

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST 1954**

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# Queensland Parliamentary Debates.

## Legislative Assembly.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT.

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1954.

TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 1954.

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 8 July, 1954, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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

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

“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

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

“During the year that has passed since our last meeting in this Chamber an inspiring event has taken place. I refer, as you will well understand, to the Royal Visit of last March, when the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh made their nine day tour of this State.

“The people, the Parliament, and the Government of Queensland may remember with pride the success of this visit, the spontaneous and hearty welcome of the people, the smooth efficiency of the tour

arrangements, and the reasonable weather conditions experienced in what is, after all, a somewhat doubtful time of the year.

“The Queen, before her departure, expressed her pleasure in her visit to Queensland and her cordial appreciation of all that had been done. I have been informed, moreover, by The Queen's Private Secretary, in a farewell letter, that both Her Majesty and His Royal Highness left Brisbane not only with real sorrow, but considerably refreshed after their short time in the State.

“The establishment of world peace, on sure foundations seems to be as far away as ever. An increasing threat to Australian security can be seen looming up in South-East Asia, and the Korean question remains unsettled. This is serious; we must obviously be prepared to defend ourselves and keep our powder dry. No solution to our security problem, based on pure force, which tires, can, however, be permanent. Goodwill with our northern neighbours, through trade, mutual aid, personal contacts and exchanges, and so on must eventually be established, if we are to survive as an independent community.

“Queensland, with her immense potential, can do much to help in this regard. Increased production, both primary and otherwise, with greater efficiency, to make possible lower export prices, is required. These may seem difficult, but they are some of the conditions of survival and they can be achieved in this country by good management and hard work as they have been in other communities.

“The buoyancy in revenues generally resulted in a favourable position in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 30 June, 1954.

“Receipts for the year amounted to £69,696,080 whilst Expenditure totalled £69,353,146. The surplus of £342,934 for the year was the fifteenth surplus achieved in this Fund in the past 16 years.

"An Income Tax Reimbursement Grant of £22,716,813 was received from the Commonwealth Government as compared with £21,711,568 received in 1952-53.

"Expenditure on Hospitals, Social Services and Education from the Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £16,687,846 which is the equivalent of over 40 per cent. of the total expenditure from this fund, apart from Railway Expenditure.

"Trust Fund disbursements for the year amounted to £36,757,031, the principal items of expenditure being—

	£
Main Roads .. .. .	6,747,822
State Insurance .. .. .	8,248,796
Commonwealth-State Housing	3,748,514
Tully Falls Hydro-electric	
Project .. .. .	2,462,872
Agricultural Bank .. .. .	2,373,640

"Loan Fund expenditure for the year totalled £20,630,240. The principal items of expenditure in this Fund were—

	£
Loans and Subsidies to Local	
Bodies and Hospitals	
Boards .. .. .	5,818,431
Railways .. .. .	5,571,618
Co-ordinator-General of	
Public Works (Develop-	
mental works) .. .. .	3,208,400
Land Settlement and Irriga-	
tion .. .. .	2,367,565
Public Buildings .. .. .	1,927,508

"Weather conditions experienced during the year, though reasonably favourable for most primary industries, were marked by an abnormally dry winter and an unusually severe cyclonic period in February.

"The main adverse effects of the dry period was a reduced wheat acreage and lowered dairy production, while the cyclonic weather damaged farmlands and ruined many crops.

"A preliminary estimate of the value of the wool clip for the 1953-54 season is £65 million.

"Pastoral production was at a high level. Butter and cheese production, however, fell as a result of a long dry period, and quality also suffered.

"For the first time in the history of the Queensland sugar industry, the production exceeded 1 million tons.

"Production approximated 1,220,000 tons of 94 net titre, an increase of 286,000 tons over that of the previous highest tonnage attained in the 1952 season.

"Value of the season's output was £51½ millions, exceeding that of the previous season by some £12 million.

"The Sugar Agreement between the United Kingdom Government and other Commonwealth exporting countries has been extended for a further year to the end of 1961.

"Quality of the tobacco leaf harvested and cured was generally good. Excellent prices were obtained and little remained unsold. Entomologists of the Department of Agriculture and Stock contributed materially to this result.

"Results of large scale spraying experiments to date suggest that the use of hormones may be a valuable aid in opening up large tracts of brigalow country.

"A milk drying section to process milk was opened at a Brisbane milk factory, and the manufacture of roller dried separated milk powder was begun at a Gympie factory.

"Demonstrations of improved dairying practices were set up on more than 80 dairy farms in co-operation with the Commonwealth Dairy Industry Extension Grant.

"A dairy research laboratory at Malanda was added to the existing chain of research laboratories.

"Investigations on beef cattle management are under way at Brian Pastures Beef Cattle Research Station, operated by the Department of Agriculture and Stock on a property provided by the Australian Meat Board.

"Tuberculin testing of nearly 650,000 dairy cattle ensures a tubercle-free milk supply to practically every large centre of the State.

"The first of the local abattoirs to centralise killing of stock in the main centres is expected to begin operations at Toowoomba later in the year.

"Implementation of the first stage of the Burdekin River Irrigation, hydro-electric, and flood mitigation project, which comprises the irrigation of 200 farms producing tobacco and foodstuffs on good agricultural land in the Clare, Millaroo, and Dalbeg areas on the west bank of the Burdekin River, is well advanced. Sixty-eight farms are now producing at Clare.

"In the Millaroo area, irrigation works are now completed to serve 30 farms, of which 17 have been opened for settlement and are being brought into production. Proposed works here and further development at Dalbeg should result in 40 more farms being opened for settlement in 1954-55.

"Storage to supplement the run of the river, to provide for the irrigation of the 200 farms planned for the first stage of development is provided by the Gorge Weir.

"Forty-three miles of 66 kV overhead transmission line have been erected from Home Hill towards the Burdekin Falls. This line has been energised by the Townsville Regional Electricity Board, and is supplying power to farms and irrigation projects in the Millaroo area.

"A modern township, provided with roads, water, and electricity has grown to accommodate the 330 men on preliminary works at the Tinaroo Falls Dam on the Barron River.

"The first section of the coffer dam is under construction. Puring of concrete for the dam is expected to begin this financial year.

"The weir on the Walsh River at Springmount was completed last December. Approximately 100 men are engaged in construction of a channel to take water from this weir towards Dimbulah to serve some 20 farms now operating under dry farming conditions.

“Expenditure on the Mareeba-Dimbulah project during 1953-54 amounted to £1,050,000 and the programme for 1954-55 provides for an expenditure of £1,700,000 on the project.

“During 1953-54 five weirs were completed. The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission has now constructed 36 weirs with a total storage capacity of 49,610 acre ft.

“Work commenced during 1953-54 on an additional irrigation area in the Dawson Valley at Gibber-Gunyah near Theodore, and on the establishment of an irrigation area near St. George.

“The Gibber-Gunyah project provides for development of 23 farms comprising 2,400 acres. Considerable progress has been made on the channel construction and irrigation works to serve the farms.

“Water from the recently constructed Jack Taylor Weir at St. George will permit the development of 17 farms with a total area of 5,100 acres in the first instance. In the second stage it will serve a further 20 farms, of 6,000 acres.

“Works proposed for 1954-55 include the construction of a pumping station and extension of channel and irrigation works to serve farms covered by the first stage.

“The Works Programme for 1954-55 involves an expenditure on these projects of £260,000, compared with £108,200 last year.

“The Commonwealth Government has agreed to the suggestion made by my Advisers that the total funds for stock route facilities in the Channel Country and on the Camooweal-Mount Isa stock routes, which are found equally by the Commonwealth and State, be increased from £157,000 to £300,000.

“Expenditure to date on this project amounts to £150,000.

“Concrete work for the main structure and all subsidiary work on the Somerset Dam is now complete, and the dam is now at the stage where it can serve in full both its water supply and flood prevention functions.

“Investigations are being made as to possible sources of further storage of water to supplement existing supplies, in the event of such supplies being insufficient to meet the needs of Brisbane, Ipswich and environs after 1970.

“During the year ended 30 June, 1954, 17 portions of the Queensland-British Food Corporation's lands totalling 89,427 acres, each portion containing agricultural land, were made available under the Group provisions of the Land Acts.

“An additional 69 lessees applied to have their selections considered in terms of Part II. of the Land Acts Amendment Act of 1952, so as to obtain priority rights over two living area units in consideration of surrendering the balance of their holdings to the Crown. Since this Act was proclaimed, 38 blocks totalling some 144,000 acres have been surrendered to the Crown. These will be made available for new settlement as surveys are completed.

