrying out improvements and a committee is considering the best uses to which lands in the Hamilton area may be put for both industrial and port purposes.

“My Advisers plan to make it possible, by deepening and improving our main ports, to restore the Torres Strait route for inward and outward bound ships.

“The staffing position in Queensland schools remains a matter of some concern. The number of recruits available from the limited number taking the Senior Public examination is insufficient.

"An emergency measure has been introduced this year. To date 103 student teachers, each with Junior certificate or equivalent academic qualification, have been appointed to approved schools within reach of their homes.

"Courses are being provided to enable the recruits to further their academic attainments and a professional course will be provided for them at the Senior Teachers' Training College later.

"There has been marked development in the training of apprentices during the past year. Full-time instructors in electricity and motor mechanics have been appointed to Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba and modern equipment has been provided.

"Queensland is the first State in Australia to institute apprenticeship in the retail distributing trades.

"The correspondence certificate course in agricultural science, inaugurated by the University in conjunction with the Technical Branch of the Department of Public Instruction, has an enrolment of 140.

"Courses in works supervision and industrial management have been established in Brisbane. It is proposed to extend this training to meet the needs of industry and commerce and to establish a full diploma course in management.

"These courses will be provided also at Technical Colleges situated in industrial areas outside the metropolis.

"In co-operation with the Department of Public Instruction, University centres have been established, and are operating successfully at Ipswich, Rockhampton, and Townsville, and other centres will be established where groups of students warrant such action.

"Courses leading to degrees in veterinary science and in mining engineering will be fully operative in 1951.

"Early in the next academic year a post-graduate course in sugar technology will be inaugurated.

"My Advisers are pleased to record that the Maternal and Child Welfare Service and improved hospital facilities are reflected in the rates of infant and maternal mortality, the figures for which, in 1949, were the lowest on record.

"With a view to the stricter observance of the health laws with particular emphasis on food, the Department of Health and Home Affairs has appointed additional health inspectors, one each at Cairns, Rockhampton and Townsville.

"The availability of additional health inspectors for appointment by local authorities will enable more local authorities to exercise greater vigilance for the effective control of infectious diseases and sanitation generally.

"Expansion of the public dental service to Torres Strait and the east coast of Cape York Peninsula has been made possible by the use of air travel from the Base Dental Clinic at Cairns.

"A dental survey of most of the Gulf country and the west coast of the Peninsula has been completed and endeavours are being made to extend the service to these areas as well as to other isolated areas. The State has now the widest coverage of public dental services yet provided.

"Considerable progress was made during the year with the construction of new public buildings and the maintenance of existing buildings.

"The growth of population and the expanding development of the State have demanded the provision of many new school buildings, additional classroom accommodation at existing schools, additional hospital accommodation and increased accommodation for the administrative requirements of the various State Departments.

"Last year new buildings, acquisition of sites, and the maintenance of public buildings cost £1,292,278, a sharp increase in the expenditure on buildings for any previous year.

"In the first nine months of the financial year, 6,949 new homes had been built in Queensland and it was estimated that by the end of the year the total would be about 9,250. Of this number the Queensland Housing Commission built 1,011, and, at the close of the year, had 843 in various stages of construction. Building of a further 3,140 has been approved, including 2,200 ready-to-erect houses for which tenders were accepted.

"To avoid, as far as possible, Government purchase of Australian building materials, and thus leave more available for private construction, roof sheeting, baths and manufactured wall boards for internal lining, and other goods were imported from overseas.

"The Department of Local Government is working at high pressure to satisfy requests for new water supply and sewerage schemes and, at the same time, to complete projects already in course of construction.

"One hundred and sixty-one water supply works (including extensions to existing schemes) estimated to cost £4,832,774, are under investigation. In this category are also 56 sewerage works estimated to cost £4,750,208. Eighty-six water supply and 20 sewerage schemes are fully planned but not yet commenced. The estimated cost of these works is £2,687,029.

"Thirty-five water supply and nine sewerage schemes are under construction at a cost estimated at £3,125,630.

"The number of Life Policies issued by the State Government Insurance Office during the year was 9,553 and the sums assured £1,682,925, an all-time record.

"As a result of the year's operations the Life Department Fund increased by £531,721 to £7,735,449.

"Progress has also been maintained in the Fire, General and Marine Departments, allowing the continuation of the substantial profit distribution of 33½ per cent. on renewal premiums in the Fire and Marine Departments.

"The funds of estates controlled by the Public Curator now exceed £8½ million and over 74,000 wills are held for testators, who have appointed the Public Curator the executor and trustee of the estates.

"The legal staff of the Public Curator renders a most valuable service in the giving of free legal advice.

"Agreements reached between the Public Service Commissioner and State Service Unions and subsequently confirmed by the Industrial Court early this year, provided for further substantial increases in salary scales and salary classifications of officers of the Public Service, including teachers in the Department of Public Instruction.

"The new salary rates compare very favourably with the salaries paid in other States and should assist materially in staff recruitment.

"It is proposed to seek amendment of the Public Service Acts to permit of the inclusion in the Public Service of members of the clerical staffs of the Main Roads Commission, the State Electricity Commission, and the State Transport Commission, who are at present excluded from the operation of those Acts.

"The estimates for the current financial year are in the course of preparation and will be submitted to you as early as possible.

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

A Bill to amend the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1949.

A Bill to amend the Queensland-British Food Production Act of 1948.

A Bill to amend the Evidence (Attestation of Documents) Act of 1937.

A Bill to amend the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1948.

A Bill to constitute a Coal Mining Industry Long Service Leave Trust Fund; to provide for the payment therefrom to employers in the coal mining industry of amounts paid by them to employees in respect of long service leave accrued to such employees under a certain award; to validate certain matters, and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the Petroleum Acts, 1923 to 1939.

A Bill to amend the Valuation of Land Acts, 1944 to 1949.

A Bill to amend the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Acts, 1941 to 1948.

A Bill to amend the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1942.

A Bill to amend the State Electricity Commission Acts, 1937 to 1948, and the Regional Electric Authorities Acts, 1945 to 1949.

A Bill to amend the State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1949.

A Bill to authorise and provide for the construction and utilisation of a hydro-electric project in the vicinity of the Tully Falls for the purpose of securing

increased supplies of electricity for the further development of Northern Queensland and for purposes incidental thereto or connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1946.

"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 12.26 p.m. resuming it at 2.15 p.m.

#### COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency has been pleased to issue a Commission under the Public Seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn, which I now direct the Clerk to read to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

#### MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. W. B. J. G. SPARKES.

Mr. Walter Beresford James Gordon Sparkes, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Aubigny.

#### ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1950.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I received from His Honour the Chief Justice a letter dated 29 November, 1949, as follows:—

"Chief Justice's Chambers,  
"Brisbane, 29 November, 1949.

