

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1953**

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there is a much greater demand for brake van and luggage van accommodation on long-distance trains. It is considered that the charges for long distances are not unreasonable, as the rate for a non-collapsible perambulator, when accompanying a passenger on a journey of 400 miles, is only 11s., and half this rate is charged for collapsible or folding go-carts accompanying passengers."

#### SURFACING OF SOUTHPORT-NERANG ROAD.

**Mr. GAVEN** (Southport) asked the Minister for Transport—

"In reference to the comparatively small section of the main road from Southport to Nerang which remains unbitumenised, a distance of about 2 miles, as this road is a main feeder road for a very considerable amount of traffic, will he kindly give consideration to the complete bitumen surfacing of such road in the programme for this year?"

**Hon. J. E. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba) replied—

"Funds are provided in the current year's programme for the bitumen surfacing of the remaining section on this road, and it is proposed to release the scheme as soon as possible."

#### WARWICK HIGH AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

**Mr. SPARKES** (Aubigny), for **Mr. MADSEN** (Warwick), asked the Secretary for Public Instruction—

"In reference to his advice to me on 4 February last that the Department of Public Works was giving consideration to the provision of additional accommodation for the Intermediate Section of the State High and Intermediate School at Warwick, in view of the rapid increase in the attendance at that section and the present acute shortage of accommodation, will he kindly advise what progress has been made and when this work is likely to be commenced?"

**Hon. G. H. DEVRIES** (Gregory) replied—

"The hon. member is advised that, following a preliminary investigation of enrolments at the Warwick High and Intermediate School earlier in the year, it was considered that additional accommodation would probably be necessary. A subsequent review of prospective enrolments for 1954 has shown, however, that the anticipated increase will not be realised and that the existing accommodation will be adequate for 1954. The matter has been discussed fully with the Principal, who concurs in the decision."

#### PAPERS.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under the Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1952.

Ordinance under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1952.

### TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER, 1953.

**Mr. SPEAKER** (Hon. J. H. Mann, Brisbane) took the chair at 11 a.m.

#### QUESTIONS.

##### RAIL CHARGES FOR PERAMBULATORS.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Mundingburra) asked the Minister for Transport—

"1. Is it a fact that perambulators and baby-carriages are carried free on short railway journeys while a stiff charge is made for longer journeys?"

"2. If so, does not this indicate discrimination against mothers and children living in the country?"

**Hon. J. E. DUGGAN** (Toowoomba) replied—

"1. and 2. All perambulators and baby carriages are not carried free, even on short journeys. However, children's folding or collapsible perambulators, go-carts, and push-carts, children's small sulkies with folding handles and shopping strollers, when folded up and accompanied by passengers travelling for a distance not in excess of 50 miles, are carried free of charge. This concession applies in all parts of the State. In restricting the concession to journeys of not more than 50 miles, the Department is influenced by the fact that

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT  
BILL.

THIRD READING.

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

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

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

AYES 36.

Mr. Adair	Mr. Jesson
.. Aikens	.. Keyatta
.. Brosnan	.. Larcombe
.. Brown	.. Marsden
.. Clark	.. McCathie
.. Collins	.. Moore
.. Davis	.. Moores
.. Devries	.. Rasey
.. Diplock	.. Riordan
Dr. Dittmer	.. Robinson
Mr. Dohring	.. Skinner
.. Donald	.. Taylor, J. R.
.. Duggan	.. Turner
.. Eastment	.. Walsh
.. English	.. Whyte
.. Gardner	
.. Graham	<i>Tellers :</i>
.. Gunn	.. Baxter
.. Hilton	.. Wood

NOES 15.

Mr. Bjelke-Petersen	Mr. Nicklin
.. Coburn	.. Pizzey
.. Dewar	.. Sparkes
.. Evans	.. Taylor, H. B.
.. Fletcher	
.. Heading	<i>Tellers :</i>
.. Hiley	.. Kerr
.. Morris	.. Roberts, L. H. S.
.. Munro	

Resolved in the affirmative.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE—FIFTH ALLOTTED  
DAY.

Debate resumed from 3 September (see p. 249) on Mr. Diplock's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) (11.14 a.m.): I join with other hon. members in associating myself with the expressions of loyalty contained in the Address so ably moved by the hon. member for Condamine and seconded by the hon. member for Nash. We Queenslanders are very fortunate in having such a leader as Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Royalty plays a major part in the life of each and every one of us who believes in loyalty to the British throne. It is because of our love for and devotion to our Royal Family that the British Empire has been able to remain the strong national force that it is today. Over the years we have seen nation after nation losing its monarchy whereas we find the British Empire stronger than ever, because we have retained our Royal Family.

The Coronation ceremony earlier this year, in which all members of the Commonwealth of Nations took part and at which representatives from Queensland were present was an event that will be remembered by each and every member of this Assembly as well

as by every citizen in this great State. Whilst we joined with the people of the British Empire in the Coronation ceremony of our Most Gracious Queen we are looking forward with greater anticipation than ever to the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh next year. There were remarkable expressions of loyalty at the Coronation but I am certain that when the Royal pair come to Queensland next year they will realise how deep and sincere is the loyalty of the people of Queensland. We Queenslanders are very fortunate in that we have such a fine Queen at our head and we can look forward to a long reign by an eminent ruler.

During 1953 we witnessed three remarkable events, the first being the Coronation of our Most Gracious Queen, the second the general election that took place on 7 May and the third the Federal Budget issued a few days ago by the Federal Treasurer. I know that the results of the general election were a very bitter pill to hon. members in Opposition, who have come back to the 33rd Parliament of Queensland with reduced numbers, but on the other hand it is very gratifying to the members of this Government to know that we have increased our membership in this Assembly. I think that Queensland people have shown very wise judgment in returning the Labour Party to the control of the Treasury Bench in this State. During the election campaign the Opposition used every known means of vilifying the Labour Party in a vain attempt to cajole the people of Queensland into putting the Labour Party out of power, but the people, having had a long experience of Labour administration, were not to be fooled, and so again we have a Labour Party in control of the Treasury Bench to carry on the good work that it has done for many years. That party stands today with a record unsurpassed by any State Government in Australia and Queensland because of the common-sense methods of its Government, is today the foremost State in the Commonwealth, notwithstanding lack of financial support from the Commonwealth Government.

A reading of the Governor's Speech discloses the fact that Queensland, despite the difficulties associated with its development, continues to show an increase in all industries. The first item of note is that the Queensland Government have shown a surplus of £190,000 for yet another financial year. That is proof of the capable handling of the finances of this State. It has been said—and it can be repeated—that finance is the test of good government, so that I think it can be said that we have been successful as a Government.

The value of the wool clip increased by over £13,000,000, the value of the sugar crop by £16,000,000 to £39,800,000, our wheat crop rose by 17,000,000 bushels, dairy production reached a very high level, as did also the production of beef.

Queensland has the capacity to increase its production in all forms of primary industry. The Government have kept their promise to the people of this State by continuing to construct irrigation and water-conservation

projects. If we are to develop this State to the fullest, we must embark on those projects. I believe that the money that has been spent on them so far has been justified, as also will be the money that is spent on them in the future. Many of our primary industries could be still further expanded by means of irrigation and water conservation. The farmers are now becoming more irrigation-minded. This is borne out by a question recently asked by a member of the Opposition about the possibility of farmers gaining access to the Marian weir. By taking advantage of the water stored there, farmers in that locality will be able to increase immensely the production of their farms.

Of great importance in the growth of Queensland is the development of secondary industries. Hitherto we may not have seen the expansion in them that we desire but it is encouraging to know that the number of factories in Queensland has increased by 148, to the record figure of 4,918. Many of those factories have been established outside Brisbane. It has always been admitted that factories must be decentralised for proper development, and it is to the advantage of those people who undertake the creation of new industries to get away from the metropolis. Naturally, it must also be to the advantage of the people living in those areas. The value of factory output in Queensland now stands at the tremendous figure of more than £33,000,000, and with the increase in population that is taking place in this State, Queensland cannot fail in the years that lie ahead to have a tremendous factory output.

Whilst mining in Queensland has declined in recent years, our fields are now beginning to show an increase in production. Queensland has a great mining potential. In the days gone by we saw towns such as Charters Towers, Gympie and Mount Morgan developed and although today Mount Isa and Mount Morgan are our only main mining fields, I believe there are great possibilities for expansion in the industry. Queensland is blessed with large quantities of all kinds of minerals, for example, copper, lead, zinc, tin, and gold, etc. It takes capital to develop these fields and although there has been a decline in mining production of recent years, a revival is now taking place and last year £23,000,000 came from this source. Coal is another very valuable asset to this State, and although there has been some development in this respect there are still almost unlimited opportunities for more work to be done. We have huge deposits at Blair Athol and Collinsville, in the South Moreton area, in the Mt. Molloy district in the Far North, and in the Killarney district in the South. I have said before, and I repeat, that it is tragic that the great Blair Athol coalfield is still undeveloped. We were told by the Press while the Premier of this State was in America that there was the possibility that American capital would be made available for its development and while that may be all right in one way, I personally should not like to see a valuable field like Blair Athol handed over to an American company for development. I think it should be developed from Australian resources and its value kept in this country.

Perhaps it is unfortunate that we have such great coal deposits; and if we had less of them there might be greater development of those we had because there is a lack of concentrated development of specially selected fields. Unfortunately, too, it has been necessary to import coal from other countries of the world, when we really have enough coal in Queensland and Australia to meet all the requirements of our own industries. It is to be hoped that wise judgment will prevail when the subject of Blair Athol is again considered.

Over the years there has been a constant agitation by the people in the Mackay district for the development of the area between Blair Athol and Mackay, who have urged that a railway should be built to exploit the Blair Athol coalfield, but nothing has been done in that direction by the Government. They have not signified their intention of giving any help or of doing anything in regard to the scheme. I should like to remind hon. members that within recent years 12,000 people in the Mackay area signed a petition, which was presented to this Government, asking that consideration be given to the building of a railway into the Mackay hinterland. I do not think that any Government can consistently by-pass such a project, because Mackay is one of the areas in Queensland that offer opportunities for closer settlement and development generally, perhaps the only area.

Much has been said by hon. members opposite and others on the subject of railway construction leading to expansion and development in the State. If we are to develop the Mackay hinterland and thus open the way to closer settlement, a railway will have to be built. Perhaps it could not be justified for coal production alone, and if that only was suggested I might be inclined to say that seeing that we have so many coalfields in the State the expense of building a railway to cater for the coal trade alone might not be warranted, but the Mackay hinterland in the area approximately 100 to 150 miles to the west offers opportunity for closer settlement and other development apart from the production of coal.

With the constant inflow of migrants it is essential that industry be developed in order to absorb them in full-time work. Up to the present we have developed the Mackay area purely by means of the sugar industry but although that industry has done much to develop Mackay and its surrounding area, in particular, I believe it is unwise to rely on it exclusively. Owing to world conditions, it is possible that that industry is not capable of much further expansion. Admittedly, the signing of the International Sugar Agreement a few weeks ago in London has given more stability and encouragement to that industry and the people engaged in it than it had before, but if we are to give security to the people of Queensland we must endeavour to bring about the development of other industries in the areas where sugar is being produced.

Reverting to the plea by the people of my district for the construction of a railway to the west of Mackay, I say that no

Government can consistently refuse to recognise their claims, because that area is capable of settling many thousands more people than it supports now. It has been proved by tests—and further tests are being carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Stock in the Nebo area—that this land is very suitable for various forms of primary production. If transport was available and the country was opened up it would provide the opportunity for the local people and migrants to settle on the land, just as the people settled on the land when the line was built from Rockhampton and from Mackay to Townsville. I believe that many migrants coming from the rural areas of Central Europe are eager to get away from the crowded cities and go to our hinterland and use the land to make a livelihood. The Government should endeavour to satisfy the many thousands of land-hungry people who wish to help us develop Queensland.

Attacks have been made by the Opposition on the Government's land-settlement policy. I do not set myself up as an authority on that subject—there are members on the Government side who are very familiar with the whole question—but there is no foundation in the charge made by the Opposition that the Government have failed to honour their promises in regard to the settlement of returned soldiers on the land. I believe that this Government have done all they were expected to do to honour their promises. There are members on the Opposition side who are returned soldiers who endeavour to use the R.S.S.A.I.L.L.A. as a political football, although the league is non-sectarian and non-political. There are members opposite who would make the league political if they thought it would bring about the defeat of the Labour Government. It is an organisation that has done and is doing a tremendous amount of work for the returned soldiers, but many of its members would turn it into a political machine or political party or use it to help a political party. To all those who are in it I say beware of such people. In regard to land settlement particularly I believe there are members sitting on the Opposition benches who would use this organisation for their own aggrandisement.

**Mr. Morris:** You know that is not true, so why say it?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I am saying it is true and I mean every word of what I say. I repeat that I believe there are men sitting on the Opposition benches today who would use the R.S.S.A.I.L.L.A. for their own political aggrandisement.

**Mr. Morris:** You are pulling your own leg.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I am not pulling my own leg; I know it is true.

As I have said, a third very important matter of concern to this State is the introduction of the Budget in the Federal Parliament. It is interesting to hear the comments not only of supporters of the Labour Party

but supporters of the Menzies-Fadden Government. With all the bombast and ballyhoo of which newspapers are capable, the people of Queensland were fooled into the belief that when the Federal Budget was introduced the people would receive great benefits from this so-called munificent Menzies-Fadden Government. Now that the Budget has been brought down in Canberra, what do we find? Newspapers and various political organisations have attacked it.

**Mr. Morris:** And you are going to attack it.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Yes; I intend to attack it. It is what one would expect from the Menzies-Fadden Government. They have given concessions to their own supporters—it is these people who have got the hand-outs. The people who do not support them get nothing, for instance, the generous grant of 2s. 6d. a week to age pensioners! In the field of taxation we go from the sublime to the ridiculous. There is a substantial remission of company taxation, the excise duty on a bottle of whisky has been reduced, but nothing is given to the drinkers of that good old beverage, beer.

**Mr. Morris:** It would be of some benefit to you.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** It would not be of much benefit to me, because I am not a very strong drinker, although certainly I like a glass of beer at times. But to thousands of workers in industry beer is their national drink. The Menzies-Fadden Government have bled this country white by their taxation policy and now, having inflicted a series of body punches that brought Australia's economy to its knees, they are trying to bolster up the position by giving these hand-outs. Considering the tremendous taxation burden the people of Australia have carried over the years, they are entitled, now the corner has been turned, to some bigger relief than has been afforded by the 1953 Commonwealth Budget. Sir Arthur Fadden cannot justify the retention of the huge amount of money that he has taken from the people of Australia. Even though he has given a remission of £81,000,000, he is still taking as much as, if not more than, he did three years ago.

**Mr. Morris:** Rubbish!

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Take the figures that have been supplied by people who are better judges than I am. The Federal Treasurer proposes to extract a total of £874,000,000 from the taxpayer, and this is only £10,000,000 less than the amount levied last year! Despite his concessions, he expects to collect £18,000,000 more in indirect taxation, and this affects the little man, the wage-earner. Although direct taxation will be £29,000,000 less, at £583,000,000, one has only to appreciate the population of this nation to understand what this taxation burden means. This year's Budget total is £874,000,000 whereas the Chifley Government levied only £519,000,000. The taxpayers can draw their own conclusions as to the

worth of the present so-called concessions. They will be paying £255,000,000 more than they did in 1949.

**Mr. Morris:** Then why is it that you are saving £1 a week as a result of that Budget?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Who is saving £1 a week?

**Mr. Morris:** You are.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The hon. member must have seen my bank account. Let him ask the people in industry how much they are saving. The Menzies-Fadden Government were returned on their promises to put value back into the £ and to reduce taxation, and it has taken them nearly three years to do it. Even so, they are merely putting it into one pocket and taking it out of the other. They cannot justify their present high-taxation policy. Take their attitude to the people who are most in need of financial help, the age pensioners. They should be given more than 2s. 6d. a week.