“Fifteen more blocks of sheep country totalling 580,344 acres and six blocks of cattle country totalling 426,880 acres, have been made available for new settlement.

“Fifty-one more blocks totalling 83,286 acres have been made available for new settlement under the Group provisions of the Land Acts for mixed farming and also for sheep grazing in conjunction with fodder crop and grain or other crop growing.

“Advances totalling £2,457,651 were approved by the Agricultural Bank during the financial year, exceeding by over £50,000 the record of 1951-52.

“Approvals were also a record—£1,791,859 being approved to settlers and co-operative associations during the year.

“The allocation of selections under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme was suspended towards the end of the previous financial year. The established settlers and those still engaged in developing their selections are still being assisted and £640,438 was approved during the year. Advances totalling £3,304,592 have been approved to 463 settlers since inception of the scheme.

“Approval of advances totalling £22,854 under the Wire and Wire Netting Advances Acts and £2,500 under the Re-establishment and Employment Act accounted for the balance of advances approved during the year.

“An amount of £94,000 was provided for the construction of stock route watering facilities. Twenty-nine stock route watering facilities had been completed and 29 facilities were in process of construction.

“Preliminary work associated with a further 36 has been undertaken.

“The Co-ordinating Board has drawn up a programme of works for 1954-55 to provide for the completion of 64 facilities at an estimated cost of £94,000.

“An intensive campaign aimed at the destruction of vermin was conducted. This included aerial baiting for dingoes, the cost of which was shared with contiguous States.

“The Barrier Fences Act of 1954, which provides for the enclosure of the main sheep areas of the State with a dingo-proof fence, received the Royal Assent on 20 April, 1954. The Western Line will be commenced this year.

“Forestry operations were vigorously conducted during the year 1953-54.

“The sawmilling industry is relying to a greater extent than ever on the Crown forests to meet its log requirements, and the Crown log cut reached a record figure of approximately 240 million super. feet in the past year.

“More than £1 million was spent on reforestation, the area of new plantations established reaching 4,800 acres representing 2,750,000 trees. There are now 62,300 acres of plantations established throughout the State.

“Young softwood plantations are now making valuable contributions to the industry and yielded 11 million super. feet of timber during the year just closed.

"Hardwood and cypress pine forests silviculturally treated for the first time totalled 41,000 acres, bringing the total treated to date to over 550,000 acres.

"Steady progress has been made in the development of secondary industries. The number of factories increased by 150 to the new record figure of 5,068. Gross factory output rose by over £40 million, aggregating £295.5 million.

"The cement plant of North Australia Cement Limited at Townsville will be completed this year. Construction will also begin this year of a bitumen oil refinery to be established in Brisbane by a subsidiary company of Bitumen Oil Refineries of Australia Ltd.

"Total number of British migrants to arrive in Queensland under the Free and Assisted Passage Scheme since 1 July, 1947, has now reached 24,327. The high rate of successful settlement among these migrants has been maintained at 97 per cent.

"Of the total arrivals, 18,608 were personally nominated by friends and relatives in Queensland and 5,235 were single men and women and childless married couples nominated by the State Government and selected from an extensive list of occupations. Twenty per cent. of the nominations received for British migrants were lodged by migrants who have themselves settled happily in Queensland since the inception of the present scheme.

"Value of Queensland's mineral production during 1953 amounted to £21,764,469, a decrease of over £1½ million on that of the previous year's output. Falling prices of minerals played a large part in causing this drop in output value.

"Gold production was 71,818 fine ounces—a drop of 12,824 fine ounces on last year's production. This output was valued at £1,112,581.

"A large increase in the output of copper followed the commencement of operations by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. copper plant. Copper production in 1953 amounted to 21,409 tons 2 cwt. valued at £6,589,365 as compared with 6,235 tons 18 cwt. valued at £1,902,267 in 1952.

"The production of lead, zinc and tin showed a falling off on that of the previous year. Total value was £5½ million.

"Coal production was 2,516,812 tons valued at £5,822,110 as compared with the 1952 output of 2,742,236 tons valued at £5,905,377.

"The finding of oil in Western Australia has already caused a new interest in the search for petroleum in Queensland and applications have been made for Authorities to Prospect several new areas.

"Interest has also been aroused in uranium by the discovery of radio-active ores in the Cairns hinterland and in the Mount Isa and Cloncurry districts and a considerable impetus to the prospecting for this metal is foreshadowed.

"The programme of electrical development being undertaken in Queensland amounts to approximately £57 million, of which £33 million has already been spent.

"Capital invested in the electricity supply industry has increased from £7 million in 1938 to £52 million today, and all parts of the State are rapidly being served with electricity.

"In the last financial year, £12 million was spent on electrical works. Expenditure for the current financial year is estimated at £16½ million.

"In the past three years, six major power stations have been placed in commission. In addition, electricity schemes have been implemented by the State Electricity Commission in 14 townships in Western Queensland.

"The first turbo-alternator for the Tully Falls hydro-electric project is ready for installation, and construction of the diversion weir, intake tunnels, and power station will be completed before the end of this year.

"Forty-five miles of the transmission line from Cairns to Tully Falls have been erected, and construction of the remaining 36 miles will be completed in 1955.

"The State Electricity Commission has raised £4,076,000 by public loan issues since 1952. Private loans negotiated by the Commission during the same period amounted to £5,954,000.

"Amalgamation of the area of supply of the Toowoomba Electric Light and Power Company with that of the Southern Electric Authority is now proceeding. Under this merger, the electrification of South-Eastern Queensland, apart from a section of the City of Brisbane, will be entirely in the hands of one electric authority, whose area of supply will then total nearly 20,000 square miles.

"Railway statistics disclose a continuing expansion in the volume of traffic handled by the Department.

"Preliminary calculations indicate that the record goods traffic carried during 1952-1953 was exceeded in 1953-1954. The train mileage run was the highest since the peak war years notwithstanding the serious dislocation of traffic caused by the wide-spread floods experienced in February and March, 1954. The gross ton-miles figure promises to be an all time record.

"A vigorous locomotive and rollingstock construction programme was advanced a further stage during 1953-1954. The locomotive stock was supplemented by nine diesel-electric and three steam locomotives, while a small diesel-mechanical locomotive for use on the Etheridge Railway also was received.

"The high standard of comfort and service provided on the air-conditioned trains now operating in Queensland has enhanced the reputation of the Queensland Railways. During 1953-1954 two more of these trains with four spare cars were delivered by the contractors.

"These modern trains are now operating between Townsville and Mount Isa and between Rockhampton and Winton while two are in service between Brisbane and Cairns. The fifth train will commence running between Brisbane and Cunnamulla in August 1954, and the existing non-airconditioned trains on the Sunshine route should be replaced by air-conditioned trains during the current financial year.

"With the completion of the contract for the construction of six four-car diesel motor trains, the Department is planning for the introduction of other more modern motor trains, to replace those which have reached the stage of obsolescence. A two-car train built in stainless steel will be constructed by Commonwealth Engineering (Qld.) Pty. Ltd., while another two-car train will be built in the Ipswich Railway Workshops.

"The new Callide Coalfield Railway was opened for traffic on 9 November, 1953.

"The first section of the new station and administrative building at Cairns was completed and occupied in October, 1953, and the whole building should be completed by June, 1955.

"During 1952-1953, a committee, with the Co-ordinator-General as Chairman, examined the question of extending the Great Northern Railway to stimulate beef production. A comprehensive report indicated, inter alia, that an extension from Dajarra to Camooweal should be conditional upon continuation of construction from Camooweal to Newcastle Waters.

"The committee's report, which furnished estimates of cost of the proposed extension, and made certain recommendations as to the Queensland Government's contribution, is still under examination by the Commonwealth Government.

"Following delivery from overseas of all steel required for the first six of the ten 250 feet main spans of the Burdekin River Bridge, fabrication of steel for these spans has been undertaken by Messrs. Evans Deakin & Co. and delivery of the first span will, it is hoped, be completed by August, 1954. Delivery of subsequent spans has been promised at the rate of one every two months.

"Gear and equipment, including the travelling crane required for erecting main span steelwork, have been assembled at Home Hill. The rate at which erection of the main bridge can proceed will therefore be dependent upon the rate at which Messrs. Evans Deakin & Co. can deliver fabricated steel for the ten main spans. In the meantime, erection is proceeding of approach span steelwork delivered by Messrs. Drysdale and Ridgway and of steelwork fabricated in the Home Hill workshop.

"During the financial year ended 30 June, 1954, total expenditure from the Main Roads Fund was £6,747,822, compared with £6,462,732 during the previous year.

