

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 1953

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1953.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. H. Mann, Brisbane) took the chair at 11.57 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. J. H. Mann, Brisbane): I have to report that yesterday afternoon 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.

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:—

"GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

"You have been called together in this, the First Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of Queensland, to give your attention to, and make decisions upon, matters pertaining to the welfare of the people of this State.

"Since our last meeting in this Chamber, the consecration and dedication of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, at her Coronation in Westminster Abbey, have been celebrated with all the traditional ceremony.

"This great event was celebrated here in Queensland also in ample and seemly manner during the Coronation period.

"Very numerous expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty's throne and person have been, and still are being received from every part of the State, and are being forwarded to Her Majesty from time to time.

"We are reminded that the time of Her Majesty's visit to Australia, and to Queensland, accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, takes place early in 1954, and preparations for this visit are well in hand.

"I feel that it may be desirable to draw attention once more to the need for ensuring that Her Majesty is spared every possible tax upon her strength during this visit. The Queen's high duties are onerous and Her Majesty has led a very exacting life since her accession.

"World affairs still display no consistent pattern. Events in Korea have been encouraging lately, but an armistice between unbeaten opponents may not lead to a permanent stay of hostilities. There have

been some interesting developments on the food front in connection with shortages in some areas and surpluses in others. It is not possible to predict how these will be resolved.

"Whatever pattern there may be behind all this, it seems to be certain that our long term policy should still be production and efficient distribution of food and other primary products to relieve distress in the world, while continuing preparations for the defence of the free world.

"We shall still need to concentrate on farmers and fighters for a long time to come.

"A surplus of £190,897 was shown in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 30 June, 1953. Receipts amounted to £63,170,592 and expenditure was £62,979,695.

"The surplus was the fourteenth in the past fifteen years.

"A deficit of £288,319 was forecast for the year, but the continuance by the Commonwealth of payments for hospital benefits was, to some extent, helpful in achieving the surplus.

"The Income Tax Reimbursement Grant received from the Commonwealth was £21,711,568 which was £2,711,568 greater than the Grant in the previous year.

"Expenditure on Hospitals, Social Services and Education from the Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £15,034,132.

"Disbursements from the Loan Fund amounted to £21,854,057 or £1,808,401 less than the previous year's total. The smaller expenditure was due to the reduced programme rendered necessary by the shortage of loan money.

"The main items of expenditure were—Railways, £7,785,575; Housing, £1,356,621; Agricultural Bank, £1,529,000; public buildings, £1,158,903; and loans and subsidies to local bodies and Hospitals Boards, £3,912,437.

"In 1952-53 parts of the State, particularly the north-west, suffered from dry conditions, but on the whole the climatic conditions in the agricultural areas were good and producers have enjoyed a better than average year.

"The value of last season's wool clip of 520,792 bales reached £60,728,947—an increase of nearly £13 million.

"The 1952 sugar season ended with a crop of 6,843,331 tons of cane for an estimated production of 933,800 tons of 94 n.t. sugar, the largest tonnage so far produced in Queensland. It is estimated that Queensland's production this year will be 1,123,000 tons of sugar.

"Value of the season's output was £39,800,000 exceeding that of the 1951 season by approximately £16 million.

"The Sugar Agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland Government was varied by arrangement last October, and provided for an increase of £8 per ton in the net wholesale price of refined sugar.

"The Agreement between the United Kingdom Government and other Commonwealth exporting countries whereby the exporting territories are allotted certain export quotas came into operation from 1 January, 1953. It will remain in force until the end of 1960, but may, as previously provided, be successively extended for a further year by agreement.

"A record crop of 17 million bushels of wheat was harvested last year. The production of most other agricultural crops and of fruit and vegetables was well maintained, although tobacco growers suffered reverses due to seasonal conditions and pests.

"A new experiment station is being established at Parada, between Mareeba and Dimbulah, North Queensland, to serve the area it is proposed to irrigate from the Tinaroo Falls Dam on the Barron River. At this station, important work in relation to irrigated pastures most suitable to the district, and for use in rotation with such cash crops as tobacco, peanuts, cotton and pineapples will be carried out.

"Since the Department's soil conservation section was established some five years ago, more than 1,000 farmers have been given advice and assistance. As a result, an estimated total area of from 80,000 to 100,000 acres of land formerly subject to erosion has now been protected.

"The dairying industry has made a striking recovery from the drought of 1951-52, and production for the year reached a high level.

"To decentralise and improve the technical services available to dairy farmers and factories my advisers have established branch laboratories at Murgon in the South Burnett and Malanda on the Atherton Tableland.

"Beef production for the year was particularly buoyant; in fact, it was one of the best years the industry has experienced.

"Animal industries are now worth nearly £150 million a year to the State.

"It is expected that the Gorge Weir, on the Burdekin River, will be completed by the end of 1953. It will provide storage to supplement the run of the river to an extent sufficient to allow for irrigation, by pumping, of 200 farms.

"Sixty-eight irrigated farms have been opened to date at Clare for settlement by ex-servicemen. In the Millaroo area the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission has prepared subdivision of the area for 62 farms.

"Irrigation works will be completed early in the current financial year to permit the opening of 20 of these farms with irrigation.

"Thirty-one weirs have now been completed by the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission with an aggregate storage of 41,390 acre feet.

"During the past year, construction of six weirs with a storage of 8,960 acre feet was completed. Five weirs are under construction to provide a further storage of 8,650 acre feet.

"Houses and barracks for the accommodation of employees are under construction at the Tinaroo Falls Dam site on the Barron River.

"Construction of Springmount Weir will be completed before the end of 1953. Provision has been made in the current year's programme for the commencement of channel construction to supply water from this weir to tobacco farms in the Dimbulah area.

"The programme for the current year provides for the completion of weirs under construction, the commencement of a weir on Yabba Creek near Imbil, and for the raising of an existing weir near Bajool.

"Work completed to date under the Commonwealth-State agreement for the provision of additional watering facilities on stock routes in the Channel country includes two artesian bores, six sub-artesian bores, and five excavated tanks.

"Contracts have been let for four sub-artesian bores and two tanks. The cost of these works will exceed the original provision of £151,000, and an approach has been made to the Commonwealth to have the total expenditure, which is divided equally between the two governments, extended to £300,000.

"Stock grazing trials by the Bureau of Investigation on irrigated pastures at the bureau's research stations at Gatton and Theodore have been continued. The good results obtained, particularly the high returns from dairy cattle, have been responsible for farmers planting increased acreages of permanent pastures under irrigation. The bureau proposes to extend these stock grazing trials to sheep and fat lamb production.

"Since June 1952, a further 49 blocks of sheep country, totalling 1,238,795 acres, and nine blocks of cattle country aggregating 488,916 acres, have been made available for new settlement.

"The Land Administration Board recently made available 68 blocks of scrub land suitable for dairying in the Atherton, Herberton, Innisfail, and Mackay districts. The ballots drew a large number of applicants and further lands in North Queensland are being investigated.

"It is anticipated that 80 or more blocks will soon be available for mixed farming purposes on suitable lands in the Dawson Valley.

"Approximately £30,000 has been spent on road construction at the Wandoan Settlement and tenders for 51 excavated earth tanks and four sub-artesian bores have been let. About 100 blocks are being prepared at Wandoan, 20 at Millaroo in the Burdekin Irrigation Area, and another eight at Nerada for cane farming. The opening of a further 17 cane farms at Abergowrie raises the total in this area to 42. The total value of crops produced from Soldier Settlement farms during 1952 exceeded £1 million.

"Agricultural Bank advances to ex-servicemen, under the War Service Land Settlement Act, amounted to £527,084, making the total of advances under this Act, £2,664,154.

"A sum of £253,399 was approved to ex-servicemen under the Agricultural Bank Acts on the basis of a three years' interest and redemption-free concession. To the date of expiry of this concession (31 December, 1952), advances amounting to £5,372,614 benefited thereby, the interest remission alone being £374,735 to 30 June, 1953.