"Sir,—Pursuant to Section 102 of the Elections Acts, 1915 to 1943, I hereby notify you that I shall be the Judge to preside at sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1950.

"Yours faithfully,

"Neal Macrossan, Chief Justice.

"The Honourable S. J. Brassington,

"M.L.A.,

"Speaker,  
"Legislative Assembly,  
"Parliament House,  
"Brisbane."

Subsequently I received the following letter, dated 14 July, 1950—

"Chief Justice's Chambers,  
"Brisbane, 14 July, 1950.

"Sir,—Adverting to my notification to you of 29 November last, that I should be the Judge to preside at sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1950, as I shall be absent on leave from 17 July, 1950, until 31 December, 1950, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 102 of the Elections Acts, 1915 to 1943, I hereby

notify to you the name of the Honourable Alan James Mansfield, the Senior Puisne Judge who will be Acting Chief Justice during my absence, to act in my place as the Judge to preside at sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the remainder of the year 1950.

“Yours faithfully,  
“Neal Macrossan, Chief Justice.  
“The Honourable S. J. Brassington,  
“M.L.A.,  
“Speaker,  
“Legislative Assembly,  
“Parliament House,  
“Brisbane.”

#### PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN

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

Eric Paul Decker, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Sandgate;  
David Farrell, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Maryborough;  
Frederick Dickson Graham, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mackay;  
Duncan Macdonald, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Somerset;  
Ernest Joseph Riordan, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Flinders.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

**Hon. E. M. HANLON** (Ithaca—Premier) (2.22 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that, on 10 May, 1950, His Excellency the Governor accepted the resignation of the Honourable Henry Adam Bruce as a member of the Executive Council of Queensland and as Secretary for Public Instruction of Queensland.

On the same date, His Excellency appointed the Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon to be Vice President of the Executive Council of Queensland, and the following as members of the Executive Council:—

The Hon. Vincent Clair Gair,  
The Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley,  
The Hon. Harold Henry Collins,  
The Hon. James Larcombe,  
The Hon. Arthur Jones,  
The Hon. John Edmund Duggan,  
The Hon. William Power,  
The Hon. George Henry Devries,  
The Hon. William Matthew Moore,  
Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton, Esquire.

His Excellency the Governor, on that date, also appointed—

The Hon. Edward Michael Hanlon to be Premier and Chief Secretary of Queensland;  
The Hon. Vincent Clair Gair to be Treasurer of Queensland;  
The Hon. Thomas Andrew Foley to be Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation of Queensland;

The Hon. Harold Henry Collins to be Secretary for Agriculture and Stock of Queensland;

The Hon. James Larcombe to be Attorney-General of Queensland;

The Hon. Arthur Jones to be Secretary for Labour and Industry of Queensland;

The Hon. John Edmund Duggan to be Minister for Transport of Queensland;

The Hon. William Power to be Secretary for Mines and Immigration of Queensland;

The Hon. George Henry Devries to be Secretary for Public Instruction of Queensland;

The Hon. William Matthew Moore to be Secretary for Health and Home Affairs of Queensland;

The Hon. Paul Jerome Remigius Hilton to be Secretary for Public Works, Housing and Local Government of Queensland.

I lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the “Government Gazette” containing the relevant notifications.

DEATHS OF HON. F. A. COOPER, HON. E. G. THEODORE, MR. J. I. BROWN, MR. G. P. BARNES, AND MR. W. HARTLEY.

#### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

**Hon. E. M. HANLON** (Ithaca—Premier) (2.24 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 Honourable Frank Arthur Cooper, a former Member of the Parliament of Queensland, Minister of the Crown, Premier and Lieutenant-Governor of the State: the late Honourable Edward Granville Theodore, a former Member of the Parliament of Queensland, Minister of the Crown and Premier of the State: the late John Innes Brown, Esquire, the late George Powell Barnes, Esquire, and the late William Hartley, Esquire, former Members of the Parliament of Queensland.

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

Hon. members need very little reminder of the services of the late Hon. F. A. Cooper. He was first elected to this Parliament on 22 May, 1915, as member for Bremer in the 20th Parliament and served that electorate in successive Parliaments until his resignation on 12 March, 1946. He was a member of the panel of Temporary Chairmen from 16 December, 1920 to 16 December, 1931. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Public Works from 12 October, 1922, to 17 June, 1932. He was Secretary for Public Instruction from 17 June, 1932, to 11 April, 1938. He was Treasurer from 12 April, 1938, to 16 September, 1942. He was

Premier, Chief Secretary and Treasurer from 16 September, 1942, to 27 April, 1944. He was Premier and Chief Secretary from 27 April, 1944, to 7 March, 1946. He was appointed Lieutenant-Governor on 24 March, 1946, and died on 30 November, 1949.

Mr. Cooper had a long and honourable record of service to this State. I do not think, in the long period of 31 years that he served in Parliament, any member ever suffered any affront or discourtesy from Mr. Cooper. He was a man of great charm of manner and a very earnest and sincere man. He was seized of a sense of responsibility for the welfare of the whole State as well as a responsibility for carefully representing the interests of the people he represented here. He had a very fine career in this House but prior to that he took part, in the bad old days—sometimes referred to as the good old days—when hours of work were long and wages low, in organising working people into the industrial union movement which has grown to such a force in this country today. I was associated with him in the great disturbance in 1912. Although he was not an employee of the Commissioner for Railways, he was a representative of the Westinghouse Brake Company in Queensland and threw in his lot with the men out on strike—not for any increase in wages or conditions but in defence of the rights of the members of the union. I think that his services in this House will be long remembered.

Mr. E. G. Theodore was a man with a remarkable career in this country. He worked as a miner and a manual worker and in the early days took part in the formation of that great union, the Australian Workers' Union. He eventually became a member of this Parliament in 1909. He then continuously represented Chillagoe from April 27, 1912, until his resignation on September 19, 1925, in the 23rd Parliament. He was Treasurer and Secretary for Public Works from 1 June, 1915, to 22 October, 1919; Premier, Chief Secretary and Treasurer from 22 October, 1919, to 9 March, 1920; Premier and Chief Secretary from 9 March, 1920, to 12 November, 1920; Premier, Chief Secretary and Secretary for Public Lands from 12 November, 1920, to 16 December, 1920; Premier and Chief Secretary from 16 December, 1920, to 8 February, 1922; Premier, Chief Secretary, Treasurer and Secretary for Public Works from 8 February, 1922, to 6 October, 1922; and Premier, Chief Secretary and Treasurer from 6 October, 1922, to 26 February, 1925. He then entered the Federal Parliament, where he had a great career.