"Major works carried out during the year include the construction of the four-lane

highway between Brisbane and Ipswich, and the work has now been completed from Oxley to Sandy Creek at Waacol.

"A new steel and concrete bridge was erected across Sandy Creek.

"When works which are at present in progress on the Condamine Highway are completed, there will be an unbroken bitumen pavement as far west as Condamine.

"Improvements are progressively carried out over practically the whole length of the coastal highway between Brisbane and Cairns, and bitumen surfacing of the Southern end of the road has nearly been completed as far as Gympie.

"Value of the tourist industry to Queensland in the financial year 1953-1954, was about £4 million, of which the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau was responsible for £1 million.

"A bucket dredger being built at Paisley, Scotland, for use in the port of Brisbane and outports has completed its trials successfully and will be leaving for Brisbane this month. Three diesel-powered hopper barges are under construction at Lowestoft, England, and it is expected that the first vessel will be delivered in Brisbane about the middle of 1955.

"Work is in progress on wharves in the Hamilton area for handling general cargo, steel and wool. A new tanker berth at Colmslie on the south side of the river is under construction. Installation of bulk handling equipment for grain will be commenced at Pinkenba within the next twelve months.

"Port development is being undertaken at Urangan, Gladstone, Bowen, Mackay, Port Douglas, and Thursday Island. At Gladstone the coal handling plant should be completed in 1954-1955.

"Tenders are being called for the installation of bulk handling equipment for sugar at Mackay and dredging will be carried out to enable overseas ships to use the breast wharf.

"A new motor pilot vessel under construction at the Isle of Wight, England, was launched in March, and should be in commission in Brisbane before the end of 1954.

"It is gratifying to note the grace and efficiency with which our school children performed before Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her recent visit to Queensland.

"The continued increased attendances in State primary and secondary schools reflect the growth of Queensland's population.

"My Advisers anticipate that an increase of approximately 1,000 pupils per year in the State Secondary Schools will continue for some years. An unprecedented expansion has taken place in State Secondary Education this year. Four new State High Schools have been established and six additional Secondary Departments have been attached to Primary Schools.

"A new scheme, whereby country pupils can attend State Primary Schools and undertake secondary correspondence studies under the supervision of the head teachers, is now operating at eight country centres.

"Most urgent building requirements for primary education have been additional classrooms for existing schools and greatly increased numbers of trained staff.

"Altered systems of recruitment have helped considerably to increase the number of students in training as teachers. By the end of March 1954, there were 848 students in some stage of training at the Teachers' College and a further 731 students in secondary schools preparing for entry to the Teachers' College. These 1,579 students will enter the schools as teachers over the years 1955, 1956, and 1957.

"The service could absorb many more students than those offering for training. Recruits are required for replacements as well as to provide for increased numbers of pupils.

"About four years ago, a committee was set up to investigate proposals for the establishment of a Conservatorium or School of Music, but because of the difficulty of acquiring suitable premises for the purpose, little progress was made towards the establishment of the school.

"Early this year the question was reopened and My Advisers approved of the purchase of the South Brisbane Town Hall for £40,000. The Government expects to obtain vacant possession of this building within the next month. It is admirably suited for the purpose, being centrally situated and well constructed. When the necessary renovations and alterations are completed, it should compare very favourably with other schools in the Commonwealth.

"A special committee to examine proposals for the administration and conduct of the school has been set up and recommendations have been submitted to the Honourable the Premier.

"The recent opening of new, modern workshops in the technical colleges at Cairns and Townsville signifies the continued expansion of industry in the north.

"A new lecturer in coal mining will arrive from England this year and will lecture at Ipswich Technical College.

"Additional accommodation to the number of 244 classrooms and extensions to 18 classrooms were provided by the Department of Public Works.

"Loan Funds were made available to enable a resumption of work on the erection of the fifth and sixth units of Anzac Square Building, and it is expected that work on the project will continue without further interruption.

"The Department has before it a large programme of new works for 1954-55, but the amount of Loan Funds made available will determine the extent to which it can be implemented.

"However, as in past years, apportionment of available funds for building will be made to ensure that the people will not be denied the service required from Government Departments.

"Expenditure during the year on new buildings and the maintenance of public buildings totalled £2,188,706.

"During 1953-54 the new Sugar Technology Laboratory in the Chemistry Building at St. Lucia University was completed, and the Physics Building is approximately half completed.

"A contract has been let for sewerage works to serve the residential colleges (including Cromwell College), future C.S.I.R.O. buildings in Mill Road, and certain of the Great Circle buildings and this work should be completed by October of this year.

"Contracts for construction of the major portions of King's College and Emmanuel College have also been approved. Students should shortly be in residence at Cromwell College.

"The year 1953 presented a record low maternal mortality rate of 0.71 per thousand live births.

"The Maternal and Child Welfare Service has been further expanded and there are now 217 centres throughout the State as well as the Correspondence Service for mothers in the very remote areas.

"People in the various country centres visited so far by the Mobile X-ray Unit have responded well to the opportunity to have their chests X-rayed.

"The survey in the metropolitan area and the country reveals a low incidence of tuberculosis.

"The first section of the Chest Hospital at Chermside constructed of pre-fabricated aluminium components and with accommodation for 186 patients and nursing staff is now being occupied.

"Major hospital works completed during the year included a new mental hospital at Charters Towers; a general and maternity hospital at Barcaldine; a block at the Ipswich hospital comprising administrative, operating theatre, in-patient and out-patient accommodation; an administrative and out-patients block at Maryborough; an isolation hospital and staff quarters at Rockhampton; and a new maternity hospital at Toowoomba. Hospital works were also completed at Brisbane, Charters Towers, Gladstone, Kingaroy, Longreach, Miles, Muttaborra, Texas and Tully. The foundations for the new hospital at Hughenden were finished.

"Hospital works, including some major projects, are in progress at Barcaldine, Beaudesert, Blackall, Bowen, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Eidsvold, Emerald, Gayndah, Herberton, Innisfail, Julia Creek, Kingaroy, Laidley, Mount Isa, Ravenshoe, Rockhampton, Roma, Stanthorpe, Thursday Island, and Townsville.

"Good progress is being made on the construction of the 700 bed general hospital at South Brisbane. A tender for the

construction of the superstructure of the nurses' quarters for this new hospital has been accepted.

"During the year ended 30 June, 1954, the Queensland Housing Commission completed 2,105 houses, and at the close of the year, had 1,263 houses in various stages of construction (including imported houses, 1,085 completed and 419 under construction).

"There are now under investigation 46 water supply proposals and 21 sewerage proposals estimated to cost £5,855,362 and £2,187,124 respectively.

"Working plans are being prepared for 97 water proposals estimated to cost £4,387,512 and 38 sewerage proposals at a total cost of £5,154,077.

"Plans have been completed but construction work has not yet commenced for 44 water supply and 11 sewerage projects at a probable cost of £3,332,109 and £1,651,329 respectively. Under construction are 109 water supply projects at an estimated cost of £6,448,992, and 27 sewerage projects, at an estimated cost of £2,740,275.

"The past year marked the completion of the first valuation by the Valuer-General of the Cities of Rockhampton, Maryborough, Cairns, the Towns of Gladstone and Redcliffe, and the Shires of Boonah, Isis, Laidley, Landsborough, Livingstone, Miriam Vale, Mulgrave, Tiaro, Widgee, and Wondai.

"Concurrently, the valuations for the second quinquennial period were completed for the City of Toowoomba, Town of Dalby, and the Shires of Chinchilla, Mount Morgan, Murilla, Tara, Taroom, and Wambo.

"Hearing of objections against the valuations made for the 1952-53 rating period was delayed for approximately 12 months, on account of the deliberations of the Board established under The Review of Valuations Act.

"It is expected, however, that all arrears will be overtaken by the end of the year.

"The new business written by the Life Department of the State Government Insurance Office during the year ended 31 December, 1953, totalled £6,902,184 in respect of 9,156 policies.

"The Life Fund increased by £1,032,300—an all time record—making the total of the Life Fund over £11 million.

"The Office anticipates again allowing a substantial profit distribution of 33½ per cent. on renewal of fire insurance premiums, and a profit distribution of 15 per cent. has been granted on marine premiums paid during the year ended 30 June 1953.

"Officers of the Public Service, including the Teaching Service, participated in salary increases of approximately five per cent. which were granted retrospectively to 4 May, 1953, by awards of the Industrial Court.

"These increases represented a substantial advancement in the salaries of officers and were granted by the Court after comparison

of certain salaries in the Queensland Public Service with those of similar positions in other Australian States.

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

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

A Bill to amend the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1953, in a certain particular.

