

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 1961

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Legislative Assembly

SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1961.

TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1961

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 20 July, 1961, 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. D. E. Nicholson) at the Bar, and accompanied to the dais.

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

"HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

"You have been summoned to attend this, the Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Parliament of Queensland, to consider important business of concern to the people of this State, which arose during the First Session of the present Parliament, and to consider legislative proposals which my Ministers have prepared for submission to the present Parliament.

"During the past twelve months, my wife and I have continued our tours of shires and towns in many districts of the State.

"We have enjoyed meeting the citizens, whose initiative, courage and progressive spirit fill our hearts with faith in the future, which is so full of promise for a steadily rising standard of prosperity throughout Queensland.

"The findings of scientific and practical investigation obtained by the research workers of our University and of the Department of Agriculture are being applied experimentally on properties in many areas of the State.

"The results which we have witnessed reveal remarkable opportunities for the more intensive production of primary products of the highest quality at competitive prices.

"Throughout Queensland marked progress is taking place in every branch of human endeavour.

"My Ministers inform me that the financial year, which has just concluded, resulted in a deficit of £618,243, or £401,957 more than was anticipated. Due to the effects of credit controls, collections of Stamp, Succession and Probate Duties were £735,500 below the estimates.

"Grain and livestock traffic, normally available to the Railway Department for carriage, were severely curtailed due to the effects of drought conditions existing throughout most of the financial year and receipts from Railway earnings were £1,602,613 below estimate.

"The maintenance of health, hospital, charitable and educational services continue to be an increasing charge on State revenues, and expenditure in 1960-1961 was £4,205,817 more than was expended on these services in the previous financial year.

"For the financial year 1960-1961 the Agricultural Bank approved advances totalling £3,582,172 under its own Acts and £102,935 under the War Service Land Settlement Acts.

"Severe drought conditions were experienced in the State during the year and it was again necessary for the Government to implement the provisions of the Drought Relief to Primary Producers Act to provide finance to enable farmers to carry on operations. During the year an amount of £64,033 was

approved under the Scheme. This year the Act was amended to include graziers in the Drought Relief Scheme.

"Another good year in the Life Department of the State Government Insurance Office was experienced.

"The increase in the Life Fund constituted another new record, £2,043,366 being added to the Fund.

"This business was written at a very satisfactory expense rate and in consequence it was possible to grant substantial increased bonuses to "With Profit" policyholders.

"The Fire Department also experienced another good year and it will be possible to continue the profit distribution which has been allowed during the past sixteen years.

"During the year the Office invested £224,850 with Co-operative Housing Societies and £3,530,000 with Local Bodies, making the total amount invested with Local Bodies £34,790,000.

"The State's expanding activities are demanding more and more port development to handle our overseas trade. Dredging has commenced on the entrance channel to Weipa. Improved wharf facilities are projected at Port Alma. Gladstone already has provided additional wharf accommodation for coal export.

"In Brisbane reclamation for an oil refinery site is under way and the findings are most favourable for deepening the entrance channel to this port to 45 feet.

"During the year £250,000 was spent on a State-wide programme to provide water-front facilities for the motor boating public.

"The Queensland Housing Commission completed 1,746 house units and at the close of the year had 856 units under construction. This was an improvement of 16 per cent. For 1960-1961, 1,462 house units were acquired by home owners and rental units increased by 284. Of the house units erected since April, 1945, 13,491, or 56 per cent., are home ownership and 10,629, or 44 per cent., are rental.

"In addition, in 1960-1961, approximately 1,000 houses were provided through building societies from funds made available by Government loans and Government guaranteed loans. This has been the most successful year of activity by those societies.

"Houses and flats completed in Queensland for 1960-1961 practically equalled the number completed in 1952-1953, the second best performance in the history of the State.

"In 1960-1961 occupation of a number of new buildings at the University of Queensland at St. Lucia became effective.

"Buildings completed include the Bio-chemistry Building, Chemistry Building Extension, the Union Building, and the Veterinary Science Building. The Anatomy Building is 60 per cent. complete, and it is expected that the Engineering School will be completed early in December, 1961.

"Work has commenced on the construction of a bridge linking Bribe Island with the mainland at Toorbul Point.

"The Co-ordinator-General has been nominated as constructing Authority for the new Brisbane Market, to be erected in Sherwood Road. Work is now proceeding on the necessary levelling and drainage of the site, preparatory to constructing the market buildings.

"Koombooloomba Dam was completed early in the 1960-1961 financial year, with the exception of the spreading of certain rock filters adjacent to the Dam.

"Construction of the Barron River Hydro-Electric Extension Project is under way.

"A suitable location for the main transmission line has been chosen, in the selection of which due care has been taken to ensure that the scenic beauty of the Gorge and the adjacent National Park are protected.

"Following the adoption by my Ministers of a report by a Departmental Committee set up to investigate the expansion of the beef industry, Commonwealth partnership was sought in a road construction programme estimated to cost some £6 million. Sympathetic consideration is being given by the Commonwealth Government to road development in North and West Queensland in its plans for further national development.

"Pending decision on the complete programme, the Commonwealth has agreed to provide £650,000 towards the first £1 million expenditure during 1961-1962 on the Normanton-Julia Creek road, the remaining £350,000 being met by the State.

"The serious increase in the number of unemployed in the State, for which seasonal conditions have been largely responsible, has caused my Ministers grave concern. In an endeavour to alleviate the position my Ministers have, during the year, carried out a record programme of main roads construction and public works. The position is being kept under constant survey and every avenue will be explored to relieve the situation.

"Every effort is being made by the Government to encourage industry to promote greater efficiency.

"Extensive Health, Welfare, and Safety provisions are embodied in the new Factories and Shops Act which now applies to the whole of the State. A Health, Welfare and Safety Board is now functioning.

"A Committee was appointed by the Minister for Labour and Industry to examine and consolidate the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1959. This Committee's recommendations are included in amending legislation to be presented during the forthcoming Session of Parliament.

"The new Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act enables the machinery of conciliation to function more promptly and

effectively. Although the Act came into force only on May 2, 1961, its provisions have already been invoked.

"The Secondary Industries Division continues to take every opportunity of attracting attention to manufacturing opportunities available in Queensland and the State's potential for future development.

"Regional Advisory Committees have been very active. New Committees have been formed, and investigations have been made on the possibility of establishing new industries in decentralised areas. Particular attention has been paid to activities, such as extension of forestry projects and road construction, which, it was considered, would relieve seasonal unemployment.

"A Market Survey to determine industries suitable for establishment in Queensland has been carried out by The Economist Intelligence Unit, and the report is awaited with interest.

"During the year Amoco (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. announced that it would establish an oil refinery in Brisbane. An agreement with the Queensland Government was finalised to construct the refinery on Bulwer Island at the mouth of the river, and it is anticipated that the refinery will be in operation by 1966.

"Petrochemical industries may be associated with the refinery, but in any case by-products from the refinery will be available for the establishment of other related industries, which were not possible hitherto.

"Production of building materials has increased with higher production of cement and earthenware bricks. As well as augmenting supplies, the establishment of new concrete block plants has increased productive capacity. Work has commenced on the construction of a new Cement Works for Central Queensland in Rockhampton.

"Willys Motors (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. have transferred to the Rocklea industrial area the whole of their manufacturing and assembly activities, and Australia is now being supplied from the Brisbane plant.

"Renovations and extensions to the new Police Headquarters building at North Quay are well advanced, and the building should be ready for occupation by the Commissioner of Police, his staff, the C. I. Branch, Traffic Branch and other sections of the Department during the current financial year.

"The collections of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau for the year ended June 30, 1961, were the highest on record, namely £1,852,141—an increase of £201,899.

"Special efforts were made during the year to attract business for Queensland, not only on the Australian market, but in North America, the Far East and in New Zealand. The Queensland tourist industry is becoming increasingly important as an integral part of the economic structure of our State.

"A more spacious building has been obtained to meet the urgent and ever increasing demands of the Melbourne branch of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau, and steps are being taken, which will make it a most attractive Tourist Office.

"Seventy blocks of good quality grazing land with a total area of 3,980,309 acres were made available for new settlement. In addition, six blocks totalling 414,080 acres of sheep grazing land were opened for selection during July, and action is well in hand for the subdivision and opening of a further area of approximately 2½ million acres. That acreage will provide 29 new sheep blocks and 34 cattle holdings.

"During last financial year, 737 residential allotments were offered for sale to the public under freeholding title. Credit restrictions have limited to an appreciable degree the private development of lands suitable for residential purposes. However, demand is still firm and allotments are being offered for sale by the Crown as necessary road works are completed.

"Extensive reclamation works at Cairns have commenced in terms of a joint arrangement with the Harbour Board and the Cairns City Council. Similar works are proposed at Mackay.

"The year saw the completion of the second stage of the North Coast Highway which, when all five stages are completed, will link Caloundra with Noosa by a first-class bitumen highway along one of our most beautiful coastal areas.