**Mr. Sparkes:** I suppose you will not take the increase?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I am honest enough to take anything to which I believe I am entitled. I presume the hon. member is referring to the salary increase?

**Mr. Sparkes:** I am referring to the pension.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I do not object to taxation if it is fair and reasonable. I believe every person who is able should make some contribution to the national income of Australia.

**Mr. Morris:** Do you believe everybody should?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Everybody who is in a position to do so should make some contribution to the national income. When I was working in industry I never complained about taxation when it was fair and reasonable, but I am objecting now, just as the millions of other workers in industry are objecting because the present Federal Government are extorting money from them by both direct and indirect taxation. The worker in industry carries the burden of both forms of taxation. He pays indirectly through sales tax and in other ways, and the Menzies-Fadden Government know that only too well.

If the Federal Government believe that the present Budget will save their hides at the next Federal election, they "have another think coming." I do not think that the people of Australia will accept this Budget with the same enthusiasm as that in which the Menzies-Fadden Government put it forward. If anybody wants cheering up it is the Opposition Party because if condemnation of the Budget came only from the supporters of Labour, one perhaps could understand it, but this Budget has been attacked not only by Labour but by the supporters of the Menzies-Fadden Government themselves. We read their statements in the Press attacking the Budget; there is a statement by Sir Raymond Huish against the Budget and one could not say that he was a

supporter of Labour. He condemned the Menzies-Fadden Government. We have had also statements by other prominent people and I have in my hand a newspaper, which does not support the Labour Party, that says, "It is not good enough, Sir Arthur."

**Mr. Heading:** Which paper?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** The hon. member can buy the paper; I had to buy this one. The supporters of the Opposition are attacking the Federal Government.

**Mr. Morris:** Are you quoting from "The Worker"?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** No. And so I say, if anybody needs cheering up it will be the Menzies-Fadden Government. We on this side of the House can look forward with keen anticipation and enthusiasm to the return of Labour in the Federal sphere and that return will be the stimulus that Australia requires. The Menzies-Fadden Government have done nothing during their term of office but hinder the progress of this great nation and the defeat of that Government would be a blessing to Australia.

**Mr. Morris:** What paper did you quote from?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I am not prepared to give the hon. member for Mount Coot-tha that information. Here is the newspaper and it says, "It is not good enough, Sir Arthur." I concur in those words. The Menzies-Fadden Government have done a disservice to this nation.

The problem of the development of North Queensland, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has been discussed by many hon. members in this Assembly and we have heard much said about the opportunities for development that part of our State offers. As a Queenslanders I believe that it is the responsibility not only of the Queensland Labour Government but of the Federal Government too, and I say that the Federal Government have failed to do the things they should have done—

**Mr. Pizzey:** What did Labour do when in office?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Considerably more than the Menzies-Fadden Government have done. Even if the Labour Party had done anything, that would be no excuse for the Menzies-Fadden Government's failure to do nothing, because they have a responsibility for the development of North Queensland. The Opposition cannot justify their neglect of the North. The Menzies-Fadden Government stand condemned for their lack of defence work done in the North. We might well ask: what have they done? Not one prominent defence work has been established in the whole of Queensland.

**An Opposition Member:** What about Manus Island?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** That is some 2,000 miles away. There is good reason to condemn the Federal Government on their defence programme. If one had the time one could

show the people of Australia that whilst the Menzies-Fadden Government have extorted huge sums of money from them in taxation they have wilfully and neglectfully wasted much of that money in their defence programme.

What can we show in Queensland for the defence expenditure of the Federal Government? Indeed, what can we show in Australia? If you walked down Queen Street tomorrow you would see quite a few soldiers in uniform—

**Mr. Morris:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Nothing at all. About the only things they have not provided the average soldier with is lipstick and a powder puff. It has been a waste of good money to keep so many men in the permanent army when industry is crying out for manpower.

**Mr. Morris:** Do you not believe in having a trained army?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Of course I do. I have just as high a conception of Australia's needs as the hon. member for Mount Coot-tha, and I should be the last to do anything that would jeopardise this nation's defence. However, I fail to see how the Menzies-Fadden Government can justify their huge defence expenditure. They cannot show us one permanent defence measure in Queensland for which they are responsible.

**Mr. Morris:** What do you call a defence measure?

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I do not know that I have the qualifications to determine what is a defence measure, but what can Queensland show for the money that the Menzies-Fadden Government are spending on defence?

Another matter on which I should like to speak is the milk position in Mackay. Many people in Queensland are not aware of the fact that because of the dry season there has been a milk shortage in Mackay, with the result that the people there have been seriously inconvenienced. Efforts were made by various people—and I give full marks to the hon. member for Whitsunday for what he has done—to overcome the milk shortage by requesting the Port Curtis Dairy Co., which has the franchise for the distribution of milk in Mackay, to supply enough milk to meet Mackay's needs. However, because finance was required the Port Curtis Dairy Co. refused to import milk into Mackay as it had done during previous shortages. I have tried to show the Minister concerned that the P.C.D.C. has some responsibility in this matter. As it has the franchise, it should accept the responsibility of maintaining supplies. However, because that company has also the franchise to supply milk to Proserpine, Collinsville and Bowen, the Mackay people have been inconvenienced.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. RASEY (Windsor) (11.54 a.m.):** I desire to join with other members of this

Assembly in their expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I feel sure that all members of this Parliament, as well as the people of Australia as a whole, are looking forward keenly to Her Majesty's visit to this country next year.

I should like also to pay a very well deserved compliment to His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Lavarack. It has been said many times in this Chamber—a good thing is worth repeating—that in Sir John we have a native-born Queenslander, a man who has distinguished himself not only by his impartiality but also by his kindness and honesty in all his activities. At the present moment he is travelling throughout the length and breadth of the State and I am certain that the people generally will benefit from his observations.

Speaking of His Excellency reminds me of a matter about which I desire to voice my protest and I should say the protests of many other ex-Diggers in Queensland. I refer to that little piece of propaganda that was launched in Brisbane just before the last Senate elections. I think that all political parties should stand on their own feet and not seek political support in patriotism. Patriotism is the privilege of all of us and I believe it is shared by all sections of the community. The incident to which I refer was the one in which Mr. Menzies took the salute when the troops had returned from Korea. Even "The Courier-Mail," which at all times supports the Menzies-Fadden Government, condemned the Prime Minister on that occasion and I am sure that if some other politician than Mr. Menzies had taken the salute "The Courier-Mail" would have come out with a strong condemnation right across its front page. "The Courier-Mail" found it necessary to condemn a man so steeped in party politics as Mr. Menzies for taking it unto himself to take the salute when the men returned to this country and his action was condemned by other newspapers throughout Australia. At the same time our own Governor, Sir John Lavarack, a distinguished soldier, a red-blooded soldier, was here in Brisbane at Government House. He was the representative of Her Majesty in this State and he could have been asked to take the salute when the soldiers returned from the Korean war. I want to say with all determination and in the language of the average soldier that it was absolutely disgraceful that a distinguished red-blooded soldier like Sir John Lavarack should be confined to barracks as it were at Government House while a daffodil politician took the salute.

**Mr. H. B. Taylor:** What about the desires of the Governor-General?

**Mr. RASEY:** Never mind about that. I am repeating what people have said to me and what hundreds of others have said as well. Hon. members opposite like to have their own way all the time and they protest when someone has the courage and the common sense to tell them what other people have said.

I desire to congratulate the hon. member for Condamine and the hon. member for Nash on their excellent speeches in moving and seconding the Address in Reply. It is just three years ago that I had the honour of seconding the Address in Reply and I know the strain it is to come into the House and speak here for the first time. I congratulate both hon. members on the subject matter of their speeches, too.

I should also like to congratulate the hon. member for Cunningham, Mr. Fletcher, on his maiden speech. Irrespective of party it is of importance that a man who comes into this House should have the stability, integrity, and decency to speak and represent the people who sent him here. The hon. member for Cunningham, in his maiden speech, undoubtedly spoke with that conviction that was bred of confidence and knowledge of his life's calling.

I want to pay those tributes to those hon. members on both sides of the House for their excellent maiden speeches. I desire to congratulate you, too, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to the high office and Mr. Clark on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I desire to congratulate also the members of the Cabinet on their reappointment. I should say that Queensland has one of the best Cabinets in Australia. It is well balanced, for one thing. The men in the Cabinet come from different walks of life, and they are men of stability.

**An Opposition Member:** How many farmers?

**Mr. RASEY:** The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock is a practical farmer. He has been frequently eulogised at our National Exhibition and referred to as a practical farmer. As a result of my travels throughout the State, I am convinced that an enormous number of farmers vote for the Labour Party. Farmers have told me that they much prefer the Labour Party to the Liberal Party. Many of them agree with our policy and support it.

I wish to congratulate, especially, the Premier, Hon. V. C. Gair, who will be returning in a few days' time. He acquitted himself with honour and distinction at the recent sugar conference, the result of which meant so much to Queensland.

I wish to thank the electors of Windsor for returning me with a majority of over 2,000. I had a small majority on my first election, and I said when I entered this House that I would endeavour to serve the people. I believe that the very big majorities in Labour electorates were attributable to some extent to the lack of confidence the people generally felt in the Federal Government. I am grateful, I repeat, to the people of Windsor for my return and I wish particularly to thank those who serve on voluntary organisations. Their activities have enabled me to be a public relations officer for the people. Apart from sitting in this House, making speeches, and attending meetings, one of the important things for a member is the relationship he has with the organisations

in his area, irrespective of their political colour. Owing to our complex economic set-up there are many things a member could not do if it were not for the work of the voluntary organisations, which enables him to act as a public relations officer. I should not have been able to make all the representations I have made in connection with schools, libraries, the girl guides and boy scouts, for example, were it not for the public-spirited people who help me to carry out my job. Very often the work of these people is not mentioned.

I wish to thank also the many officers of the Public Service for their assistance, which helped to enable me to come back with an increased majority.

I wish now to refer to certain propaganda used by the Leader of the Opposition at the last election. I refer to statements in the "As I see it" column and a printed statement attacking the industrial groups. During the election campaign matter was published in "The Courier-Mail", "The Telegraph", and in country newspapers attacking them. The Leader of the Opposition went round attacking industrial groups, that is, attacking the Labour Party for its own domestic policy. In at least one statement my name was mentioned, and it was suggested that we were using Fascist tactics and were disciples of Mussolini. Such statements only connect the Leader of the Opposition with the Communists, and their fellow-travellers.

The newspapers and the people of Australia for a number of years were screaming out for something to be done about Communism. I have no time at all for Communism. In my 12 or 13 years as a member of the Labour Movement and Trade Unions I saw the machinations of the Communist Party and know how its militant section groups, as they are called, get men whom they know to be Communists into trade unions and movements and other organisations. Knowing all these things I was willing to act on behalf of the Labour Party—I had carried on the work in the Transport Union for years—in giving advice and assistance on how to eradicate Communists and Communistic control from trade unions. We saw in a leading article in the Press the call for everybody to fight Communism. At least I have done my best. I have had my own men, who got in as members of groups set up by the Communist Party. Consequently I knew everything that was going on. I knew that the only way to fight them was by organisation. The Communist Party gives directions that are obeyed implicitly by its members but in marked contrast to the Communists' directions to its militant sections, we have the fact that in the process of building up these industrial groups from the time of Messrs. Walsh, Bukowski and myself to the time of Messrs. Bukowski, Brosnan, and myself, no directions have ever been given to us.

We have explained to the members of the trade unions that we three men were merely there to guide and help them and to train them to take their places as chairmen or presidents of their unions and on the executives of their unions. The hon. member for

Fortitude Valley said the other day that they appoint their own chairmen and secretaries. At no time have we endeavoured to stand over them. I am proud of the fact that I have endeavoured—and to the best of my knowledge have succeeded—in doing this job properly, and it was humbug and hypocrisy for the Leader of the Opposition at the time of the general election to go out on the hustings and connect me with the Communists and their fellow-travellers. The writers of such journals as "The Guardian," which at times has devoted a full page to me, and a rag like "The Wharfie" and many other Communist journals, have criticised my activities but I have a clear conscience. If the Leader of the Opposition's conscience is as clear in relation to his tying up with the Communists, the half-baked Communists, and their fellow-travellers, he is welcome to it. It was propaganda of a very poor type. If the Leader of the Opposition likes putting his chin out and sinks to that type of propaganda he must put up with the consequences. During the election campaign and after it, and for the past few weeks in particular, he has done nothing else but attack the Labour Party on its domestic side. I would remind him of the old proverb that people in glass houses should not throw stones and add to it that people in glass houses should pull down the blinds. The Leader of the Opposition says that he leads the Opposition, consisting of the Country Party and the Liberal Party, and he made quite a lot of noise about the fact that the Labour Convention was postponed until after the last general election. At least we hold our convention just before an election or, as on this case, immediately after an election, consequently we are able to go before the people at election time with a clearly defined policy. This is altogether different from the Country and Liberal Party, who hold their convention as far away as possible from the date of an election, because they have nothing to put before the people. We have nothing to hide. We have nothing to be ashamed of. We do not engage in window-dressing.

The people exercise their democratic right in elections. At a Labour Convention will be found probably 300 or 400 items on the agenda paper. Everything is discussed. A constructive policy comes before us. But what of a Liberal Party or a Country Party convention? The Liberal Party convention held recently was so unproductive and anaemic that really it was ludicrous. On the other hand, we are able to manage our own affairs without any interference from the Leader of the Opposition. Like the married couple, we might fight like hell amongst ourselves, but let anyone interfere with us and we will deal with him promptly. I shall be retiring shortly from my position as a member of the inner executive of the Q.C.E. because a number of small unions have nominated their delegates, but I am proud of having served in that capacity for a number of years, and because of that experience I am able to say that every decision arrived at by Labour Convention has been decided on its merits, and at no time have we tried to interfere with the policy of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Let us examine what happened at this inglorious convention of the Liberal Party. It set up an industrial relations committee and appointed Mr. J. D. Herbert to organise on its behalf. He was told, "We have got to get into the unions. We must try to alienate unionists from the Labour Party." As an example of how unsuccessful his efforts have been, I quote the following from "The Brisbane Telegraph" of 3 September of this year—

"Concern at Union Apathy.

"The apathy of the average member to his union affairs was causing concern to Industrial Relations Committee members of the Queensland Liberal Party.

"This was stated at the party's annual convention in Brisbane today by the Chairman of the Committee (Mr. J. D. Herbert).

"He said the apathy applied to many party members with union tickets.

"Many who were in a position to strengthen the Party's ranks had so far not volunteered.

"In his Executive report the President (Mr. C. G. Wanstall) said the State Election campaign was run on a shoe-string and the results should be appraised with that fact in mind.

"The Executive decided deliberately on a minimum budget for this campaign because it was realised that the national situation demanded the conservation of resources—including potential donations—for the Senate campaign."

What an indictment! In the first place, Mr. Herbert was a lone wolf crying in the wilderness. He had nobody round him. He was sent up to try to get in some propaganda for the Liberal Party, which believed that union members would be stupid enough to fall for it.

Then we had Mr. Wanstall saying that the State election campaign was run on a shoe-string. The Liberal Party was unable to get donations because nobody had any confidence in it. What business man would want to support the Liberal Party in the State House? It was in need of donations because Big Ming, Big Bob Menzies, told them and others to keep out of his campaign because he was going to the people not as the Liberal Party but as the Menzies Party. I have never seen such a newspaper publicity build-up as was given to Bob Menzies during the Senate campaign. The newspapers called his party the Menzies Party. The State Liberal Party could not get any money because Bob Menzies had obtained it from the banks and other big people.