"Queensland is participating with the Commonwealth Government in the Hawaiian proposal for a joint project on biological control of lantana and an entomologist will shortly leave for America in this connection.

"An amount of £65,000 was made available to the Co-ordinating Board for the construction of stock route watering facilities during the year. At 31 May, 1953, 42 facilities had been completed and 43 facilities were in progress.

"The year was one of marked activity in forestry work. More than £1,300,000 was spent in providing for the future timber needs of the State. New plantations established reached 4,200 acres, and natural forest treated totalled 49,000 acres.

"The log cut from the Crown forest exceeded 200 million super. feet.

"Notwithstanding restricted credit and general shortage of money for industrial investment, secondary industries have continued to expand. The number of factories has increased by 142, to the new record figure of 4,918. The gross value of factory output increased by the very large sum of £33,830,884. Significantly, 65 per cent. of our factories are located in places other than the metropolitan area.

"Important industrial developments include the installation of new plant for the canning of fruit, the production of cement, laminated plastics, dried milk products, and building materials.

"New industries introduced to the State include the manufacture of yeast at Toowoomba, laminated plastics and processed hair in Brisbane and also pearl buttons at Cairns.

"Construction of a new super-phosphate fertiliser plant at Cairns is well advanced.

"These and other plants under construction, or in course of planning, indicate confidence in this State's economic future.

"During the year, 23,550 firms were registered throughout Queensland compared with 21,150 last year.

"A Committee, under the chairmanship of the Co-ordinator-General, has submitted to the hon. the Premier a report on the possibility of establishment of a nitrogenous fertiliser works at Rockhampton. Queensland uses a large proportion of the nitrogenous fertiliser sold in Australia.

"The Committee considered that all raw materials necessary for the manufacture of nitrogenous fertiliser were available in Central Queensland, and recommended that consideration should be given to establishment of a factory with a capacity of 100,000 tons per annum. Every encouragement would be given to private enterprise in this connection.

"Queensland has maintained a reasonably steady flow of well selected migrants from the United Kingdom. The total number to arrive here since the commencement of the present migration scheme is 22,719, of which 17,598 have been personally nominated and 5,121 have been brought to this State by the State Immigration instrumentality under the Group Scheme.

"My advisers recently established a Resettlement section to encourage rural settlement of non-British migrants.

"Value of the mineral output of the State during 1952 was £23,299,156, which was £2,926,485 greater than the impressive total of the previous year's output.

"Gold production showed a welcome increase of 6,062 fine ounces over that of the preceding year. The total for 1952 was 84,642 fine ounces valued at £1,311,246.

"Copper, lead, and zinc each showed an increased output. The total value was almost £13 million.

"Coal production was a record for the State, totalling 2,742,236 tons valued at £5,905,377.

"The search for oil is continuing in the Roma district. A new and hitherto untried area is to be prospected in the Maryborough district by an American company, The Lucky Strike Drilling Co. N.L. of Cisco, Texas, under an Authority to Prospect granted by the Queensland Government.

"A total of £25 million has been spent on electrical development throughout Queensland during the past five years.

"Units of electricity sold to consumers in Queensland have increased from 192 million in 1938 to 800 million today, an increase of 316 per cent.

"The capital invested in the industry has increased from £7 million in 1938 to £30 million today, and an adequate electricity supply is rapidly expanding throughout the State.

"Today, the estimated cost of electrical development being undertaken in Queensland amounts to £53 million.

"In the past two years 17 new power stations have been commissioned in Queensland.

"Construction of the Tully Falls Hydro-electricity scheme to serve the whole of the Cairns region is proceeding as rapidly as funds will permit.

"Delivery of the first two turbo-alternator sets for the power station is anticipated in 1953-54. Construction of the diversion weir, intake, tunnels, and power station will be nearing completion by June, 1954.

"The contract for the transmission line from Cairns to Innisfail should be completed early in 1954.

"Commencement of construction of the Tully Falls-Innisfail transmission line will also begin in the current financial year.

"Establishment of a township at Koombooloomba, including sawmill, workshop,

school, shopping and recreational facilities, is well in hand as an essential preliminary to construction of the Koombalooomba dam.

"Preparations are proceeding for the development of a quarry in the area which must ultimately produce approximately one million cubic yards of crushed rock.

"During the past financial year £8 million was spent on electrical development in Queensland, and it is estimated that £11,900,000 will be spent in the current financial year provided loan funds can be raised. Subsidies totalling £471,051 were paid during the past year towards the cost of electrical development.

"Since the State Electricity Commission of Queensland was authorised last year to raise funds by public issue for electrical development, £3,575,700 has been raised. Most of the Commission's issues were oversubscribed.

"The use of coal in gas producers to produce electricity is a new development.

"Coal-burning gas producers were commissioned at Longreach during the year, and this is the first time in Queensland, and, it is believed, in Australia that this type of plant has been used for public electricity supply.

"A major development in the organisation of the electricity supply industry during the past year was the establishment of the Southern Electric Authority in place of the City Electric Light Company. The new authority which was established by legislation and an agreement between the government and the authority, is a public authority which will proceed vigorously with the further electrical development of its area of supply.

"The legislation also prepared the way for further consolidation of the electricity supply industry in South-Eastern Queensland.

"Railway traffic statistics for the whole of the last financial year are not yet available, but tentative figures indicate that the tonnage of paying traffic conveyed and the number of passenger journeys made will exceed the figures for the preceding year.

"During the last financial year 20 new locomotives, including ten of the diesel-electric type, two complete air-conditioned trains, six suburban carriages, twelve brake vans, 1,473 wagons and four 4-car diesel motor trains were placed in service.

"When the financial year closed there were still to be supplied 48 locomotives, including 22 diesel-electric engines, and seven air-conditioned trains, 19 brake vans, 4,237 wagons and two diesel motor trains.

"Striking advances were made in the programme for the modernisation of rolling stock with the introduction of diesel-electric locomotives and air-conditioned trains.

"The enthusiastic manner in which the locomotives and trains have been received is a complete vindication of the government's decision to obtain such equipment to raise the standard of rail transport services in Queensland.

"Air-conditioned trains are now operating between Townsville and Mount Isa, and between Brisbane and Cairns. Similar trains will be in service between Rockhampton and Winton and between Brisbane and Cunnamulla before the end of the current financial year.

"Diesel-electric locomotives have been substituted for steam traction on the mail trains running between Brisbane and Cairns and between Brisbane and Rockhampton. Schedules have been accelerated with a marked improvement in passenger comfort as a result of the cleaner and faster travel afforded.

"The claims of country passengers for improved services have been recognised when allocating the new four-car diesel motor trains for service. Of the four trains received three are operating between Cairns and Ravenshoe, Warwick and Goondiwindi, and Mackay and Proserpine, while the fourth is running between South Brisbane and Southport.

"The new wagon repair depot at Wacol has been completed and is in operation. Double line working has been introduced between Yeerongpilly and Kuraby and between Newmarket and Mitchelton with the completion of the duplication of tracks on those sections.

"The new Callide Coalfield line will be fully completed in August, 1953.

"Unfortunately, less loan money will be available during the current year than last year and the works programme has been cut severely. Work on the quadruplication of tracks in the Brisbane suburban area has ceased for the present. It is hoped, however, subject to the availability of loan funds, to resume this work next financial year.

"A total of £430,000 will be provided this year for earthworks, drainage, and foundations, and for the supply and erection of fabricated steel work for the new locomotive workshops at Redbank.

"Total expenditure of the Main Roads Commission, including works for other departments, the Burdekin River Bridge and miscellaneous expenditure was nearly £8 million compared with nearly £9 million for the previous year.

"Major works carried out during the year include the widening and construction in concrete of further sections of the Ipswich Road.

"Work also proceeded on the Channel Country Scheme which is being financed from Commonwealth moneys. The original estimate of this project has increased considerably since commencement and it is now expected that the cost will be approximately £1 million.