"Development of Barrier Reef Island resorts will be assisted by the completion of a bitumen access road from Airlie to Shute Bay through the scenic Conway National Park, and the construction of a substantial jetty in the protected waters of the bay is almost completed.

"During the year just ended, £1,712,398 was spent on reafforestation, direct employment being provided for 1,459 men on such work. New plantations established totalled 4,200 acres, the total area of plantations being now 97,050 acres.

"In addition, an area of 50,000 acres of natural forest was silviculturally treated for the first time. The total area so treated now exceeds 640,000 acres.

"The cut of log timber from the Crown forests reached 221 million super. feet, of which approximately 27 million super. feet represented thinnings cut from the Department's softwood plantations.

"Applications under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Act for advice on surface and underground supplies totalled 1,550 for the year. Of these 305 included requests for financial assistance. Advances approved totalled £322,691 and advances made £165,000.

"The availability of finance under this Act had an important bearing on the rapid increase in use for irrigation of the underground water resources in the Callide Valley.

"Five percussion drilling plants have been in operation examining underground water potential for irrigation in six different river basins.

"Although 1960-1961 was a drought year, there was a spectacular increase in production of £1½ million in the value of the tobacco crop marketed from the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation area, which provided a gross return of £4½ million.

"Extension of the irrigation works by some 21 miles in the Dimbulah, Chewko, and Walkamin sections enabled the opening of an additional 45 new farms as well as a large increase in area of production by existing landholders.

"Further extension of the works planned for the 1961-1962 year will bring water from Tinaroo Falls Dam to the Emerald Creek and Clohesy River sections. This will eliminate shortages of supply experienced intermittently by landholders irrigating from these streams, and enable them to further increase their plantings.

"Moogerah Dam, on Reynolds Creek, became available for storage in December, 1960.

"A contract has been let for completion of the Borumba Dam in the Mary Valley.

"Proposals were approved for the construction of Leslie Dam on the Upper Condamine catchment near Warwick, estimated to cost £1.9 million. It will provide additional water supply to the City of Warwick and irrigation water in the Condamine River.

"Grazing trials on the management of native pastures have shown that the use of small areas of lucerne in conjunction with native grass has resulted in an annual liveweight gain of 250 lb. per head more than that recorded for animals on native pastures alone.

"Although unfavourable seasonal conditions affected production in the dairying industry, butter quality showed improvement, and cheese quality was the best recorded in the history of the Queensland dairying industry.

"Two projects which could improve the economy of the industry have reached the stage of commercial application. They deal with the removal of weed taint from butter oils, and the production of spreads containing butterfat.

"A plan financed by all mainland States for the eradication from Queensland of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in cattle was implemented by officers of the Veterinary Services Branch. The plan entails close co-operation between meat inspectors, laboratory staff and field officers to pinpoint centres of active infection and encourage general

adoption of routine inoculation, and other measures designed to eradicate the disease from infected herds.

"The tuberculosis eradication scheme, which is carried out in co-ordination with approved veterinary surgeons, has been so successful that reactors now average less than 0.15 per cent. of cattle tested.

"Queensland's production from the 1960 season cane harvest reached a figure of 1,319,944 tons of 94 net titre sugar. Although this was some 30,000 tons below the record crop of 1958, its value of £64.5 million was an all-time high.

"As a result of shortfalls in Mauritius, Australia's overseas quota benefited to the extent of some 105,000 tons of sugar. This, together with the increased home consumption price operative from May, 1960, accounted for the record return on sales.

"During the past twelve months there has been vigorous competition for sharing of the now excluded Cuban quota, in the lucrative United States market.

"The persistent efforts of the industry's representatives in the United States were finally rewarded in early June, with an allotment of over 80,000 tons.

"The fate of the International Sugar Agreement rests largely on the attitude of Cuba. What this country will do, now that it has lost its long-established market in the United States, will dominate the review of the Agreement in September.

"The 1960 season saw the completion of the sugar industry's immediate plans for mechanical bulk-handling at Queensland ports, when the new Mourilyan bulk terminal swung into operation last year. Five terminals, valued in total at some £8 million, now handle 80 per cent. of the season's production.

"The impact of a highly progressive mining industry on the general development of the State and its overall economy is strikingly illustrated by expansion both financially and industrially. During the year ended December 31, 1960, the value of the mineral production of Queensland overshadowed the previous year's record by £6.8 million to reach a new total peak of £54,012,350.

"This new high level in total mineral value is actually due to the continued upsurge in the production of copper which is a State record of 80,155 tons valued at £26,002,959 and an advance on the 1959 output of 65,702½ tons valued at £20,523,388.

"Mount Isa continued to be the sole producer of zinc, which showed an appreciable rise in production. The continually growing tonnages of copper ore being produced by Mount Isa Mines Ltd. were in the main responsible for the general increase in the State's production.

"The output of gold fell away considerably, but that of lead rose slightly.

"At Weipa, the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Ltd. (Comalco) has continued testing operations on the bauxite deposit, and construction of the harbour has been commenced. The Corporation has notified the Government that it is proceeding to build at Weipa the largest alumina processing plant in the world, to cost £45 million. It will treat 360,000 tons per annum.

"Tin production was a little below that of the previous year.

"Because of the large entry by American "Independent" oil companies into the search for oil in this State, much more progress has been achieved. The promise of commercial gas potential from the Timbury Hills No. 2, Pickanjinie No. 1, and the deep wild-cat at Cabawin has given every encouragement to those connected with the search and 1961 operations will commence with much greater confidence than ever before.

"The production of coal improved slightly, but there was no improvement in the market for rutile, zircon, and ilmenite.

"Greater demand stimulated the production of brick and pipe clay, fireclay, ironstone, and pyrites.

"Expenditure on electrical development in the State last financial year amounted to £11½ million, and in the current year it is estimated that expenditure will amount to approximately £12½ million.

"The works included in this programme cover the whole of the State and include construction of the Barron River Hydro-Electric Scheme, the installation of additional plant at other power stations, and a large programme of transmission and distribution works in rural areas.

"In Western Queensland a substantial programme of transmission line construction will reduce costs at the smaller centres and provide an unrestricted supply of electricity.

"Approval has now been given for the construction of two new major power stations on the coalfields of Central and Southern Queensland and a general plan of electrical development for this part of the State which will meet requirements until 1970.

"Proposals under consideration relating to the future generating requirements of Northern Queensland are a thermal power station on the Collinsville coalfields, and possible hydro-electric schemes on the Herbert and Burdekin Rivers.

"The general plan of development incorporating these proposed works is estimated to cost approximately £159 million up to 1970. To carry out the programme within the time required will place a heavy financial responsibility on the Authorities concerned and on the Government.

"However, the construction of major generating facilities and associated works is an inescapable commitment in the overall development of Queensland.

"Every means will be explored to ensure that finance is available for the completion of the programme within the time required.

"Proposals for the re-organisation of the electricity supply industry are at present being studied.

"An expanding economy and the ever increasing demands of modern road transport continue to present a strong challenge to the State Road Authority in keeping pace with road traffic and developmental requirements. The deficiencies due to inadequate finance are a pressing problem.

"However, much has been achieved, within the limits of available funds, on the 20,000 odd miles of road declared under the Main Roads Acts. During 1960-1961 the total expenditure from the Main Roads Fund amounted to over £15½ million. More than 1,000 miles of roads were permanently improved and 6,777 lineal feet of bridges were completed.

"Impressive progress was made on the Brisbane to Cairns Road with the object of completing the bitumen surfacing throughout its entire length by about Christmas 1961.

"Because of vigorous teacher recruitment my Ministers have found it practicable to restore the two-year course of teacher training and to afford some relief in the staffing of small schools. The appointment of an additional teacher to large one-teacher and two-teacher schools should prove beneficial to those schools in the future.

"A second Teachers' College, the first in Queensland specifically designed for teacher training, opened this year at Kedron Park. In February, 1962, this College will have its full complement of students. When the buildings and grounds are completed at the end of this year in readiness for the full enrolment, the State will have an establishment which will compare favourably with any similar College in the Commonwealth.

"Departmental approach to the Queensland Housing Commission has resulted in the erection of twin-unit dwellings providing very favourable accommodation for single female teachers in towns where suitable boarding accommodation has hitherto been extremely difficult.

"At Mackay, Ipswich, Rockhampton and Toowoomba, the High Schools are being located on new sites to separate them from the Technical Colleges.

"Teachers, accommodation, and equipment have now been provided for 33,000 full-time secondary students; over 2,500 are receiving tuition by correspondence.

"My Ministers advise that because of technological developments of the last decade, new materials and new techniques are now necessary in the training of technicians and apprentices for many trades. Examples of new courses now offered are the course in Basic Automotive Transmissions for Automobiles, a Television Station Operator's course, and a Commercial Pilot's Licence course.

"An important development in Coal Mining education is the pre-entry training scheme at Ipswich Technical College. During a three months' course at the beginning of the year, boys attend three full days at college and two days a week at a mine for practical training. Full wages are paid during training.