There are many other things that happened at this Liberal Convention. It was so bereft of constructive ideas that the Press featured some of the momentous discussions that took place there. There was even mention of men who did not pay up under maintenance orders obtained by their wives. I think legislation should be introduced on that matter. The hon. member for Coorparoo had much to say about it, but Parliament is the

place to raise the question and make suggestions. Although I believe that these men, who may be termed wife-starvers, should be forced to support their families, this is the place to discuss the question. I am pointing out how bereft the convention was of constructive ideas.

Another item that reached headlines was the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the Police Force. The idea was to sap the confidence of the people in the Police Force. One of the great things discussed at this convention, according to "The Sunday Mail" of 6 September, 1953 was—

"Mr. Wilson said that in the 'body in the river' case Leonard Thoms had been denied access to his solicitor for four hours.

"Thoms, on the evidence of a witness, had been 'bundled unceremoniously' into a taxi, but the police said he had gone to the police station voluntarily, Mr. Wilson said."

According to the Press the convention had a long discussion on that matter. Fancy a disreputable criminal like Thoms, a man with a record as long as one's arm, being discussed by the Liberal Convention! Why, Mr. Speaker, decent citizens would not even bother discussing him.

The Leader of the Opposition claims to be responsible to a certain degree for the Opposition—the parties come to us as a united party—and so I say that he wants to pull down the blinds because reports in "The Courier-Mail" and other papers do not show him up in a good light. At the same Liberal Party convention the question of social service was discussed and to show the attitude of mind of the Liberals, I will read this newspaper article—

"The Federal Government social-services policy was criticised sharply by Dr. D. F. Millar, State vice-president, at the Liberal Party State convention yesterday.

"In a dramatic reply Mr. G. Pearce, Federal member for Capricornia, said he would not feel free to support any decision opposing the policy.

"By a 60 per cent. majority, delegates rejected a Northgate branch motion expressing alarm at the increasing Federal Government's social services vote."

You can see from that, Mr. Speaker, that some sections of the Liberal Party would cut down the expenditure for social services to the people. That is indicated by the motion that the convention passed showing that 40 per cent. of them want to cut down social services. Is it any wonder that people are criticising them?

Now I want to come to something very pleasing. Today is a lovely day; on a day like this I could even be in complete accord with the Liberals. "The Courier-Mail" of 5 September has this report—

"Members clash at Liberal meeting.

"Two Federal members clashed at the Liberal Party's State Convention yesterday on how Federal Cabinet should be selected.

"Mr. Hulme said that the party should operate more democratically at Canberra. Its democratic working ceased on the election of members and their election of a leader."

"Ministers should be more responsible to party members than to the leader, who chose his Cabinet, Mr. Hulme said.

"Parliament had been in recess for five months, but there had been no party meeting.

"Nearly 100 per cent. rank and file members favour abolition of the means test, but it is being passively resisted by the Cabinet," Mr. Hulme said.

"The Budget next week, in my opinion, will not indicate its abolition."

There we have bureaucracy in its worst form. Mr. Hulme said that there was a 5-months' recess and no party meeting. I understand from men in Canberra that very seldom do they hold a party meeting, even when Parliament is in session. In Queensland we have our party meetings each week, but in Canberra they are held not at all when Parliament is in recess and very seldom when it is in session. As a matter of fact, during the period of five months that Alan Hulme was speaking about more than half the Federal Cabinet were in England at the Coronation, and the rest of them were at Brunette Downs attending a big party. The Rt. Hon. Robert Gordon Menzies leaves the government of this nation during such a critical time to the tender mercies of his officers in Canberra. Did we ever have a more scathing indictment of a Cabinet than was put forward by the hon. member for Petrie in the Federal Parliament, Mr. Alan Hulme? In Queensland, and throughout Australia, the Labour Party has its weekly meetings. Caucus is often abused by the Opposition and the Press, but we are at least proud of the fact that from week to week the feelings of the people can be brought before their elected representatives. According to Mr. Hulme, however, those people of Australia with Liberal members of Parliament representing them in the Federal House, are disfranchised for long periods at a time. They have no-one to approach. No wonder the people of Australia have expressed themselves so forcibly in the various by-elections that have been held in Federal electorates during the last 12 months!

I will go on to quote something else that took place at the Liberal Party Convention. This is the gem of them all! I quote from "The Courier-Mail" of Friday, 4 September, 1953. This is what it says—

"Political Publicity Vital, Liberals Told.

"The day of the kid glove politician is over," a delegate claimed at yesterday's State Liberal Party Convention.

"He is Mr. K. Toombes, of Auchenflower branch, who criticised State Liberal members for 'a lack of public relations sense.'

"The public are an unintelligent lot," Mr. Toombes said. "They are interested only in display, and it is up to State Liberal members to give them display. Publicity is the thing."

“Resolutions criticising State members were postponed by the conference president (Mr. C. G. Wanstall) until after Parliament adjourned yesterday.

“Several Liberal members hurried from Parliament to the conference room to defend themselves.

“Mr. A. Dewar, M.L.A. for Cherm-side, said: ‘Members of the Liberal Party are not prepared to be Aunt Sallies for the Labour Party and their Liberal colleagues as well.’

“‘State Liberal members are talking continuously, attacking wastage of public funds on Government projects, and on other matters where Queensland’s development is concerned. If delegates are not aware of their members’ efforts, that is not the fault of the members,’ Mr. Dewar added.

“On the charge that State members were lacking in a public relations sense, Convention decided that the resolution should be altered to provide for the appointment of a committee to investigate why speeches and statements by parliamentary members were not publicised more fully.”

I will tell them why afterwards. The report continues—

“A Rockhampton resolution that State members be instructed to give fuller co-operation to Federal members in their fight for Queensland advancement was defeated.

“The State Liberal Leader (Mr. Hiley) said that State members felt the ‘boot of complaint was on the other foot’.

“In other States we see important works being carried out, but where is one important Federal project being done in Queensland? he asked.

“In other ways, the Federal Government often showed a lack of co-operation, he claimed. For instance, I am one of those who believe the Commonwealth Government Health Scheme will be a fine thing for Australia . . .”

Listen to this one—

“ . . . but it was presented in such an appalling way that we State members went to our Federal colleagues for guidance, Mr. Hiley said. We found them saying, ‘We don’t know what are the facts about this’.”

I come now to the gem of them all—

“Mr. Dewar said: ‘We have no quarrel with individual Federal members, but we have a terrific quarrel with the powers that be in Canberra’.”

What a shocking commentary on Country-Liberal administration at Canberra! The State Treasurer has roundly condemned the Federal Government for not doing the right thing by this State and he is ably supported by the Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Hiley, and the hon. member for Cherm-side, Mr. Dewar. The hon. member for Cherm-side and his colleagues really got off their horses to the Federal Government. I can just visualise the hon. member for Cherm-side running round like a little Pomeranian getting all excited about his strictures on members of the Liberal Party. The delegates

at the convention said, in effect, that the public were a lot of mugs, an unintelligent lot, and in any case the Liberal Party would push their spurious propaganda down their throats. That is how they get control of the Treasury bench at Canberra, and that is why there is no full measure of production under their administration. Is it any wonder that I say to the Opposition that people who live in glass houses should pull down the blinds? Let them stop interfering in the domestic arrangements of the Labour Party and look after their own affairs. As a matter of fact, we have had a bit of a dog-fight here at times between the Treasurer and the hon. member for Fassifern, Mr. Muller. The Treasurer, like the bulldog that he is, gets his teeth in and hangs on, and the hon. member for Fassifern, like a bull terrier, refuses to let go too. I give the hon. member for Fassifern credit for being a good fighter on the other side of the House and one of the most effective speakers over there, but even he found it necessary to apologise on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. On the other hand we had the hon. member for Cherm-side running round, as I said, like a little Pomeranian, and he dives into the fight, grabs the bull terrier, the hon. member for Fassifern, by the hind legs.

The Menzies-Fadden Government have squandered the people’s money by setting up unnecessary secretariats in the different Government departments. They have lived luxuriously when travelling unnecessarily overseas. On the one hand they have set up unnecessary secretariats with highly-paid staff, while manual workers have been put off in order to bring about the unemployment that the Commonwealth Government hope to see. The whole thing is nothing but a scandal.

**An Opposition Member:** What about Dr. Evatt?

**Mr. RASEY:** Dr. Evatt went over in connection with U.N.O. He was acclaimed as the most brilliant man who ever went over to the U.N.O. Mr. Chifey only went overseas for the good of Australia, and when his work was finished he came straight back. On the other hand all the present Federal Cabinet Ministers who went overseas—almost without exception—had a trip back through America, which was absolutely unnecessary.

**Mr. Aikens:** What about the Premier?

**Mr. RASEY:** He went over to attend the Coronation, and he had business to do in America. All the Federal Ministers who have gone overseas have taken their families with them and incurred great expenditure.

I will close on this note: from Parliament to Parliament during the debate on the Address in Reply, the Labour Party has put a constructive programme before the people. The amendments that emanated from Labour’s Convention have been creditable and have proved of great benefit to the people of Queensland. On the other hand the discussion at the Liberal Convention and the campaign carried out by the Opposition during the last election indicate clearly to the people that if

by any accident the Opposition parties got on the Treasury Benches they would be able to discuss only paltry things. I advise the Leader of the Opposition to take the advice given by "The Courier-Mail" about 18 months ago, that if they desired to control the Treasury bench they should cut out carping criticism and wash-tub talk about the domestic affairs of the Labour Party and endeavour to deal with national matters. Instead of talking about the domestic affairs of the Labour Party the Leader of the Opposition should look into the affairs of his own and the Liberal Party.

(Time expired).

**Mr. GAVEN** (Southport) (12.33 p.m.): I desire to thank the electors of Southport for the signal honour conferred on me in re-electing me as their representative in this Assembly. They sent me back with an increased majority of over 2,000 votes.

**Opposition Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. GAVEN:** Despite the efforts of my opponents, apparently the people were happy to place their trust in me again. Whilst I do not wish to appear egotistical I promise that I will give them the same honest and fearless representation as I have given them in the past and that at all times I will speak as my conscience guides me. I will not be guided by anybody; I will speak as I think; and if I cannot do that I will go back to my electorate and carry on the useful work that I was doing before I was elected.

I wish to extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my heartiest congratulations on your election to the very high office of Speaker to this House. I have found you at all times to be very fair and impartial, and I think you carry out the duties of your position very capably. I hope you will continue in that office for many years. We members of the Opposition do not have an opportunity to cast a vote for your election, but I think that you carry out your duties in a very satisfactory manner.

I associate myself too with other hon. members in congratulating the Chairman of Committees on his election to such an important office in this Parliament. I greatly regret the passing of the late Mr. Farrell, who was his predecessor in that office. So far as the political world is concerned, I did not know much of Mr. Farrell but he roomed with me on the top floor of the Lodge. That is how one can find the goodness in a man—rooming with him. I found the late Mr. Farrell a thorough gentleman, with a kindly disposition, and at all times ready and willing to help his fellow-men, irrespective of their politics or party. It is men like him that this country can ill afford to lose.

Again I associate myself with the expressions of loyalty to that illustrious young lady, our most gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. This year of her coronation has been an inspiration to most of the members of the British Empire. It has been an uplifting to our people and it has played a very

important part in the welding or cementing together of the friendship of the nations of the British Commonwealth. I believe that her visit to these shores next year, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will play a very important part in the keeping together of our nation. We shall then have the opportunity of expressing our loyalty to her once again.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion. These hon. members made very good contributions to this debate. They made their statements fearlessly. I congratulate also the only new member on this side of the House, the hon. member for Cunningham. He made an excellent contribution to the debate and showed very clearly that he is a man of the land who thoroughly understood his job. This House could do with more members representing the man on the land.

I listened very attentively and with great interest to His Excellency's Speech at the opening of this Parliament and was very impressed by it. We are very fortunate in having a man of the ability of Sir John Lavarack as Governor of Queensland. He has visited remote parts of this State. He has travelled the length and breadth of Queensland and gone to every corner, so to speak, to meet the people and see for himself the conditions under which they live when carrying on their very important work of primary production.

His Excellency the Governor pointed out in his Speech that one of the most important matters for our consideration at the present time is the production of food. In this respect a matter of very vital concern at the moment, and a question that is very much alive, is the racket in the potato business. From time to time in the last 12 months we have heard that price control is preventing the producers of potatoes from getting a fair and right price for their commodity but at the same time we find that the consumers, the housewives in the cities and towns, are unable to get potatoes at a fair price. The producer should get what he is justly entitled to and the housewife should have the opportunity of buying potatoes at a fair and equitable price. I have been associated with the potato industry for over 30 years and know the game of growing potatoes inside and out but I say here deliberately today that the Commissioner of Prices created a position that is absolutely ridiculous. I will not exonerate the Board either; I will deal with it as I develop my argument.

As we see it today, the position is absolutely ludicrous. The quickest and most assured way of bringing potatoes back to the dining tables of the capital city and other cities and towns and consumers elsewhere in Queensland is to abolish price-fixing control immediately. I do not want it to be thought that I am making this statement because the Attorney-General is not at present in the Chamber to hear my statement. I am not making an attack on him as the Minister in charge of price-fixing,

because there is no member that I respect more than the Attorney-General. I know it is not possible for him to be present today but I desire to develop my case as I have noted it and to offer him advice. Abolish control of potatoes tomorrow morning and inside of 12 months the present position would right itself. Potatoes might get a little dearer immediately after price-control was lifted, because many people did not plant them this year because they thought the price fixed and the price offered would not return them cost of production plus a reasonable profit.

Let me explain how potatoes are produced. First, a man has to expend a considerable amount of capital on buying land. After he buys it he has to pay land tax and shire rates. He must work the land and he has to buy machinery, petrol, kerosene, oil and the other things necessary for working. He must work it properly. He cannot prepare his ground today and plant tomorrow. After the ground is prepared he has to buy seed. The seed for the crop coming forward now costs the potato-grower from £4 to £4 10s. a bag. He has to import seed from Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, and even as far as Western Australia. The Woodstock growers had to buy their seed for the present crop from Western Australia at a cost of from £4 to £4 8s. a bag. After paying anything from £4 8s. to £4 10s. a bag for seed potatoes, after working the ground, after fertilising it and after paying for the harvesting, they are offered £2 10s. a bag for their potatoes! Where is the incentive in that?

Last year I went to Sydney and on the way passed tens of thousands of bags of Queensland potatoes going to the Sydney market on low loaders. On the three- and four-mile stretches of the New England Highway one could see nothing but low loaders loaded with bags of potatoes. At that time the fixed price in Queensland was £14 13s. 4d. a ton. There was a glut here. The Potato Marketing Board told the farmers not to send in their crops. It said that it could not handle them, that it could take only half a bag an acre a week. Many of the producers had potatoes stacked so high in their barns that they were almost pushing the iron off the roof. The average farmer would have had enough potatoes in his barn to last for two years, if the moth did not attack them. These growers have paid from £4 to £4 10s. a bag for seed. They have bought fertiliser, they have worked the ground, they have paid 2s. 6d. each for sacks and £2 10s. a day to workers to pick up the crop. They did not know what to do. Then came along the black-marketeers and hangers-on. They said to the producers, "We do not want your potatoes but we will take them from you for from £1 to 25s. a bag, according to quality. If they have gone spongy or if they are moth-infested we shall have to drop the price to £1 or 15s., but we will help you out." Even some of the people from New South Wales who had sold seed potatoes to the Queensland growers for £4 10s. a bag offered only £1 to 25s. a bag for the finished

product. The growers said to these people, "You have very short memories. Only recently we paid from £4 to £4 10s. a bag for seed potatoes from you, and now you are offering from £1 to 25s. a bag for the finished article." Despite this argument, the producers were faced with either having to accept the £1 or 25s. a bag or letting the potatoes rot. They sold them to these people for from £1 to 25s. a bag and the potatoes were then taken down to Sydney on low loaders in tens of thousands of bags and sold on the Sydney market. People who had never grown a potato in their lives and who never will, cashed in on those potatoes at the rate of £3 a bag! That shows that it does not pay to produce food in this State but rather to buy it after it is produced and resell it. If it were not for Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which provides for free trading between the States, every potato-grower in this State would be bankrupt. Thank heaven, the framers of the Federal Constitution had sufficient foresight and forethought as well as initiative to place Section 92 in the Constitution, otherwise, as I have just said, the potato-growers in this State would very certainly be bankrupt.