"With the exception of the tops of the two north bank approach piers, the sub-structure of the Burdekin Bridge has been completed.

"Fabrication of approach span steelwork should be completed before the end of the year.

"Work is in progress on the construction of the Gilbert River Bridge which will cost

some £46,000, and a contract was recently let for the construction of the Ross River Bridge at Townsville. This project is estimated to cost £150,000.

"In Livingstone Shire several bridges have been completed and more are being built on the Bruce Highway north of Rockhampton in Livingstone Shire.

"The estimated cost of the bridges is £30,000, while road works in the same area being carried out under contract will cost about £163,000.

"New dredging plant already delivered will enable the State's ports to be properly maintained, and plant new under construction in the United Kingdom will make possible a port improvement programme.

"In the Hamilton area, berths are being provided for the handling of general cargo, steel, and wool. New accommodation for tankers is also projected.

"Gladstone has in hand the installation of coal loading plant, and an extension of 225 feet to the wharf accommodation is planned.

"A large area is being reclaimed in Townsville for future port development and extra storage accommodation is being provided for Mount Isa shipments.

"In Cairns, improvement of the entrance channel is under way.

"A new motor pilot vessel for Brisbane is under construction in the United Kingdom, and delivery is expected in about twelve months' time.

"Over the counter receipts of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau for the eleven months ended 31 May, 1953, were £769,074—a record amount.

"The Bureau provides a valuable service to the public. Money spent by tourists each year is an important factor in the State's economic welfare.

"The alteration to the regulation governing the age at which children may be admitted to State Primary Schools has had a beneficial effect on staff and instruction. The restricted enrolment this year has permitted a much more effective use of teaching staff than would otherwise have been possible.

"The variation in the system of recruitment foreshadowed in my Speech of last year came into operation at the beginning of this year. The new scheme was launched to a good start. The number of new recruits to the teaching service in 1953 numbered altogether 888.

"These, together with the 591 already undergoing training, make a total of 1,479 students in receipt of allowances as teachers in training.

"A record number of 421 accepted teacher scholarships to Secondary Schools in 1953. In addition, 167 entered the Teachers' College directly from the Junior Public Examination.

"The present recruits will become available for service in the schools in groups in 1954, 1955 and 1956.

"A pleasing feature of present enrolments is the increasing number of children completing the eighth grade.

"Not only are more children each year completing the whole of the primary school course but greatly increased numbers are passing the State Scholarship Examination.

"Last year, a record number of almost 12,000 sat for that examination, and more than 9,600 were successful.

"State Secondary School enrolments have doubled in the last five years (1948 to 1953). In view of the increasing demand, new High Schools will be established throughout the State as funds become available.

"This year, new High Schools were opened at Gladstone, Mount Isa and Nambour, and a Secondary Department was established at Goondiwindi.

"A survey of High School needs in the metropolitan area has just been completed. It is hoped to be able to provide three new High Schools, one in the northern, southern and western suburbs respectively, during the year.

"In some country centres, the number of pupils seeking secondary education is too small to justify the establishment of even a small secondary department. To meet this difficulty, correspondence instruction to Junior standard is now provided from the Teachers' College, Brisbane. The children remain in attendance at their primary school and work their lessons under the supervision of the head teacher.

"The Syllabus now in operation in primary schools is providing for a more practical and more interesting course of training, designed to preserve soundness in basic formal subjects and at the same time to develop initiative and character.

"Methods of teaching reading suggested in the Syllabus have led to additional interest in the development of school libraries. Many fine book collections already have been built up under Government subsidy, and this year my advisers decided to extend the assistance offered. All new schools of eight or more classrooms, or which will have an enrolment of more than 300 pupils, will be provided with a separate room for use as a library.

"Existing schools of more than 300 pupils in which extensions are being undertaken will also be provided with a separate library room.

"Existing schools which have a room not required for normal classroom use or a veranda suitable for the purpose may apply for the conversion of the room or veranda for use as a library.

"New schools and existing schools with enrolments under 300 pupils which have no vacant room or veranda capable of being converted for library purposes will be provided, at cost to the State, with shelving for library books.

"All schools which have been provided with a separate room for library purposes will be supplied with shelving, tables, and chairs.

"Of special interest to country people is the continued development of agricultural projects in relation to formal primary school work. Altogether, in animal husbandry and in agricultural work, 652 projects have been completed by children in the preceding twelve months.

"Supplementary, practical, after-school education is being provided through Junior Farmer Clubs whose membership now exceeds 3,000.

"School children throughout the State took part in demonstrations of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her coronation. Their colourful, spectacular, and inspiring performances did credit to themselves, their training, and their State.

"During the past year, additional accommodation to the number of 147 classrooms, and extensions to 21 classrooms were provided by the Department of Public Works.

"The Department also co-operated with the Commonwealth Repatriation Department in the employment and training of returned soldier trainees in the various branches of the building trade. During the year, a number of trainees completed their period of training and their efficiency was assessed at 100 per cent.

"Notwithstanding the shortage of loan funds, all necessary requirements for new accommodation have been met, and no child has been denied education by reason of lack of accommodation.

"Expenditure during the year on new buildings and the maintenance of public buildings totalled £1,998,194.

"The further development of the State's hospitals has been actively pursued. Works were completed during the year at Babinda, Charters Towers, Innisfail, Mackay, Maryborough, Jandowae, Brisbane (Women's Hospital and Children's Hospital), and Barcaldine.

"Major hospital works are under construction at Barcaldine, Bundaberg, Emerald, Gladstone, Thursday Island, Townsville, Charters Towers, Rockhampton, Stanthorpe, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Brisbane, and Hughenden (foundations of new hospital). Construction is continuing at a satisfactory rate on the new General Hospital at South Brisbane.

"Construction of tuberculosis annexes at Cairns and Townsville was commenced during the year. Plans are being developed for similar buildings at Toowoomba and Rockhampton.

"Considerable progress has been made at the Chermiside Sanatorium on the construction of the section for which prefabricated components are being used. Buildings providing accommodation for 180 patients should be completed at the end of the year. Tenders have been received for the main (multi-storied) Chest Hospital and Nurses' Quarters at Chermiside, and these are being considered by the Commonwealth Department of Health. In the main block there will be accommodation for 400 patients.

"A tender has been accepted for the supply of a super voltage (4 million volt) X-ray therapy plant for the Queensland Radium Institute. This plant will allow a penetration of ray to a greater depth than is possible with the present machines.

"The maternal mortality rate of 1.03 per thousand live births in 1952 was the lowest ever recorded in Queensland.

"The infant mortality rate of 24.9 per thousand live births in 1952 compared very favourably with the record low level of 24.7 in 1949.

"The increase in the birth rate to 25.1 in 1952 was, with the exception of the rate of 25.7 recorded in 1947, the highest rate since 1923.

"A property has been purchased at South Brisbane for the establishment of another Maternal and Child Welfare Home.

"The South Brisbane Dental Hospital which was opened on 1 March, 1953, has surgeries for 22 dentists.

"Increased financial assistance has been provided for aboriginal missions conducted by religious bodies.

"A grant of £1,500 has been made available to a locally formed committee at Thursday Island to establish a training school for divers and tenders engaged in the pearlshell industry.

"The campaign against tuberculosis has been advanced further by recent commissioning of the mobile unit for the mass X-raying of people living in the country.

"During the year ended 30 June, 1953, the Queensland Housing Commission completed 2,307 houses and at the close of the year, had 2,022 houses in various stages of construction (including imported houses, 582 completed and 1,402 under construction).

"The number of houses completed represents an improvement of 12 per cent. compared with the previous financial year.

"Because all claims for rent increases were rigidly checked by the Fair Rents Office, the increase in rentals granted by the courts have not had the same market effect on the basic wage as in other States.

There are now under investigation 44 water supply proposals and 24 sewerage proposals for local authorities estimated to cost £1,274,000 and £1,094,000 respectively.

"Working plans are being prepared for 88 water supply proposals estimated to cost £5,104,000 and 35 sewerage proposals at a total cost of £4,412,000.