"A new Heat Engines Laboratory is being planned for Townsville Technical College for use by College and University engineering students in 1962. A new workshop unit for electrical fitting and welding work should be available for Mount Isa apprentices during 1962.

"Of the 5,300 students enrolled at the Technical Correspondence School, 183 are Colombo Plan students and 60 are Colonial Sugar Refinery trainees in Fiji.

"Three research projects into butter and cheese manufacture are being undertaken at Gatton with funds made available by the Australian Dairy Produce Board.

"No fewer than 1,100 places are now available for slow-learning children in opportunity schools and classes throughout the State. To provide teachers in these schools with further professional training, an in-service course is being held in Brisbane during the August vacation.

"The increase in the number of Commonwealth Scholarships available this year has imposed greater demands on the guidance services offered these scholars by the Research and Guidance Branch. No fewer than 86 per cent. of full-time Commonwealth scholars were successful in their first year examinations.

"My Ministers advise that research into the incidence and progress of migrant children in our State schools has shown that these children are achieving excellent results.

"Queensland continues to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government by meeting the cost of reception, welfare, and settlement of incoming British migrants.

"Since July 1947, 45,421 persons have arrived from the United Kingdom, through the State Migration Office, for settlement in this State.

"Included in the number are members of various professions, skilled tradesmen, unskilled single labourers and more than 13,000 children. Migrants are spread throughout the whole of Queensland and have contributed greatly to its economic development.

"My Ministers inform me that the policy for providing free treatment for both inpatients and outpatients at Public Hospitals has been maintained.

"A Geriatric Unit is being established at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, South Brisbane, at an estimated cost of £72,000. A Director of Geriatrics has been appointed and he will closely associate with the new Geriatric Unit in the care of aged people. The Director's duties will not be confined

to Brisbane. He will visit all State Hospitals advising the Resident Medical Staff in the latest trends in treatment of senile cases. Visits to Eventide Homes will also be made.

"In the field of Mental Hygiene the training and appointment of teachers to tutor the sub-normal population of mental hospitals is planned, as also is the establishment of a teaching unit for the instruction of medical students, both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

"Since the commencement of the compulsory Chest X-ray Survey in June, 1959, up to June 30, 1961, 250,000 persons had received X-ray examinations. The areas covered were all centres north and north-west of Mackay, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Eidsvold and surrounding areas down to Petrie. The work is continuing and the metropolitan area will be last on the programme.

"The recent opening of the Wilson Youth Hospital at Windsor has furthered the State's programme for the correction of anti-social behaviour and the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. In addition Boys' Town, Beaudesert, was opened in May, and this Institution, under the control of a religious body is accommodating twelve boys. In the near future there will be provision for 48 boys with an ultimate target of 100 boys. A Church Home is also under construction at Booval and will shortly be available for the reception of boys.

"Increases in railway freights and fares operated as from October 1, 1960—the first since August 1, 1956, despite rises in wages and cost of materials. However, because of poor seasonal conditions, the additional revenue anticipated was not realised.

"This month the Railway Department brought into service the first of 91 stainless steel suburban carriages. These will permit replacement of obsolete cars.

"The locomotive power has been improved by the addition of five Main Line diesel electric locomotives, and three diesel mechanical locomotives for general purposes.

"There are on order and yet to be supplied, five diesel electric Main Line locomotives, 90 stainless steel suburban cars, 753 hopper bodies for coal wagons and 100 steel frames for cattle wagons. The latter will permit greater service being rendered in the movement of livestock. This particularly applies during the livestock season, when large numbers of cattle must be hauled over long distances.

"On the Mount Isa Railway Project, some 50 miles of track between Richmond and Duchess have been laid with 82 lb. material. Contracts also have been let for bridge and regrading works on the section Hughenden to Duchess, as well as for the regrading of the section of railway over the Haughton and Burra Ranges.

"A contract has been let and work commenced on a major bridge structure over

the Burdekin River near Macrossan, and a number of the pier foundations have been completed.

"As part of the Mount Isa Railway Project, a new station building and goods shed are to be erected at Mount Isa.

"Duplication of track has to be carried out between Nome and Stuart. Tenders for this work and for the new buildings at Mount Isa probably will be called in September, 1961.

"Railway consultants, Messrs. Ford, Bacon, and Davis, who are employed as Engineer-Manager for the Mount Isa railway project, also have been engaged to carry out an overall study of the facilities and operations of the Queensland Government railways, with the object of improving their operating results.

"The past year has seen the implementation of "The State Transport Act of 1960," which has brought about some change in the pattern of transport throughout the State. The previous complete restriction of road transport used in most areas of the State has been considerably eased, but the financial demands of both the Revenue Budget and road maintenance requirements have necessitated the retention of Permit Fees for commercial use of the State's roads.

"The world-wide problem of a division of traffic between the Railways and the road operators is, by reason of our highly decentralised population and vast distances, more accentuated than in most other States or other countries. Nevertheless, it must be faced, and my Ministers will continue to analyse the results of our existing systems and endeavour to reach a solution which will confer the most benefits on the community as a whole.

"Total expenditure by the Department of Public Works on buildings during 1960-1961 was £7,457,000. Of this amount 55.5 per cent. was spent on educational buildings.

"Nine new primary schools were completed or under construction during the year. Additional classroom accommodation was provided at a number of other primary schools, making a total of 156 classrooms.

"First sections of new State High Schools were erected at Childers, Bowen, Caboolture, Lockyer, Malanda, Everton Park, Charleville, Stanthorpe, and Kelvin Grove. New classrooms at these schools numbered 95.

"Extensive additions were made to a considerable number of existing State High Schools, 198 new classrooms thus being provided.

"The first section of the University College at Townsville, which is Queensland's first college to provide University facilities outside Brisbane, was erected and occupied at the beginning of the 1961 Academic Year.

"Tenders have been invited for the erection of a Health and Welfare Building in George Street. The building will comprise

nine storeys and will be of steel frame construction. It will provide accommodation for the Chest Clinic and for sections of the Department of Health and Home Affairs.

"Tenders also have been invited for the erection of a Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital at Chermside. This project comprises the erection of four single storey wards of brick construction and will provide accommodation for 124 patients.

"In order to provide adequate accommodation for prisoners, segregation, and training, work on the new medium security prison at Wacol has commenced. A contract has been placed for the erection of accommodation for 240 prisoners.

"The Valuer-General's Department has completed first valuations for the Shires of Bowen, Bulloo, Cook, Mirani, and Tambo. The valuations came into force as from June 30, 1961. The Department also commenced first valuations for the Shires of Ayr, Barcoo, and Murweh, and these will be completed during the current financial year.

"Of a total of 131 Local Authority areas in the State, 116 have now been valued.

"Local Authorities have at present under construction 191 water supply projects estimated to cost £12,416,927 and 60 sewerage projects estimated to cost £12,872,163.

"With the continued development of this State and the wide range of services now afforded to the community, the administration of the Public Service requires highly trained and efficient Administrative, Professional, and Technical officers.

"With a view to attracting and retaining suitable and qualified personnel, my Ministers have continued the policy of improving the salaries, superannuation, working and housing conditions in the Public Service and of affording training facilities for officers.

"Among the legislative measures which you will be asked to consider this Session will be—

A Bill to bring into operation in Queensland a completely new code of Company law which in conjunction with complementary action in other States, will achieve a substantial measure of uniformity with the laws relating to companies of the other States and of the Territories of the Commonwealth.

A Bill to authorise the execution by or on behalf of the State of a further Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the several States of the Commonwealth in relation to housing.

Amendments to the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1955, recasting certain of the requirements in relation to hospital accounting and providing for the establishment of a Patients' Trust Fund.

Amendments to the Fauna Conservation Act of 1952, requiring the holding of a hunting permit for the taking of protected fauna in open season and pest fauna; establishing a Fauna Conservation Fund into which fees and royalties received under the Act will be paid, and which will be expended in the acquisition and utilisation of land suitable for the fauna conservation.

Amendments to the Main Roads Acts, 1920 to 1960, particularly in relation to the appointment of the Commissioner and other senior officers; limitation of access to declared roads and to future State highways or main roads, and the control of the joining of subdivision roads to declared roads.

A Bill relating to the construction of a dam on the North Pine River to supplement the water supply of the City of Brisbane and contiguous areas.

A Bill to amend the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1960, to give legislative effect to certain recommendations of a committee appointed to review the Traffic Acts and the Regulations thereunder.

An amendment to the Cremation Acts, 1913 to 1925, to place the authorisation of the establishment of crematoria in the hands of Local Authorities.

"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 12.52 p.m., and resumed it at 2.30 p.m.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF WHITSUNDAY

DEATH OF HON. L. H. S. ROBERTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received from the Registrar-General, a certified copy of the registration of the death on 11 April, 1961, of the Hon. Lloyd Henry Scurfield Roberts, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Whitsunday.

BY-ELECTION DURING RECESS; RETURN OF WRIT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, following the issue of a writ by the Deputy Governor on 1 June, 1961, for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Whitsunday, the said writ has been duly returned with a certificate endorsed thereon of the election on 1 July, 1961, of Ronald Ernest Camm.