To develop my argument let us look at the statements made from time to time about potato production and sale. The other day I visited the Roma Street markets and saw 1,200 bags of potatoes that came from Woodstock, outside Townsville, which is one of the best potato-producing areas in Queensland. In reply to a statement made by Mr. Cranley, the president of the Roma Street merchants, that the Tasmanian potato is the best potato produced in the Commonwealth, let me say—and let it go down indelibly in the records—that Queensland can produce the best potatoes in the Commonwealth and there is no question about that. Those potatoes that came from Woodstock were a credit to Queensland and the people who produced them. Every bag that came from Woodstock was sent down to Sydney to be sold at £80 a ton. Queensland growers are getting £31 10s. a ton, which is the fixed price. For the finished article, after paying between £4 and £4 10s. a bag for seed, plus all the work involved, including fertilisers and freight, £31 10s. is the Queensland price.

I now quote from "The Telegraph" of 7 September in these words—

"Sydney pays £80 a ton for new Queensland potatoes.

"Sydney: New season Queensland potatoes sold at £80 a ton at the City Markets today, equalling the market record.

"Some agents believe that the price may rise to £84 a ton during the week if more new season lines arrive.

"There were 400 bags in the consignment today. It came by rail.

"Agents said that prices would remain high until the early New South Wales coastal crop reached the market late in October.

"Shopkeepers are charging from 10d. to 1s. 1b. for potatoes.

“Growers said crops in all States this year were reduced by bad seasonal conditions, pests and disease.”

There were pests here in this State in the price-fixing authorities and the Potato Marketing Board! In July of this year the housewives in Brisbane were called upon to pay the top price for all kinds and all grades of potatoes. When the farmer grades his potatoes and sends them to the Potato Marketing Board, if they are not right up to the mark they are condemned or put to one side and the grower gets word to come forward and pick over his potatoes and re-grade them. There are certain prices for the various grades. There is a price for No. 1 Grade, and a price for No. 2 Grade, but what are called chats are not saleable. I bring these things forward this morning to let hon. members of this House see exactly what is going on. These potatoes that I have in my hand are called chats. The good farmer picks them out and dumps them and gets them out of the way but the poor farmer ploughs them in and it is from this that he gets all kinds of disease in his next crop. These potatoes are of no use to anybody, but seven weeks ago the Brisbane housewife had to pay top price to the Potato Marketing Board for these chats. Ordinarily if a grower sent them in he would get word to come and take them away.

**Mr. Low:** What was the top price at that time?

**Mr. GAVEN:** £31 10s. The potato I have in my hand is a Tasmanian Brownell. This is the sort of potato that has been coming here from Tasmania and been sold to the housewife at the rate of £70 a ton, as against the £31 a ton for Queensland potatoes. What I have in my hand now is a No. 2 grade Tasmanian-grown potato. And here are some of our Queensland-grown potatoes. This is one of the best potatoes grown in Queensland today. They are all going to Sydney and Melbourne, where they are being sold for from £70 to £90, and even £100 a ton. The fixed price here is £31 10s. a ton or £2 a bag, but bags of potatoes are being sold in Queensland today at up to £5, £6 and £7.

These potatoes that I have in my hands now are Queensland-grown Bismarks. The seed came from Western Australia. These potatoes were grown on the banks of the Nerang River. They are No. 1 grade. The Bismark potato is a quick grower and must be dug as soon as it matures, otherwise you get second growth.

These potatoes that I have in my hands now are Queensland-grown Delawares. When Mr. Cranley says that the Tasmanian-grown potato is the best potato in the Commonwealth, my reply is that we can grow better potatoes in Queensland than he can import from any other State.

All the types of Queensland potatoes that I have shown hon. members here this morning are being sold to the housewife at the same price. That is an anomaly that results from price-fixing. If the Attorney-General wants to

get potatoes for the housewife and a decent price for the producer, let him do away with price control and I will guarantee that within 12 months there will be all the potatoes that the people want. The housewife will get them at the right price and the producer will get a fair return. I am not exonerating the board. I am a great believer in commodity boards, which were introduced to bring about organised and orderly marketing and to protect the producer. If the Potato Marketing Board could be run on the same lines as the Butter Marketing Board, it would be a very good thing indeed for the producer. But it is my personal belief that there is something wrong with the personnel of the Potato Marketing Board, because it has fallen out with everybody, merchants, growers, consumers, and everyone else. Even though I have not much time for the merchants, we cannot get along without them. The merchant is allowed a margin of £1 13s. 4d., out of which he has to pay 10s. freight, which reduces his margin to £1 3s. 4d. a ton.

I do not think that the Potato Marketing Board has acted in the best interests of either the growers or the public generally. If we abolish price-control, abolish the board as well. Later on we can get organised marketing for our potatoes. At the present time the board is asking for increased power. It already has power to tell a grower when he can plant his potatoes and when he can dig them. It has power to prevent him from digging them when he wants to and it has power to tell him when, how, where and why he should market them. Now it is asking for additional power. It is seeking power to impose a fine of £500 on any man who removes potatoes from his own property without its consent. It is seeking power also to impose a fine of £500 for transporting potatoes without its consent, and to seize a crop and to search a grower's home without a warrant.

This Government must take their share of the responsibility for the mess we are in. The only way to clear it up will be to abolish price-control, and if the board is not operating as it should, abolish it also. I believe the potato market will then right itself in a few months and the growers will obtain a fair and reasonable price for their product and the consumer will be able to buy what he requires. At the present time the board has many and varied powers, but it is not satisfied with those powers. It can tell the grower when he can plant, how many acres he can plant, when he can dig his crop, and it can prevent him digging the crop. It can also tell him how many bags he can market a week. I pointed out that last year he was reduced to digging half a bag an acre a week. The board has power to take the whole of his crop and it can force him to come to Brisbane to regrade his potatoes. It can also force him to refund portion of the price after he has been paid. That happened during the marketing of last summer's crop. There was an advance of £27 a ton on a full price of £32 10s. Many growers got £27 a ton in the first payment but instead of receiving a second

and third payment they got a bill showing that they were overpaid and a request to refund some of the amount overpaid. Many growers owed amounts from £5 up to £150 and £200. In many cases the money had been spent and the growers refused to pay back money that they believed had been rightly received. Threatening letters have been sent out to many growers for a refund of the money. I believe that every board should operate in the interests of the growers, as many of our commodity boards do. The Butter Board is conducted on excellent lines in the interests of the producer and the consumer.

As I pointed out, the Potato Marketing Board is not satisfied with its present powers and it is already asking for further powers. I understand there will be a ballot next week or the week after on the question whether it should obtain these powers or not. The extra powers it asks for are the right to impose a £500 fine for the removal of potatoes from the grower's own property—

**Mr. A. Jones:** I think we should abolish the board.

**Mr. GAVEN:** — the right to search your home without warrant, the right to seize your crop and impose a cost of £500 for transporting your own potatoes on the road. If those powers have to be given to a board I think it is time we abolished it. I will ask the Minister in charge of prices to shoulder his share of responsibility and abolish price-control; then we shall get plenty of potatoes at a price that will be reasonable for the producer and the consumer.

During the three years I have been the member for Southport I have consistently made representation for a State High School at Southport. Southport is growing very rapidly, and I suppose one can say quite confidently that it is developing faster on a population basis than any other part of the Commonwealth. As a matter of fact, in the last eleven months permits for buildings constructed and in course of construction to the extent of £2,000,000 have been granted by the local authority. We are desirous of having this school so that our children will have the same opportunities as are afforded to those in the cities and other parts of the State in continuing their academic, commercial, manual training and domestic-science courses. Previous to my being elected to this House, the Southport area was in the electorate of my colleague and very good friend, the hon. member for Darlington, and he too, over a number of years, had made representations for a high school at Southport. Nothing has been done. Today 1,000 children are being crammed into the old school at Southport, a school so old that it was there when I was a little boy. Certainly it has been extended by buildings put up here and there in army-hut fashion, but nothing is being done to cater for those children who desire to go on to a secondary education. Much is said about the encouragement of decentralisation and how we should do all in

our power to encourage the people outside the larger cities to stay there, but in effect all the encouragement is given to the people and the children to move into the larger cities rather than to remain in the outside areas. I have approached the appropriate Minister in the right and proper way from time to time, and the Minister in charge of education has done all in his power to help me. He has been sincere and has made recommendations that the school be erected. The Director-General of Education, Mr. Watkin, also has made a strong recommendation for the building of this school. There are almost 1,000 State school pupils attending the State school, and there will be almost 100 who will want to take advantage of secondary education facilities.

Last year, 21 August, 1952, I asked this question of the Secretary for Public Instruction—

“With reference to the long-standing promises of the Government to provide a new State primary school and a new State high school at Southport, will he kindly advise when such promises are likely to be implemented?”

and the following is the reply of the Secretary for Public Instruction—

“Southport has been approved as a centre for the establishment of a new State high and intermediate school as soon as financial provision can be made for works of this nature. The provision of a new State school building will receive further consideration after the State high and intermediate school has been provided.”

On receiving this information we sat tight and thought that it would not be long now before we obtained our school; that ample finance was available and the proposed construction would start this year, but quite recently, as late as 22 July, the secretary of the school committee received this letter from the Secretary for Public Instruction—

“With further reference to my visit to the Southport State School on the 1st July, 1953, and my representations to the Minister for Public Works and Housing (Hon. P. J. R. Hilton, M.L.A.) concerning the possibility of the Southport State School parade ground being asphalted, I am enclosing herewith for your information a letter which I have today received from the Hon. P. J. R. Hilton, M.L.A., setting out the position in this regard.

“Yours faithfully,

“G. H. Devries,

“Minister for Public Instruction.”

The Secretary for Public Works and Housing wrote—

“Hon. G. H. Devries, M.L.A.,

“Minister for Public Instruction,

“Brisbane.

“Dear Mr. Devries,

“Further reference is made to your personal representations regarding the sealing of the parade area at the Southport State School.

"I have to advise that consideration of this proposal is deferred until it is determined whether or not additional accommodation is to be provided at the Southport State School.

"Additional accommodation for High School purposes at Southport is desired and your Director-General has asked that High School buildings be provided on a new site acquired for that purpose.

"The question is one of availability of funds, and at this stage a decision cannot be given as to whether or not the High School accommodation will be provided on the new site or whether additional accommodation will be provided at the existing State School.

"If the additional accommodation is to be provided at the State School, the buildings will be sited on the present parade area. It is also not yet clear whether the available funds for building purposes will permit of improvements such as asphaltting this area. This matter will be determined when the full requirements of your Department in regard to new accommodation in State Schools for the 1954 school year are known.

"The proposal will have further consideration at a later stage in the financial year.

"Yours faithfully,

"P. J. R. Hilton,

"Minister for Public Works and Housing."

Later, I received this letter from Mr. Hilton—

"Department of Public Works,

"Brisbane, 6th August, 1953.

"Dear Mr. Gaven,

"I have to inform you that Executive Council approval has today been obtained to the expenditure necessary for the erection of additional accommodation at the State School, Southport.

"The work will comprise the erection of a new wing on the western side of the existing Infants' Block, connected to the existing verandah by a covered way. The existing playshed will be demolished.

"The new wing will contain on the upper floor two classrooms, each 24 feet by 24 feet, with a 6 feet 6 inches wide verandah on the northern side. The covered way connects this verandah to the Infants' Block. A section 24 feet by 24 feet under the building at the east end will be enclosed to form a Science Room, also the area under the existing Staff Room to provide a Science Storeroom.

"The main building above floor level will be constructed with Boulton and Paul prefabricated units. The floor, covered way, east end wall, steps and sections under the building will be constructed with materials provided by the Department of Public Works. The upper floor will be of timber, and floors of Science Room and Storeroom will be of concrete. Lower section will be timber framed, walls sheathed externally with pine chamfer boards and lined and ceiled internally.

1953—N

"The windows in west wall of staff room will be removed and refixed where shown and end wall altered and extended to form west wall of new block.

"Seating will be allowed for in open area under the west end. Provision will be made for water to bench sinks in Science Room and sink in storeroom; rock gas supply to benches in Science Room. Furniture and fittings, including a fume cupboard in Science Room, will be included.

"Building will be painted internally and externally, and disturbed work touched up.

"Electric light and power will be installed.

"The work will be carried out by the Construction Branch of this Department as early as possible.

"Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) P. J. R. Hilton,

"Minister for Public Works."

Then, only last Saturday, I received the following letter from Mr. Devries:—

"Office of the Minister for Public

Instruction,

"Brisbane, B.7,

"11th September, 1953.

"Dear Mr. Gaven,

"As promised, I am making available information concerning the establishment of a State High School at Southport. It is interesting to know that ninety-nine (99) secondary pupils are in daily attendance, at the Secondary Department of the Southport State School, and it is also significant that sixty-two (62) of these are from outside Southport and only thirty-seven (37) from within.

"This school is in fact the centre of Secondary Education for the whole Town of South Coast, as this large South Coast area is now designated. I am sure that members of the public are aware of the considerable congestion that exists at this school and of the absence of certain facilities. At present there is no provision for the teaching of science subjects and pupils in attendance suffer the disadvantage that they are unable to follow a course which will lead to Matriculation at the University in such faculties as Medicine, Dentistry, and Engineering for which passes in science subjects are prerequisite.

"To overcome this congestion and to provide these necessary facilities, my Department some years ago acquired an area of the Palm Beach Estate as a very fine site on which to erect a separate High School and it was hoped that this year, 1953, would have seen the erection of this building. Unfortunately, restriction of Loan Funds makes this impossible and the Works Department is forced to provide the extra accommodation on the already somewhat overcrowded Southport State School grounds. Two new classrooms, each 24 ft. by 24 ft., with a 6 ft. verandah and connected to the main school building by a covered way are to be erected before the opening of the new school year, 1954.

Portion of the area under these rooms will be fitted up as a Science Laboratory and storeroom, but, as has been impressed on the Works Department, this provision will be looked upon as being of a temporary nature. As soon as funds are available, the new High School will be erected and this extra accommodation at the State School will ultimately become available for Primary classes.

"Yours faithfully,

"G. H. Devries,

"Minister for Public Instruction."

The point I want to make is that no funds were available, according to the Government, to carry out this work. It has been promised year after year. It was promised to the hon. member for Darlington when he was hon. member for Albert. He was promised not only a new State High School but also a new brick school, to which the people in Southport are justly entitled. I have been very tolerant in my approach to this matter, but it is annoying, after having been told that there are no funds available, to find the following published in the Press only a few weeks ago:—

"Three for 1954.

"15 Suburbs Named for Schools.

"The Education Minister (Mr. Devries) last night named 15 suburbs for new secondary schools in the Brisbane area.

"They are: Banyo, Redcliffe, Kedron, Newmarket, Mitchelton, Bardon, Toowong, Indooroopilly, Corinda, Morningside, Camp Hill, Cavendish Road, Bulimba, Ithaca, and Salisbury.

"The Education Department hopes three of the proposed schools will be built in time for the 1954 school year.

"These three are needed to serve the northern, western, and southern suburbs.

"Mr. Devries said the names of the first three selected sites could not be revealed, as the subject had yet to be discussed by State Cabinet.

"Likely costs.

"He estimated the cost of the three schools at more than £200,000.

"On present construction costs, I would want at least £1½ million to build new secondary schools on all the acquired sites," Mr. Devries said.