"Plans have been completed, but construction work has not yet commenced, for 64 water supply and 14 sewerage projects at a probable cost of £2,350,000 and £2,120,000 respectively.

"Under construction are 76 water supply projects, at an estimated total cost of £5,072,000, and 22 sewerage projects at an estimated total cost of £2,026,000.

The new business written by the Life Department of the State Government Insurance Office during the year ended

31 December, 1952, totalled £6,917,370 in respect of 9,432 policies, a record for the office.

“The Life Fund has increased by £925,302 to a total accumulation of over £10 million.

The office anticipates again allowing the substantial profit distribution of 33½ per cent. on renewal of fire insurance premiums, and granted 15 per cent. profit distribution on marine insurance premiums paid during the year ended 30 June, 1952.

“In the administration of the Public Service Acts there has been a keen appreciation of the necessity for exercising economies in the Public Service and a control has been kept upon appointments, transfers, and the working of overtime to ensure, as far as possible, the minimising of expenditure without affecting the general efficiency of the service.

“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 Review of Valuations Act of 1952.

A Bill to amend the Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1952, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1948, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1952, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1942, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Australian Consular Officers Notarial Powers and Evidence Acts, 1946 to 1949, in certain particulars.

A Bill Relating to Certain Deductions known as Draft Allowance in connection with the Sale of Sheepskins.

A Bill to Prevent the Misleading Use of Forms resembling Court Forms; and for purposes connected therewith.

A Bill to amend the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1951, in certain particulars.

A Bill to repeal the Printers and Newspapers Act of 1914 and to Enact further Provisions relating to Printing Presses and to the Printing and Publishing of Books and Papers, including Provisions relating to the Preventing of the Printing and Publishing of Books and papers by Persons not known, and Provisions Relating to the Printing and Publishing of Newspapers.

A Bill to amend the Mining on Private Land Acts, 1909 to 1951, in certain particulars.

“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 12.35 p.m., resuming it at 2.15 p.m.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor 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. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN.

Mr. Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Barambah.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1953.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Macrossan, intimating that His Honour Mr. Justice Townley would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1953.

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:—

James Clark, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Fitzroy.

Frederick Dickson Graham, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Mackay.

Jack Charles Allan Pizzey, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Isis.

Harold Bourne Taylor, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Clayfield.

John Albert Turner, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Kelvin Grove.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF GAIR MINISTRY.

Hon. J. E. DUGGAN (Toowoomba—Acting Premier) (2.19 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that on 16 March, 1953, His Excellency the Governor appointed the Honourable Vincent Clair Gair to be Vice-President of the Executive Council, Queensland, and the following as Members of the Executive Council:—

The Honourable John Edmund Duggan;

The Honourable Thomas Andrew Foley;

The Honourable Edward Joseph Walsh;

The Honourable Harold Henry Collins;

The Honourable Arthur Jones;

The Honourable William Matthew Moore;

The Honourable William Power;

The Honourable Paul Jerome Remigi-
us Hilton;
The Honourable George Henry Devries;
The Honourable Ernest Joseph Riordan.
His Excellency the Governor, on that date,
also appointed—
The Honourable Vincent Clair Gair to be
Premier and Chief Secretary of Queens-
land;
The Honourable John Edmund Duggan to
be Minister for Transport of Queens-
land;
The Honourable Thomas Andrew Foley to
be Secretary for Public Lands and Irriga-
tion of Queensland;
The Honourable Edward Joseph Walsh to
be Treasurer of Queensland;
The Honourable Harold Henry Collins to be
Secretary for Agriculture and Stock of
Queensland;
The Honourable Arthur Jones to be Secre-
tary for Labour and Industry of Queens-
land;
The Honourable William Matthew Moore
to be Secretary for Health and Home
Affairs of Queensland;
The Honourable William Power to be
Attorney-General of Queensland;
The Honourable Paul Jerome Remigi-
us Hilton to be Secretary for Public Works
and Housing of Queensland;
The Honourable George Henry Devries to
be Secretary for Public Instruction of
Queensland;
The Honourable Ernest Joseph Riordan to
be Secretary for Mines and Immigration
of Queensland.

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

I also desire to inform the House that
His Excellency the Governor, by virtue of the
provisions of Section 8 of the Officials In
Parliament Acts, 1896 to 1950, authorised
and empowered me on and from the 26 April,
1953, to perform and exercise all or any of the
duties, powers and authorities imposed or con-
ferred upon the Hon. the Premier and Chief
Secretary by any Act, rule, practice or ordi-
nance, and during the temporary absence from
Queensland of the Hon. Vincent Clair Gair.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy
of the "Government Gazette" containing the
relevant notification.

PAPERS.

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

Report of the Queensland-British Food
Corporation for the Year ended 30 Sep-
tember, 1952.

Report of the Public Accountants Registra-
tion Board of Queensland for the year
1952-1953.

Report of the Board of Review appointed
under the Review of Valuations Act of
1952.

Report of the Manager Golden Casket
Art Union for the year 1952-1953.

The following papers were laid on the
table—

A Proclamation under the Public Works
Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1951, and
the State Development and Public Works
Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1951 (4
December, 1952).

Order in Council under the State Develop-
ment and Public Works Organisation
Acts, 1938 to 1951 (18 December, 1952).

Order in Council under the State Develop-
ment and Public Works Organisation
Acts, 1938 to 1951 and the Local Bodies'
Loans Guarantec Acts, 1923 to 1936
(4 April).

Regulations under the Public Service Acts,
1922 to 1950 (25 June).

By-laws Nos. 617 to 636 under the Railways
Acts, 1914 to 1951.

Regulation under the Motor Spirit Vendors
Acts, 1933 to 1934 (15 January).

Order in Council under the Roofing Tiles
Act of 1949" (19 February).

Proclamations under—

The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to
1948 (18 June).

The Milk Supply Act of 1952 (21
May).

Orders in Council under—

The Abattoirs Acts, 1930 to 1949 (8).

The Banana Industry Protection Acts,
1929 to 1937 (4 June).

The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to
1948 (30 April).

The Fauna Protection Act of 1937
(2).

The Milk Supply Act of 1952 (21
May).

The Primary Producers' Organisation
and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1951 (8).

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts,
1900 to 1952 (2).

Regulations under—

The Agricultural Standards Act of
1952 (2).

The Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1952
(2).

The Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to
1952 (11).

The Farm Produce Agents Acts, 1917
to 1952.

The Fruit and Vegetables Act of 1947
(2).

The Fruit Marketing Organisation
Acts, 1923 to 1945 (8).

The Milk Supply Act of 1938.

The Milk Supply Act of 1952 (2).

The Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to
1950.

The Primary Producers' Organisation
and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1951 (5).

The Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices
Acts, 1915 to 1951.

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts,
1900 to 1952.

The Wheat Pool Acts, 1920 to 1930
(3).

Report of the Commission of Inquiry appointed to make an Inquiry into the affairs of The Warwick Co-operative Dairy Association Limited, Warwick.

Orders in Council under—

The Justices Acts, 1886 to 1949.

The Real Property Acts, 1861 to 1887 (as inserted by Section 7 of the Justices Acts and Real Property Fees Act of 1932).

Regulations under—

The Trust Accounts Acts, 1923 to 1952.

The Hire Purchase Agreement Acts, 1933 to 1946 (2).

The Money Lenders Acts, 1916 to 1946.

The Printers and Newspapers Act of 1914.

The Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1951.

The Charitable Collections Act of 1952.

Proclamations under—

The Charitable Collections Act of 1952 (2).

The Law Reform (Tortfeasors Contribution, Contributory Negligence, and Division of Chattels) Act of 1952.

Orders in Council under—

The Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1950 (16).

The Supreme Court Act of 1921 (14).

Section 647 of The Criminal Code (2).

The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1947.

The Magistrates Court Act of 1921 (2).

The Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932.

The Financial Emergency Act of 1931 (2).

The Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.

The British Probates Act, 1898.