NEW MEMBER

Mr. Camm was introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BARCOO

DEATH OF MR. E. W. DAVIS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that I have received from the Registrar-General, a certified copy of the registration of the death on 10 April, 1961, of Edward William Davis, Esquire, lately serving in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Barcoo.

BY-ELECTION DURING RECESS; RETURN OF WRIT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that, following the issue of a writ by the Deputy Governor on 1 June, 1961, for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Barcoo, the said writ has been duly returned with a certificate endorsed thereon of the election on 1 July, 1961, of Eugene Christopher O'Donnell.

NEW MEMBER

Mr. O'Donnell was introduced, took the oath of allegiance, and subscribed the roll.

DEATHS OF HON. L. H. S. ROBERTS, MR. E. W. DAVIS AND MR. J. R. TAYLOR

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (2.35 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of the Honourable Lloyd Henry Scurfield Roberts, who was Minister for Public Works and Local Government and Member for the Electoral District of Whitsunday, and Edward William Davis, Esquire, who was Member for the Electoral District of Barcoo; and expresses its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late John Russell Taylor, Esquire, a former Member of the Parliament of Queensland.

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

Unfortunately it is generally our sad duty when we meet for new sessions of Parliament, to have to record the passing of members or ex-members of the Legislative Assembly. On this occasion we regret that we have to record the passing of three hon. members who have given great service to

Parliament, two of whom died during the term of the present Parliament and one, Mr. Taylor, who had retired previously.

The late Hon. Lloyd Roberts was a member of the Cabinet at the time of his death. He was highly respected by all hon. members. He had great ability, he had a personal charm that endeared him to all of us, and his record of 10 years' service in this House was indeed a very worthy one.

During that period he served his electorate of Whitsunday very well indeed. He was a man who gave a great deal of attention to his electoral duties, and I doubt whether any of us in this Chamber worked harder than he did in caring for the wants of his constituency and his constituents.

His death is indeed a great loss to this Parliament and to the Government in which unfortunately he served as a Cabinet Minister for less than 12 months of his parliamentary career.

The late Lloyd Roberts entered Parliament in 1950. In June, 1956 he was appointed Secretary of the Opposition, and in 1957 he became Secretary of the Government parties. He became Government Whip on 28 August in the same year. He was appointed to Cabinet on 9 June, 1960, being allocated the portfolio of Minister for Public Works and Local Government. May I say, as leader of the Cabinet, that I was very proud indeed to have him as a member of the Cabinet. He entered into his duties with his usual energy and tenacity and was doing a very good job indeed in his portfolio when ill-health struck him. He was a tireless worker and he had an undoubted flair for organisation. That flair was evidenced in the organisation of many political campaigns—both Federal and State—for which he was responsible. There was one thing about Lloyd Roberts that we all admired. He was always prepared to help others no matter what inconvenience it caused him. He was in ill-health for some time because of war service. He was a prisoner of war in Malaya. Most of his six years' service in the A.I.F. as a member of the Eighth Division was spent as a prisoner of war working on the Burma railroad. I am sure that we must all have admired the late Mr. Lloyd Roberts for his tremendous courage. (Hear, hears). He knew his days on this earth were numbered but undaunted, he carried on his duties as if he had one hundred per cent. good health. Right up until the time that he passed on he carried out his duties as far as he was physically able to do so, and he died as he always wished to die, as a good soldier with his boots on.

I pay a deep tribute to the great assistance of his wonderful wife in his last days. He suffered tremendous pain and a great deal of inconvenience. I am sure that if it had not been for the loving care of his good wife he would have suffered a great deal more.

No better tribute could be paid to the memory of any man than was paid to him by the people of his constituency and the surrounding areas on the occasion of his funeral in Mackay. The people of the city of Mackay honoured him by ceasing all activities when the cortege was passing through the streets. Thousands of people attended at the graveside representing all members of the community. They included not only members of his own political party, but also his political opponents. They all paid tribute to a man for a job well done.

The late Mr. Davis was one of nature's gentlemen, universally loved and respected by all who knew him so well in this House. His passing from the parliamentary scene has left a gap in this Chamber in regard to knowledge of the pastoral industry and the West, which it will be very hard to fill. The late Ned Davis had a tremendous knowledge of the pastoral industry of the State; he made a big contribution towards many pastoral activities in Queensland. He was indeed a great westerner. During the recent by-election, I found everywhere I went in the Barcoo electorate that there was universal respect for him and for his unfailing courtesy to everyone.

He represented the Barcoo electorate with distinction for 18 years. He was first elected to this Parliament in 1943. All of us listened with much interest to his contributions in this House on pastoral affairs. Always his approach to a subject was a reasoned one. He could see both points of view and any conclusions that he arrived at were always worth taking notice of. The late Mr. Davis earned the respect of all the members of Parliament with whom he associated during his long term of office. He was greatly respected by all sections of the community for his friendliness and for his courtesy.

The late Mr. Taylor was another member of this House who represented western electorates. He represented the western electorate of Maranoa from 15 April, 1944, to 28 April, 1950, and the western electorate of Balonne from 29 April, 1950, to 2 August, 1957. He served the people of Queensland as a member of this Assembly for 13 years and four months. He too was an ardent advocate of matters affecting the welfare of the electorates that he represented. He took particular interest, too, in the pastoral industry, for which he worked and in which he served, as an A.W.U. organiser. He took a great interest, also, in irrigation. He had the unique record for a private hon. member of having his name given to a weir in Queensland, the weir at St. George. He served his State well and his untimely passing was indeed a great loss to it.

Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 p.m.): The Opposition freely join with the Premier and associate ourselves with the motions of condolence embracing, unhappily, three hon. members, all of whom we knew very well in this Assembly.

The late Hon. Lloyd Roberts was, in Opposition, a very vigorous critic of the Government of the day; in government he was a very vigorous defender of the Government of the day. During his association with the Assembly we had an opportunity of assessing his qualities.

One of the regrets that I have personally is that it seems that death is necessary before an appropriate and public tribute is paid to the work of members of Parliament. I often wonder whether it might not be a good idea, if we are to have these eulogies recorded in the pages of "Hansard," to erase from the pages of "Hansard" some of the statements made about serving members of Parliament during their term of office, but I suppose that would be too much to hope for.

It is a moot point whether the death of Mr. Lloyd Roberts was accelerated by his service with the Forces. It is very hard to determine whether the rigours of membership of the Armed Services in any way contributes to some disability that becomes apparent later in life, but unquestionably we know the privations, the sufferings and the difficulties endured by the late Mr. Lloyd Roberts, serving, as he did, for a long period of time as a prisoner-of-war and in a theatre of war which was noted for the difficult and almost impossible conditions that obtained there. Many people gave their lives not in battle but in the prison camps of Malaya and the associated territories, which were occupied by a common enemy at the time. Therefore I am quite certain that in some way his death was accelerated by the service he rendered his country in a time of great need.

It is a normal and laudable ambition, I think, for anyone to aspire to become a Minister of the Crown. I personally felt he was very unwise in attempting to obtain a position in the Ministry because I am aware, as so many others are, of the heavy strain that the assumption of ministerial responsibilities imposes; but he seemed to have his heart set on the achievement of that goal, which is, as I say, something to which all members of Parliament should aspire, and he seemed to be happy in the fact that he had realised a lifelong ambition by being able to translate himself from the sphere of civil employment and become a professional politician and eventually one of the Queen's advisers in this country.

The Opposition indeed miss, as the Premier put it, his cheery way and manner. He had a breezy disposition and a great gift for quick improvisation. All in all, when you forget the barbs of debate, and when you forget the acrimonious discussions that take place in this House, which we should attempt to do if we can when we leave the precincts of the Chamber, we realise that he was indeed a person with whom we were always very happy to be personally associated.

I have pleasure, although regretfully so, in saying on behalf of the Opposition how sorry

and sad we are that a life was cut short at this time. To the widow and relatives of the late Hon. Lloyd Roberts the Opposition extends its most heartfelt sympathy.

I suppose there has been no figure in this Parliament in the last 25 years who was able to enjoy such a close and friendly intimacy with all hon. members as was the late Mr. Ned Davis. Mr. Davis was one of the most unassuming men it has been my privilege to know in public life, a man who rarely asserted himself, conducted himself with a quiet dignity and great personal charm, and was gifted with a power of felicity of expression that was the envy of other speakers. He was able, as the Premier said a few moments ago, to hold the attention of the House whenever he spoke. He was not one to take advantage of the Standing Orders to speak on every conceivable subject, but saved himself for those occasions when his knowledge and experience could be used to the advantage of the House and the State as a whole.