"This estimate was based on the likely cost of about £70,000 for a brick school with nine class rooms, accommodating 360 pupils."

That gives the lie direct to the suggestion that it is lack of loan funds that is preventing the construction of a State High School at Southport. That statement proves beyond any shadow of doubt that ample funds are available for the building of three more new high schools in Brisbane where there are already plenty of existing facilities. We have all this talk about decentralisation and what the Government are trying to do to keep people in the outside parts of the State. It is all boloney and the time is long overdue when this school at Southport should be constructed.

I want to know what has gone wrong with the Department of Public Works and Housing, particularly in regard to its activities in the Southport electorate. Last year I got the Minister to the stage at which public tenders were called for the erection of a new residence for the police sergeant at Nerang. Just before we crossed the line the tenders were vetoed because, it was said, of lack of loan funds. The same thing happened in regard to the Coolangatta office and police station, which at the present time is a disgrace and an indictment of all concerned. It was said that no money was available, but we now find that there are tons of money available and if hon. members wanted the information I could make known to them what is available this financial year. I am not going to do so because it would be tedious repetition; suffice it to say that this year £11,000,000 more money has been given to the State by way of taxation reimbursements compared with four years ago. Instead of loan funds getting shorter it has been proved beyond doubt that they are more plentiful, but costs have risen out of all proportion. It is no use telling us that loan money is not available. Buildings are being erected in the city and other areas but Southport has still to wait for its high school. I say to the Secretary for Public Works and Housing, and I say it in no uncertain manner, that the time has arrived for him to take cognisance of the situation and give the people outside what they are justly entitled to.

As my time is virtually up and I have no chance of getting an extension, I want to buy into the argument that was started the other day about the increased price for butter, which was here in the House reputedly refused by the Federal Government. We heard an eloquent and sound speech the other day by the hon. member for Fassifern and I join with the hon. member for Windsor in saying that he is perhaps one of the soundest men in this House. On the subject of the dairying industry he made an excellent speech. The Secretary for Agriculture and Stock rose to reply and in the course of his speech he asked "Where do we stand today?" He went on to say—

"The dairy farmers today stand at the cross-roads, not knowing whether to go on or whether to continue their faith in their own political leaders who have badly let them down. Notwithstanding what has been said in the various sections of the Press, there is the feeling that the dairy farmer has been very badly used by his political friends, some of whom sit in opposition here. . . . we are the only Government who have given them a decent standard and a guaranteed price."

We have listened to some very extravagant language used about cant, humbug and hypocrisy, but if there was ever any cant, humbug and hypocrisy it is in that statement made by the Minister. I have been a butter producer all my life, but I am not in here to protect the Federal Government, because I say that no Government have ever given the dairy farmer what he is entitled

to. Every penny the dairyman gets he deserves because he has earned it by the sweat of his brow and the use of his hands, but this I do say: the present Federal Government will go down in history as the greatest Government the dairy farmer has ever known in the Federal sphere. I never get political in this House—my politics are moderate—but I want it recorded that the present Federal Government have done more for the dairy farmer than any previous Federal Government have done, whether Tory, Labour, or anything else.

**Mr. Graham:** How have they done that?

**Mr. GAVEN:** Because they gave a guarantee in 1951 of 3s. 1½d. lb. for butter. Other people refused to accept the cost-of-production recommendation for 3s. 1½d. It was a fair price to producers. Member after member on the Government side of the House stood up and said, "We will give the butter producer what we think is fair and just," and the price that they gave was 2s. 8d. lb. For four months the producers of this State were deprived of that 4d. a lb., but the Federal Government made the payment to the dairy farmer retrospective from October to 1 July. Therefore, they protected him when this Government opposite did not want to give it to him. In addition, after the Chifley Government were defeated by the Federal Government and the dairy farmer obtained his 3s. 1½d. a lb., this Queensland Labor Government showed their vindictiveness by saying, in a spirit of schoolboy sulkiness, "We will fix the dairy farmer by raising our margarine quota."

**Mr. Graham:** Did not the other States do that too?

**Mr. GAVEN:** No, the other States did not do it. This State had a quota of 640 tons of margarine and it increased it to 6,850 tons. New South Wales increased its quota to 1,240 tons and Victoria banned margarine altogether. We find that already nine applications have been lodged in Queensland for the establishment of margarine factories. Four of them have already been granted and the other five are being considered. At Cannon Hill they are going ahead with the building of a £200,000 factory for the production of margarine. I have no quarrel with margarine. If people want to eat it, by all means let them. Many of them are perhaps in such a position that they have to give serious consideration to using margarine. But we have to watch the price structure of butter.

(Time expired).

**Mr. ENGLISH (Mulgrave) (2.37 p.m.):** I desire to be associated with this motion and to congratulate the Governor on his excellent Speech, particularly his references to agriculture, land settlement and irrigation. We hear so much today about the necessity for production that I think those passages from the Governor's Speech are of the greatest importance to this State. I shall make particular reference to those matters at a later stage, but at this juncture I should like to congratulate the Governor on his excellent Speech, and also the mover and the

seconded of this motion on their addresses. As newcomers to this Assembly they both delivered excellent speeches and I feel sure that later on we shall hear some other excellent speeches from them.

I desire also to reaffirm my loyalty to the Queen. I am very happy that in this Coronation year we have a young person who has assumed the responsibilities of ruling the Empire such as Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I hope she will have a long, uninterrupted and peaceful reign. I am very happy that she will be the first ruling monarch to visit this great Commonwealth of ours and I hope that when she does come out here we shall see quite a lot of her and she will see quite a lot of Queensland. I sincerely trust that her tour will be uninterrupted and I am quite sure that all Queenslanders will reaffirm their loyalty to the throne on that occasion.

In this Coronation year I am very pleased, too, to congratulate the Leader of my party, the Hon. V. C. Gair, on the grand victory that was won by the party this year.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. ENGLISH:** I should say that it was the greatest political victory of all time and it confirmed the people's appreciation of Labour's rule over the years.

I should like to congratulate the Acting Premier on being re-elected to the position of Deputy Leader of the Party. I compliment him on his official handling of the affairs of State in the absence of the Premier at the Coronation festivities.

I congratulate you too, Mr. Speaker, on your reappointment to your high office and from my own observations and from the remarks of hon. members generally I am satisfied that you conduct this Assembly in a very capable way. I trust your occupancy of the chair during this Parliament will be a very happy one.

I extend my sincere wishes to Mr. Clark on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I know that he will carry out his duties in an impartial, fair and capable manner.

My electorate, which has an area of 1,330 square miles, is situated in far North Queensland.

**Mr. Aikens:** God's own country.

**Mr. ENGLISH:** I share the view of the hon. member that it is God's own country. It has the greatest proportion of rain forests of any electorate in Australia and there would be little of it that was not dense tropical rain jungle. Nestling in the middle of the electorate is the highest peak in Queensland, Mount Bartle Frere, and alongside it the Bellenden Ker Range, both of which are very picturesque and attractive. It is a rural electorate. On the coast belt sugar is the main agricultural industry. Of the 31 sugar mills in Queensland no fewer than four are in the Mulgrave electorate. An early estimate of sugar-cane production in Queensland this season is 9,043,000 tons, of which no

less than 1,413,000 tons will be crushed in the four mills in the Mulgrave electorate, or about one-sixth of the total cane produced in the State. Therefore you can see that the Mulgrave electorate is a very important sugar-producing area. I should say that we have reached the limit for the time being in sugar expansion but there is ample room for production of other crops from virgin land within the area. There are other primary industries too, dairying and mixed farming on the tableland, with some great belts of timber, and on the coast areas there is cultivation of pineapples and mixed fruits. In addition, the electorate attracts a great number of tourists. From the tourist point of view the scenery is equal to if not better than anything else in the Commonwealth or in the world. The tableland is 2,500 feet above sea level, and dairying and mixed farming are carried on there. The rainfall averages 80 to 100 inches a year, which eliminates drought conditions as far as stock are concerned. It is evident from what I have said that that area is ideally situated for dairying and mixed farming. In the Eacham shire on the Atherton Tableland there are approximately 682 farms, on every one of which running water is found. I do not think that could be said of any other area in any part of the world, let alone Australia.

Like all other parts of the Commonwealth we have our difficulties but the Department of Agriculture and Stock is doing a grand job to help the farmers generally. It is attending to the rejuvenation of pastures. The department has set up plots here and there in order to find out what is lacking in the soil, and what crops are suitable for rotation in the area. A number of plots have been established on private farms to carry out experiments with tropical legumes that will rejuvenate the soil. Apart from the experimental farm in the South Johnstone area we have the Kairi State farm. In addition to that, the department has set up a scientific laboratory at Malanda for the help of farmers and factories generally. That was referred to within the term of the last Parliament and I have great pleasure in announcing that it is one of the two in Queensland, the other being at Murgon. I wish to compliment the Minister and his officers on what they are doing to advance agriculture and animal husbandry in this State.

People may say that North Queensland is neglected, but I have something to say on that point. Experimental farms have been set up in an endeavour to rejuvenate pastures, and experimental plots have been organised on individual farms so that the farmer may help himself in the destruction of pests and the obtaining of a balanced ration for milking herds. Experimental plots have also been set up for the control of the white-grub infestation on the Atherton Tableland, which has been a serious set-back to the farmers. The Department of Agriculture and Stock is endeavouring to do its best for the farmers on the Atherton Tableland and Queensland generally.

Unfortunately, on the Atherton Tableland, particularly in the Malanda and Millaa Millaa districts, we find the encroachment of the beef-fattening scheme. That is not very helpful so far as dairy-farmers are concerned. It is regrettable and I trust before this session of Parliament is ended we shall be able to devise ways and means to ensure that this very rich and fertile area reverts to the purpose for which it was thrown open originally, that is for closer settlement and dairying and agricultural purposes. I stress that it is most regrettable that it is going back into the fattening of beef cattle because within close proximity to the Atherton Tableland and within a short distance of markets there is ample country suitable for fattening cattle. I deplore the fact that the owners of these properties are not helping themselves by going in a little for pasture rejuvenation and irrigation. That would solve the problem very easily. It is all very well to say there are dry areas but on most of the properties there is permanent water and I fail to see how, with a reasonable capital outlay, they could not make a very handsome living in that area. The holdings are far too big and the sooner they are cut up for closer settlement the better.

The encroachment of beef cattle on our closely settled area is having a detrimental effect on our little community centres. For instance, take the little bush school set up from moneys supplied by the people of this State for the purpose of educating the children of farmers. Frequently the beef-cattle people will come in and buy up six or seven farms. The houses are dismantled and removed to the town area. Eventually there is no necessity for this school and the next thing is that the Department of Public Instruction dismantles the school building and removes it to some other area. One cannot forget the clamour for the schools in these areas in the first place, but I have instanced what is going on at the present time. One does not know how long these areas will remain populated. It is a great shame that the beef-cattle industry is encroaching onto the Tableland. The little community halls are fast becoming of no use and the little townships are fast fading from the horizon. The population is being lost and the production of cream for the butter factory is being lessened, factories in which the good staunch and solid farmers and the business people of the Atherton Tableland have invested their money. Moreover, production of milk is lessened. It was only the other day an hon. member opposite said the number of dairy farmers in Queensland was decreasing and I have now given one reason for that. I have given the reason why these dairy farmers are being forced off their farms in my area. In the winter months milk was in short production on the Tableland and milkless days in Cairns and Townsville were one result. This is due to the encroachment of the beef-cattle industry into the dairying area of the Tableland.

The Eacham Shire Council has been asked from time to time to construct metal roads for the transport of milk, cream and dairy produce to the factory. These roads are

expensive to build in the very wet areas, but we find now that they are being used only for the transport of beef cattle. It is regrettable that this should be so in such a fertile area and it is doubtful whether the Government should open further lands if they are to revert to beef production. I believe that the tableland should be very closely settled because the country is highly suitable for it, but the speculator or auctioneer should be prevented from exploiting that very fertile country.

The third most important industry in the electorate is the timber industry and I venture the opinion that it has the greatest stand of softwoods to be found in any electorate in the Commonwealth. It contains some of the most valuable, if not the most valuable timbers in the world, but only a very few of them are sought after today. I should say there would be 100 millable varieties of timber in North Queensland but the only call today is for the primary species such as maple, silky oak, silver ash and silver silkwood. In the early post-war period, through lack of shipping, our timber was left stacked at the wharves and in timber yards of North Queensland to rot. I know that if shipping had been available we should have been enabled to retain our markets, but through lack of this transport we have lost our markets at such places as Perth and Adelaide. Of course, the famous Budget introduced by Sir Arthur Fadden a few years ago was responsible for that slump, with the result that today the timber industry of North Queensland is not in a very healthy state. I think it might be wise for this Government to review the conservation of these very valuable timbers because it is of no use opening up fresh country if we are going to cut down millions of feet of valuable softwoods only to find that they are not to be permitted to go on the local market. Reforestation of our primary timbers is another matter that should be given serious consideration because the cabinet woods of North Queensland are equal to if not better than those of any other part of the world.

In the humid heat of the coast pineapples are becoming a very valuable crop. I do not know what the market position will be when the farmers of that area produce in greater numbers, but doubt about markets is holding back production at the moment.

Mixed fruits also are grown in quantity, and as time goes on, with the establishment of the cannery at Cairns, this rural vocation should progress greatly. There is ample land available for this kind of industry on the coast and I hope that small areas will be thrown open for these crops.

Tourist attractions within my electorate are outstanding. The road system put down by a Labour Government caters for the tourist trade. They were put down not specifically for it but for the development of our rural areas in North Queensland, and here again I throw back into the teeth of those people who were so forward at election time as to say that North Queensland has been very much neglected, the fact that these roads were built by a Labour Government. The neglect

of North Queensland was the election cry in 1950 and in 1953; and I shall have more to say about that question later on. Coming back to the tourist attractions of the North, I think that the Mulgrave electorate coupled with the Tablelands electorate provides some of the most magnificent scenery to be found in the Commonwealth. I trust that more attention will be given to the accommodation of our tourists who come to Cairns and the hinterland and to North Queensland generally. It is regrettable that the people who made so much money out of the North have seen fit to transfer their interests to the South and to buy into hotels in the city and otherwise in the South rather than put it back into the North where they accumulated their wealth. They who have made wealth in the North should put their money back into it to build it still further. We have heard people saying that North Queensland has been neglected; it has been said that we should populate the north of Australia but those people who have made their money out of the North are the first people to come away from it and tell others that they should go there. Those same people have bought into city businesses and I do not think that they have done the right thing.

Although much has been said about the neglect of the North, I was horrified when reading through the volumes of "Hansard" to see that my predecessor in this House, the former hon. member for Mulgrave has not backed up the projects that would help to develop North Queensland. On the one hand he and others go out onto the public platform and accuse the present Government of neglecting North Queensland and North Australia; they howl for the creation of a new State and they are going to howl still further for a new State in the North. It amazes me to read what was said within this House over the last few years; here is what was said during a debate concerning the Dimbulah water scheme—"Good luck to the Federal Government for closing down on the finance to help this big scheme out." I think it most unpatriotic to use those words of North Queensland.

**A Government Member:** Who said that?

**Mr. ENGLISH:** Mr. Watson, the former member for Mulgrave.

**Mr. Sparkes:** It is unfortunate that he is not present in the House.

**Mr. ENGLISH:** The people of Mulgrave gave their verdict at the recent election.

**Mr. Sparkes interjected.**

**Mr. ENGLISH:** We shall see about that in three years' time.

In his speech on the Mareeba-Dimbulah scheme the former member for Mulgrave had quite a lot to say about the fact that 10,000 acres of valuable land would be inundated to irrigate 11,800 acres of tobacco land. That is the way these people go on. A report on the scheme, however, shows that an area of 11,800 acres is to be subdivided into tobacco farms and a further area of 26,120 acres is to be subdivided into agricultural land for

other purposes. My predecessor's remarks in this House about the Mareeba-Dimbulah scheme were not calculated to help in the development of North Queensland in any way. Actually, the scheme taps 170,000 acres of country, of which 80,000 acres will be subdivided into irrigated farms. That shows just how misleading these statements can be. Instead of resorting to abuse of the Government, these people would, if they were sincere, try to help the Government to develop North Queensland; they would give the Government every assistance in raising money to develop this beautiful country of ours.