The Legislative Assembly Acts, 1867 to 1946 and the Elections Acts, 1915 to 1952.

The Queensland Law Society Act of 1927.

Regulations under the Workers' Accommodation Act of 1952.

Orders in Council under the Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1952 (6).

Amendment of Rules for the General Government and Discipline of the Members of the Police Force of Queensland dated the twenty-fourth day of January, 1953, under the provisions of the Police Acts, 1937 to 1951.

The Police Regulations, 1953, under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1951.

Regulations under the Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935 (2).

Regulations under the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1952.

Order in Council under the Factories and Shops Acts, 1900 to 1945.

Regulations under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1948 (2).

The Islanders Regulations, 1953, under the Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946, and the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.

Regulations amending the Poisons Regulations of 1947, under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION.

MR. SPEAKER'S RULING.

Mr. MULLER (Fassifern) proceeding to give notice on behalf of the hon. member for Landsborough of a motion for Private Members' Day—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I remind the hon. member for Fassifern that the hon. member on whose behalf he wishes to give notice has not yet been sworn in and I suggest that he give the notice in his own name.

Mr. MULLER: I do so.

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!

LEADER OF OPPOSITION.

Mr. HILEY (Coorparoo) (2.48 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that the Opposition have elected the following officers:—

Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Landsborough, Mr. Nicklin.

Deputy leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Coorparoo, Mr. Hiley.

Whip, the hon. member for Aubigny (Mr. Sparkes.)

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. DIPLOCK (Condamine) (2.49 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-third Parliament of Queensland:—

‘May it please Your Excellency,—

‘We, Her 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.”

It is not necessary for me to comment to any extent on the first paragraph of the motion in which we pledge our loyalty and affection towards the Throne. The loyalty of the members of this House and of Queensland in general has always been in evidence, especially when the Mother Land needed our help. I think that the intense interest and spontaneous joy of members of the House and of the people of Queensland that were shown in the recent Coronation ceremonies were proof that the affection we hold towards Her Most Gracious Majesty is sincere and warm. In passing, I may add that I feel I voice the sentiments of hon. members when I say, “Thank God that peace has come in Korea.” May that peace be the forerunner of a long reign of peace, happiness, and prosperity for our Most Gracious Sovereign.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

I compliment the Governor on his concise and informative Speech and express the appreciation of country people of His Excellency's active interest in their affairs. The visits of His Excellency and Lady Lavarack to the outback portions of the State are an inspiration and have the effect of making country people, who at times feel that they are forgotten, realise that the very important part they are playing in the progress and development of Queensland is fully appreciated.

To my mind this is a fitting occasion on which to congratulate the hon. the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and Ministers of the Cabinet on their return to office. Their re-election is another milestone on the road of steady progress that has been followed in the development of this State ever since the Labour Government were entrusted with the reins of government.

My sincere congratulations are extended to you also Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to the high and important office you occupy. The impartiality of your decisions and the dignity with which you have carried out your duties in the past have earned for you the respect and confidence of members of this House and I am sure that this must be a source of great personal satisfaction to you.

I am conscious of the confidence that was placed in me by the electors of the rich and fertile electorate of Condamine, when they gave me the privilege of being their advocate in this Parliament.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DIPLOCK: My electors may rest assured that I intend to give of my best in helping to further the development of Queensland in general and of the Condamine electorate in particular.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DIPLOCK: In his Speech His Excellency said that we shall still need to concentrate on farmers and fighters. Condamine is an electorate in which the great majority of electors are either land-holders or people working in the associated industries. Consequently land matters are of great interest and of vital importance to them. It must be obvious to all fair-thinking people that this Government have good reason to be proud of their land policy. One has only to travel through the black-soil areas of this State, as the Premier did during his past term of office, to appreciate the enormous potential food-production possibilities of the undeveloped land, particularly the reclaimed prickly-pear areas scattered throughout the State, especially in the Condamine electorate. I have travelled over this area at more or less regular intervals in the past 30 years and have witnessed the transformation that has taken place in that period brought about to a great extent because of the policy of this Government. Thirty years ago hundreds of thousands of acres of perhaps some of the most fertile land in Queensland were valueless on account of prickly-pear. When the cactoblastis had done its wonderful job, these rich acres were given over to grazing and I do not think that even the bitterest opponent of the Government will contend that the land was used or developed to its full capacity. Now the Condamine electorate offers a good living—more than an ordinary living—to hundreds of prosperous farmers and thousands of rural workers. In years gone by it was thought that only the southern States were suitable for the growing of grain on a scale large enough to allow a surplus for export, but with the advent of tractors and the more general use of farm machinery it has been found possible and profitable to grow wheat, barley, sorghum and other grain crops farther and farther to the north and to the west in Queensland.

When the Government began to implement their policy, their opponents spoke of over-production, but a food-hungry world, and in particular the enormous populations of Asiatic countries, will provide a potential market for all the excess grain we can produce for years to come. It is obvious, because of our climatic conditions, that machinery will have to be used wherever possible, to enable us to compete with low-wage countries. To appeal to the primary producer to produce more while denying him the wherewithal or the incentive to do so is merely like a voice in the wilderness. For that reason, it is to be hoped that the finance required for the purchase of essential farm machinery will continue to be readily available. The incentive to produce has been to a great extent dulled by the taxation policy of the Federal Government and I hope, in the interests of this State, that this is remedied in the very near future.

To ensure that our land policy shall continue to meet with approval and success, it is essential that we encourage people to live on the land. By that I do not mean that we encourage them to live there merely because thereby they may earn a livelihood

but that we should promote in them a desire to live on the land because of their love of the life, and we can only hope to do that when living conditions in the country are similar to those enjoyed in the coastal areas. If we wish to arrest the drift to the cities we must continue to give the highest possible priorities to better housing facilities and all other kinds of amenities in the country, and it is my intention to bring this need under the notice of my colleagues at every possible opportunity. I think all hon. members will agree that the women and children who live in the backblocks and the rural areas of the State are entitled to the same living conditions and amenities as are enjoyed by the women and children in the coast areas. I am not belittling the efforts of past Labour Governments—on the contrary, I applaud the work of those Governments—but do stress the fact that this and future Governments must continue to give such matters very favourable consideration.

In my opinion, Queensland still has sufficient undeveloped primary resources to provide an abundance of food, clothing, housing and all the other amenities that are associated with a high standard of living, so long as Governments continue to adopt the right attitude towards primary industries, and every member of the community is prepared to give an honest day's work in return for the good day's pay he or she receives.

Turning now to the subject of education the first thought that occurs to me, despite the criticism that was levelled at the Government before the last election, is how wide are the ramifications of the Department of Public Instruction, so wide as to require no enumeration to hon. members here. The achievements of the department for the past year as set out in the Governor's Speech, are a complete answer to the criticism to which I have referred. I point out here that the critics have forgotten to mention one important factor that I intend to stress, because any sound critic of the Department of Public Instruction would have taken it into consideration. I refer to the fact that the Government's concern for education, as demonstrated by the expenditure of the vast sum of £7,000,000 in this State during the year 1952-1953, is relatively new.

For a long time Governments were not concerned with education and the recapitulation of a few historical facts will bear this out and at the same time show Queensland in a favourable light. The first concern that the Government of England had for education was in 1833, prior to which education was pictured by the slogan "Education for honest poverty." In 1833 the Government of that country, showing its first concern for education, granted the princely sum of £20,000 for the needs of education for the whole of England. The second slogan was coined in 1867, after the passing of the second Reform Bill, which hon. members will remember gave the vote to the working classes, and the slogan became, "We must educate our new masters." In that year the first public elementary schools were established in England, controlled then as now by the local authorities.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is not 100 years ago that any real interest was taken in education in England. In 1875 education became free and compulsory in Queensland. As a matter of interest, it was not until 1880 that the local authorities of England were forced to pass by-laws forcing the children enrolled to attend school; and it was not until 1891 that education in England became compulsory, just 16 years after it became free and compulsory in Queensland. The Government's concern for secondary education in England dates from 1902, not so very long ago. In 1912 our first State High School was established and in 1913 scholarships were granted to secondary schools on a non-competitive basis. And so I contend that Queensland can rightly hold its head very high in this matter.