Mr. Davis had the great distinction of representing the first seat won by a Labour man in the Parliament of Queensland, the seat of Barcoo, which is of tremendous historical importance to the Australian Labour Party. Mr. Ryan, who was at one time confined to prison because of his union activities, was the first man to represent the Barcoo electorate. He was followed by another of the same name, Mr. T. J. Ryan, a former Premier of Queensland, one of the most illustrious public figures that the State has produced. Mr. Davis was conscious of that honour. He also followed Mr. Frank Bulcock, who, I think created a number of political records in being able to represent that constituency for an unbroken period without having any opposition. He, of course, distinguished himself in this Parliament and ultimately became an official of the Commonwealth and represented Australia abroad as the Director-General of Agriculture. So the Barcoo seat has produced men who played a prominent part in the national life of this country.

Mr. Davis, as have so many other men, came into this Parliament through his industrial associations. He was originally a bush worker. He was an avid reader, and he read more extensively than most people realised. One could gain from his utterances in this House the knowledge that he had a very good vocabulary and, as I said, his felicity of expression convinced everyone listening to him that he had read wisely and well. He then became an organiser for the A.W.U., and I think it was in about 1942 that he became district secretary of the A.W.U., a position which made him something like a member of the cabinet of that great industrial organisation, and from that position he gravitated into this House.

Like the Hon. Lloyd Roberts, he suffered from a disability, too, and it was a serious

disability that involved prolonged hospitalisation. I think all hon. members will agree with me that he also knew that death was near and was with him for quite a long time. His habitually easy smile was no less ready when he knew he was going West for the last time.

To relatives of the late Mr. Davis we also extend our very sincere sympathy.

The late Mr. Taylor came to this Parliament in more recent times, having entered the House in 1944. He came here as a veritable political greenhorn. I knew him well. I travelled down with him from the south-west almost every week, and I know of no man who was able to adapt himself so quickly to the changing demands and responsibilities of parliamentary life than Mr. Taylor. Most hon. members take a long while to find their feet and develop that confidence that enables them to discharge their responsibilities as active, able and efficient parliamentarians. Mr. Taylor very quickly sought advice. He applied that advice to his own advantage and to the advantage of his constituents, and his name was a household word in the south-western parts of the State for getting things done. He was able to convince even his political opponents who were voters in his electorate that they should transfer their vote to him not because of his political persuasion but because of the service he was able to render to them in his political capacity.

Mr. Taylor also was a man who was cut down in the prime of life and in most tragic circumstances. He was attending the wedding of his daughter when he collapsed and died. Indeed, that is a very sad circumstance at any time, and particularly so in the case of Mr. Taylor. He had rung me only the day prior to the wedding and made arrangements to have lunch with me on the Monday when we were going to discuss his future. Unhappily death intervened and his life was cut short.

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate if custom were slightly departed from—although it is not a custom that is always rigidly observed—so that the hon. member for Warrego might associate himself with me on behalf of the Opposition in regard to our expressions of regret at the death of Mr. Davis and Mr. Taylor. The hon. member was an extremely close personal friend of Mr. Davis and was an active executive member of the Australian Workers Union in Queensland. I do not think he needs to speak about the late Mr. Roberts, as I have already done that, but he would like to say a few words about the late Mr. Davis and Mr. Taylor.

The Opposition thank the Premier for the generous references he has made to these distinguished gentlemen, and we should like to join with him in placing on record our sense of appreciation of the great service rendered to the State through their period of association with the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. P. J. R. HILTON (Carnarvon) (2.57 p.m.): Personally, and on behalf of my party, I desire to associate myself with the sentiments so adequately expressed by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. It is true, as the Premier observed, that on every occasion when Parliament reassembles, motions of condolence and of appreciation are passed in respect to former colleagues. Death is a great leveller and, of course, it brings to an end all our political activities, our hopes and aspirations.

Although from time to time there may be great differences of opinion expressed in the Assembly, it is always proper and very fitting indeed that we should pay tribute to those men who elect to serve their country in this Parliament, and give due recognition to the worthwhile work they have carried out. On this occasion, in all sincerity, we can pay a great measure of tribute to the men the subject of this motion of condolence.

I agree with the Premier that the late Lloyd Roberts displayed amazing fortitude in the last months of his life. His fortitude in his great illness was an inspiration to all of us. It may help to fortify us, knowing that the same ultimate destiny awaits each and every one of us. His contribution to the political life of his State was very valuable to his party. Personally I was glad to see him attain ministerial rank because, despite his ill-health, he was most anxious to reach that very high and honourable office. I think that the very fact that he was able to serve in the Ministry compensated him to a great degree for all he had to endure.

I have happy recollections of his unfailing courtesy to me as a Minister, as I think have all other hon. members in the Chamber.

I sincerely join with the Premier in expressing the condolence of this House to his sorrowing wife and family.

Despite the fact that political differences in recent years might have thrown Ned Davis and me apart in the political sense, I would be very churlish indeed and devoid of decent sentiment if I could not stand up today and pay a tribute to the excellent work that the late Ned Davis carried out not only in this Parliament but also in the industrial affairs of this State. I pay a particular tribute to his efforts on behalf of his fellow workers in the great shearing industry.

The late Ned Davis was what I would term a natural philosopher. His philosophy was based, first of all, on the experience he gained as a very hard worker in the pastoral industry in days gone by. As he progressed in life he became a very willing worker for the pastoral industry for which he developed a particular regard and affection. His contributions in this House to that industry were of a very high standard and very helpful to hon. members who desired to obtain a good appreciation of matters associated with it. I have happy recollection of my associations

with him in days gone by and I willingly pay tribute to his memory today. I express my sympathy to his wife and family.

I had a close association with the late John Taylor because we represented adjoining electorates for many years. No hon. member of this House displayed greater enthusiasm or concern for the welfare of his electorate than did the late Jack Taylor. In times when parts of his electorate were suffering very much from flood or other disabilities he would work long hours and be on the telephone from early in the morning till late at night, rendering what assistance he could to those of his constituents who were in difficult circumstances. I have personal knowledge of many kindly acts that he performed on behalf of very many people. His contributions in the industrial and political life of this State were great indeed. In his case also I pay very sincere tribute to his memory and associate myself wholeheartedly with the motion of condolence to his sorrowing wife and family.

Mr. CAMM (Whitsunday) (3.4 p.m.): As a personal friend of the late Lloyd Roberts I support the motion of condolence. I desire to be personally associated with the expressions of sympathy to be conveyed to Mrs. Roberts and the members of her family.

I first made the acquaintance of the late hon. member over 30 years ago and I came to admire the sterling qualities and true fighting spirit that he possessed. He was always connected with various organisations working for the benefit and welfare of the people of Mackay and district. With a burning desire to serve those people he enlisted in the last war and the privations and hardships that he suffered and endured as a prisoner-of-war only tended to strengthen his desire to better the lot of his fellow men.

Hon. members of this Chamber know the high quality of representation he set for the Whitsunday electorate and also the good work he did as a Cabinet Minister for the rest of Queensland. I was closely associated with him during his entire political career in our district, and I am quite sure the wonderful service he rendered to the people of the Whitsunday electorate and the high reputation he established for the Country Party enabled me to win the seat in the recent by-election.

He will be ever remembered in my district by his many acts of courtesy and generosity. Irrespective of the political party to which the person belonged or the electorate in which he lived, no-one to my knowledge ever appealed in vain to the late Lloyd Roberts for assistance. Sometimes that assistance was given at great personal sacrifice to himself. Generally his philosophy in life can best be shown by the following quotation he had printed on the Christmas card he sent to his friends only last Christmas—

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any

fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Mr. HOOPER (Greenslopes) (3.7 p.m.): I desire to associate myself with the motion of condolence for the three hon. members covered by it. I want to speak as State President of the ex Prisoners of War Association particularly of my old friend and colleague, Lloyd Roberts. I must apologise if I am affected in any way or show that I am upset by the motion. Lloyd Roberts was one of the bravest men I have ever known. I was a prisoner of war with him and we were very closely associated. I assure the House that the privations and trials he suffered while a prisoner of war to a large extent contributed to his death. They accelerated his tragic end.

I believe many of us were proud to call him a friend. I was particularly happy to be able to do so. As the Premier said, he had the ability to organise and to make people happy. Even during the privations he suffered while a prisoner of war he did exactly the same thing. He set himself the task of seeing that the other fellow was looked after and helped. While he was a prisoner of war he did not care very much about himself, but he did care about his colleagues who were in the "can" with him. Under those extreme circumstances we got to know him well and truly.

Later when I became associated with him in this Assembly I discovered further qualities of the man. He had a conscience and he had many sound and grand beliefs that he put before Parliament on many occasions. He was proud of his State and country and he proved it both in this Parliament and in his service with the Eighth Division.

A Press statement on the untimely death of Lloyd Roberts said—

"Lloyd fought with death but kept going."

How true! He knew that it was only a matter of time, yet he was prepared to serve his country to the very last. We think of him not only as a friend but as a man who served Queensland well, whom many of us loved and admired, particularly those who are ex-prisoners-of-war. I refer especially to ex-prisoners-of-war in Mackay. In a recent trip to that city I found that the name of Lloyd Roberts was held high above all others amongst former prisoners-of-war in Mackay.