A Bill to amend the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1953, in a certain particular.

A Bill to amend the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1947, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Factories and Shops Acts, 1900 to 1945, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1953, in a certain particular.

A Bill to amend the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1951, in certain particulars.

A Bill to amend the Stock Acts, 1915 to 1953, in certain particulars; and for other purposes.

A Bill to amend the Animals Protection Acts, 1925 to 1952, in a certain particular.

A Bill to make Further Provision with respect to Payment of the Capital Cost of the Somerset Dam.

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

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker left the chair at 12.36 p.m., and resumed it at 2.15 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that, following the vacancy occurring through the retirement of Mr. Thomas Dickson, who, for twenty-one years had occupied the position of The Clerk of the Parliament, that office has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Roy Leslie Dunlop, lately Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms; and that Mr. William Thomas Johnson has been appointed Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Whereupon Mr. Dunlop, having produced his Commission, took the oath of allegiance and the oath of office. Mr. Johnson produced his Commission, and took the oath of allegiance.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that, following the vacancy occurring through the retirement of Mr. Charles Theodore Wood, who, for twenty years had occupied the position of Chief Reporter, the following appointments have been made:—

Mr. Lewis Percival Waller to be Chief Reporter; and

Mr. Percy James Forde to be Acting Deputy Chief Reporter.

## PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

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

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

George Keyatta, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Townsville;

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

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

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

## DEATHS OF MR. T. DUNSTAN, MR. E. A. ATHERTON, AND MR. C. M. JENKINSON.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier) (2.19 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Thomas Dunstan, Esquire, Ernest Albert Atherton, Esquire, and Charles Moffat Jenkinson, Esquire, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

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

Mr. Dunstan was elected for Gympie at the general election, 22 May, 1915, and served through the whole of the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Parliaments. He was defeated at the polls on 11 May, 1929. He was re-elected as member for Gympie at the general election, 11 May, 1935, and served through the 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, and 32nd Parliaments; the latter Parliament as member for Nash.

He was Minister without portfolio from 26 February, 1925, to 22 October, 1925. He was appointed Secretary for Public Lands on 22 October, 1925, and occupied that position until 21 May, 1929. He was Temporary Chairman of Committees for the Sessions of 1920 to 1924, inclusive, and 1939 to 1949 inclusive. He died on 19 June, 1954.

The late Mr. Atherton represented the electoral district of Chillagoe in the 25th Parliament, 1929-1932, and was Secretary for Mines from 21 May, 1929, to 17 June, 1932. He died on 29 June, 1954.

The late Mr. Jenkinson was first elected for Wide Bay at a by-election on 19 March, 1898, during the 12th Parliament and was member for Wide Bay in the 13th Parliament. He was later elected for Fassifern on 13 January, 1903, at a by-election in the 14th Parliament and served through the 15th, 16th and 17th Parliaments. He died on 30 July of this year.

Mr. Speaker, most hon. members in this Parliament today had the opportunity and privilege of knowing the late Thomas Dunstan. I think he could be described as a very colourful figure in his own modest, unassuming and quiet way. He was a man of considerable learning, a man who had spent many hours with the aim of improving his knowledge. He was a man of whom it could be truly said burned the midnight oil to equip himself for his profession as a journalist, in his capacity as a printer and in his ability to represent his fellows in this Parliament with distinctive merit and to their advantage. Mr. Dunstan was a small man in physical stature but a big man in mental ability and outlook. He was a man of great individuality and strength of character. He was a man who was prepared to stand on principle, nevertheless prepared to compromise in the interests of the welfare of others. In other words, he did not stubbornly pursue his own ideas to the disadvantage of others. He was one who understood what the term freedom meant in a democracy. Freedom does not mean to do as one likes, when one likes, where one likes without having regard to the welfare of others.

The late Mr. Dunstan was born in New Zealand 81 years ago. He was educated in Gympie and served an apprenticeship as a printer in the office of the Gympie “Times.” He later became editor of the Gympie “Truth” which he acquired early in the century and which he edited and controlled until cessation of publication in 1942.

He had been a Minister of the Government and in the position he occupied, that of Secretary for Public Lands, he discharged his responsibility, I believe, with credit and with advantage to the Government. Tom Dunstan, as he was affectionately known, was always a man of the people. Those who knew him for a very long period, in particular the people of the electorate that he had the honour to represent, always credited him with being a humble, sincere and conscientious individual who was at all times accessible and who always had an ear for the requirements of the district and the difficulties of his people. He possessed that confidence of his people up to the time that he decided to retire from public life in this State.

In short, it can be said with truth that he served Queensland well, that he served the political party with which he had been associated for so long with distinction. He belonged to the Australian Labour Party at a time when it was looked upon less favourably than it is today, at a time when men were boycotted and discriminated against for being members of it, at a time when the Labour Party did not enjoy the same measure of respect and freedom that it does today. Nevertheless, Tom Dunstan, in common with many others, fought for its principles, the implementation of which has meant so much in building the democracy in which we live.

The late Mr. Atherton was a man whom I cannot claim to have known very intimately,

but it was my pleasure to meet him on many occasions, not so much as a Minister of the Crown but as a citizen of North Queensland. I must say that I was always impressed with his great spirit of citizenship. He was an untiring and enthusiastic worker with unlimited faith in the district in which he lived and industries in which he was engaged; a type of faith that is important in any State or Commonwealth. He was prepared to make many personal sacrifices for the development of his district and for the good of the people in his neighbourhood.

No doubt it was for that reason that the people saw fit to elect him as their representative in this Parliament in 1929. The Leader of the Parliament at the time undoubtedly saw in him qualities sufficient at least to warrant his selection for the Cabinet of the State without his having had any previous parliamentary experience. That in itself was a great compliment to the late gentleman. I feel that during his term as Minister for Mines he discharged his duties with the same measure of conscientiousness and ability as he did in many other public positions, at all times having regard for the good of Queensland. Whether in the shire, or the town council of Cairns, or on any board or other body associated with the sugar industry, he always had as his goal the good of Queensland and its future development. We sympathise very sincerely with the widow and sons of the late Mr. Atherton.

I cannot say that I personally knew the late Mr. Jenkinson but I have read the record of his service in the public life of this State. At one time he was Mayor of the City of Brisbane.

He, too, will come within the category of public-spirited men who were prepared to make a sacrifice for the good of their town, city or State. The late Mr. Jenkinson was born in England and came to this country in 1883; he was a journalist and publisher as was the late Mr. Dunstan. He is perhaps best remembered for the fine work he did when he was mayor of Brisbane from 1914 to 1916, the first two years of World War I. The late gentleman was responsible for the establishment of the Queensland Patriotic Fund which accumulated no less than £1,000,000 in the four years of that World War. It will be appreciated by hon. members that £1,000,000 in those days was a good deal of money. During his term in the Assembly the late Mr. Jenkinson displayed energy and fairness and served his electors well.

Mr. Speaker, we very sincerely convey our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives and friends of the departed members of this Assembly.

**Mr. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Leader of the Opposition) (2.32 p.m.): I wish to second the motion of sympathy moved by the Premier to the relatives of three gentlemen who were members of this Parliament and who passed away since we last met. They gave great service to the State. As

the Premier said, the late Thomas Dunstan perhaps was best known to us as he served with the majority of the members in this Chamber at the present time. He had a long and distinguished career, marked by sincerity of purpose and great attention to duty. He was a studious unassuming man with a remarkably keen sense of humor. We enjoyed his little quips in the course of debates. We know too that he was no mean artist. Many a time when he was seemingly sitting quietly he was really sketching an hon. member who was speaking at the time. With many other hon. members I developed a keen personal friendship for the late Thomas Dunstan as I travelled up and down in the train with him for many years leaving Brisbane on Fridays and returning on Mondays. I learned to appreciate his personal qualities and to know him well. As Secretary for Public Lands he was a sympathetic administrator. He had much to do with problems associated with soldier settlement and as a soldier settler I have some knowledge of his work during the time that he held that portfolio. Many returned soldiers had reason to thank him for the sympathetic way in which he dealt with their problems. Perhaps we can best judge the great esteem in which he was held by referring to the great number that attended his funeral when he was laid to rest at Gympie. It was evident that he was universally loved by the people with whom he had lived for many years. I venture to say that nobody really knew of the many great turns he did for the people of Gympie and for other parts of Queensland.

Gympie has given the State many great men. The late Andrew Fisher, the late Tom Dunstan and the late Harry Walker were all Gympie men. It is appropriate that the late Tom Dunstan and the late Harry Walker lie side by side on the hill in the Gympie cemetery. Even though they may have been political opponents, they were very good personal friends.