Mr. Theodore was one to whom this State owed much. Perhaps now that he is dead the community will be in a more charitable frame of mind and appreciate what he has done for this State. He was a man who worked very hard for the building of the North-South Railway in order to develop the great sugar lands and he was a man with intense faith in the development of the northern part of the continent, and he never ceased to expound

the desirability if not the necessity of populating North Queensland and developing that immense territory. He lived long enough to see the whole of the State connected with the capital by rail and the development of the great sugar industry almost to the stage to which it has developed today.

He also succeeded in another great direction, and in this connection his action was not followed in any other State although several States have talked of it, and it is now being followed by New Zealand. I refer to the creation of a single Chamber of Parliament with complete control by the electors of the State. He was successful in the abolition of the old nominee Upper House that so frequently stood between this Chamber and the carrying out of the policy supported by the people. He had a great career. Later he was subjected to a good deal of malicious prosecution from many people whom he had disturbed. A man who acted as Mr. Theodore did and who wished to carry out ideas that were considered novel did disturb people to the right and to the left. I do not think there was ever a man who was more abused by opponents than Mr. Theodore was.

On leaving Parliament Mr. Theodore went into private business, and here he had a remarkable revenge on the Press that was so hostile to him. He set up in the newspaper world and he beat all his traducers in that line of business. He showed them that a miner who had worked his way up through this Parliament and the Federal Parliament could do these things. He showed these people who thought that a Labour man knew nothing about business that he knew more than they did; and he succeeded in establishing a very successful journal. He also went in for mining. I understand that he was very wealthy. Mr. Theodore's period in the Australian public life is one of the outstanding things in our political history.

Mr. John Brown will be remembered by many members today on both sides of the House. He was first elected in 1935. He was an alderman of the Brisbane City Council from 1928 to 1935. He was associated with the public life of this State from 1919, when he became a member of the old Coorparoo Shire Council before the amalgamation of various local authorities in Greater Brisbane. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Electricity Board, the Victoria Bridge Board, the Brisbane Tramway Trust, and the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board. John Brown was a very blunt, straightforward, plain and honest man, with the knack of saying exactly what he meant. He was of very honourable character and his service to his fellowmen was outstanding.

I now come to the late George Barnes. There are not many members of the House left who served with George Barnes, but I had the privilege of being with him here for a number of years and I do not think a more kindly or more lovable man ever entered this House. I do not think any member ever heard him say an unkind or nasty word in this Chamber; he was one of those men who could not be unkind. I do not remember ever

having seen him lose his temper. He was a very fine character and when he decided to leave politics at the end of the 26th Parliament he retired to Warwick, where he had been reared and where he had traded. He died on 9 December last, aged 93. He also had a very full life, before entering Parliament, in developing this State in trading and business. He took part in developing the whole of the Warwick and Darling Downs area. Mr. Barnes's services will be long remembered.

The late William Hartley served for only one Parliament. He was elected for Kurilpa on 22 May, 1915, which was before my time in this House. There are a few members on this side of the House who remember Mr. Hartley's services, but more will remember his brother, Harold Hartley, who served in this House for many years with distinction as the member for Fitzroy.

To these men we pay our little tribute for the services they rendered to their country as members on either side of the House. They gave of their best, according to their lights, to serve the people, and I know hon. members will carry my motion expressing our appreciation of their services.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (2.36 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege of seconding the motion moved by the Premier. On behalf of the Opposition I join with him in extending to the relatives of these men our sympathy in the great loss not only they but this great State has sustained.

In the names enumerated in the motion we find that of the late Hon. F. A. Cooper, a gentleman who gave magnificent service to this State. He served 31 years in this Parliament, a period that does not fall to the lot of very many people. He rose from a private member to the highest office the State can give—the Premier of the State—and afterwards he served the State well in the position of Lieutenant-Governor. We all remember Mr. Cooper well, and, as the Premier said, he never made a bad friend. He was the friend of all. His charming manner and ready wit made him very enjoyable company. Everybody appreciated the opportunity of knowing him and listening to him, particularly on those occasions when he was called on to make an after-dinner or impromptu speech. I have never known anybody who could make such a fitting speech as the late Mr. Cooper on an occasion such as that.

The late Hon. E. G. Theodore was a man who gave distinguished service in this Parliament—also in the Commonwealth Parliament—a lot that does not fall to many men. After his public service in Parliament he entered the business world of Australia and therein made a name for himself.

Messrs. Barnes and Brown also gave great service to this State. Any of us who had the privilege of knowing the late G. P. Barnes appreciated his great sincerity and his intensity of purpose to do something for the State he loved so well. Right up to his death, at the age of 93, he took considerable interest in the progress of Queensland. Only a few weeks before he died I received a letter from

him informing me of a very valuable suggestion in regard to the development of the western part of Queensland. He had a very keen brain and those of us who had the privilege of knowing him valued his knowledge.

The late John Brown, as the Premier said, was a man who gave great service to local authorities and, indeed, to this House also, and those of us who knew him appreciated his friendship and his qualities. He had a way of expressing himself, direct and to the point, and his honesty of purpose was apparent to us all; his sincerity was appreciated.

I had no personal knowledge of the late Mr. Hartley, but from what I have heard he served his country well during the period he was a member of this Parliament.

I join with the Premier in the motion before the House expressing appreciation of the services of the gentlemen in question and conveying our condolences to their relatives.

**Mr. DONALD** (Bremer) (2.40 p.m.): As I followed the late Frank Cooper as hon. member for Bremer I feel it my duty to express my appreciation and that of the electors of Bremer to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for the language they used in speaking to the memory of that gentleman and the tribute they paid my late friend. I first became associated with him during the general strike that occurred after the tramway dispute in 1912, a friendship which was maintained until his death, and strengthened with the passing of the years.

Mr. Cooper was, as the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have stated, a very worthy gentleman. He lived a full and useful life. His whole desire was to serve and he succeeded in serving with distinction and credit, not only those people whom he represented in this Chamber, not only his Party, Government, Parliament and State, but humanity itself. Although the late Mr. Cooper became Premier of this State and later the direct representative of our sovereign, he never lost the common touch.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. DONALD:** He will be remembered by many for the success he achieved in the exalted positions he held, but I feel that he will be best remembered for the kindness that characterised his every action.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) (2.42 p.m.): It has been truly said that the only thing of which we are all certain is ultimate death, and consequently the recording of the passing of any person is always a solemn occasion. I want to take this opportunity of paying my tribute, not only to the other gentlemen mentioned by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, but to the late Frank Cooper. I am not going to indulge in a long panegyric of his virtues, because he did not claim to have many virtues and his greatness, I think, lay in his simplicity. Very few of us think we are paragons of virtue, but I always remember and

revere the late Frank Cooper. I came into this House in 1944, and it cannot be said, even in the most extravagant sense, that my term in this House was a tranquil one, as I struck a lot of trouble right from the start. When Premier the late gentleman came to me after an incident in this House and whilst sitting across there on the Opposition benches after the House had risen one night he told me that if at any time I thought any of the privileges and concessions available to other members of this Parliament were being denied to me he, as Premier, would personally see that I was afforded those privileges or concessions. Fortunately, I never had to call upon the late Mr. Cooper to make good his pledge to me, a pledge made entirely of his own volition—in fairness to the present Premier, I say that I have never had to call upon him either—but I thought it was a magnificent gesture for Mr. Cooper to make; especially when it appeared that the hand of every man in this House was against me and mine against every man. The then Premier, made that very fine gesture of his own volition, and it was in accordance with the spirit that animated and characterised his whole life. He came to me and assured me that so far as the privileges and concessions afforded to members of Parliament were concerned he personally would see that I received them all. I think that was one of the finest things that have ever happened to me in my long but rather eventful career and for it I shall always revere his memory. I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the hon. member for Bremer in their tributes to him.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

#### PAPERS.

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

The Report of the Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1949.