I place on record before this House my thoughts about Mrs. Roberts. As has been said, she fought with him all the way and assisted him continually until the the last. I convey my sincere condolences to Mrs. Roberts and the Roberts family.

Mr. DUFFICY (Warrego) (3.11 p.m.): There have been quite a number of speakers on this sad occasion and I have no desire

to go over what has been said already, but I do wish to add my comments to those of previous speakers. I had a very high regard for the late Lloyd Roberts. I think that every hon. member of this House must have appreciated his bravery in carrying on his ministerial duties when he should have been in hospital. I pay him great tribute, and support my Leader. I also wish to express my sincere sympathy for his relatives.

I was privileged to know Jack Taylor long before he became an hon. member of this House. When I was district secretary of the Australian Workers' Union in the South-Western District he was my organiser. I think he became a member of this House about 1943. No man represented a western constituency with greater zest than he did. It was unfortunate that he was defeated in 1957. I went through that electorate afterwards, and every person I met—irrespective of his political opinions—said that no matter what you referred to Jack Taylor, he gave it his complete attention and did everything possible, nevertheless, he was defeated. I wish to convey to his relatives my sincere sympathy.

I say without fear of contradiction that there is no-one in this House who knew Ned Davis as well, or as long, as I did. We both commenced as officials of the Australian Workers' Union in 1928 which is a fair while ago now. Ned Davis was District Secretary in Longreach when I was District Secretary in Charleville. He came into Parliament some considerable time before I did. He came in at about the same time as the late Jack Taylor—in 1943 or 1944. There is no man I have ever met in this Assembly since I was privileged to become a member of it, or before I became a member, who has a greater knowledge of western conditions than Ned Davis had. As the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier said, when Ned Davis spoke in the House on western conditions everybody listened to him because they realised he had a complete knowledge of the subject.

I suppose no greater tribute could be paid to any man than was paid to Ned Davis by his constituents in the last election that he contested. Through ill-health he was unable to visit his electorate between 1957 and 1960, the two election years, but, despite opposition from two political parties, he was returned by that electorate with a substantial majority. No greater tribute than that could be paid to a member of Parliament. Though we all regret his passing, the one little bright spot I can see at the moment is that the hon. member who was sworn in today was a personal friend of his for very many years so we feel that the western tradition will not be lost.

Mr. AIKENS (Townsville South) (3.18 p.m.): I join with those hon. members who

have already spoken and offered their condolences to relatives of the deceased gentlemen and I want to add my little mead of praise of the work done by those hon. members in this Parliament.

I well remember Jack Taylor because he came into the Parliament with me in 1944. A tremendous number of new parliamentarians were elected then, and the quick turnover of politicians, if I may use that term, is exemplified by the fact that, of the 16 or 18 or maybe 20 new members who entered the House after the 1944 election, only four of us remain—the Treasurer, the Minister for Labour and Industry, the hon. member for Wynnum and I.

I liked Jack Taylor. He was a westerner, and like most westerners, he was not vicious and he was not intolerant, particularly about politics. He had a very lively sense of humour, which often stood him in good stead, and it is to be regretted that he died so suddenly and so tragically, but, when all is said and done, I think that is the way most of us would like to die.

The other two gentlemen, the late Lloyd Roberts and the late Ned Davis, suffered long. When I think of the way in which they died and the suffering that they must have endured, I think that there are three types of courage known and recognised by men. One is the sudden, sometimes almost insane, burst of physical courage that manifests itself in time of emergency—courage that flares like a meteor and just as suddenly fades away; the type of courage that in war wins a Victoria Cross and in time of peace gets headlines in the Press. The second type of courage that men recognise is what we call "billy-goat" courage—the sort of courage that makes two billy goats go up on a hillside and butt their heads together until one staggers away defeated and half stupid. We see men in the backyards of hotels, out in the streets, in the hempen square, batter each other into insensibility with their fists until one falls unconscious on the ground or on the floor, or perhaps both stagger away half stupid. We know that that type of courage is highly regarded by quite a number of people, who cheer the contestants on, yell encouragement to them and soothe them on. Then, far too frequently do we see, some years later, the object of that adoration and encouragement shuffling up the footpath, his head bowed, his shoulders hunched, muttering to himself, while those who cheered him on in his days of glory run across to the other side of the road in order to avoid meeting the pitiable punch-drunk imbecile.

The other type of courage that we honour and respect is the type of courage that was demonstrated by the late Ned Davis and the late Lloyd Roberts—courage to calmly endure something that I doubt whether many of us could endure calmly. Each of these men, as the Leader of the Opposition said,

knew that the cold hand of death had been placed upon his shoulder, and for months neither of them showed any outward sign of it. Neither of them whimpered; neither of them complained. They carried on with their jobs here in the House. I sometimes think of the agony of mind they must have gone through, what they must have endured, what they must have thought. But we can only offer our conjecture as to that, for we will never know because they did not tell us. Just as they did not complain about the vicissitudes of life before they fell seriously ill, so also did they not complain when they knew that the finger of death had been pointed at them.

We speak of the various types of courage known to us all—I have mentioned only three—and I think the type of courage that these two men showed is the noblest courage of all. I think that the late Ned Davis and the late Lloyd Roberts had that type of courage in the fullest measure.

Lloyd Roberts, as has been said, was a good fighter, both in Opposition and as a member of the Government. He was also a very approachable man, a man who seemed to be consumed with a burning desire to do all he possibly could not only for the people he represented but also for the State of Queensland in which he lived, the State that he loved. He was very approachable as a Minister, and I think he set a very high standard for his ministerial colleagues.

The late Ned Davis, of course, was a man apart from the ordinary herd. I knew him well, and I can appreciate him, because, like him, I am a westerner. He was a good shearer. Even in the old days when there were more shearers than sheep, Ned Davis could always get a pen at a shed. He had a homespun western philosophy. Today we had an opening ceremony to mark the opening of Parliament. I was not present in the Chamber. I rarely am on such an occasion. Neither was the late Ned Davis, and it was one of the greatest pleasures of my life—as a politician, at any rate—to go into the messengers' lobby behind your dias, Mr. Speaker, and sit there and talk to him, or rather, listen to him talk, about his experiences in the West and his philosophy of life while the Governor of the day was here in the Chamber reading the Address to Parliament.

Ned Davis was a man that we all will miss, just as we will miss Lloyd Roberts and Jack Taylor. Men like Ned Davis were the very foundation of the Labour movement in the days that the locusts have eaten. Unfortunately men like Ned Davis are very rarely replaced.

I do not think any words of mine could convey the depth of sincerity of what I feel at the passing of Ned Davis, Lloyd Roberts, and the late Jack Taylor, but I do join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all other hon. members who have expressed themselves as well as they have

been able to, just as I have expressed myself as well as I have been able to, at the loss we feel at the absence of those three gentlemen from the Chamber.

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

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:—

William Edward Baxter, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Hawthorne;

Alexander Tattenhall Dewar, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Wavell;

Leslie Frank Diplock, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Aubigny;

Eric John Gaven, Esquire, member for the electoral district of South Coast;

David Alan Low, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Cooroora.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CHANGE IN MINISTRY

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (3.27 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that following upon the death of the late Hon. Lloyd Henry Scurfield Roberts, the Deputy Governor, for and on behalf of His Excellency the Governor, appointed on 4 May, 1961, Harold Richter, Esquire, a member of the Executive Council of Queensland and Minister for Public Works and Local Government.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 4 May, 1961, notifying these appointments.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazette Extraordinary upon the table.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier) (3.28 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that, in connection with the visit overseas of the Minister for Transport earlier this year, the Deputy Governor, for and on behalf of His Excellency the Governor, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 8 of the Officials in Parliament Acts, 1896 to 1961, authorised and empowered the Hon. Henry Winston Noble, M.B., B.S., Minister for Health and Home Affairs, to perform and exercise all or any of the duties, powers, and authorities imposed or conferred upon the Hon. the Minister for Transport by any Act, rule, practice, or ordinance, on and from 17 April, 1961, and until the return to Queensland of the Hon. Gordon William Wesley Chalk.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary of 13 April, 1961, notifying these arrangements.

Whereupon the hon. gentleman laid the Government Gazette Extraordinary upon the table.

PAPERS

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

Report of the Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1960-1961.

Report of the Public Accountants Registration Board of Queensland for the period from 1 July, 1960, to 30 June, 1961.

Report of Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year 1960-1961.

Report of the Police Superannuation Board for the year 1960-1961.

Seventy-sixth Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations under the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1960.

Regulations under the Public Accountants Registration Acts, 1946 to 1954.

Orders in Council under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1958.

Orders in Council under the Public Service Acts, 1922 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Public Service Superannuation Acts, 1958 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Burdekin River High Level Bridge (Finance) Act of 1958.

Orders in Council under the Burdekin River Development Acts, 1949 to 1959.

Regulations under the Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1960.

Regulations under the Traffic Acts, 1949 to 1960.

Regulations under the Factories and Shops Act of 1960.