The late Mr. Atherton was a man of the wide, open spaces; a true Northerner. He was marked by his frank and direct approach to any problem. He played a very important part in the public affairs of North Queensland. He loved the North and did all he possibly could to further its interests. He was prominent in local-authority affairs, being chairman of the Barron Shire Council, chairman of the Woothakata Shire Council, and a member of the Cairns City Council.

On his election to this House, he was given the portfolio of Mines by the then Premier, Mr. Moore. He controlled the Department of Mines during a particularly difficult period, and his record of activity and achievement as Minister for Mines in this State is something to be proud of. He made a great contribution to the State, particularly to the North, which, as the Premier said, he loved so well.

The late Mr. Atherton was associated with the sugar industry, and as a member of both the A.S.P.A. and the Queensland Cane Growers' Council, he made a material contribution to the development of that very important industry.

The late Mr. Jenkinson I knew only by repute, but, as the Premier has said, he too, during his long period of public life in this State, made a very material contribution to the progress and development that we as citizens enjoy today.

The Opposition join very sincerely with the hon. the Premier in according our deepest sympathy and condolences to the relatives of the three hon. gentlemen.

Motion (Mr. Gair) agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

#### PAPERS.

The following papers were laid upon the table:—

Regulation under the Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1949.

Order in Council under the Burdekin River Development Act of 1949.

Order in Council under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1951.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June, 1954, and balance-sheet as at 30 June, 1954, in respect of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund.

By-laws Nos. 653 to 659 inclusive, under Section 134 of the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1954.

Proclamation under the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.

Orders in Council under—

The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.

The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

The Milk Supply Act of 1952.

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

The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1954.

Regulations under—

The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1948.

The Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

The Milk Supply Act of 1952.

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

Orders in Council under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1951.

Proclamation under the Barrier Fences Act of 1954.

Regulation under the Land Acts, 1910 to 1953.

Orders in Council under the Barrier Fences Act of 1954.

Regulations under the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1953.

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

Regulation under the Sewerage, Water Supply, and Gasfitting Act of 1949.

Regulation under the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1953.

Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1953.

Order in Council under the Co-ordination of Rural Advances and Agricultural Bank Acts, 1938 to 1951.

Orders in Council under the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Trust Fund Act of 1943.

Proclamation under the Farmers' Assistance (Debts Adjustment) Acts, 1935 to 1945.

Regulation under the Explosives Act of 1906.

Regulation under the Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1945.

Regulation under the Navigation Acts, 1876 to 1950.

Regulation under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1952.

Orders in Council under the Profiteering Prevention Act of 1948.

Orders in Council under the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1947.

Orders in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Proclamation under the Objectionable Literature Act of 1954.

Proclamation under the Justices Acts, 1886 to 1949.

Order in Council under the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1953.

Regulation under the Prisons Act, 1890.

Order in Council under the Magistrates Courts Act of 1921.

Orders in Council under the Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1950.

Statute under the University of Queensland Acts, 1909 to 1941.

Regulations under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1948.

Order in Council under the State Housing Acts, 1945 to 1953, and the Local Bodies' Loans Guarantee Acts, 1923 to 1936.

Regulation under the Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946 and the Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.

By-laws under the Pharmacy Acts, 1917 to 1939.

Food and Drug Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949.

Cafe Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1949.

Order in Council under the Mental Hygiene Act of 1938.

By-laws under the Opticians Acts, 1917 to 1954.

Proclamation and Regulation under the Trade Descriptions (Textile Products) Act of 1954.

## ELECTORAL ENROLMENTS.

## RETURN TO ORDER.

The following paper was laid on the table:—

Return to an Order made by the House on 31 March last, on the motion of Mr. Nicklin, showing the enrolment for each electoral district in each zone at 31 December, 1953, the total enrolment for each zone, and the quota for each zone under the Electoral Districts Acts.

## PERSONAL STATEMENT.

**Mr. HILEY (Coorparoo) (3.2 p.m.), by leave:** I wish to inform you, Mr. Speaker, and the House generally that I have announced to my colleagues my retirement as from today from the office of Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I also desire to inform the House that the hon. member for Mt. Coot-tha, Mr. K. J. Morris, has been elected to the office of Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing through you, Mr. Speaker, my thanks to all those who have extended to me so much in the way of courtesy and assistance during my tenure of the position. Of my Leader, Frank Nicklin, I want to say that over the years of working closely together, what was always a respect has developed into a personal regard and affection which will endure as long as life itself. My own colleagues in the Opposition continuously heartened me with their loyalty and support, and I look forward with real pleasure to continued service in their company.

I want to say that it has been my good fortune to enjoy very good relations with successive Premiers in the working of the House. To you, Mr. Gair, I should like to say publicly that I appreciate the many considerations that you extended to me personally and the very great degree of co-operation extended to me in arranging the business of Parliament itself. I also look back with gratitude on much helpful consideration from many members of your Cabinet.

To you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the various officers of the House, I should like to acknowledge the unfailing respect and courtesy which I have felt have been extended to me in the office which I held.

And now, Mr. Speaker, if I might for a moment trespass on the time of the House, I should like clearly to inform hon. members why it is that I felt compelled to relinquish an office in the performance of which I have not been unhappy. The position is that present conditions face the holder of that office with an unenviable dilemma. It is my considered opinion that the responsibilities of the office cannot be adequately performed except on the basis of a full time service and that the financial responsibilities of the office, which far exceed those of a private member, cannot be met with neither research and secretarial assistance nor some emolument over and above the salary of a private member.

Over the past five years, I have attempted to overcome the position by working impossible hours, attempting simultaneously to carry out the duties of a private member, meet the additional load imposed on a party leader, carry out some professional work to meet the added financial strain and then carry out additional professional work to meet the cost of providing my own secretarial assistance.

The passing years have simply added to the conviction in my mind that such a situation is untenable. The correction of the financial dilemma merely accentuates the problem of devoting sufficient time to meet the requirements of the office. I feel that I should report these considerations fully to Parliament in order that in the appropriate time Parliament might consider the problem in the light of my experience in relation to the new and future holders of the office of Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

These are days when, with the advancing hand of Communism stretching down apace through South-eastern Asia, the perfection of our own beloved parliamentary instrument is the most pressing responsibility of all Australians who are true believers in democracy. I do not believe that this Government subscribe to the one party technique which is so evident behind the Iron Curtain, and I ask that the Government consider the appeal that I now make in relation to the office which I relinquish.

## GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

## ADDRESS IN REPLY.

## OPENING DAY.

**Mr. SKINNER (Somerset) (3.6 p.m.),** who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

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

“May it please Your Excellency—

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

“The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us,

will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State."

As a member of this Legislature, and as one who had the honour of being presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., on the occasion of the Royal visit to Queensland, I feel that I am expressing the opinion of every Queenslander, including every member of this Legislature, when I say that I do not think there could have been a more spontaneous and sincere demonstration of loyalty by the people to their Sovereign than that of the people of Queensland on the occasion of the Royal visit. It was the first occasion on which a reigning monarch had visited the shores of this country.

The people of Australia were proud to demonstrate their loyalty to, and affection for, their Sovereign on that occasion. It was unfortunate that time did not permit the Royal party to visit all parts of the State—it was utterly impossible to do that in the short visit of only nine days—but no effort was spared by the organisers of the Royal tour to ensure that every facility was made available to people in the remote parts of the State to visit centres included in the Royal tour. This is a fitting time, on behalf of the people of Queensland, to express their gratitude, their thanks and their appreciation to the Premier, the members of his staff, the Cabinet, the Director of the Royal tour in Queensland, Mr. Manning, and all the other people responsible for the organising of the Royal tour, for the consideration and co-operation extended to local committees and others charged with the responsibility of arranging for the visit of the Royal party to various parts of the State.

Special emphasis should be placed on the consideration given to the youth and children of the State, and the facilities that enabled them to pay homage and respect to the Royal visitors. Queensland as a whole feels that those responsible did a grand job.

I take this opportunity of expressing my personal gratitude to the people of my own electorate who, having placed their confidence in me, afforded me the opportunity of being personally presented to Her Most Gracious Majesty as their representative in the Parliament of Queensland. I reaffirm my determination to give the interests of the people of my electorate and the interests of the State my wholehearted support and attention.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. SKINNER:** I congratulate His Excellency on the excellent manner in which he again demonstrated to the people his close contact and the deep personal interest in their welfare, progress and development. His close contact with the people was displayed in the very excellent and informative address that he delivered in opening this the Second Session of the Thirty-third Parliament of Queensland.