Thus, then, in outline is the story of the establishment of our educational facilities. We might well ask next what is the objective in the State's growing interest in the education of its future citizens, for it has grown over the past few years. The 20th century has often been referred to as the century of the common man, and in a sense it is, as demonstrated by the many measures that guarantee social security to all, but more important still, the 20th century is called the children's century and it is in this aspect that we have the reason for the State's growing interest in education. It is the children's century because of the determination resulting from our democratic system of government that every child, whether of rich or poor parents, has the chance to fit himself for that service in the State which his own industry and inherited capacities will allow him to perform. Our own State bears, in fact this very House, bears witness to the wisdom of this determination, in the numerous examples of boys who, though born in humble circumstances, have risen to fill with distinction the honoured places of government in this State.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DIPLOCK: I feel proud of the fact that under the State's educational system no boy or girl possessed of the necessary intelligence and industry is denied the opportunity of primary, intermediate, secondary and university or technical education. The official syllabus in primary schools recognises the need to develop every child to the full, when it stresses the need for development of the gifts and aptitudes children possess, and of the virtues each is capable of achieving.

The Scotch, in their practical caniness, put the matter in another way. They stress the necessity to develop every child to the full to ensure the economic stability and the continued freedom of the country in which he or she is born. To them, as to others—and this attitude may not be speedily dismissed—education is looked upon as a form of defence, intellectual defence, as opposed to the purely physical side of defence, which is the function of our Federal Government. The Governor, in his Speech, stressed the need to concentrate on our fighters, but if we have to concentrate on physical

defence we have still to concentrate on education as the intellectual side of defence, and I say that this must be looked upon as being equally important as physical defence against our enemies, against the Communists particularly.

In the interests of human happiness, of the effective functioning of our democratic machinery, and of the continued safety of our fair land, we must maintain an adequate educational system. I commend this Government for spending a progressively larger amount of money on education as the years go by, but it must not be thought that £7,000,000 is a big amount to spend on education in Queensland. It is certainly a worthy amount, but in the interests of the prosperity and the national development of our State, we must not stop there.

I referred a little while ago to the wide ramifications of the Department of Public Instruction. I was associated with that department for close on 40 years; I rose from the lowest to the highest rung in the teachers' ladder, and because of that experience I claim to be able to speak with some small degree of authority and I say that despite criticism from interested parties seeking political capital with which to embarrass this Government, the Department of Public Instruction is a great department; I say it is a strong department, and I very heartily congratulate the Secretary for Public Instruction and his officers.

The Department of Public Instruction has many strengths. I will mention three that come to my mind. First of all, it brings to children in all parts of the State the same education, the same teachers, the same materials and the same building standards. We take these things for granted, but let us compare the position here with that in America, where admittedly there are some of the finest schools in the world but where there are also—and we do not often hear of this—some of the poorest.

Secondly, children leave our schools with a great fund of knowledge—useful, everyday knowledge—a fund that is greater perhaps than that gained by pupils attending schools in some other countries of the world that pride themselves on their educational systems. That fact has been admitted quite recently by world authorities.

The third great strength I wish to mention—and I think this is a strength—is the fact that the Department of Public Instruction is not merely conscious of its strengths, and consequently is not complacent. It has the capacity to change, not at the whim of the moment, or to fit in with the ideas of every budding educationalist who puts forward a new proposal, but to make such changes in the curriculum and in teaching technique as wise professional and public opinion show to be needed. Far-reaching changes were introduced into the 1952 curriculum, and whilst only 18 months have elapsed since the introduction of that syllabus, it is now well on the way to successful implementation. The new syllabus obviously meant new textbooks, and because the

Government were unable to switch on a light and produce them like sausages from a machine, that fact was made a point of criticism. It is to be hoped that all the required textbooks will soon be available.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the textbook question is not a serious one. It should not be necessary for the successful teacher to have a textbook. The well-trained teacher never uses one. A textbook is merely a reference book for the children and the well trained teacher can easily compile his own reference notes for the children until those books are provided. Rome was not built in a day. Rather than criticise the Government and the Department of Public Instruction, we should praise it for its courage in undertaking to provide these books rather than to leave them to be provided by profit-seeking enterprise which, if the past can be taken as a guide, has held the worthy parents of our children to ransom.

What of this great strength, the ability to change? What of the future, Mr. Speaker, in the light of the department's capacity to meet a changing situation? I shall speak of this point in two connections, firstly, concerning the whole State, and secondly, concerning the part of the State in which my electorate is situated.

Concerning the whole State I give credit to the Department of Public Instruction for what it has done for the blind, deaf, dumb, and crippled children. I say, however, that Queensland has the chance to give to the rest of Australia a lead similar and complementary to that given in the Hanlon plan of hospitalisation by setting up a sub-department to deal with the educational needs of these particular children to enable them, as well as their fellows who are more fortunately equipped by nature to find their places in the community. That sub-department could work in collaboration with the Department of Health and Home Affairs, and could provide facilities for those children, facilities as worthy of admiration as are ante-natal and child-care clinics throughout the State.

Is it not a travesty of human justice, Mr. Speaker, that worthy associations, even though they are Government-aided, should have to seek charity to aid in the work of helping crippled, spastic and mentally handicapped children?

The second great need in Queensland—and this is not a criticism, it is a suggestion—is, in my humble opinion, the reorganisation of the system of teacher-training. The alteration in the scheme of teacher recruitment and the liberalisation of allowances to trainees offer promise for the future but we need a teachers' training college. We need a teachers' training college that will give to the training novitiates an inspiration that will serve them throughout their teaching career. We need a teachers' training college that will include residential and sporting facilities for the young men and women who are brought from all parts of Queensland in order to be trained to mould the minds of our future citizens.

I realise that I am going to be told that this would cost quite a lot of money, probably three-quarters of a million to £1 million. But we provide worthy training institutions and living quarters for our nurses. Far be it from me to decry the nursing profession, but if we can afford big amounts for nurses, why can we not afford a comparable amount for the young teachers? Surely it will not be denied that the work of one is equally important as that of the other?

I come now to the needs of the south-western corner of the State and they are typical of those in inland areas generally. There are two basic needs, not unassociated, for both spring from the one problem, which is the exploitation of the riches of rural areas and the keeping on the land of people needed to exploit them. I should have prefaced my remarks by saying that I have already taken these matters up with both the Secretary for Public Instruction and the Secretary for Public Works and Housing and they are helping to the utmost of their capacity.

The first need in the inland areas is more and better high schools geared to meet the needs of the respective districts, such schools to offer a full range of courses, academic, commercial, home science, industrial and agricultural. Some people may think that this standard of education is not necessary for the boys and girls in the outback parts of the State and there may be some too who subscribe to the opinion that the education they got in their day is still good enough. While that view may pay tribute to the schools they knew, it really is, in my opinion, a failure on their part to understand the importance of education to the attainment of their ideals. We need more and still more high schools in the country. Today most of the boys and girls in the country have to by-pass country high schools or "miss out" on their secondary education altogether, because the range of subjects offered today does not provide a foundation for university matriculation. Many girls and boys in the country have to seek their secondary education in the city and I think that most country parents will agree that a stay in the city is inimical to continued life in the country, where the best brains of our country boys and girls are needed. It is freely acknowledged by the Department of Agriculture and Stock that brains are required in the country to carry on primary industry successfully and to cope with many land projects that have been launched. Therefore I plead for more high schools in country areas, those of the multi-purpose type offering a full range of courses.