Third Report of the Public Accountants Registration Board of Queensland for the year 1949-50.

Report of the Manager, Golden Casket Art Union for the year 1949-50.

Details of Polling at General Election held on 29 April, 1950.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Statement of Accounts of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund for the year 1949-50, duly certified by the Auditor-General.

Proclamations (4) under the Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1940, and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1949.

Proclamation under the Burdekin River Development Act of 1949 (6 July, 1950).

Proclamation under the Public Works Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1940, the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1949, and the Queensland-British Food Production Act of 1948 (16 March, 1950).

Order in Council under the Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1940, and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940 (22 June, 1950).

Order in Council under the Queensland-British Food Production Act of 1948 (4 May, 1950).

Order in Council under the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1948 (26 January, 1950).

Order in Council under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1949 (23 February, 1950).

Regulations under the Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1949 (16 March, 1950).

Regulation under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940 (1 December, 1949).

Orders in Council under the Rural Fires Act of 1946, 8 December, 1949, 8 December, 1949 (2), (16 February, 2 March, 1950).

Proclamation under the Timber Users' Protection Act of 1949 (22 December, 1949).

Regulations under the Timber Users' Protection Act of 1949 (12 January, 1950).

Regulation under the State Forests and National Parks Acts, 1906 to 1948 (4 May, 1950).

Order in Council under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1949 (13 July, 1950).

By-laws Nos. 521 to 536 under Section 134 of the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1946.

Regulations under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1948 (17 November, 1949).

Regulations under the State Children Acts, 1911 to 1943 (1 December, 1949).

Regulations amending the Food and Drug Regulations, 1939 under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1948 (1 December, 1949).

Proclamation publishing arrangement under the Tuberculosis Agreement Act of 1949 (1 December, 1949).

Regulations under the Charitable Institutions Management Act of 1885 for the general management of "Eventide," Rockhampton (15 December, 1949).

Proclamation under the Traffic Act of 1949 (5 January (2), 23 February, 23 March, 1950).

Regulations entitled the Hospitals Officers and Employees Extended Leave Regulations under the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1946 (23 March, 1950).

Rules under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1948 (10 May, 1950).

Order in Council under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1948 (8 June, 1950).

Regulations under the State Children Acts, 1911 to 1943 (22 June, 1950).

Regulations under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1948 (29 June, 1950).

Regulation under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949 (13 July, 1950).

Amendment of the Rat Prevention and Destruction Regulations of 1942 under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949 (20 July, 1950).

#### LEADER OF OPPOSITION.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (3.8 p.m.), by leave: I desire to inform the House that at a meeting of the Opposition Party held at Parliament House on 31 May last the following Opposition officers were selected:—

Leader of the Opposition, myself.

Deputy Leader, the hon. member for Coorparoo (Mr. T. A. Hiley),

Whip, the hon. member for Aubigny (Mr. W. B. J. G. Sparkes),

Secretary, the hon. member for Cooroora (Mr. D. A. Low).

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### OPENING DAY.

**Mr. McCATHIE** (Haughton) (3.9 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

“That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament of Queensland.

“May it please Your Excellency,—

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your re-election to office unopposed. Your impartiality has gained you respect and the becoming dignity that you bring to your high office will be an inspiration to all new members in the present Parliament.

To the Premier and his Ministers I tender my sincere congratulations on their re-election. The return of Labour to office has given rise to much quiet satisfaction amongst all Labour supporters, because during the recent election all the forces of the Opposition were concentrated in a bitter attack upon Labour in Queensland. A Labour Government have been returned despite all the forces the Opposition trained on us during the election campaign, a campaign in which they threw in all their power to belittle and discredit Labour Governments in Queensland. Flushed with victory in the Federal sphere, they thought that the time was ripe for them to take over the control of the Government benches in Queensland, but so happy were the Queensland people with the administration of Labour Governments throughout the years that they once again missed the boat and a Labour Government were returned. I feel that with the continuance of the sound administration given by Labour Governments in the past we shall keep our people happy in Queensland. The appreciation I have of the intelligence of the electors who again supported a Labour Government is unbounded. The electors know that a Labour Government are pledged to the emancipation of the workers, that our every effort will be for the betterment of the conditions of the workers in this State.

As a new member of this Legislature, representing a new electoral division, I regret that I have to speak at a time when the world situation is very grave. We all, of course, have to realise that the threat of a third world war is hanging over us; but we must realise too that as a member of the United Nations we must stop aggression. We cannot stand idly by and see aggressor nations over-run the world. We know that Communism is the greatest single menace the world is facing today, and if this menace is allowed to remain over us we shall never know peace. It is gratifying to know that the United States of America, as a member of the United Nations, has gone in to bear the brunt of the attack. We realise what has to be done to hold aggressor nations in check but as a member nation of the United Nations we too will do our part. I sincerely hope, that even at this late hour wiser counsels will prevail and that a third world war will be averted. None of us want to see another world war. Our people have never wanted wars—we are a peace-loving people—but we are not content to have peace at any price. We are willing to battle, and if forced to take up arms again I am sure that Australia as a nation and Queensland as an integral part of that nation will be there to do its share. As I said, I sincerely hope wise counsel will avert a third struggle from again taking toll of our youth.

As a northerner, I am vitally concerned in the defence of the northern part of this continent, realising as I do that we have a coastline almost twice that of the United States of America, and knowing only too well how difficult it is to defend that coastline. We in North Queensland are amongst the frontier guards of Australia and we

must have our defences there because the threat to our peace is coming from the north. We need population, we need development. We must develop the land in the North. If we do not develop it and so populate the country there will be land-hungry peoples to the north who will look with envious eyes on our huge areas of undeveloped land. If we do not make the effort to develop and populate our land others will step in and do it for us.