Australia has attained nationhood, a fact that is accepted and recognised by the other nations of the world. Many problems confront the future development and progress of this State. My purpose is to deal mainly with the primary industries and in particular the dairying industry. I propose to touch briefly on their history and development and to mention some of the problems that have confronted them in the past, and will confront their future development, economic stability and progress.

To-day Australia is a nation and it is a long way back to the first settlement in this country. Unfortunately we have to admit that we cannot take a great deal of pride and satisfaction in much of the history associated with the early settlement of Australia. It was associated with tyranny and the suppression of the people; many things I prefer to forget. However, we have seen the emancipation of the people, we have seen progress in the Commonwealth and in the State in particular. The emancipation increased settlement and a flow of free men and women to this country. Free people began to migrate from the Mother Country and other parts of the world, people who were imbued with the one ideal to build a new nation and a new empire in the Southern Hemisphere. The development of Australia really commenced with the influx of the free people to this country. These great pioneers, with their stouthearted womenfolk, took up land in the unexplored regions of the State. After battling with the problems of nature and the resentment of the primitive black man they succeeded in establishing their homes. All credit to them for the development of a new era in primary production in what is now known as the Commonwealth of Australia.

I propose to deal with the situation as it confronts the people of Queensland. Primary industry is the backbone of the economy of this country. Statistical reports show that primary production has been a major contributor to the successful development of the finances of the country, and that it has played a great part in providing export goods that have built up favourable trade balances overseas. The economy of the country is sustained mainly by the value of our primary production. It is interesting to note that for the year 1919-1920 our favourable overseas trade balance was £37,500,000 and that for 1948-1949 it had risen to £700,000,000. It is also interesting to note that the net value of primary production—after allowing for depreciation, production costs, marketing and incidental expenses—in 1915 amounted to £7,750,000, and that for 1951-1952 the net value was £138,750,000. Of that sum the dairying industry provided £19,500,000, the agricultural industry £35,750,000, and the pastoral industry £67,000,000. In view of those figures it is only right that we should pay tribute to the early pioneers in Queensland and in other parts of the Commonwealth who carved their names indelibly in the history

of primary development throughout Australia. As a member of this legislature, representing an electorate where primary production has been carried on for over a century. I pay a tribute to these pioneers. The Brisbane Valley and the lower portion of the South Burnett where primary industry has been conducted for so long has played an important part in building up the economic stability of this State. Queenslanders are greatly indebted to these people who displayed such fortitude and courage in the early years of this State. It is we of this generation who glory in the heritage that these courageous people have handed down. Unfortunately, history reveals that at one period in the development of Queensland there was a grave danger of the old Tory idea of large tracts of land under "land baron" ownership becoming predominant. That was the trend of the land legislation in the early Tory Governments of this State. Thousands of square miles of good arable agricultural lands were withheld from closer settlement because of the heavy land rentals and the leases that had been handed out by the Tory Governments. It is recorded that such Governments demanded guarantees to pay the cost of building railways to develop portions of this State, but fortunately for Queensland and its development we saw a new era in 1915 when the first Labour Government took office in Queensland. Toryism, as it was then known, was overthrown by the people. Legislation was introduced, legislation born in the minds of men of humble parentage who had only one ideology—government of the people by the people for the people and in the best interests of all the people. There was to be no discrimination of class or creed. Their aim was a decent standard of living for every section of the community. It was the Labour Government that abandoned the old railway guarantee system of constructing railways in rural areas. It was then that we saw organisations being set up for the marketing of primary products. Co-operative organisations were established, assisted financially by the Government. We recall that a Labour Government were responsible for a land policy that favoured leasehold tenure in preference to freehold thus assuring the availability of land for settlement without a heavy purchase price. We saw too the establishment of the Agricultural Bank to provide finance for those who wished to establish themselves in the primary industries. There were events and happenings over which neither the people nor the Government had any control whatever which seriously retarded the economy of the primary industries. For instance, there were droughts, floods, bush fires and world wars. An economic depression struck this country about 1929, and lasted until 1932. All these happenings severely affected the economy of our primary industries but I believe that Governments could have introduced legislation to lift the economy of the primary industries. A study of the development of the primary industries discloses that from the close of what is termed the depression period to 1941, Governments lost a great opportunity to improve

and stabilise the primary industries of Australia, particularly the dairy industry. I have a vivid recollection of the period. At that time the industry was staggering along on a very unstable economy. The entire responsibility for it cannot be laid at the door of the people engaged in it. I have every respect and admiration for them, but they, like every other section of the community, look to Governments for legislative guidance and help in improving the stability of their industries. Unfortunately, they went through that 10-year cycle without any material help whatsoever.

History reveals that it was not until 1941, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, when the destiny of this nation was so ingloriously handed over to the Labour Prime Minister, the late John Curtin, that we saw any real legislative attempt to stabilise and improve the economy of the dairying and other primary industries of the Commonwealth. After 1941, production in primary industries reached the highest levels ever recorded in the history of Australia. We saw the introduction of guaranteed overseas markets at favourable prices, with the subsidising of dairy products. In 1948 the system of guaranteed cost-of-production was introduced for the first time in the history of the primary industries. Again this was the result of legislation introduced by a Labour Prime Minister, the late Hon. J. B. Chifley. We also saw established a fund for the stabilisation of primary industries. Into that fund were paid profits from export sales. These moneys were to be used to stabilise industry at any time when overseas prices fell below cost-of-production for the Commonwealth. It cannot be denied that the Chifley Government established a fund by making an annual grant of £250,000 for the purpose of increasing efficiency and improving standards in the dairying industry of the Commonwealth. This fund was distributed to State Governments to help them at a time when they too were endeavouring to find ways and means of increasing the efficiency of the dairying industry. The fund was to be utilised for the employment of additional field officers who were to give advice, undertake research and direct a scientific approach to the improvement of standards and the more efficient production in industry.

Then we had the post-war period when the Commonwealth was faced with the task of rehabilitating members of the armed forces including those who had been withdrawn from primary and secondary industries and placed in war-time occupations. Those people had to be put back into peace-time employment. With the commencement of the rehabilitation period, war-time controls were eased, price control was maintained and this kept wage standards on an equitable level with production costs. The imposition by the Government of import licences built up the economy of the secondary industries in conjunction with the primary industries, but, strangely enough, as is very often the case the hand that feeds is the hand that is bitten. In 1949 the people who gained the most and received

the greatest advantage from the improved economy of both primary and secondary industries fields, and the people of Australia as a whole defeated the Labour Government led by the late Mr. Chifley. Immediately there was a change in the economy of the country. We saw the lifting of price controls, the lifting of import restrictions, with increased taxation straightaway. Primary production, particularly in the dairying industry, and I emphasise this point, suffered as a result of the legislation after 1949. The dairying industry has become over-capitalised as a direct result of it and the policy pursued over the years up to the present time. Not only has it become over-capitalised but all incentive for greater efficiency and greater production has been destroyed by excessive taxation levied on the people in primary industries. The result has been high production costs aggravated by low production levels and the loss of guaranteed overseas markets. Every hon. member is aware that as from 8 May, 1954, the British Ministry of Food Commission ceased to exist and from that date all primary products from Australia have to be marketed overseas in open competition with other countries of the world. The guaranteed market in the United Kingdom for primary products will no longer exist on the termination of the long-term contracts which I understand expire early in 1955. I think that the primary industries, particularly the dairying industry is facing its greatest crisis. Problems that confronted it in the past, either as the result of legislative action or by droughts and floods were possible of being surmounted, although perhaps not in their entirety. Let me give hon. members a brief comparison of production figures in Queensland. I should like to quote some figures placed at my disposal by the courtesy of the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock from the research section of his department. In 1921-1922 there were 850,000 head of dairy cattle in this State; by 1951-1952 that number had increased to 1,600,000. Milk production in 1921-1922 was 110,000,000 gallons. As I indicated before, the peak of 350,000,000 gallons was reached in 1941-1942, but the figure dropped to 116,000,000 in 1951-1952.

The average production of milk per cow in Queensland's dairy herds is now back to the 1932 level at 150 gallons per annum. I have vivid recollections of the last Session, when the hon. member for North Toowoomba quoted figures to show that production in other countries of the world was in excess of ours.

Butter production in the year 1921-1922 totalled 20,000 tons, in 1941-1942, the peak period, it totalled 60,000 tons, and in 1951-1952 it was down to 36,000 tons. It is interesting to note, however, that there has been an over-all improvement in the production capacity per cow, because the average weight of butter produced for each gallon of milk has been maintained at a steady .5 lb.

Cheese production also has shown very little increase; in fact, it has decreased. In 1921-1922 we produced 5,000 tons, in 1941-1942, the peak period, we produced 12,000 tons, and in 1951-1952 it dropped back to 7,500 tons.