It would be a grand thing if during this present session of Parliament the prospects of establishing a rural trading bank in Queensland could be investigated. If such a thing could be brought about, some of the finance that is so urgently required could be raised to carry out this and other great schemes within the State. The State Government Insurance Office, which was established by the Labour Government, has done an excellent job in taking up debentures and loans issued by local authorities and other public bodies. It would need a better brain than mine to work out the details of establishing a rural trading bank, but if something along those lines could be done during the present session of Parliament it would be a great advantage to this State. The State Government no doubt have done a grand job with their present financial organisations but I fail to see why a rural bank should not be set up to further the good work. It is deplorable that the development of a country should be held up because of the lack of what is called finance, but I trust that in the next 9 or 12 months the people of Queensland and Australia will see that the present position is altered and that all the money needed for the development of the country is readily forthcoming. We are told by the Press and by people of note that we must develop the country or lose control of it altogether. We all know the story of the teeming millions to the north of us who look with covetous eyes on this fertile land.

The Secretary for Public Lands and Irrigation has done a mighty job, not in an isolated part of the State, but throughout the State in providing irrigation for the production of food. I compliment him on his magnificent task; he has every reason to be proud of his achievement. He has established himself as a true Queenslander and a worthy Australian.

I desire to conclude by thanking the electors of Mulgrave for returning me as their parliamentary representative. I want to assure them that I will do my best to see that the Mulgrave electorate is developed and that the interests of Queensland generally are safeguarded.

Before resuming my seat I desire to register my emphatic protest against the attitude of the Federal Government in switching back on the dairy farmers of Australia. The Federal Government should have been consistent, at least. They should either have altered the basis of arriving at

the cost of production or they should have given the dairy farmers the rise in the price of butter to which they were justly entitled according to production costs.

I thank hon. members for giving me this fair opportunity of saying a few words on the floor of the Chamber on behalf of my electorate.

**Mr. HEADING** (Marodian) (3.15 p.m.): I should like to preface my remarks by paying a tribute to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I trust that during her reign peace will be maintained and that the British Commonwealth of Nations will go forward and enjoy greater prosperity and that better conditions will prevail for its people and for the peoples throughout the world.

I wish also to pay a tribute to His Excellency the Governor for the way in which he carries out his duties as the representative of Her Majesty in this State. He has made himself acquainted with all parts of this State and he does everything in his power to help its progress. His Excellency's reference to "farmers and fighters" in his Speech appealed to me. I think that he picked two winners in that phrase. If you have an army you must have a body of farmers to feed them. The old saying that an army marches on its stomach is still true today. We must have the producers to feed the soldiers as well as the rest of the community. I think everybody realises the urgent necessity for production in order to ensure that the people of the world get sufficient food.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election. I pay a tribute to his conduct of the House and his fairness to both sides. He knows his own mind; and that is an essential characteristic for one holding that position.

I wish to congratulate also the member for Fitzroy on his election to the position of Chairman of Committees. I will help him to carry out that job; I will not kick over the traces any more than is absolutely necessary.

The first subject I wish to deal with is education, particularly the education of country children. I know the Minister has been subjected to much criticism. Sometimes we praise him, but not very often. We do not often get the opportunity to speak on these matters, and I shall mention one or two things—not with any ill-feeling—that I think should be done for the people living in the country. We realise that people are still leaving the country to come to the city.

Before pursuing the matter generally I wish to make a brief reference to the Veterinary Science School at Yeerongpilly. About a year ago I had a bull out there and during one of my visits I had a look over the school. I am convinced that the time has arrived when we should create better conditions for the students. This school of veterinary science is very important for Queensland, especially in view of the food position at the present time and the need to preserve as many animals as possible. In order to do this we must train men to look

after them. I hope the member in whose electorate the school is situated does not mind my giving him a little push along in getting a better building in which the students can carry out their studies. I am sure that if the people responsible would go and have a look at the building they would hasten back to see whether they could not find some more money in order to build a better one. It is not in keeping with the requirements of a veterinary school and I would urge that something be done about it.

**Mr. Devries:** It is only within recent years that they have had the opportunity to qualify in Queensland and not have to go to New South Wales. Give us some credit for that.

**Mr. HEADING:** I should be surprised if the Minister did not know that I knew that.

**Mr. Devries:** Give us a little pat on the back.

**Mr. HEADING:** I would give the Minister a little pat on the back for having made it possible for students to get their veterinary education in Queensland. I extend to him credit for that, but he can do a better job by giving them a good home in which to pursue their studies. Meanwhile I hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you will have a little time to go and inspect this institution. If you do, you will agree with me.

**Mr. Devries:** You know what the hon. member for Coorparoo said the other day—the story of “Gimme, gimme!”

**Mr. HEADING:** I am weary of the story of the Government's not having sufficient money. This year, because they have increased freights and fares, they will collect another £2,500,000 from the people, that is, if the newspaper reports are correct. Last year the loss on the railways was £4,500,000 but they were able to finance the State and come out with a credit balance. This year, as they are taking another £2,500,000 out of the pockets of the primary producers, surely the Minister in charge of education will be able to get a few pounds to effect improvements at the Veterinary School? I impress on the Minister the fact that most of that increase in the freights and fares will come out of the pockets of the primary producers, consequently I have some right in asking that some of that money be expended on a good Veterinary School.

I had a boy who studied at the Gatton Agricultural College. In this respect I am not here to criticise. That college is a credit to Queensland. The other day the Minister was asked about the building of another agricultural college somewhere in Queensland but he decided that there was sufficient accommodation for the pupils at the Gatton College or, to give it its correct name, the Lawes Agricultural High School and College.

**Mr. Devries:** I did not say there was sufficient accommodation; I said it was meeting the present-day requirements.

**Mr. HEADING:** I should like to read what the Minister did say—

“The Government is satisfied that the Agricultural College at Lawes amply provides for the State requirements for instruction to a higher standard as represented by the diploma courses, and that there is no immediate demand for an additional agricultural college to be established.”

A few days later I asked the Minister this question—

“1. How many pupils were enrolled this year at the Lawes Agricultural High School and College?”

“2. How many were refused enrolment because of insufficient accommodation?”

The reply was—

“1. The number of pupils enrolled this year at the Agricultural High School and College, 564.

“2. The number refused enrolment because of insufficient accommodation, 60.”

That means that 60 students could not be accommodated because there was not room. One thing does not quite square with the other, but I am not attacking the Minister on that. He thought the College was all right. But we must provide for the education of boys and girls living in the country, and if they want a secondary agricultural education we should be able to give it to them.

**Mr. Devries:** And I will see that preference is given to those boys.

**Mr. HEADING:** I should like the Minister to insist on that, and I should also very much like to see boys and girls from the city getting the desire to enter an agricultural college. Then we might get some of them to take up land in the country, which, surely, is what we need. Surely we do not want our boys to be drifting to the cities? Would it not be much better if they were drifting to the outback of Queensland so that there would be more primary producers? It would be sound policy to encourage such a movement. I think that if we had another college in some other part of Queensland, even in North Queensland—and with the development that is taking place there perhaps it would be a fine thing to do.

**Mr. Devries:** I agree with you. I should not quarrel with you on that. I should like to see three or four.

**Mr. HEADING:** If we are not going to have another college such as the one at Gatton, I suggest that we could have some agricultural farms where we could educate boys and girls in primary pursuits. I was interested to read the other day about the Fairbridge schools in Canada and Australia. Kingsley Fairbridge was a man with a vision and he dedicated his whole life to making it a reality. He thought that it would be wonderful if they could send children from England out to farm schools in various parts of the British Empire, and with that end in view his foundation established one school in Western Australia, another in New South Wales, and two in Canada. Some thousands

of children have gone through them already and it is stated in the newspaper article I read that of more than 200 boys and girls who went through Molong College in New South Wales not one has been a failure. In the Canadian schools more than 2,000 children have been successful. There is the unfortunate fact that only recently, because of the havoc wrought by floods in England, the English authorities had to apply to Australia to take over the cost of running these schools. They asked the people of New South Wales if they would be responsible for the cost of running the one at Molong.

**Mr. Devries:** Even in Britain there is a big drift from the rural areas to the cities.

**Mr. HEADING:** Unfortunately I have not got the cutting with me, but I did cut from the Press an article that said that today people were going from the cities to the country.

**Mr. Devries:** You cannot produce any evidence of that.

**Mr. HEADING:** Before I made the statement I admitted that I had not got the cutting with me, but instead of our arguing about it now, I think the Minister and I could look into it later. At the moment I am speaking of farm schools for boys and girls. Instead of another college like Gatton, I suggest that we establish farm schools. At Molong, according to a newspaper article I have, they have cottages where one house-keeper looks after 12 children. On that farm they might have 150 children learning all about farming. Those children have been taken from the streets of London and put onto the farm, and we should have something like that. The following comment from that article is interesting:—

“I saw great colleges of agriculture springing up in every man-hungry corner of the Empire. I saw little children shedding the bondage of bitter circumstances and stretching their legs and minds amid the thousand interests of the farm.

“I saw waste turned to providence, waste of unneeded humanity converted to husbanding unpeopled areas.”

In Queensland it should be possible to find someone with enough vision to see that we should start similar schools, not for children from London slums but for our own children who want to learn something about farming. That is one certain way of encouraging people to go onto the land instead of staying in the cities. Such a scheme is long overdue. The Minister has admitted that 60 boys were turned away from Gatton College. Where are they to go?

**Mr. Devries:** I shall have something to say about Gatton later.

**Mr. HEADING:** They will go to secondary schools and learn perhaps how to thump a typewriter.

**Mr. Devries:** You will be surprised. You know the position at Gatton. That place is not there to allow a boy to go up to junior standard for £61 a year. You know you

have to pay £51 a term at your private schools. I shall have something to say about Gatton. I will make a big alteration to Gatton too.

**Mr. HEADING:** I am glad that I have aroused the Minister's interest.

**Mr. Devries:** You should state the position properly.

**Mr. HEADING:** Although the hon. gentleman may interject I want to assure him that he will not draw me off the line of my speech.

**Mr. Devries:** What I say you will read.

**Mr. HEADING:** I shall read it because I know the Minister agrees with me. There is a need for helping country children who desire a secondary education.

I now wish to refer to part of His Excellency's Speech when opening Parliament this year. He used these words—

“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.”

The part I draw attention to is that an existing school that has 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. What can one do about that? The Goomeri school applied for this conversion and this is the reply received—

“With further reference to your personal representation on behalf of the Goomeri State School Committee, I have to inform you that the Department of Public Works has advised that the conversion of the veranda of the Goomeri State School for library purposes is deferred owing to lack of funds.”

You can realise, Mr. Turner, what the conversion of a veranda into a library would cost.

**Mr. Devries:** When was that ?

**Mr. HEADING:** This was before the Governor's Speech was delivered. In view of what was said in His Excellency's Speech surely the promise made can be carried out?

Perhaps the Minister does not appreciate the little problems we have to contend with in country areas. After a lot of trouble we got the Minister to agree to put a veranda on the Woodmillar State school building. I have not seen this building. The veranda was put up but it was not ceiled. I took the matter up with the Department of Public Works to see whether it could be ceiled. Hon. members of this House know what it

is like on a hot day to have to sit under a bare galvanised-iron roof. Part of the reply we received to our request read—

“I have to advise that the veranda added to this school is a considerable improvement on conditions which previously existed at the Woodmillar State School and the Department does not consider that the extra expenditure involved in ceiling the veranda and in painting the ceiling is warranted.”

Though this is only a small matter it means so much to the children attending the school, particularly in the summer-time. I remember the time when I had a house that had a galvanised-iron roof over the veranda that was not ceiled. I could not stay there on a hot day. I had to get out because it was too hot. Here we have a little school in the country. They put a veranda on it but neglect to ceil the veranda. They say that is sufficient. Surely that is wrong? It may not be very important to the Secretary for Public Instruction and the Secretary for Public Works and Housing, who are building mansions for the children in the cities, but it means a great deal to the children who attend that school. If there are many schools putting up with the same conditions as that one, it is time somebody drew the attention of the Secretary for Public Instruction to it, and that something was done about it.

I want to reply to some of the remarks of the hon. member for Mulgrave. Being a new member, perhaps there are one or two things he does not realise. He said that dairying was going out and beef was coming in. That is because conditions in the beef industry are so much better than those in the dairying industry. There is more future in it. He referred also to the fact that there was no milk in Cairns. I was in Cairns opening the show this year and there was only one Jersey herd there. Let us contrast the position there with what exists in Sydney, a city of over 1,500,000 people. There is enough milk in Sydney for everybody. That is because the dairy people are being paid a reasonable price for their milk. I was talking to one of the officials of the organisation that supplies Sydney with its milk and he told me that although the general opinion had been that if the farmer was paid a better price for his milk he would keep fewer cows, the actual position has been that since the farmers have been receiving a better price the production of milk has increased. Dairymen have improved their properties and have improved their soil by fertilisation and in other ways and they are producing more milk than ever.

**Mr. Aikens:** A couple of years ago you told us that it was necessary to take price-control away from ham and bacon in order to save the pig industry. Now you say it has never been in a worse state!

**Mr. HEADING:** So far I have not mentioned the pig industry.

The hon. member for Mulgrave spoke about the neglect of the North. I have a cutting here from “The Courier-Mail” of 23 August, 1947, at a time when the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon had just returned from a Premiers’

conference in Canberra. We frequently hear from the Premier and the Deputy Premier of this State about the lack of Loan money, but in 1947 the late Hon. J. B. Chifley was Prime Minister and, of course, the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon was the Premier of this State. This is a Press report of an interview with the late Mr. Hanlon—

“‘With care and economy, I feel certain that we will now be able to prepare a balanced Budget for this year’, said the Queensland Premier, (Mr. Hanlon) tonight.

“‘Summing up the Premiers’ conference at Canberra, he said that he was quite satisfied with the result.

“‘We did not get everything we asked for, but we did not expect to get everything,’ said Mr. Hanlon.”

What a different story that is to the one we hear nowadays! In those days the Premier of this State went down to a Labour Federal Government and did not expect to receive very much. Today, however, the Premier and the Deputy Premier of this State go down to Canberra seeking more than they know they can possibly get, and when they do not get it they squeal.

On this occasion in 1947, the late Hon. E. M. Hanlon said he had found a noticeable tendency in Canberra to slacken interest in Northern Australia. He pointed out that the necessity for developing and populating the North was more imperative than ever. The members of the Local Authorities Association praised the then Premier for his efforts to interest the Chifley Government in the development of North Queensland and the mayor of Cairns, Alderman W. H. Collins, was backing the Premier in his effort to get the Federal Government to develop the North. Therefore, in the future do not run away with the idea that the Menzies-Fadden Government have neglected the North.

I want to have a word or two to say on production costs, not only in the primary industries, although they are very important, but in industry generally. Not only I but many other people in Australia are very concerned about the upward movement in these costs. Only the other day the Minister for Transport increased railway freights and so added to the burden of the primary producer. I should say that 90 per cent. of the income to the Railway Department from freights is paid by the primary producer. Living in Murgon as I do, I know that we have to pay the extra cost on freighting goods to Brisbane and on the goods that we get from Brisbane to meet our needs in the country. So we pay the increase both ways and for the enlightenment of the hon. member for Mundingburra I want to tell him that the 25 per cent. increase in railway freights means 1s. 8½d. more for every pig that is sent to the works. That is just from one little corner in South-East Queensland and there are increases in many other lines of freight, too. When you increase the freights you increase the costs to the primary producer.