For years Labour Governments have been vitally concerned with the defence of the North and the present State Labour Government are just as concerned as any of their predecessors. To make my point, I would remind hon. members that Labour Governments have established a stable industry in the North, the sugar industry, and so have brought a prosperous industry to North Queensland. It has helped to develop many prosperous towns and it has given useful work directly and indirectly to many thousands of people. The construction of a sugar mill has usually led to the development of a town of 3,000 people. At the present time the economy of the North is largely dependent upon this industry and we know what sympathetic administration by Labour Governments has meant to it. Indeed, the industry has largely been built up by the help and sympathetic consideration of Labour Governments in Queensland. We know that that sympathetic consideration will continue.

I have no need to remind hon. members that in November and December last year a delegation headed by the Premier of Queensland went to London for talks on sugar production and was successful in obtaining an export quota of 600,000 tons of sugar, this being 200,000 tons in excess of the then existing quota. This increase will allow for the introduction of further settlers into the sugar industry, which hopes to reach its target in 1953. The Government have made new assignments available to soldier settlers and increased assignments to certain other people. The soldier settlers are now busy clearing and preparing the land for the 1951 crop.

Of course, the sugar industry cannot bring to the North all the people we need and the Government in their wisdom have turned to other means to increase the population in the North. We depend upon agriculture to build up our population. The Premier, aided by his experts, notably the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, Mr. J. R. Kemp, has put before the Federal Government a proposal for the construction of the Burdekin dam as a scheme of national importance. This proposal has been a subject of much controversy and much has been said and much written on the subject. During last year I had the privilege of accompanying the expert committee that came to investigate the possibilities of the dam and the Burdekin Valley. I waited quite a long time to get its report. After a good deal of investigation the report was finally made available to Queensland on 31 May this year, although it had been tabled in the Federal Parliament at Canberra on

20 April. After repeated requests it was made available to this State although it had been available to Commonwealth members in November last year.

Inter alia, the committee recommended to the Commonwealth Government as follows:—

1. That the Commonwealth Government promise financial assistance in the capital cost of the project, conditionally upon agreement being reached on the agricultural basis of the project and suitable arrangements being made between the Commonwealth and the State for the management of the project.

2. That the Commonwealth Government indicate its willingness to plan, with the State, the necessary further technical and economic investigations and share the cost as may be found necessary.

That report was made in November 1949 but despite the fact that that information was available to our political opponents in the Federal sphere they tried during the election campaign to belittle the scheme. Every effort was made to throw cold water on it but I can say that the State Labour Government to their eternal credit, have decided to go ahead with it whether financial assistance is given by the Commonwealth Government or not.

As part of the complete scheme a soldier-settlement project has been launched in the Burdekin Valley for the production of tobacco and last year 10 soldier settlers were established on farms ranging between 50 and 70 acres in area. There has been intensive testing of soil types throughout the valley by an officer of C.S.I.R.O. A part of each farm was cleared, and temporary homes, barns and kilns erected.

The land was cleared, grubbed and cross-ripped. Implements were made available to the farmers. They were provided with means for irrigation. And lastly, but not least, electricity was made available for their domestic and farming uses. They were required to produce tobacco. All these 10 farmers worked and produced excellent crops of tobacco, with the result that the average return from their farms will be in the vicinity of £3,000. They did their part, but the Commonwealth and State Labour Governments were responsible for setting up this soldier settlement at Clare.

The second stage of the scheme was to establish a further 20 farms. That stage is now almost completed. We shall now have another 20 farms occupied this year in the Burdekin Valley and with good seasons it will mean that tobacco will be produced on 30 farms. The third stage of the scheme envisages the preparation of 14 farms in 1951. That will complete the 44 farms as the first part of our programme of development in tobacco-growing.

These soldiers appreciate what has been done for them and are doing their part in growing tobacco and thus helping materially in establishing a very important industry in North Queensland. At present we are not producing one-seventh of the tobacco needs

of this nation; Australia is producing only 4,000,000 lb. of the 30,000,000 lb. she consumes annually. It will thus be seen that the Clare Soldier Settlement will make a handsome contribution to the tobacco industry and will be responsible in the years to come for much of the tobacco required for our domestic needs. It is hoped that ultimately we shall see 88 tobacco farms established in the Burdekin Valley. The additional 44 will come into being when the Burdekin Dam scheme is completed. At the present time these tobacco farms are being irrigated from the river direct but the channels will be absorbed in the main irrigation scheme when the Burdekin Dam and diversion weirs are completed.

Throughout North Queensland there are many potential irrigation schemes that will help to improve the tobacco lands in that region. Our Government have realised that the tobacco industry can be of great importance to Queensland and they are aiming at giving all the aid needed to establish the industry on a firm basis.

I was delighted to see mention made in His Excellency's Speech of the Tully Falls scheme because I realise what a tremendous advantage it will be to have ample supplies of electricity available in North Queensland. It is absolutely essential, if we are to attract further industries to the North, that we shall have ample power. The Government are vitally concerned for the electrical development of the State and their concern has been shown by the establishment of regions for electrical development throughout the State. As a member of a regional electricity board at Townsville I have been delighted with the development that has followed in the rural areas in my electorate. If it were not for the work done by this board many residents in the rural parts of my electorate would still be without this amenity. They could not hope for it under the previous local-authority set-up or any other set-up that prevailed prior to the establishment of regional boards.

Through their regional electricity boards the Government in their wisdom have helped very materially in the development of North Queensland. It is very necessary that we should bring industry to the North and industry can be established there only if we have cheap electric power available. The Tully Falls scheme will provide a much-needed addition to the available supply and will eventually result in a connecting link between Cairns and Townsville. That will mean that there will be a complete grid through the North, whose people will have a power supply at a reasonable rate. An illustration of that is to be found in the results of the work of the Townsville Regional Electricity Board, which by making power available was the means of enabling a cement works to be established at Stuart, within a short distance of Townsville. An ample supply of cement will mean much more building at a reasonable cost will be done in North Queensland.

I have already said that it is vital to have population throughout the North and to that

end land settlement must be pushed to its maximum. The subdivision of areas suitable for farming, including sugar and tobacco and mixed farming, must be undertaken. Although some of the young farmers who have already been established are finding some initial difficulties in getting sufficient materials to provide homes and sheds they are, each and every one of them, making valiant efforts to improve their areas and produce.

The Government are giving them every assistance possible, and one way by which they are doing it is to leave the field of material available locally to these new settlers. The Government have stated that they do not intend to use local materials on Government projects, and therefore there will be a greater availability of material for those who wish to go on the land.