Regulations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961.

Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961.

Orders in Council under the Queensland Government Industrial Gazette Act of 1961.

Orders in Council under the Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Factories and Shops Act of 1960.

Orders in Council under the Labour and Industry Acts, 1946 to 1960.

Notice of intention to amend rules under the Inspection of Machinery Acts, 1951 to 1960.

Proclamations under the Holidays Acts Amendment Act of 1961.

Proclamations under the Factories and Shops Act of 1960.

Proclamations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1961.

Rules under the Police Acts, 1937 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Libraries Acts, 1943 to 1949.

Orders in Council under the Schools of Arts (Winding Up and Transfer) Acts, 1960 to 1961.

Orders in Council under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1959.

Regulations under the Apprentices and Minors Acts, 1929 to 1959.

Statutes under the University of Queensland Acts, 1909 to 1960.

Order in Council under the Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1959.

Order in Council under the Landlord and Tenant Acts, 1948 to 1957.

Order in Council under the Criminal Code.

Order in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Order in Council under the District Courts Acts, 1958 to 1960.

Order in Council under the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1957.

Order in Council under the Magistrates Courts Acts, 1921 to 1954.

Order in Council under the Profiteering Prevention Acts, 1948 to 1957.

Order in Council under the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Acts, 1921 to 1959.

Proclamations under the Justices Acts, 1886 to 1960.

Proclamations under the Charitable Collections Act of 1952.

Proclamations under the Prisons Act of 1958.

Regulations under the Art Union Regulation Acts, 1930 to 1956.

Regulations under the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1957.

Regulations under the Money Lenders Acts, 1916 to 1959.

Regulations under the Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1959.

By-law under the Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1959.

Regulations under the Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1959.

Regulations under the Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1961.

Regulations under the Queensland Marine Act of 1958.

Regulations under the Racing and Betting Acts, 1954 to 1960.

Regulations under the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1961.

Regulations under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1960.

Orders in Council under the Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act of 1959.

Orders in Council under the Co-operative Housing Societies Act of 1958.

Orders in Council under the Co-operative Housing Societies Acts, 1958 to 1961.

Orders in Council under the Explosives Act of 1952.

Orders in Council under the Fisheries Acts, 1957 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Harbours Acts, 1955 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Racing and Betting Acts, 1954 to 1960.

Regulations under the Stamp Acts, 1894 to 1961.

Orders in Council under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Orders in Council under the Abattoirs Acts, 1930 to 1958.

Orders in Council under the Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.

Orders in Council under the Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

Orders in Council under the Milk Supply Acts, 1952 to 1961.

Orders in Council under the Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1957.

Orders in Council under the Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1959.

Proclamations under the Forestry Act of 1959.

Regulations under the Abattoirs Acts, 1930 to 1958.

Regulations under the Dairy Produce Acts, 1920 to 1959.

Regulations under the Fauna Conservation Act of 1952.

Regulations under the Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1956.

Regulations under the Poultry Industry Acts, 1946 to 1959.

Regulations under the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1957.

Regulations under the Slaughtering Acts, 1951 to 1958.

Regulations under the Stock Acts, 1915 to 1960.

Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1960.

Regulations under the Radioactive Substances Act of 1958.

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

Regulations under the State Children Acts, 1911 to 1955.

Regulations under the Hospitals Acts, 1936 to 1955.

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

By-laws under the Optometrists Acts, 1917 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1958.

By-laws Nos. 868 to 874 inclusive and No. 876 under the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1961.

Regulation under the State Transport Act of 1960.

Order in Council under the State Transport Act of 1960.

Regulations under the Architects Act of 1928.

Regulations under the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1960.

Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1960.

PETITION

PUBLIC HOSPITAL, WYNNUM

Mr. GUNN (Wynnum) (4.12 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition signed by 9,238 residents of Wynnum, Wynnum North, Wynnum West, Manly, Manly West, Lota, Gumdale, Lindum, Hemmant, Lytton, Tingalpa, Murarrie and Doboy, praying that the State Government will commence the building of a public hospital at Wynnum with all necessary facilities to serve the residents of Wynnum, Manly and Lota areas, containing 34,000 people and can be developed to include approximately 90,000 people living in adjacent areas which could include Cleveland, Raby Bay, Birkdale, Ormiston, Mount Cotton, Capalaba, Thornside, Wellington Point, Thornlands and Pinklands, and including portions of the Belmont electorate.

Petition laid upon the table and, on motion of Mr. Gunn, read and received—

"Petition.

"To the Hon The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of the undersigned, the electors, residents, persons employed, and also temporarily residing in the areas of Wynnum, Wynnum North, Wynnum West, Manly, Manly West, Lota, Gumdale, Lindum, Hemmant, Lytton, Tingalpa, Murarrie and Doboy, sheweth that your petitioners desire to bring before your Honourable House, in accordance with the Health needs and the accepted policy of

the State Government for the decentralisation of public hospitals, that a public hospital is an urgent need for the area, as great hardship is being caused to the public, particularly the aged and the sick, mothers with young children, maternity cases, etc., as well as the plight of aged people and others travelling to and from hospitals out of the area at night, and also having to bear the additional financial burden of travelling expenses.

"And your petitioners pray that the State Government will commence the building of a public hospital at Wynnum with all necessary facilities to serve the residents of Wynnum, Manly and Lota areas containing 34,000 people and can be developed to include approximately 90,000 people living in adjacent areas which could include Cleveland, Raby Bay, Birkdale, Ormiston, Mount Cotton, Capalaba, Thornside, Wellington Point, Thornlands, and Pinklands, and including portions of the Belmont Electorate.

"Your petitioners will ever pray."

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. CAMM (Whitsunday) (4.16 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", 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-sixth 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'."

This motion not only reaffirms our loyalty to Her Majesty and the Throne; it also conveys to His Excellency the appreciation of

this Assembly for the very able way in which he carries out his various duties. In the not-so-happy conditions prevailing in the world today and the change of relationship that has taken place between the various members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, it is very important on occasions such as this that we in Queensland should reaffirm the loyalty we have always given to our ruling monarch. The Queen now assumes the added responsibility of keeping united the various members of the old British Empire who previously relied so much on guidance and advice from the United Kingdom Government and who now have attained independence and nationhood. With the adoption by some countries close to our northern shores of a system of Government not acceptable to our Australian way of life, it is of vital importance that we should do everything in our power to keep intact the unity of all nations which comprise the Commonwealth.

We are very fortunate to have as Her Majesty's representative in Queensland a man who has won the respect and admiration of the people of the State by the very high standard he has set in carrying out the various duties of his office and the interest he has displayed in the progress, welfare, and development of the country. In this he has been very ably assisted by his good wife, Lady May. Together they have travelled over large areas of the State and have gained an intimate knowledge of the vast primary industries that we have and the industrial development that is now taking place. He also appreciates the many problems that confront us in endeavouring to develop this huge area with such a limited population and his advice and encouragement are appreciated by us all. This development, I feel, is in the right hands with the present Government under the able leadership of the Premier, Mr. Nicklin. Indeed, it is very heartening to see the tremendous development that has started to emerge since our Premier and his Cabinet assumed control of the Government of the State. We can see how important that development is when we realise that if a line is drawn from Gympie west, across Australia to the Indian Ocean, 50 per cent. of the area of Australia is to the north of that line but only 5 per cent. of Australia's total population live in the area. The potential of this area with further development will be appreciated when we realise that, with this small population, we are producing in it 50 per cent. of Australia's beef, half of which is in Queensland, 90 per cent. of Australia's sugar, the bulk of the tobacco produced in Australia, and that at Mt. Isa we have one of the major dollar-earning industries in Australia. This area also possesses mineral deposits the size of which is only now being realised.

Surely an area as rich as this has been worthy of development for many years, and it is unfortunate that it has had to wait

until recent times for a sympathetic Government to give it the assistance and encouragement necessary for its development.

From His Excellency's Address we have heard of the development that has taken place in these mineral areas under the present Government. Bauxite deposits at Weipa are being developed by a company that is committed to spend some £40,000,000 and will eventually establish a township of about 5,000 people in that now undeveloped area. Oil exploration has been advanced to a stage where oil has been discovered and several major oil companies of the world are now prospecting for oil all over Queensland. Kiangra coal has been developed for export, and the construction of a line from Kiangra to Gladstone could prove to be of tremendous benefit to this area. Iron ore deposits at Constance Range are being prospected and investigated and could prove to be one of the largest deposits of iron ore in the world. The development of these mineral projects is far too large a task to be undertaken by the Government of a State with our small population, and we must encourage private enterprise and labour to work together for the future advancement and prosperity of this area. We must invite the flow of capital that is so urgently required in Queensland by retaining a stable form of government which recognise the right of the investor, where the practice of saving by investment by individuals is encouraged, and where a man's industry and initiative will be justly rewarded.

It should be the duty of the Government to provide the communications and amenities necessary for the people who undertake this development, and they should provide roads and electricity and build suitable harbour and jetty installations, hospitals, and schools.