Frequently I hear people engaged in primary industry in my electorate saying, "Why should we endeavour to produce more? Why should we strive for greater efficiency? If we do, we have to bear a heavier burden of taxation." There must be an answer to that. I believe that the answer lies with the Commonwealth Government because they are the taxing authority in this country.

We have also to bear in mind the present high cost of machinery and the enormous expenditure that is necessary if people are to change over from the old style of farming with horses to mechanisation, the present initial cost of which is excessive. Some indication of the cost of farm implements and machinery is given by figures that have been supplied to me by one of the largest organisations in South Queensland handling farm implements and agricultural machinery, figures that I accept as authentic. A tractor is very necessary on any dairy or agricultural holding. The cost of British tractors has risen in the last eight years from just over £500 to almost £750. The cost of an American tractor, imported through dollar currency—and that seems to be the favoured policy of the present Federal Government—has increased from £300 eight years ago to approximately £900. Further, the very necessary drawbar equipment for attaching to tractors now costs £250.

And then there is all the other equipment on this list that I have. For example, milking machines have doubled in cost over the last eight years. Stationary motors for areas that are not reticulated with an electricity supply have increased in cost by over 100 per cent. The cost of fibro piping for an irrigation plant, which is another essential if we are to improve efficiency and production, has increased from 3s. a foot to 8s. a foot.

Underground water supply is being rapidly developed in the upper portion of my own electorate. One of the major items very essential in underground water supply is a pump and they cost up to £650 to install.

Those figures indicate how primary industries, particularly the dairying industry, are faced with high cost of mechanisation.

However, there is a redeeming feature and that is the progressive policy laid down by Labour legislation over the past 20 years. It has greatly eased the burden in the past and will assist greatly the economy of the primary industries, and dairying industry in particular, in the future. In that legislation we find the answer to the query of what can be done to avert the crisis at present confronting the primary industries of Queensland. I believe it can be achieved, through the policy of the present Government of land settlement on perpetual lease; reclamation of brigalow scrub lands; construction of weirs to provide irrigation; reforestation on private lands, and Crown

lands, to reduce soil erosion; technical advice and assistance on the land through field officers relating to soil conservation by contour survey ploughing, herd-testing, and recording soil analysis; and pasture improvement.

We also have staff and equipment to prove underground water supplies. We have the establishment of regional experimental farms, and the Bureau of Investigation Research Station at Gatton. The latter project I believe will prove to be one of the major factors for success in the future development and economy of the dairying and other primary industries.

Initial experiments at the regional station have proved that it is absolutely necessary to grow legumes in conjunction with grasses to have all-the-year-round grazing in dairy production. We cannot rely entirely on natural grasses with their low nutritional value as the result of excessive grazing, droughts and bush fires. Successful experiments have been carried out at the Bureau of Investigation station at Gatton with legumes and grasses grown in conjunction on irrigated pastures. Reports from the Bureau of Investigation indicate that a combination which offers very good results on irrigated pastures after four years of intensive grazing at the rate of two beasts per acre comprised white clover, H.I. rye grass, *Phalaris Tuberosa*, and cocksfoot. Also a Rhodes grass-clover mixture has developed the carrying capacity of certain properties, and the palatability of grass has improved by heavy grazing and close mowing of pastures in summer. It is recommended that irrigated pastures should be given major consideration in the initial stages so that a stable pasture can be developed as the first objective.

During the period that investigations were carried out at Gatton, milk production trials were conducted on an irrigated pasture of 6 acres that were planted with the following: White clover 2 lb. per acre; red clover 1 lb.; lucerne 1 lb.; *phalaris* 1 lb.; cock's foot 2 lb.; perennial rye grass 3 lb.; H.I. rye grass 2 lb. (Time expired.)

**Mr. BAXTER** (Norman) (3.47 p.m.): It gives me very great pleasure to second the motion so ably moved by my colleague, the hon. member for Somerset. I appreciate the compliment conferred on me and the honour done to the important electorate of Norman, when I was chosen to second the motion. I wish to associate myself with all the sentiments contained in the motion. I think we are very fortunate in having such a distinguished gentleman as Sir John Lavarack as our Governor. He is not only a distinguished soldier, but also a very good citizen who has always displayed a keen interest in the progress and development of the State. Evidence of his interest is to be found in the fact that he has travelled extensively throughout the State in order to keep himself conversant with current affairs.

In his speech His Excellency referred to the establishment of world peace and the increasing threat from the North. The world

is definitely at the crossroads and a small spark could throw us into World War III. A greater appreciation of Christian charity should be developed to nullify that potential danger. Charity is the badge of all Christians, and it should permeate our industrial and national activities. We are privileged to live in a Christian democracy, but because we live in a Christian democracy and enjoy the privilege of being free to support any political body we favour and to worship at the shrine of any religious denomination, that does not mean that we should allow ourselves to drift into a state of apathy. We enjoy our present position only because of the fight waged by our forefathers, and by reason of their desire to pass on to their children something worthwhile. This must be fully appreciated and we must be very careful that we do not sacrifice privileges which now are justly ours because of the efforts of our forefathers in their fight for these privileges. The sooner we awake to the realisation of a potential danger virtually on our doorstep to the North, a danger to all Australia, the better. That is, I think, an undeniable fact; unfortunately it is not contemplated nor accepted by the large majority. The only reply is greater development and the stepping-up of our primary production, together with a speedy increase in our population. In order to deal with the increase in population there must be means of absorbing it and the only way is to have greater developmental work together with the stepping-up of food production to the full Australian capacity. These things can be done only by way of water conservation, irrigation and hydro-electricity. We as members of Parliament have a duty to the nation of Australia in this respect. There is none who will deny the all-importance of national development, but disagreeing as we may as to the methods to be followed by the respective political parties and Parliaments in the implementation of a policy of land settlement there is no disagreement as to its non-existence and for the need of some realistic approach to its achievement. As Australians we all must recognise that unless there is some system of national development to meet major requirements we cannot hope to deal with the danger that is directed to us from the shores to our North. Therefore it is the duty of all Australians to put their shoulders to the wheel, to move with one accord to support the greater development of Australia. The future will judge us at the bar of public opinion and we could be very easily found wanting because of lack of appreciation and good stewardship in the development of this State. We have a moral obligation and in this I include not only national and State Governments, but local authorities, private enterprise, and individuals.

We in Queensland have never received a correct allocation of moneys from our national Government. Taken on State areas, this is very pronounced. For instance, Queensland has an area of 670,500 square miles and I ask you to compare the size of this State with, say, Victoria or even New South Wales. Queensland is twice the size of New South Wales and six times

bigger than Victoria. It has always been agreed by all political parties that Queensland, in common with other parts of northern Australia, is potentially a gateway to attack. The development of this State is definitely a national as well as a State responsibility. The State has pulled its weight, but the full development of Queensland is beyond the power of any State Government because it has not been given sufficient help from our national governments. The Queensland Government have hit upon a correct method of development by the introduction of closer settlement schemes. In 1952 this Government passed an Act with that object in view. At present the land is held in large areas. It is incompletely developed and is being used mainly for pastoral purposes. Most of it is situated within the 20-inch rainfall belt. With a proper appreciation of the problem, I feel that Queensland could be on the threshold of an era of progressive land development. The State Government have done much already. They have planned State-wide electricity projects calculated to bring electricity to the farmers. They have helped with irrigation projects. They have undertaken pasture improvement, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Somerset. We are definitely moving in the right direction with irrigation. We are building weirs, constructing dams, and bringing water to many farmers. These efforts will be even more effective as we go along, but we should be getting much more help. We are entitled to financial aid from the Commonwealth Government for State development schemes that will tend to open up thousands of acres of rich fertile land.