**Mr. Aikens:** Will you admit that the removal of price-control has not benefited the industry?

**Mr. HEADING:** If some day I have the time and the opportunity I will debate the question of price-control with the hon. member because I have very decided views on it. However, today I am not going to allow him to take me off my line of argument.

Now let me read this report from the New South Wales Chamber of Manufactures—

“Costs in Australian industry were bigger and had grown faster than those in any other country.

“The New South Wales Chamber of Manufactures president, Mr. R. Parry-Okeden said yesterday.

“The situation was grave, he told the Chamber’s annual meeting.

“If imports were allowed once again to flow freely while Australia’s production costs were so much greater than those of other countries, the resultant explosion would wreck Australia.”

We have had three small lifts in import restrictions in the last few months and we commend the Commonwealth Government for that.

The article concludes—

“Industry was now in a far less favourable position to withstand a free flow of imports than it was in early 1952.”

We know why the import restrictions were imposed. Our imports were nearly double the value of our exports, with the result that our credit in London was falling very rapidly. In order to right the position the Commonwealth Government had to impose import restrictions and today that situation is ever so much better. The Menzies-Fadden Government were able to help the position to right itself. Bear this in mind, that the imposition of import restrictions provided more employment for the Australian people than there would have been had they not been imposed. But the imposition of the import restrictions and high duties have brought about increased manufacturing costs in industry. Many people have the idea that you can increase manufacturing and production costs to any level and still be able to sell your product. Some people are waking up to the fact that that is not true. You know what the position is. We are selling butter overseas at 11d. lb. below the cost of production because we cannot get anything higher. Because of the high cost of production the industry will be in great difficulty and it is time everybody took notice of the rising costs.

I wish to quote the following statement by the chairman of the New South Wales Chamber of Manufactures:

“Rises in the basic wage since March, 1952, had increased the total wage bill of Australia’s 46,000 factories by more than £66,000,000 a year.”

Hon. members will understand the position. I mentioned that import restrictions were put on because our credits in London were disappearing and at that time we were importing goods worth £1,250,000,000 a year, although our exports amounted to £650,000,000.

I also quote the statement made by the president of the Victorian Chamber of Manufactures, who said that the high cost of manufacture was pricing us out of the world markets. He said also—

“Wages and hours of work are, in the main, outside the control of the individual, whether employer or employee, and are matters within the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Court. What is each person’s responsibility, however, is how much return he shall give for his wage, his hourly wage is governed by an overall authority, but the value of that wage—both to himself and to the national economy—is determined by his yearly output.”

I shall have something to say about the 40-hour week. If they worked the 40 hours and increased output some of our costs would disappear. Today costs are rising and they are driving the primary and secondary industries into an impossible position.

I wish to quote statements in reference to rising costs by the Acting Premier that appeared in the Press. This is what he said:—

“The situation has grown so serious that we cannot as a nation afford to pass the buck any longer. We are facing a crisis and no sensible citizen can believe that inflation has been halted while national cost and prices still go up.”

He had this also to say—

“Look at these hard facts. Compared with the three post-war years Australia’s wholesale prices have risen 215 per cent., retail prices 153 per cent., and wages 208 per cent. Australia’s prices are still rising. Latest figures of the Commonwealth Statistician show that since 1948-49 retail prices have increased 65 per cent. compared with 30 per cent. in New Zealand, 26 per cent. in Britain, 25 per cent. in South Africa, 17 per cent. in Canada and 11 per cent. in America.”

He said also—

“What is the answer to it all? Certainly not devaluation, higher tariffs and import restrictions. They are only a temporary reprieve.”

I agree. If you raise the tariffs you put the primary producer out of court altogether. After all, these costs eventually find their way back to him and the answer is, greater output from the people at work today. I am not talking only of the employee but of everybody—the employee, the employer and others. The Acting Premier proceeded to say that “Jobson’s Investment Digest” warns that the most alarming evidence of our failure to grapple with costs is that prices of imports are falling whilst those of competitive goods made in Australia are rising. The Acting Premier went on to say—

“We face this alarming position. Our export surplus, and eventually if things are not drastically improved, our production for home consumption, will keep on falling unless we cut our costs. And we must cut them enough to allow us to

compete with overseas prices and to put our products at home within reach of the average wage-earner."

That is quite true. I am greatly worried about the position. At the beginning the Acting Premier said that we had to stop passing the buck, that it was a job for the employer, the employee, and everybody else, and that politicians had to awaken and take note of what was happening, but at the end he states that the position called for courageous action by the Federal Government. I ask: what about the State Government? Do not they come into the picture? Do you not realise that it is a job for you as well as for me? It is a job for the Premier of Queensland as well as the Prime Minister of Australia. I would draw the attention of hon. members to what is happening to the primary producers. Are members of the Government satisfied with the running of the Brisbane abattoir? Are you satisfied, Mr. Speaker, with the men? You are asking the primary producer all the time to produce and sell bullocks but when he has them and wants to sell them there is no room in the abattoir for treating them. Do you realise that whilst fat cattle are walking about the paddocks at the abattoir at the week-end they are dropping pounds, shillings and pence in the loss of weight? That is what is happening at the abattoir today. I know the reply will be that there has been a greater kill this year than last year. But if that is true, it is still not enough. I know of a grazier in my electorate who sold his outfit of bullocks, 500 of them, and received a satisfactory price for them. He bought £8,000 worth of store cattle to put into the paddocks to take the place of those he sold, thinking they were going to the abattoir, but they did not go and he was left with the lot. I remember what happened to him the year before. He had his cattle on the way to the railway station, where he had a train ordered. They hastened after him with a telegram to take them home and put them back in his paddock because there they would be a lot better off than in the yards at Cannon Hill. It is time, in the interests of Queensland as a State and the interests of the graziers and the small farmers and the farmer with dairy cattle, that this matter was attended to. I speak feelingly on this matter because I, as well as other dairy farmers, have been affected very badly. A dairy farmer may have a few speyed or a few culled cows he wants to sell but when the rush comes at the abattoir, these cattle are held up and the bottom falls out of the market. That is something for this Government to do something about.

I have already made some observations about transport costs. Not only do the Government tax them on the railway but they tax them on the road as well. It seems that eventually there will be another army of drovers on the road with these stock, and then I suppose the Government will bring down a Bill to stop the owners from sending them by road to the abattoir.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. ADAIR (Cook)** (3.35 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor on 5th August. The record contained in the Speech of achievement and development during the past few years impressed me greatly. I was particularly pleased with the progress of the work this Government have undertaken. Another thing that impressed me greatly was the loyalty and affection to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II displayed in my electorate on the occasion of the Coronation ceremony in London.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Speaker upon his re-election to that high and important office. I recognise that he must be impartial in his decisions and proof of his impartiality is to be found in the confidence the Opposition have in him.

I congratulate the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the members of the Cabinet on the fact that the electors of Queensland clearly demonstrated their faith in the leadership and administration of the Labour Government on 7th March last.

I congratulate also the Deputy Premier upon the way in which he has handled the business of this House during the Premier's absence. One thing I did notice was that during his speeches on the Constitution Acts Amendment Bill the Opposition held their heads in shame.

I am conscious of the confidence placed in me by my electors who have given me this opportunity of representing them in Parliament. I assure them that I will do my best to develop the electorate I represent and to help in developing Queensland in general.

I should also like to congratulate the hon. member for Condamine upon the excellent address he gave when moving this motion and the hon. member for Nash upon the quality of his contribution in seconding it. I offer my congratulations also to those new hon. members who have spoken so far.

Before developing my argument I should like to offer hon. members opposite full permission to have a crack at me if they so desire. I know I am a new member, but I work better if somebody is having a crack at me. I listened attentively while the hon. member for Fassifern bitterly attacked the 40-hour week, but I suppose such a display of venom is not uncommon from the Opposition side of the Chamber. I remind the hon. member for Fassifern that a few years ago it was quite common to read such advertisement as this in the Press—

"Wanted, strong young man. £2 a week and keep." The week, of course, was for seven days at that time and the days were for 24 hours. I think hon. members opposite would like to see a return of those times.

I listened very attentively to the speech made by the hon. member for Mirani, who likewise attacked the introduction of the 40-hour week with equal venom and hostility;

he attacked also the recent legislation dealing with parliamentary salaries. I can remember the day when the hon. member for Mirani cut cane from daylight to dark for 5½ days a week. Present-day cane-cutters are on a 40-hour week, and I challenge him by saying that they cut more cane and nearly twice as much in a 40-hour week as he did in a 5½-day week working from daylight to dark.

**An Opposition Member:** That is stupid.

**Mr. ADAIR:** It is a fact. I have cut cane. I have been cutting for 10 seasons and I know exactly how these men cut and I say that the cane-cutters are doing a wonderful job in the sugar industry.

I have also read much criticism levelled at waterside workers. When I go back to my electorate I address meetings of no fewer than 600 waterside workers, and I contend that they are as good workmen as there are in this country.

My electorate covers 56,000 square miles of territory, and within it I have six local-authority areas starting at Cairns at the foot of the Great Dividing Range down by the seashore, and I can honestly say that I have in it the best cane-growing land to be found in Australia. Every year thousands of tourists from the South come up to Cairns to view the Barron Falls and the scenery of the Barron and Freshwater valleys. Mossman is a fast-growing town, the only drawback being the restriction in the issue of permits for cane land, as a result of which Mossman cannot advance as it might.

I should like to see a high-school top at Mossman. I know that at present the population is not what it should be to get this much-needed improvement, but I am sure that in my term of office this deficiency will be supplied.

After travelling along the Mulligan Highway to Cooktown one comes upon an area where the peanut industry is flourishing, and I hope that in the near future a peanut factory will be established at Cooktown.

Before the recent election I was with the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock, who approached by a deputation from Marine Contractors Ltd. who asked for a guarantee from the Government for the transport of cattle from Merino Plains on the Annie River to Cairns. The two directors of Marine Contractors Ltd. chartered a plane the day before the election and flew with me to Cooktown. There they spoke through a loudspeaker in the middle of the street about this industry that is going to be started in the Peninsula. Eventually the Government granted the firm £10,000 and Marine Contractors Ltd., has installed diesel engines in the "Wewak" and it is now transporting cattle from the Peninsula down to Cairns. That method of transportation takes the place of the railways, and would do the same job as a railway in that part of the country would do. It not only transports cattle from the Peninsula, but also takes back commodities to the people at

the ports on the way up the coast. It services Cooktown, Pt. Douglas, Iron Range, and the coast right through to Thursday Island. Also in my electorate I have Laura, Coen and other centres up to the top of the Peninsula. From Cooktown on it is all grazing land but the graziers there, unlike the hon. member for Aubigny, are struggling. The land is as good as that down here, nevertheless the people are quite happy now that this new method of transport is in use and I can see a bright and prosperous future for them.

At Thursday Island, to combat the possibility that Japanese pearling luggers will come into the industry, we have tried through this Government to do something to help the Islanders in diving in deep water. On 16 January, 1953, the Premier was informed by letter that a public meeting—one of the largest held in Thursday Island since the war—had been held in the town hall the previous evening, 15 January, at which it was urged that the Island Industries Board should take immediate steps to establish at Thursday Island a training school for divers and tenders. This meeting unanimously decided that—

(a) An increased efficiency by workers employed in the pearling industry was warranted; and

(b) A greater measure of protection against fatal and other accidents, among the workers, was essential.

The functions of the school would be to give requisite tuition to men employed as divers and tenders to enable them, over a reasonable period of tuition, to attain a standard of efficiency that would enable a tutor to issue certificates of competence indicating ability to carry out their duties efficiently or satisfactorily.

Although the Torres Strait Islanders and other coloured workers employed in the marine industry are endeavouring to do their best it is reasonable to believe that the standard of labour would be increased if they were acquainted with the finer points of diving and tendering. The Island Industries Board had made available a building necessary to start the training scheme immediately, but the matter of obtaining and paying a suitable tutor was beyond the training board's resources.

On 10 February, 1953, the Queensland Government approved that a grant of £1,500 be made for the services of a tutor and for equipment, and suggested that the Federal Government be approached with a view to making available a similar amount. This was done, and acknowledgement of the proposal was received under date of 3 March.

On 3 July the Acting Prime Minister informed the Acting Premier that this matter had been given careful consideration by the Commonwealth Government, which was fully appreciative of the importance of encouraging the pearling industry, but as the development and extension of industry was

primarily a matter for the State Government, it was felt that any aid to this particular industry, along the lines suggested, was a matter for the Queensland Government. The Acting Prime Minister continued that he trusted, therefore, that the Queensland Government would be able to see their way clear to proceed with the proposed training school, and that the Commonwealth Government would be happy to place at the disposal of the State Government any facilities that might be of assistance in obtaining the services of a qualified diver, etc., as instructor for the school.

The Acting Premier on 23 July communicated with the Acting Prime Minister asking his Government to reconsider their previous decision. This communication was acknowledged on 5 August but nothing further has been received by the Queensland Government to date.

In considering this question we should remember the way in which these Islanders came forward to defend their country, families and livelihood at the outbreak of World War II. They offered their lives to the nation. Surely £1,500 is not too large an amount to make them proficient? In accordance with the progressive policy of the State Government these men will have to be encouraged to further their knowledge and thus firmly establish their industry. If they are not, they will slowly become discontented and drift from the islands. I read in the paper only the other day that the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, was perturbed that Japanese pearl-ers should be operating in the Arafura Sea and along the North Australian shelf but he was not so perturbed a little while ago when a Japanese boat took 400 tons of pearl shell to Japan. I know that there are private pearl-ers at Thursday Island now who would be only too willing to have the Japanese back at Thursday Island, and the Commonwealth Government believe the same thing.

**Mr. Kerr:** Do they engage in diving in deep water?

**Mr. ADAIR:** We are training them to become deep-water divers now. I know that the Opposition here, like the private pearl-ers in Thursday Island, would like to see the Japs back again.

In his maiden speech the hon. member for Condamine said that he had risen from the bottom to the top rung of the ladder in the Department of Public Instruction. I contend that I have advanced from the bottom rung of the ladder to the top, not in the Department of Public Instruction but along the hard way. I came up through the metalliferous mining fields. I have worked hard all my life and never in the wildest stretches of my imagination did I ever think that one day I should make a speech from the floor of the Parliament of the State.

**Mr. Devries:** That is the result of democracy in its truest form.

**Mr. ADAIR:** One has to be born to the metalliferous mining field to come to

appreciate it and all its difficulties. I entered it in my early days and I can say that if any person has had a rough deal in this country it is the metalliferous miner. When the war is on manufacturers are screaming out for the various metals needed for war production—wolfram, tin, copper, lead and the rest of them. Then prices rise and prices are controlled. During the last war tin reached £1,100 to £1,200 a ton but the producer did not get more than £900 a ton. Now the war is over and the price of tin has come down. I think that there should be a fixed price for tin so as to assure to the tin-miner at least cost of production. The dairy farmer, the cattle man, the wheat-grower and the cane-grower each has an assured price for his product. When the Menzies Government introduced their Budget in 1951 they made provision for the imposition of heavy taxation generally and that did more harm to this country than anything else could have done.

In the Irvinebank and Stannary Hills districts some miners work their mines for six to eight weeks and then stop producing for the rest of the year. That is happening in the dairying industry. Farmers who used to have 60 and 80 head find they are better off with 30 head because they escape the heavy taxation. Right through my area, from Cooktown to the top of the Peninsula, from Herberton to Irvinebank, there is a fair amount of mining. During my term here I shall ask the Secretary for Mines to install, if possible, diamond drills in the Herberton district. Ninety per cent. of the tin produced comes from old mines and very few new mines are being opened up. When a mine is worked to 400 and 500 feet the miner finds it impossible to develop it any further, owing to lack of funds. The provision of diamond drills in the area would enable the miners to develop the mines further in order to prove whether there was more mineral there in payable quantities.