The Government have also tackled the housing problem very capably. This was a problem that did not show much light, but it is to the Minister's credit that 3,140 homes can be erected this year, which means that we are getting very close to the objective we all have—the giving of a home to every one. We know it is very necessary for all our people to be housed under decent conditions; and the Government have aimed at doing that. Because the local field could not give the necessary buildings the Government have gone overseas, and this year 2,200 ready-to-erect homes are coming to Queensland. I am very pleased that we can see a light on this problem, which was becoming a major one.

Throughout the State the building of homes has become a major consideration. I do not know any area that is developing that has not a large undertaking under way. I know that in my own electorate the progress of housing will be watched. Although the Housing Commission has not yet come into the field, my figures showed that 107 new homes were built in the Ayr shire, the majority in the town of Ayr. I feel that it is absolutely essential for the development of agricultural areas to provide reasonable housing. The Housing Commission can do much to develop the State, for example, by providing homes for agricultural labourers. If these men have not decent homes they will not stay in the area where their services are needed. I made certain submissions in this regard in respect of the Clare settlement, where 300 people are employed; and this will be a source of further employment after the final scheme is completed.

There is one field of activity on which I should like to touch, in which Queensland's effort stands supreme. I refer to health. Our Government have recognised over the years that it is essential, if we are to build a virile population, to have an efficient health system. They feel that the saving of a single life is of immense value to the State. The work of the Department of Health and Home Affairs in this field has prompted much comment favourable to Queensland. The Maternal and Child Welfare clinics, which

are now recognised as commonplace in our community, were scorned by hon. members opposite when these valuable institutions were first introduced, but today the competent nursing sisters in charge of them give sound advice to expectant and nursing mothers. Their efficiency is evidenced by the fact that the infant mortality rate is now the lowest it has ever been in this State. Many happy and contented mothers thank the Labour Government for what they have done in this matter.

**Government Members: Hear, hear!**

**Mr. McCATHIE:** The hospital scheme throughout our State is second to none in Australia. We know that the local authorities have been relieved of the payment of precepts towards the cost of hospital administration. The Government are carrying the burden, and by providing a competent nursing staff and the most efficient doctors and the best equipment they are giving a service equal to the best in the world. We know that private hospitals still operate. I can assure hon. members that there has never been any attempt by the Labour Government to compel people to use the hospitals that are provided. They are there and it is left to the discretion of the people to use the Government or private hospitals. Hon. members and the public generally must realise that over the years the Government have provided the best possible service in the way of hospitals.

In many other spheres the State Government have extended their health services and have made available to the community the latest in medical science. I feel that I should not be giving the Government the credit that is due to them if I did not say that when the history of Queensland is being written many chapters will be devoted to the valuable health administration of the Labour Government in this State. But none will be brighter than those devoted to the health services for which the Department of Health and Home Affairs has been responsible and coupled with those chapters will be the name of the Hon. E. M. Hanlon, who in the years when he was Minister for Health and Home Affairs did much to establish the basis on which we have built over the years. His guiding hand has been an inspiration to his colleagues who followed him in that office.

I thank hon. members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the very patient hearing they have given me, and in conclusion I express my gratification to the electors in Haughton who had sufficient faith in my ability to elect me as their representative, a Labour member, in the thirty-second Parliament of Queensland. I will do for them the best it is within my power to do.

**Honourable Members: Hear, hear!**

**Mr. RASEY (Windsor) (3.35 p.m.):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank the electors of Windsor for giving me this privilege of seconding the motion so ably moved by my colleague the hon. member for Haughton.

I join with him in thanking His Excellency the Governor for delivering the Speech here this morning. I feel sure that the people of Queensland are proud that Sir John Lavarack is Queensland-born and one of Australia's most distinguished soldiers.

**Honourable Members: Hear, hear!**

**Mr. RASEY:** To the Speaker, in his absence, I offer my congratulations on his re-election unopposed to the high office he has held for the past six years. For several years I was associated with the hon. gentleman when I was an alderman of the Brisbane City Council, and I wish him good health to carry on in the office he has so admirably held in the past six years.

To the Cabinet and Premier I offer my congratulations on their re-election. In these troublous times we are fortunate that we have as our leader a man of the calibre of our Premier. Without doubt he has the qualities of courage, vision, comprehension, and above all, sound common sense, and I feel sure that the name of Edward Michael Hanlon will go down in history as a great Queenslander.

**Honourable Members: Hear, hear!**

**Mr. RASEY:** In the Governor's Speech delivered this morning mention was made of legislation that we shall be considering in this thirty-second Parliament and I shall have ample opportunity to voice my opinions on that, but I feel that I should touch now on what I think are the most important points to make this afternoon and endeavour to relate some of the achievements of successive Labour Governments. The people of Queensland should be very grateful that they have had continuity of Labour Governments. In the fields of industry and commerce guided by boards of directors and general managers it is bad for the shareholders if, when there has been good service, horses are changed in midstream. The same applies to Governments. Over the past 18 years successive Labour Governments have achieved a very great deal. It has always been the policy of the Labour Party to do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people, and I contend our Labour Governments have succeeded in doing so.

From the early days of Labour Governments we have endeavoured, first of all, to look after the interests of the people themselves, but we have not been unmindful of the great primary and secondary industries. The great primary industry, the sugar industry, as my colleague has mentioned, was virtually founded by a Labour Government and nurtured and helped in every way by successive Labour Governments. It has now reached the stage when it is probably one of the most stabilised and best organised primary-producing industries in the world, and one of the things that please me most about it is that co-operation has been encouraged, so much so that in many areas co-operative sugar mills are operating for the benefit of the producers and the State.

In all our other primary industries the Government have from time to time established boards and pools and have given membership in those organisations to the farmers interested in the industry. For instance, the farmers in the wheat industry, the dairying industry, and all the other industries in which boards and pools have been established are controlling the industry. This is the result of the work of successive Labour Governments.

Farmers and others working in industry have had happy relations with successive Labour Governments and have from time to time availed themselves of the opportunities open to them by accepting the subsidies and financial aid given by State Labour Governments. Labour has been mindful of its responsibilities, not only in the rural sphere but in industrial operations and secondary industries. We can look back to the time of that very intelligent and far-seeing leader, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith, when the Bureau of Industry was established. Since then, many subsidiary organisations have been set up to help secondary industry and it is pleasing to know that southern investors and people from overseas have from time to time, as stated by His Excellency this morning in his Speech, come to Queensland to begin operations here. Since the war ended, although materials have been in short supply, a Labour Government have made available many thousands of pounds as well as buildings at Rocklea and other places for the development of secondary industries in this State.