I come now to my second suggestion and here perhaps I am a little before my time. I suggest the consolidation of primary education, the bringing in of boys and girls from outlying areas to a central primary school rather than the continuing of the one-teacher and two-teacher schools. I have served a good deal in the one-teacher and two-teacher schools and I have examined hundreds of them. I know that the teachers are doing a wonderful job in them, the most difficult job in the department, but such schools cannot

give a child the same standard of education as it could get in a well equipped and well administered central school. Busses could bring children to these schools from a radius of fifteen miles. Thus, in the Dalby area, schools at Dalby, Bell, Jandowae, and Kaimkillenbun could better serve the educational requirements of the district than the 28 schools in existence at present.

I know that perhaps the greatest opposition to my idea will come from the people living in the country areas, but if the central schools are made attractive, if they are geared to the needs of the district and offer an instruction with a strong bias towards agriculture and science for the boys and home-making for the girls, the parents themselves will wish to send their children to them. They would not have to be made to send them, because most of the people in the outback are progressive and progressive communities will not only accept change, they will eventually demand it.

Mr. Speaker, my time is up. May I, through you, thank hon. members for the courtesies they have shown me? I realise that henceforward it will be a case of give and take and I hope to be able to give as well as take.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. KEHOE (Nash) (3.21 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I have very much pleasure in seconding the motion so ably and eloquently proposed by my colleague, the hon. member for Condamine. I wish to acknowledge the compliment conferred upon me and the honour done to the important electorate of Nash when I was chosen to second this motion. I desire to associate myself with the sentiments contained in the motion.

In this Coronation year of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., thoughts have been uppermost of the reigns of two previous Queens of England who both reigned over long periods and whose reigns closed in a Golden Age with the Empire spreading to the edges of the world. It is no wonder, therefore, that in the early days of this new reign, her people are remembering these examples from the past, and their courage and optimism are mounting on the wings of history. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we look forward to the visit of Her Majesty to Queensland next year, when history will be made, because a reigning monarch has never previously visited our shores.

I wish to join with my colleague in thanking His Excellency for delivering his Speech here this morning. I am glad to know that His Excellency is enjoying good health once again, that he was thus enabled to undertake his recent extensive tour of the Central West. He has never spared himself in travelling throughout Queensland and so cementing the bond already existing between the people and the Crown.

I take this opportunity of paying a tribute to my predecessor, the Hon. Thomas Dunstan,

who was a member of this Assembly for 33 years and who has written his name indelibly in the history of the Queensland Parliament.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. KEHOE: Mr. Dunstan entered Parliament as member for Gympie when the first Labour Government took office in 1915 and during his term of office he participated in all the great reforms since undertaken for the benefit of the worker and this State. His deep love for his fellow men is his outstanding characteristic and his heart is too big and generous to harbour ill-feeling towards anyone. The name of Dunstan in Gympie is synonymous with all that is upright and honourable and even though there are many who are politically opposed to him, he holds the highest possible place in their esteem, being one of nature's gentlemen. I am deeply grateful to him for his generous assistance and advice, which have always been graciously extended to me and were a powerful factor in retaining the Nash seat for Labour. Opposition members opposite will not exactly welcome the news that Mr. Dunstan is still active in the political world as president of the Gympie branch of the Australian Labour Party.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. KEHOE: I personally wish him many happy years to enjoy this active retirement.

I wish to refer now to the great victory the Labour Party had in the recent State elections and to congratulate the Premier and his Cabinet on the splendid vote of confidence given to them by the electors of Queensland. The results of the general election clearly indicate that because of wise leadership and a sound and progressive policy for the development of the State and the welfare of all sections of the community the Labour Party continues to enjoy the confidence and trust of the people of Queensland.

On present indications it would appear that the Labour Party will never cease to be the Government of this State. Apparently this view is held also by the parties in opposition who, having no hope of unseating the Government at the last election, did not venture to contest 13 seats held by the Labour Party, including those of the Ministers whom they criticised so strongly. In fact, no party other than Labour nominated for election enough candidates to have had sufficient followers to form a Government, even if every candidate endorsed by it had been returned. The 32 candidates offered by the Liberal Party and the 30 endorsed by the Country Party could not have given either party the strength necessary to form a Government in its own right, with the result that the only alternative to Labour the electors had was a coalition Government. It is obvious that if two political parties exist as separate and distinct bodies there must be fundamental differences in their constitutions and policies that prevent them from uniting and becoming an entity. If the parties to a coalition cannot function as an entity, how can they function as one Government? In such circumstances there must inevitably be conflicts which if not

resolved in compromise would continue unsolved, thus putting a brake upon progress in the interests of the State and the people.

There is some satisfaction in knowing that fewer than 42 per cent. of the electors were willing to risk a coalition Government. What is more, if those electors had realised fully that in casting votes for a party that was unable to hold office by its own strength and could do so only by joining another party representing opposing interests, the proportion of voters favouring the blight of a coalition would have shrunk to something very much lower indeed.

In casting round to find excuses for their rejection by the electors and to pacify their frustrated supporters, the opposition parties have attacked the electoral system, the State electoral rolls in particular, but it is pleasing to note that the Attorney-General has by irrefutable evidence effectively exposed the misstatements made by our opponents on many occasions. I have had some experience of the compilation of electoral rolls and I hope the day will never come when the State discards its own system of compiling and checking rolls and accepts the inadequate one used at Commonwealth elections. Even if unification of the rolls was desirable, it would be far better to make the State rolls available for Commonwealth elections. I am told that in the United States elections for Senate and Congress they utilise the electoral machinery and voting lists of the States comprising the Union and any suggestion that the Federal Government there should duplicate the electoral system of the States would be considered ridiculous. Here in Australia the Commonwealth is the invader of the electoral sphere and even though there might be some slight justification for the institution of a uniform system of conducting elections over the whole of the Commonwealth there has never been any need for distinct Commonwealth rolls. The Commonwealth has never possessed the facilities to cover the length and breadth of a State, for the Federal rolls have always fallen far too short of the enrolable population to provide a satisfactory basis for determining by ballot the will of the whole of the people to be governed.

Australia's failure to control costs of production since the war is now threatening the basis of our national economy. During the war, Australia's record in controlling prices won wide admiration. From June, 1939, to June, 1945, our retail prices rose by 23 per cent., those of Britain by 45 per cent., and those of the U.S.A. by 31 per cent. Both New Zealand and Canada bettered our figures, with a rise of only 19 per cent. But in the peace years, between June, 1945, and December, 1952, the price percentage increases have been: Australia 99 per cent., Britain 52 per cent., U.S.A. 48 per cent., New Zealand 47 per cent., and Canada 56 per cent. The chief reasons for this enormous increase in Australian costs and prices include low productivity per man-hour, expansion of uneconomic manufactures, high wool prices, heavy capital investment, the effect of the Korean and "cold" wars on imported war material and equipment prices, and the £1 basic-wage increase in December, 1950.

The architect of Australia's post-war manufacturing economy, Dr. Coombs, now Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, said in that bank's 1952 annual report—

“With the exception of France and Japan there does not seem to have been a comparable price rise to Australia's in the first nine months of 1951-1952, in any of the other countries with which we principally trade. A similar result is found when the longer period back to 1948 is considered. This disparity in the rate of increase of retail prices (and wages) here and abroad has already contributed to our balance of payments difficulties.”

This observation is of the utmost importance to us, dependent as we are on the proceeds from the export of our primary products to finance essential imports of raw materials and capital equipment for manufacturing industry, and to supply income to enable us to sustain our tremendous superstructure of manufacturing and tertiary industry.

The Commonwealth Tariff Board registered its concern “at the effect of the rise in costs over the year under review on the competitive position of Australian producers.” The board contended—

“Should present trends continue and be fully protected by tariff assistance, a number of disadvantages must be faced. These include the danger to export industries (unless the currency be depreciated), the hardship to persons on fixed incomes, and the possibility of unemployment because of buyer resistance.”