I have had vast experience in the sugar industry; not only have I cut in it but I have farmed in it. The sugar industry is a growing one and right along the coast from Mackay to Cooktown it is flourishing; and the future looks bright. I have noticed that where we once saw horses in stables we now find tractors and other kinds of machinery, which indicates the rapid mechanisation of this industry. The time has come when a farmer, with the aid of two or three employees, can grow 6,000 tons of cane. A farmer alongside me who has two sons harvested 6,000 tons of cane and employed only one man in the slack season.

I think it is important that industries should be established in the sugar area to provide employment for men during the slack season. In the sugar area we have also timber mills and there is a vast area of scrub land in the Black Mountain and Daintree areas up on the Freshwater gorges,

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Turner):** Order! I notice the hon. member for Burdekin is reading a newspaper. I ask him to refrain from doing so.

**Mr. ADAIR:** These timber mills employ much labour during the slack season. A development of this or other industries is required to keep our labour employed in the slack season in the sugar industry.

I think I have dealt with all the matters to which I wished to refer. I thank hon. members for their courteous attention.

**Mr. ROBINSON (Sandgate) (4.20 p.m.):** At the outset I wish to associate myself with the expressions of loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, and wish her a long and peaceful reign.

I take this opportunity of thanking the people of Sandgate for returning me to this Assembly. I congratulate the hon. member for Condamine on the able manner in which he moved this motion and also the seconder of the motion, the hon. member for Nash. I congratulate the Labour Party, to which I am proud to belong, on its magnificent victory at the State elections on 7 March last, when it was returned to the Treasury bench with a record majority. That it has gained the confidence of the electors of Queensland is emphasised by the many new faces that we see on this side of the House.

To Mr. Speaker I offer my congratulations on his re-election to his high office. I feel sure he will continue to carry out his duties in the impartial and decisive manner that is necessary for the decorum and for the discipline of this Assembly.

The contents of the Governor's Speech are a clear indication that this Government will continue to legislate for the welfare and the needs of the majority of the people of this State. I listened very attentively to the speech of the Governor-General at the reception given to him at Parliament House recently, and fully realise that a person of his experience and undoubted ability is in a position to give sound advice, especially on defence matters, and on world problems, on which he is an accepted authority. He spoke of the duties and obligations that fall on all people of this Commonwealth and of the need for populating the vast open spaces of our State. He spoke of the teeming millions of land-hungry Asiatics to the north of Queensland and the importance of developing our northern areas. Were the Federal Government to realise the importance of these matters to the same degree as members of our party do, they would not be so niggardly in the amount of money allotted to this State to carry out necessary development in the North. I can well remember the hue and cry that was raised by the Liberal Party when Premier Theodore, on being refused a loan in London, went to America to find the money he needed. We remember also that the Labour Party built the Great Northern Railway. We all realise that that line to the North was a big factor in getting supplies and ammunition to our northern areas during World War II. It played a very important part in saving Australia from the Japanese. The foresight displayed by this party in building that line, although it met with much opposition at that time, was of great benefit not only to the people of

Queensland, but to all in Australia. Short-range planning was a grave error of our early legislators.

When one takes into consideration that the first Parliament sat in this State only 93 years ago, and the largest vote cast in any electorate in the elections was cast in Fortitude Valley, where Charles Lilley won the seat by 108 votes to 105, we must realise how this State has progressed. Of course, we know that at that time there was no adult franchise, and the vote was exercised only by people who owned property or lived in a dwelling of a certain value. Brisbane today is a large city, although it is only just over 100 years ago that the first buildings were erected here. Bad planning and want of foresight by our early-day parliamentarians have left us many problems, and we must be careful that we do not leave problems for the future generations of this State. Our early legislators built a 3 foot 6 inch railway gauge. We know that today the three eastern States have three different gauges of railway. Everyone realises the tremendous expense that would be incurred in converting the railways of these eastern States to a uniform gauge, for not only the track, but also the engine power and rolling stock are involved. There was a good deal of talk about unification a few years ago, but we know in our own hearts that it will not be attempted in our time.

Another aspect that has to be considered when planning for transport. The great improvement that has been made in different types of power and the successes our scientists are likely to have in the field of motive power from atomic energy, warn us that we should hasten slowly with any big schemes we have in mind. It must be remembered that it is only 50 years ago that Walter and Orville Wright, using a petrol-driven engine, flew 260 yards. Six years later, a Frenchman, Bleriot, flew across the English Channel and 10 years later than that Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith flew from England to Australia in 28 days. I think the best illustration of how we have advanced in transport is to be found in the fact that 100 years ago three ships leaving Tilbury docks took six months to reach Christchurch and on the centenary of that occasion, to be celebrated on 8 October of this year, it is expected that jet aircraft will do the journey in 30 hours.

Although people try to tell us that Australia is and must remain essentially a primary-producing country, it must be remembered that in the 18th century England was mainly a primary-producing country but with inventions and new processes that developed and as a result of the Industrial Revolution, England was changed from an agricultural to a manufacturing country. Today the city of London has perhaps the best underground railway system in the world, and there is less congestion in that city, with a population equal to that of Australia, than is seen in our capital cities. That underground railway system was also of great importance to the London people as air-raid shelters during World War II.

This is not a lecture on how the world has advanced in science and air transport. I merely wish to point out that when we talk about city electrification schemes, or any other big projects, we must try to plan them so that they will not be outmoded in 20 or 30 years' time. We must plan and not leave our children's children the difficulties and problems that have been left to us as a result of short-range planning.

We have heard a great deal in this House about the importance of the primary producers, about how they are the backbone of the State, and while we are quite in accord with those expressions of opinion we must also be honest and agree that the transport workers, on the trucks, in the railways, on ships, and on the wharves, are also of great importance to our country, because it would be futile for the grazier or the farmer to produce an article only to have to allow it to rot on his property through lack of facilities for transporting it to market.

I was interested to hear the remarks by the hon. member for Balonne about the air-lift of beef from the Cooper Country. In his plea for this air-lift he mentioned that for every beast brought out of that area one is left behind. That goes to emphasise that transport, secondary industries to provide plant, electricity for power, and so forth, are important and we should develop secondary industries to absorb the population that is required to keep this country safe for us.

The transport of the workers by train from the outer suburbs of Brisbane to and from industry has reached saturation point and the quadruplication of our railway system between Corinda and Northgate is an absolute necessity to relieve congestion in the peak periods. There is no-one in this House in a better position than I am to appreciate the difficulties of the Railway Department because I have been a guard on suburban trains for the last 11 years.

In the peak periods each morning there is a train arriving at Central Station from Brunswick Street Station every three minutes and as that is the sectional running time one realises that if the first train or a subsequent train is late the trains that follow will be late for that peak period. It can thus be seen that quadruplication is absolutely necessary in our railway system in Brisbane. I hope money can be found to carry out this work and that it will be found before very long. We should then be in a position to run more trains from Sandgate, Petrie, and the Ipswich areas to bring people to their places of employment than are being run today. We have the facilities in engine power and carriages to bring the people to work but the lines are insufficient to allow trains to run on time so close to one another.

It has always surprised me to find the amount of money that can be made available for war and purposes of destruction. The amount of money put into circulation

under these circumstances is not claimed to affect the economy of this country. We fight wars to end wars, there is no money shortage for war, but when it comes to finding money for developmental purposes and making the country safe for our people and their children, the necessary finance cannot be made available. It seems to me to be an established fact that the worker producing the real wealth of this country is expected in time of war to do the fighting, at the risk of being maimed for life, to protect the interests of his country. Yet he has the least of all interests in the country, the main one being his right to work and rear a family. When the war is over and he returns to his peacetime occupation he is often put aside and out of a job and is denied a fair living standard for his wife and family. It would appear to every fair-minded thinking person that the money-bags of the world, whose interests are represented by the Tory Government, are more interested in profits and dividends than in the happiness and contentment of the worker and his family.

The Tory Federal Government are trying to tell us that there will be no depression, that there is no unemployment, only disemployment, but it is hard to convince the worker who is out of work, because when he is out of work there is a depression in his home. Any person who is out of work is naturally forced onto the breadline. The Federal Government are prepared to increase the unemployment pay but no worker is looking for unemployment. All the worker wants is a job and he is prepared to do a fair day's work for the wages he receives. I have worked in the Railway Department for nearly 40 years and nobody can tell me that railwaymen are not as honest and not as good workers as any in any other industry.

There is food for thought in the example quoted by the followers of the Douglas Credit system, that if a certain number of men owe the same amount to each other, the debt can be liquidated without the exchange of money. I am not an advocate of the Douglas Credit system but I believe that we should produce for use and not for profit. It has been accepted that Queensland railwaymen did a job second to none during World War II. They were required to work long hours and that together with the irregularity of meal-times, the long periods on duty with insufficient rest, has shortened the lives of many of the elderly men. It has been my experience in nearly 40 years' railway service that railway workers are as conscientious as any other workers, in some cases more so.

It is not the pleasant and the easy job that some people think it is. In my opinion, the hardships suffered by running-men in their hours of duty, times of starting and finishing on jobs deprive them of much of the home life that is enjoyed by most other workers in industry. They start and finish on jobs when no regular transport is available to them and at big depots such as Mayne men are compelled to live at long distances

from the depot. I ask the Minister for Transport to give careful consideration to providing transport for these men to their homes when they finish on jobs at times when regular transport is not available.

I ask the Minister also to give careful consideration to raising the Boondall station platform. When the 90 lb. rails were laid on the Sandgate line, the bed of the line at Boondall was raised 9 inches and now the platform at that station is actually at rail level. In the same way as many other suburbs in the metropolitan area, the population of Boondall has increased considerably, and naturally the number of passengers travelling by train has also considerably increased. It is very difficult for old people to board a train from such a low level. Further, married women with babies and young children have great difficulty in boarding trains. When I was on the job, I was always afraid that some person might get hurt joining or alighting from the train, especially on the down side, on the curve, at night. If something can be done at this station, the Minister for Transport will earn the gratitude of the elderly people of that area. He will certainly be doing them a great service.

I think it was the hon. member for Murrumbidgee who spoke of working the parish pump. It would look as if I were working it overtime and that it may run hot, but I remind the Ministers concerned, that if they supply the grease, it will at least keep the pump from squeaking too much.

The Secretary for Health and Home Affairs and his department are doing an exceptionally good job with a limited supply of money, in the provision of hospitals and homes for the aged, but one matter to which I wish to draw the Minister's attention is the clinic at Sandgate. The medical staff are doing an excellent job under adverse conditions in the town hall at that centre, which is anything but suitable for the purpose. I trust that the Minister will see his way clear to providing a better building as a clinic. I understand that a two-storey building centrally situated in Sandgate can be bought for a reasonable figure, and if fitted out suitably it would be ideal for a medical and dental clinic.

The Secretary for Public Instruction and his department, together with the Secretary for Public Works and Housing and his department, are doing a good job. I wish to congratulate them on the beautiful new school that has been erected at Geebung. It is situated on 10 acres of land on one of the most picturesque sites in the Sandgate electorate. We realise that with a growing population there is a need for more schools and for additions to existing schools. These two departments will therefore be kept busy in keeping abreast of the work.

I was pleased to be informed that additions are to be made to three schools in my electorate. A new secondary school is to be built at Banyo. It will service a large area and will afford some relief to the Brisbane State High School. I wish to thank both Ministers for their attention to matters I have placed before them during my short

time here and I appreciate the help and advice that they have at all times been prepared to give me.

A considerable amount of erosion is taking place on the picnic site known as Buckley's, on the Pine River situated on the left of the Sandgate end of the Hornibrook Highway. To save this beautiful picnic ground, it will be necessary to build a wall. It is the opinion of the people who have lived in that locality for many years that the reclaimed ground on which Eventide now is situated has caused the erosion, having narrowed the area in which the tide flows. I trust that the Treasurer, through the Department of Harbours and Marine, will have an inspection made to see what can be done in the matter. The same difficulty, from erosion and high tides, is being experienced at the lower end of the Shorncliffe Gold Links. The continuation of the present wall and the building up of the road at the back and side of the links along Cabbage Tree Creek should prevent the erosion as it is only the very high tides that affect this area.

The C.O.D. cannery at Northgate, which is situated in my electorate, is doing a good job for the pineapple farmer. This establishment has received considerable aid from the Government. We can all remember that before the factory went into the business of processing pineapples, very often in good seasons, fruit was left to rot on the farms. We know that there was a glut every year, but now the farmer is receiving a profitable price for his pines. Not only has the cannery been of great assistance to the farmer but last year, in the peak period, the C.O.D. provided work for over 1,000 male and female workers.

We also have an automobile tyre factory at Geebung. Recently hon. members from both sides of this Chamber were entertained by the chairman of directors. This is an important factory that provides work for 500 men. The Acting Premier, Mr. Duggan, had been invited to unveil the half-millionth tyre produced by the factory. We were shown through the works. I remember that when I came to the district 11 years ago it was simply a swamp area growing tea trees and breeding mosquitoes. Today it carries one of the finest factories in Australia. I understand also that more of this low-lying country will be required for industrial concerns. We have also ISAS at Geebung, which is supplying work for a large number of people. We must thank these companies for their efforts and compliment the Government on the opportunities provided for them to open these businesses. They provide full-time work for quite a large number of people in Brisbane.

I have never had the experience of being out of work but my work was rationed during the depression of 1929-32, when hon. members opposite were the Government of the day. I got the handsome sum of £4 16s. a week with which to keep a wife and four children. Whatever Government are in power in the future I should not like to see anyone go back to those conditions. Naturally the

people say that the Labour Government look after the interests of the workmen, but that term includes the farmer, who works for a living by the sweat of his brow and the use of his hands. It includes also the grazier who actually works on his property. The history of Australia reveals that about 4 per cent. of the people who get 80 per cent. of the big cake do absolutely nothing at all and it is the worker, the producer of the real wealth of the country, that we should look after. The primary producer is naturally a great asset to our contry, but he could not make much progress without the aid of the worker to transport his goods to the markets. It would certainly be a waste of time to produce crops that would just rot for the want of transport.

Before I conclude I wish to say a few words about the Department of Agriculture and Stock and the great help it has rendered to the farmers of Queensland in analysing soils and advising on deficiencies of chemicals that exist in some of them. I have many friends who are farmers. I lived for 17 years in the Kingaroy district; and the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock will no doubt have recollections of campaigning with me in that district. On that occasion we were only a little over 400 votes short of success in wresting the Nanango seat from the late J. B. Edwards. The present member for Barambah will also remember the occasion when we went so close to defeating the Country Party candidate there. Hon. members will note that I have had a fair experience amongst the farmers; I was their friend for many years in the Nanango, Kingaroy and Proston areas. The Opposition did not tell us that the Railway Department transports goods for the farmer at a reduced rate. You never see any of the lorries competing against the railways for the carting of maize and similar commodities. The Railway Department provides refrigerated cars to transport butter, thus bringing it to the market in good condition, whereas if it was carted by trucks it would not be fit for human consumption when it arrived at the market.

A few weeks ago I was speaking to a Mr. Morgan, who has a farm on the North Coast and was on his way to the Department of Agriculture and Stock, and he told me of the sound advice he received from that department. It is this sort of advice that has earned the gratitude of the farmers in this State.

In conclusion I wish to thank Ministers and members for their advice and assistance to me since I have been a member. I trust that at the end of my term in this House—whether it is three years, six years or nine years; it will not be much over nine years, as I am getting on a bit—I shall be able to do more for the electorate of Sandgate, even if it is only three years, than the previous member did in the 12 years he represented it.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Lareombe, adjourned.

The House rose at 4.50 p.m.