The Government have been mindful also of their responsibilities to returned soldiers. This is a subject in which I am keenly interested because for years I have been a very active member of the Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia. It is gratifying from time to time to hear the president of that League, Mr. Huish, eulogise the Premier and the Government for their assistance to the returned soldier. I remember that when I came back from the 1914-18 war soldiers were placed on land that they were almost unable to farm. The farms were not prepared for them. The minds of the returned men were not prepared for going onto the land, and war has a disturbing influence upon men. At first most of the men were unable to settle down and many who would have made good farmers went off the land to the detriment of this State. On the occasion of the second conflict the Government saw fit to prepare farms for our returned men. To these men the Government have given rehabilitation courses, in co-operation with the Federal Government, and generally speaking our returned men have been helped materially to fit themselves for their return to civil life. We have been criticised for not expanding fast enough in the absorption of returned men into farming pursuits, but it is better, at a time of full employment, when men can be gainfully absorbed in industry, to make sure that the farms needed for our returned men are prepared so that they will become permanent economic units in our State.

The Government also have been very helpful in enabling our people to acquire their own homes. We can throw our minds back to the days of the workers' dwellings and many of us know that from a very small beginning we have been able to own our own homes. Today we have the State Housing Commission and the liberalised terms that go with the acquisition of a home. It is pleasing to know that a man who wants a home of his own can buy it at a rate less than he would be paying in rent either to the Government or a private landlord. A home can be acquired on a 10-per-cent. deposit, which in these times when materials are so dear and the cost of a reasonable-sized home is anything in the vicinity of £2,000, is very gratifying. It is pleasing indeed to know that the Government have made conditions so liberal. Yet despite all this and Labour's great record of achievement in the primary and secondary industries, their record in the building of hospitals and schools and the social service given to the people of this State, we have been criticised.

Then, successive Labour Governments have been mindful of their responsibilities to the people employed in commerce and industry. We have our hospitals, for instance. Only recently I went to North Queensland, where I saw new quarters for the doctor and nurses at Mareeba equal to anything to be found at any first-class hotel, not excluding the quarters provided at the Royal Hayman Hotel. That gives some indication of the progress made by Labour Governments in hospitalisation.

Then we have our mobile dental clinics and maternal and child-welfare clinics, along with other social services given to the people by the Labour Government. As a little boy I can recall the time when people rattled collection boxes in the streets of Brisbane on hospital Fridays, in the period when hospitals were maintained by voluntary subscription. I remember the time, too, when my sister entered the Children's Hospital as a trainee nurse and I remember what she told me about the frightful conditions that obtained. She spoke about the bad conditions under which they worked and of the frightful lack of equipment in the hospital. Let us never go back to the days of voluntary subscription for the maintenance of hospitals, to what we used to call the old committee scheme. At the present time the hospitals and their associated services are functioning in the interests of the people, which reflects very great credit on Labour Governments.

With all these major projects—hospitals, schools, Burdekin Dam and various other works we have before us very clearly the vital need for tradesmen to produce the goods we need. From time to time we hear the complaint about the shortage of materials. It is true that it is the shortage of material that is preventing the Government from building more schools and in carrying out many other projects. When we throw our minds back to the 1930s, we realise that then it was shortage of finance that created all our difficulties. Those who controlled the finances of the nation at that time were niggardly

and stringent, restrictive in their outlook. The trouble then was lack of finance but today it is lack of material and one of our greatest needs is for tradesmen. I submit that in order to supply factories and workshops with the tradesmen they require we must start with the training of the lads, not lads 15 or 16 years of age but even 13 years of age, and the only way to do that is by making manual or vocational training available to them. These facilities should be provided at every major school. At the present time that is not possible because of the lack of material. Twenty years ago the difficulty may have been lack of finance but today it is lack of material. In the Windsor electorate, which I represent, there are no industries; it is a purely residential area, but it has three of the largest primary schools in Queensland, the Woolloowin school with 1,100 pupils, the Windsor school with 1,200 and the Wilston school with over 900. The facilities for manual training and domestic science at the Woolloowin school are not adequate to meet the needs of the children from these three schools.

In addition to the residential area of Windsor there are also to be considered the residential areas of Grange, Stafford, Cherm-side, Kalinga and Wavell Heights, which have expanded considerably in the past few years by the building of thousands of homes. New schools have been built, I know, and I am reminded of the Stafford school, an excellent school indeed, but having in mind a central point and the transport required the present manual training and domestic science facilities at Woolloowin school are not equal to meet the need of the increased number of children from these vastly expanding suburbs. Even if the facilities are available and the children are encouraged it will depend ultimately on the parents to induce the children to enter these trades. Although there is a serious shortage of equipment and material, it must be said that this is the industrial age, the age of the artisan, yet some parents unfortunately will permit their children to enter dead-end jobs, banks and other such industries because the remuneration is slightly higher than it is in the building trades. They forget that the boy who may have to receive a slightly lesser wage while serving his apprenticeship or trade will when he reaches the age of 30 or 40 years become equipped for life and maybe establish a small business of his own, and these small businesses are the backbone of the nation. He is therefore infinitely better off than the boy who enters a bank or a dead-end job. A young girl in her teens may look down her nose at the youth who is apprenticed as a plumber and goes to work and returns in dirty clothes, nevertheless that youth on attaining the age of 30 or 40 years will be infinitely better off than the lad who followed a scholastic or an academic career. It is acknowledged, too, that in a period of depression the man in a scholastic or academic profession is hit the hardest because the people have not the money to spend on availing themselves of his services. I do make an earnest appeal to parents to endeavour to guide their children into one of the many trades that offer opportunities today.

The Government have set up a very fine apprenticeship scheme. Mention is made in the Governor's Speech that in the last 12 months there has been a marked development in the training of apprentices and the Government must be given credit for that improvement. I believe—and I offer the suggestion to the Government and the Secretary for Public Instruction for his consideration—that there should be decentralisation in technical training in our technical colleges. For instance, take an apprentice whose parents live at Cherm-side, Stafford or Seven Hills, or some of the other more remote suburbs—because the Government in their housing programme must go well out into the suburbs of the city where building allotments are available. They as well as the lads in the vast expanding industrial areas of Pinkenba or the south side of the city are at a disadvantage in attending the Brisbane Central Technical College at the lower end of George street in the evenings. I have been associated with the National Fitness Council and I know what it means to the physical bodies of these lads to be compelled to travel long distances to that College. I do hope that parents will guide their sons into trade apprenticeships instead of academic or scholastic careers.

I realise, too, the congestion that is caused to our transport systems by having apprentices tutored at a centralised technical college. Very often our means of transport are overcrowded. Decentralisation of technical training would avoid this transport congestion. Windsor, the area I represent, is a pivotal point in the northern suburbs. If a technical college was established at Windsor it would serve the growing Grange area, as well as the Stafford, Cherm-side, and Kalinga-Wavell Heights area. Hundreds of homes are being built in these suburbs and hundreds more will be built in them in the future. I make these suggestions to the Minister in all good faith, believing that they will be most helpful to the Government as well as the apprentices. Labour has always asserted that that nation is greatest which contains the greatest number of happy men and women. To do this we must have contented men and women in industry and give economic security to their homes and families.