Today our export industries—wool, wheat, meat, dairy produce, etc.—are facing the fact that prevailing high costs have sapped away the benefits of good selling prices, and that still higher prices will be required if the farmers are to carry on. But here they face competition from other countries whose strong competitive position will make higher prices impossible. Indeed, export prices, with the exception of those of wool, are on the decline. During the 12 months ended February, 1953, the Commonwealth Statistician's Export Price Index for all groups (other than wool), recorded a fall of 9 per cent. It is doubtful whether even wool prices will continue to maintain their high level, and it is doubtful also whether we can hope for a continuance of the unbroken run of good seasons with which we have been favoured. The increase in our export income last year, apart from wool, was due almost entirely to the favourable season, which is reflected in high wheat, dairy, and meat production.

It is not good policy to place our trust unreservedly in good seasons, or in the hope that Britain, Japan and the United States of America will continue to outbid each other for our wool, or that overseas investors will continue to show an interest in and direct their capital to Australia. It would be much sounder, and more democratic, to put our own hands to the task of reducing production costs. In this respect the Tariff Board has given us a hint in its 1952 report—

“In the meantime, the board proposes to assist in keeping down costs and prices

as far as possible, by continuing to recommend protection only to efficient industries; and by ensuring that the rates or duty recommended will be those that will protect only after applicants have taken all steps to secure the lowest possible costs of production.”

The key to the situation is, therefore, efficiency. If Australia is to overcome the cost problem, she must devote her resources to industries in which we possess certain national advantages. Moreover, we should see that every effort is made by both capital and labour to attain the peak of efficiency in terms of production per man-hour in those industries.

It is wrong for business men to continue to blame the 40-hour week. Statistics show that production per man-hour since the 40-hour week was introduced has increased sufficiently to offset the reduction in working hours. In other words, the 40-hour week, compared with the 44-hour week, has cost Australia nothing.

Our late beloved Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, himself an economic and financial expert, and above all one of Labour's greatest leaders, repeatedly urged the necessity for hard work in our endeavours to get back to a stable economic and social basis. I believe that incentives, allied with the establishment of joint consultation committees, offer a direct and powerful means of increasing productivity and real wages, and reducing unit costs and prices. But the trade-union movement as a whole indicates that it is afraid of incentives. With their outlook blurred by past abuses of incentives, the unions have failed to appreciate their present great strength and are giving no leadership in this vital issue. At the A.C.T.U. congress to be held next month, the unions must decide in favour of incentives if they wish to save the jobs of their members and increase their real wages. But if the workers' suspicions of the employers are to be broken down on this question, it is advisable for a lead to be given by the employers in the establishment of joint consultation committees at the factory, in industry and on a national level. Employees have a natural right to participate in the control of industry, and the restoration of a sense of responsibility to the worker must be the first objective. Once the worker gets an effective say in the control of an industry or a firm, he is in a position to obtain justice. The arbitration system has given the worker great benefits, but the ideal is to go closer to the centre of activity, that is, the firm. For instance, it is generally admitted that special financial, and indirect, rewards are a real stimulus to greater output. The objection to their application is the abuse to which they are subjected. If a measure of responsibility in the conduct of their firm or industry is given to the workers, it is possible to institute sound systems of special rewards, with safeguards against abuse, because of their voice in the conditions on which they are given and in their administration.

The costs saved in the greater production would be shared by workers and management on a basis agreed by the joint committee. Such a scheme is simple and easily understood, and would give the worker a substantial wage increase. As payment would be computed on a group basis, worker would not be set against worker. For indirect workers, such as general office staff, a system of profit-sharing is sound. In addition, both the workers and the public benefit by the lower price of goods made possible by the savings in costs and the supervision of the joint committee.

Despite urgent warnings emanating from responsible authorities for the past year or two, it is doubtful whether many people have yet even half realised the grave situation confronting Australia in the matter of declining primary production. Our exports of primary products, particularly wool and wheat, pay for the bulk of our imports of consumer goods and raw materials essential to our secondary industries. It is important to note that more than 70 per cent. of Australia's imports are not finished articles that compete with Australian manufactures, but raw materials and capital equipment without which Australian factories cannot continue to work and employ Australian workers.

If a nation depends almost exclusively on primary production to maintain its international trade, simple logic demands that the sphere of primary production should receive special attention and encouragement. There must be a new realisation by the farming community of Australia of the moral responsibility that rests upon its shoulders—a responsibility to work not only for itself but also for the Australian people and for the inhabitants of other lands—desparately in need of the food Australia can produce. Government action must be taken to give the farmer the incentive to produce. Rural life is not likely to succeed and flourish in a depressed, run-down countryside. Regional electricity expansion, which has been undertaken by our Government, is of great assistance in this regard.

Primary producers have been very critical in the last few years of the taxation policy carried out by the Federal Government and the Federal Treasurer, who is leader of the Country Party. When the incidence of taxation reaches the stage of imposing restraint on production of desirable commodities, it is obviously defeating its own purpose. When the burden of taxation creates a sense of sharp injustice in the minds of the producers, and as a result curtails further production, because of the accompanying penalties, it is illogical to expect a merely altruistic appeal to achieve adequate results.

The overwhelming Australian need is for a vastly increased number of farmers. New techniques of land development are opening up previously unrecognised potentialities, and the new approach calls for quick development on a grand scale and the use of heavy and expensive equipment.

The Lands Acts Amendment Act of 1952 was passed by this Parliament to encourage

and promote a more intensive use of land suitable for closer settlement but now held in comparatively large areas, incompletely developed, and used for pastoral purposes and mostly situated in the 20-inch-and-over rainfall zone. Queensland is on the threshold of a progressive era in land development. The Government's plans, including State-wide electricity projects particularly for use on farms, and to assist irrigation, improve pasture development, soil conservation and land settlement, are taking shape. Projects such as the Burdekin River scheme and Tully Falls hydro-electric scheme, prepared by our Government and being proceeded with by our Government, should be viewed by the Federal Government as national necessities and would be of untold benefit to Australia. We are entitled to look for real co-operation from the Federal Government in the form of financial assistance for these State developmental projects. Our Government's Burdekin River scheme is at least as important nationally as the Snowy River scheme, which has been the exclusive concern of the Federal Government for some time. Not only would the two State schemes open up thousands of acres of excellent farming land, but also tremendously increase the population in those areas. Increased farm output can only come if large numbers of new farmers are placed on the land and it is pleasing to know that our Premier has conferred with Governments in Western Europe on a rural migration plan.

The most alarming feature of the increased world population, now about 2,400 millions, is that it is pressing heavily upon available resources, particularly on food supplies. Some authorities say that as many as two-thirds of the human race do not have sufficient food to eat, and that at least one-third are suffering from malnutrition and will eventually die either from starvation or the effects of starvation.

It is to the hungry peoples of the world today that the mighty pressure of Communist propaganda is directing its insidious message. As never before in the history of mankind, human hunger is being exploited as a political force. We are in fact witnessing the politics of hunger in action. Communism is marshalling the millions of under-privileged and distressed people, particularly in the Asian countries and the Middle East, and promotes its mischief in the fields of poverty and discontent. There will be bitterness and increased disillusionment for the peoples who come under the crushing heel of the Red dictatorship but only the lapse of time will show that result, and in the present more is needed than just refuting Communist propaganda. The hungry peoples of the world need to be shown in practical fashion that the democratic nations mean what they say.

All the talk in the world about freedom will not accomplish anything unless it is backed by practical demonstrations of better systems of world development in human welfare.

The only telling argument to hungry people is food. When responsible people say that Australia has failed to make her due contribution to solving the world's greatest problem—the problem of food—it is a serious charge we

have to face. Unfortunately, the accusation has an accent too close to truth. At a time when international Communism exploits the hunger of millions to further its own ends, Australian food production is showing a disturbingly serious decline.

Personally, I am earnestly of opinion that Queensland's development in food production is one of the most important factors in our own and Australia's progress in world affairs and I will do all in my power to promote all projects and activities in my own and other electoral districts that this progressive Labour Government can devise and plan for the production of food, and for which it must demand, and should be given, early and adequate financial assistance by the Federal Government.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Hiley (on behalf of Mr. Nicklin), adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. J. E. DUGGAN (Toowoomba—Acting Premier): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.53 p.m.