It has never been denied that our primary potential should be the basis on which the State could become the largest manufacturing State of the Commonwealth. Some idea of the value of Queensland's primary production can be had from the fact that during the last quarter of a century this State has exported to overseas countries primary products of a value three times greater than that of her imports, but it is unfortunate that approximately two-thirds of the wealth that left our shores for overseas markets has not been returned directly to this State. On the contrary, it has found its way to other States, to New South Wales and Victoria in particular, in the form of manufactures and raw materials. In other words, what Queensland has produced for overseas markets has not been returned to her in any tangible or direct way. Admittedly some of the goods eventually find their way to this State, but the point I stress is that our raw materials are returned to the southern States to be manufactured into commodities that we in Queensland desire, and that these self-same commodities must be bought once again from the southern States by the people of Queensland. That means that despite the fact that our overseas wealth is going back to the southern States, the wealth that we produce in Queensland is also going to southern States to purchase back that which is justly ours. Over the years this has worked detrimentally to the industrial progress of

Queensland and although it did assist the economic development of the southern States and to an extent the economic development of Australia it did not in any way help the economic development of Queensland. Our primary products that go overseas have built up wealth that goes back to the southern States. The retention of a greater part of our overseas earnings would help Queensland's development. It must be admitted that the policy of increasing the population of Australia depends on the development of agriculture; that fact cannot be denied because from agriculture comes all other industries. Industrial expansion has always been encouraged by the Queensland Government and much direct help has been given towards this end. This wise move by our Government has paid dividends because over the past 12 months approximately a further 292 factories have come into operation, making the total number 5,068. If a nation depends exclusively on its primary production to maintain its international trade it is only simple logic that the sphere of primary production should receive special attention and encouragement. This must be realised by those in the farming community. It is their moral responsibility to work for the Australian people and the inhabitants of other lands so desperately in need of the food Australia can produce.

Taking first things first I honestly think that the post-war immigration and economic policy should have been designed to encourage the development of agricultural production in this State. Closer settlement is wrapped up with that. In Queensland our railway system whilst probably helping in the decentralisation of population and the possible development of our ports does not assist to the extent I think it should in breaking up large pastoral holdings into smaller blocks thereby furthering Labour's policy of closer settlement. I should like to draw attention to the fact that our railway system runs latitudinally; I should like to see a series of railway lines built to run longitudinally linking up with the present latitudinal system. That would bring many more areas closer to the railheads, which is so very necessary if we are to have closer land settlement.

And now I should like to deal with public health. Queensland has given a lead to the rest of Australia in the provision of hospital, maternal and child-welfare services. In co-operation with the Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government introduced the Hospitals Benefits Scheme as from 1 January, 1946, whereby free in-patient treatment was provided in public wards for everyone, and a reduction of 8s. a day was granted in non-public wards and in any approved private hospitals. This Government, however, are unique in Australia in that they bear the whole cost of the free out-patient service instituted on 1 January, 1946. No other State in the Commonwealth does this.

With regard to maternal and child welfare, free ante-natal advice is available to all prospective mothers seeking it, and our maternal

and child-welfare services cover the entire State. A chain of maternity sections is attached to general hospitals throughout Queensland. Ante-natal supervision, well-trained staffs, and modern equipment in the general hospitals have combined to reduce the infant mortality in this State. Nurses are in attendance at 200-odd clinics to give post-natal advice and also to exercise an oversight over the baby during the early days of its life. The attendances of infant children and expectant mothers at clinics during 1952-1953 totalled 372,326.

Throughout the State there are 122 public hospitals. There are also 31 dental clinics and 25 branch dental clinics under the control of hospital boards. To assist persons who cannot receive adequate dental or medical treatment in their home towns, free rail travel is provided to and from the nearest suitable hospital or dental clinic if their financial circumstances are such that they would not be able to travel unassisted.

Nowhere else in Australia will you find a more humane approach to these matters than we have in Queensland. We are working also on a policy of decentralisation. We are taking the best of medical attention, not only for the physically sick but also for the mentally sick, to all parts of the State. Recently, on a tour of inspection with the Secretary for Public Works and Housing, it was my privilege to visit a large number of our hospitals in other parts of the State, to see the modern equipment with which they are provided, and to hear the remarks of commendation and congratulations that were expressed by doctors, matrons and nurses. Whilst I was in Charters Towers, I saw a mental hospital in the course of construction.

This mental hospital is a Public Works job, and a credit to the Public Works day-labour system. At the time the hospital was planned it was impossible to get contractors to do the job, and of necessity the Department of Public Works had to do the job itself. Right at the commencement an obstacle was placed in the way of the department through its inability to obtain bricks, which were not made available for Public Works jobs because the department would not pay the extra money that was demanded on the black market.

The ingenuity of the department must be praised. They obtained the necessary equipment and made concrete bricks which were superior to the ordinary bricks that were being made in North Queensland at the time. This hospital is built wholly of those bricks.

When I inspected the hospital one unit comprising a two-storey administration block was completed. Adjacent to that on the left-hand side were wards for the mentally sick, and the wing on the other side was being used temporarily as an auxiliary kitchen.

The hospital is not only a place where persons can be sent by doctors, but it is also an institution where any person can go of his own volition, the only condition being that they cannot stay there for a period in excess of 72 hours. Nevertheless they can return for a further period of treatment later on.

The building will cost approximately £1,500,000 and will be big enough to accommodate all the mentally sick people of North Queensland. It will eliminate the long journeys by train and other transport that at present have to be undertaken. When the project is completed there will be a wing to accommodate aged people who are mentally sick, and another wing to accommodate senile people. There will be wards for both males and females. In the centre will be a large kitchen and nurses' quarters. The design of the building is excellent and it will be painted throughout in harmonising colours.

Queensland is also to the fore in looking after its population, in this matter of education. The children living in isolated districts receive tuition from our primary correspondence schools. Children who pass the State scholarship examination get free tuition in any secondary State School or approved denominational school. Many schools in the city and the country are equipped for broadcast reception arranged by the department in collaboration with the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The scholarship allowance enables a large number of boys and girls in Queensland to get a free secondary education. In addition we have our agricultural high schools and colleges that train the young people who will be the farmers and graziers of tomorrow. Our educational system is completed by our university. In this regard we have cogent evidence that the Queensland Government have looked after the interests of the young people who will be guiding this country in the future.

Our railway system is going ahead in leaps and bounds.

**Mr. Dewar:** It is a very rough track.

**Mr. BAXTER:** The hon. member would not know whether it was or not. The introduction of diesel engines is a sign of progress. We also have a modern type of passenger train, five of which will be running by the end of this month. These trains are superior to anything in Australia and, as far as comfort is concerned, they are probably equal to anything in the world. There has been a difference of opinion regarding the merits of the diesel engine. The diesel is something new, and everything that is new is the subject of criticism. You cannot expect a man who has been trained with steam engines to be conversant with the diesel, because that type of engine reacts in a different way. For instance, the application of the brake has a different effect on a diesel; and that is something that has to be learned. It is all very well for people to say that the diesel is no good. The diesel is doing a mighty good job. The haulage power alone is a sense of satisfaction. Any person who doubts the truth of that statement need compare only the haulage power of the diesel engine with the steam engine.

As to progress in our railway system, the Brisbane "Courier-Mail" paid the compliment of saying that there is now an era of progress. Competition is very keen but our

railway system is giving the travelling public the type of conveyance they desire and they appreciate it. One need only come in contact with tourists in Queensland as I did recently when making a tour of the North to hear the praises of our transport system. They praised our transportation but condemned very strongly the lack of amenities and conveniences that should be supplied by private enterprise in hotels, boarding houses and the like. It is to these deficiencies that criticism is directed by the tourist trade; not to our transportation system. In Australia it is the prerogative of governments to direct public capital expenditure for the improvement of transport, but the obligation is on private enterprise to give capital expenditure towards the progressive development of the amenities required for tourist trade.

It is frequently said that there is inefficiency in our Railway Department, but those who condemn the department compare the administration of this huge department with that of a small business of perhaps five or six employees. In their criticism they do not take into consideration the fact that the Railway Department controls 23,000 employees. There is a possibility of mistakes in the administration of such a large department, more especially considering the distance between head offices and the far-flung outposts, as it were, of the system.

There should be set up a system of schools in the Railway Department. For instance, take the clerical section. Amongst the young clerks of today are the future heads of the different departments, but, as is natural, with many youths, they are a little lax about making themselves conversant with their work. They are careless about attending college. I should like to see introduced within the department a system of schools at which, for example, the officer in charge of maintenance could teach these young people the fundamentals of maintenance. Again, the senior traffic officer should coach them in traffic work, and so on. At present they gain knowledge haphazardly. Under the present system, the juniors have to look after themselves for months and years. There should be some person whose responsibility it is to ensure that they are taught the various branches of the work.

Again for the future benefit for our railways, there should be an interchange of youngsters as between the Southern, Central and Northern divisions so that they might become conversant with the many problems that are purely domestic and peculiar to each district. In addition, now that we have a vast interstate trade, we should arrange for an interchange of goods' clerks with other States in order that they might become conversant with the rates operating in the various States. At the moment, if one wishes to send something to Western Australia one finds that there are approximately eight different freight rates operating.

(Time expired.)

Debate, on motion of Mr. Nicklin, adjourned.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

**Hon. V. C. GAIR** (South Brisbane—Premier): I move—

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

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.29 p.m.

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