That brings me to something which has been a real plague in Australia in the last few years. It is this: the elimination of Communism and other disturbing elements, whether from the right or whether from the left. I have been associated with the fight against Communism for a period of years. I am happy to say that in the period from 1939 to 1945, when I was president of the Transport Union, because of conciliation and the desire of the employers to consult and talk with the officials of the union, we went through that war period without losing one minute in the road transport industry. That shows what can be done by conciliation and co-operation. But I do say that there is a danger not only from the left, but a danger from the right. I know that when a crisis arises there are people who adopt the attitude of a militaristic clique and who would have

us ruled under a regime such as that which operates in some of the South American republics.

I want it to be understood that I am not associating the Opposition with that in any way. These things have come to my notice during my activities in the fight against Communism. Communism is a dictatorship by a handful of people. I do not wish to talk too much about Communism because it gets too much publicity at times. I liken Communism to an octopus, which is slimy in approach. It gets in and reaches out its tentacles and once it gets a grip it is ruthless in execution. It is bad for democracy. I feel that if we are forced into a war with Russia a heavy hand will fall on those with subversive ideas—and any man who is a sworn Communist has subversive ideals—and they will be put in a proper place.

You cannot successfully fight Communism by act of Parliament. We must pay consideration to the people who are on the fringe of Communism—the people who are gulled and who are attracted by the pretty picture the Communists paint, and selfish people who feel they will get in it some form of self-expression otherwise denied to them. It is amongst the intelligentsia and it is in the universities. We have to do something about it.

**Mr. Hanlon:** They are in the newspapers.

**Mr. RASEY:** They might be in the newspapers too.

I feel that although our arbitration system is working well conciliation is not used to the greatest advantage by either employer or employee. Although we should remember the history of unionism and the conditions of the past there is a tendency for Communists and other people who have not thought deeply on the matter to hark back to and be swayed on conditions that operated 100 years ago. I know my trade-union history and I know what happened 100 years ago in England; but I believe that although it is well to remember these things and to see that they do not happen again, at the same time we have to realise that there is dignity, standing and stability for the worker now. Successive Labour Governments and the arbitration system have given that to them. The impact of an unnecessary strike on the rest of the community is too great for any man to be guided by what happened 100 years ago. Unions have reached the stage where they are respected and where they have the law to protect them. The members of unions should be mindful of that fact. Our modern system too, is such that a gasworks may operate from one centre and a strike at that centre would have a terrific impact on a great mass of people. It is important that we realise all these things. It is all right to reserve the right to strike—I believe in it; if the employer is exploiting the employee such employee has the right to withhold his labour—but I do feel that there is one aspect of trade unions that has not been exploited for constructive purposes but it has been

exploited by the Communists for disruptive purposes—and that is the creation of shop committees. Shop committees have been used by agitators to create class-hatred, which is bad.

It has been used for creating disturbances and for bringing men out on strikes of which they knew nothing about. Shop committees can be used in industry. There are many men in an industry with the necessary ability to handle them. They can be used in conciliation and in co-operation with employers' associations. Finally, I would say to employees and unions of employees that their aim should be the maximum amount of progress and reform for the minimum amount of disturbance to the community. In my references to trade unionism I will finish on that note.

As to the relations of the worker with employers' associations, as a trades unionist I have had much to do with employers, and feel that employers' associations have developed to the stage where they amalgamate with other employers in their industry and with chambers of commerce and manufactures until they are centralised to such a point they hand over the active work to a paid agent, who goes to the court to represent them. The employers themselves tell a union official what they think is reasonable and fair, but because somebody else in their organisation or association believes in a lower standard the agent is instructed to appear before the court and to fight for the lowest possible standard. That sort of thing irritates and inflames the minds of people who may be susceptible to Communist indoctrination. I believe that if everybody, not only hon. members opposite but employers' associations also, took a more personal interest in and realised their responsibilities to their fellow members in the community conciliation would take its place and arbitration and co-operation would follow. In my experience I have found there are many enlightened men in employers' associations. Many employers, some of them very large firms, are keen at the present time to build houses round their factories for their employees. They sponsor superannuation schemes and social and sports and welfare clubs for their employees. As a matter of fact, many of them at times take a very personal interest in the picnics and other social and welfare activities of their people and, moreover, take an interest in the family life of their employees. I want it to be understood that I am not taking what may be termed a one-eyed point of view, but give credit where it is due, but I feel that every individual through his association, whether it be an employer's or an employee's association, should pull his weight.

One matter I would mention at this stage is that employers in industry and commerce contend that they want immunity from controls and regulations; in other words, they want free enterprise. I would strike the note that freedom from control can mean unbridled exploitation and in a community licence on the part of one party can be exploited by the other party. Again I would

point out that employees can, with advantage to the community, establish shop committees. If controlled rightly by the employees and employers, no matter how big or small the firm, by men of intelligence and nationally-minded people, these are avenues through which conciliation can come, these are avenues through which can come co-operation.

For instance, I recall a large southern firm with undistributed profits amounting to £500,000. This was given in bonus shares to the shareholders but I would suggest that that firm could with advantage and as an example to the community and as a gesture to the stability of the unions and in the progress of education, have decided by negotiation to give to some of its employees some of these bonus shares, no matter how small the number. This would have made for happy men and women, and for better production, and obviated many of the wrangles we face today.

I think that in whatever sphere of life we might be, our economic and social structure depends on a good relationship between employer and employee. Without economic security the man in industry who brings home the money that makes for a happy family life is lost. I say that in all respects, a man, whether a worker in industry, an office employee, a public servant, an employer of labour, a shareholder, a director, he should assert himself. Any man who tries to reform the world is a fool. The world has been going on for centuries and I do not believe that I can reform the world, but I do believe that the majority of our men and women are decent and desire to do the right thing and are mindful of their fellow creatures. We must get away from the tendency not to assert ourselves but to leave things to the other man. We should not make excuses but should shoulder our responsibility. The employer should not make the excuse that by asserting himself it will be bad for his business. The employee, on the other hand, might feel that he will be called a scab. Let all men assert themselves in every avenue of life, and if they do this we shall build a happy nation. I suggest that if we have the courage to assert ourselves, in whatever sphere we may be, it will make for the common good of the nation. There must be tolerance, there must be understanding of the other man's point of view, there must be sacrifices to arrive at socially just and equitable economic decisions, and then I say we shall build a truly great nation, a nation containing the greatest number of happy men and women.

In conclusion, I want to say that I was elected by the people of Windsor and I thank the majority of the electors, who voted for me. In the ensuing three years I hope that I shall convince those who did not vote for me that they should vote for me at the next elections, as I have the desire to help my fellow men.

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 until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.15 p.m.