The construction of main roads has had considerable attention from the present Government. The Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Cairns will shortly be completed and will play an important part in the future of Queensland. Already improvements to this road have resulted in the doubling of the number of tourists travelling by car and by caravan. The beef roads now under construction in the North will prevent the loss of weight usually associated with travelling stock and will also minimise the losses that have occurred during droughts.

It has been very interesting to me to see the number of southern members of Parliament visiting Queensland during the past few months and to hear the glowing comments made about the possibilities of this area. Let us hope that when they return home North Queensland will receive from them some practical and worth-while contribution towards its development.

During my campaign I was somewhat perturbed by the defeatist attitude adopted by some of the political importations from the southern States. These messengers of woe would have the people of Queensland

believe that we are heading for financial disaster. This was in spite of the record crowds at that time attending the local shows at Mackay and Proserpine. I should say that the display of the products of Queensland generally at the recent Brisbane Exhibition should convince people what a wonderful State we have. It should be the duty and aim of all members of Parliament, irrespective of their political views, to try to inspire confidence among the people who reside in such a State.

Primary industry will always play a very important part in the economy of the State, and as Queensland supplies the major share of exports of primary products from Australia, we must continue to have a significant influence on Australia's export earnings.

Concern has been expressed as to what effect the entry of Great Britain into the European economic community will have on our export earnings. Expert opinions differ as to what the ultimate results will be, but most agree that the export price of some of our products could be seriously affected. However, the issue as yet is still somewhat clouded. We must wait until the conditions of Britain's entry into the Common Market are made known before compensating action can be taken to protect our export industries. However, when we realise it could be possible that most of our exports will have to find a market in competition with supplies from countries with cheap labour and low standards of living, one of our aims should be to keep the ever-increasing cost of production of exports down to a competitive level.

We, of course, are great believers in the arbitration procedures for fixing wages. When I speak about my concern regarding rising costs I am not in any way criticising or calling into question the decisions of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission made after hearing the submissions of union and industry representatives.

Our wage structure has given us a standard of living not surpassed by any country in the world. We should be ever vigilant to ensure that the standard is not reduced by any lowering of the purchasing power of the people of Queensland. But we must also strive through more efficient methods and labour-saving devices to try to increase our output per man if we can ever hope to compete with these low-wage countries.

It is also very important that the general economic pressures towards inflation should be curbed. I have been struck by the fact that while different people have different views about the methods the Commonwealth Government have adopted in the last year or so to check inflationary trends, and while everyone hates to see a degree of unemployment in our country, there is a general recognition that strong action was essential if Australia and Queensland's export industries are to prosper. We should recognise

the courage of the Commonwealth Government in grasping the nettle of inflation. It had to be dealt with firmly; it was no use just trying to brush it aside.

The Whitsunday electorate, which I have the honour to represent, with its large areas of fertile land, supports a population relying mainly on the production of primary industry in the form of sugar, beef cattle and, to a limited extent, the timber industry. With the natural beauty of this area and the Whitsunday Islands and Barrier Reef so close to the mainland, the tourist industry will play an ever-increasing part in the economic life of the people.

We have two of the major sugar mills of Queensland in our area, one at Farleigh and the other at Proserpine. The growers living in this area, supplying cane to other Mackay mills, bring our grower population to over 700 farmers relying on sugar-growing alone for their livelihood. These two mills in the Whitsunday area are owned entirely by farmers supplying cane and are an example of what can be achieved with farmer co-operation and efficient management.

The sugar industry has done much from its own resources to control the effect of inflation upon its costs in the cane-growing section, assisted by the fine work of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations and the C.S.R. Company in breeding new cane varieties. With improved cultivation methods, and constant vigilance against cane pests and cane diseases there has been a significant increase in the yield of sugar per acre. The yield of cane per acre has increased, the sugar content of the cane has been improved and the mills have become more efficient in extracting the sugar from the cane. As a result, whereas in 1952 the average yield of sugar per acre in Queensland when taken over a period of five or six seasons was 3 tons per acre, the industry now regards 3.6 tons of sugar per acre as a normal yield. In the 1960 season we even reached a figure of 4.03 tons of sugar per acre.

The sugar mills have also adopted improved techniques and labour-saving devices, and it is an interesting fact that despite the need for this form of cost control the sugar mills of Queensland were employing during the crushing season of 1960, many more men than were employed in the seasons before the industry set out to expand its export production to 600,000 tons per year.

My figures should be of interest to all hon. members. In the 1948 crushing season 6,532 men were required to man 31 sugar mills, and in the 1960 season the number had increased by about 1,250 to 7,774 men directly employed in the Queensland sugar mills.

The industry's interest in mechanical harvesting has also increased. Last year about 2½ per cent. of the Queensland crop was cut by machines, and this year that figure could be doubled. The question of mechanical harvesting is a very complex one

and we must be careful that we do not, in the process of cutting by machines, increase the costs of sugar mills in handling this cane and making sugar. On the whole it seems to me essential for the industry to press on and gain greater experience in the use of machinery for harvesting so that we can evaluate this experience and do everything possible to avoid a lowering in overall efficiency in the industry.

The sugar industry has kept the price of sugar cheap in Australia in relation to Australian costs and incomes, and at the same time has built up a very valuable export trade. An interesting comparison of the trend of Australian wages and the trend of Australian sugar prices over the years shows that the sugar-purchasing power of Australian wages has risen considerably. Whereas in 1914 when Australia was an importer of sugar a man had to work for 12 minutes in order to purchase 1 lb. of sugar, today 1 lb. of Queensland-grown sugar can be purchased with the wages received for 6.2 minutes of work.

Comparing more recent years and taking the 1952-60 period with the 1952 year's figures, we find that the retail price of sugar from a base of 100 in 1952 had risen to 122 in 1960, that field workers' wages over the same period from a base of 100 in 1952 had risen to 155 in 1960 and that general mill-workers' wages from a base of 100 in 1952 had risen to 140 in 1960.

It can be seen therefore that the sugar industry through more efficient methods in the field and the mills has continued to absorb a big proportion of the increased costs. I think the public does not realise sufficiently that the sugar industry is now mainly an export industry. Less than half the production is consumed in Australia, with 55 per cent. or more going overseas to a number of markets. These markets, of course, do not offer the same price for sugar as obtains in Australia, but I emphasise that the only persons who are affected by these lower prices are the cane-growers and the raw sugar millers. Farm workers, cane-cutters and mill-workers receive the same payment for their services, whether it be payment for work on home-consumption sugar or export sugar. So it is important that this export market be retained or if possible increased for the sake of export earnings for Australia and for the well-being of over half the people in Queensland who rely on the sugar industry for their livelihood. In saying that I mean the workers as well as the farmers, because it is a well-known fact that there are not quite 8,000 farmers producing cane in Australia, and the same number of field workers and cane-cutters, as well as the 7,774 mill workers that I mentioned earlier.

This year, with the sale of 80,000 tons of sugar to America, the market prospects are brighter, but it is unfortunate that seasonal conditions have not been very favourable towards the farmers, and dry weather and

frosts have considerably reduced the crop in the Whitsunday area. Heavy frosts have caused a great deal of damage in this area, and in one district supplying the Proserpine mill over 20,000 tons of cane was completely destroyed or killed. The mill was faced with the possibility of getting the cane in very quickly, before deterioration set in. Most of that cane is hauled to the mill by Government railway, and I take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the railway officials who organised the transport of it. Farmers were faced with possible deterioration of the cane, and the Proserpine mill management appealed to the Railway Department for additional trains. Those trains were supplied. It is very pleasing to be able to say that all that cane will be delivered to the mill in five weeks. The transport of 25,000 tons of cane in five weeks is a tremendous task for the Railway Department, particularly at the present time when the railway service is very busy, with the meat industry in full swing, shows throughout the State and tourists making demands on it. Tourist trade started to come into its own in July and August. The trains, of course, were not always on time and many headaches were experienced by farmers who had to wait for trucks, but eventually the 25,000 tons of cane was delivered. It was carried at the rate of 5,000 tons a week or 1,000 tons a day. That was the extra tonnage that had to be hauled by the railways. In the words of the cane inspector from the Proserpine mill, "The co-operation of the railway staff at Proserpine left nothing to be desired."

The raising of beef cattle is another important industry in our area; there are approximately 30,000 head of cattle depastured on thousands of acres that may be further developed there. The Mackay Harbour Board recently submitted a plan to Cabinet for the development of the land adjacent to the hinterland of Mackay. It comprises a vast area of brigalow country that lends itself admirably to development. However, in the Whitsunday area itself there is no brigalow country, but there is no doubt that with the introduction of new grasses and the cultivation of fodder the carrying capacity and fattening possibilities of this area can be increased.

A tremendous advance has been made in the growing of sugar-cane because of the splendid work of sugar experimental stations with introduced cane and the breeding of new varieties suitable for certain districts. The main fodder grasses in our area are introduced grasses, such as Townsville lucerne in the drier areas, and guinea grass, para and molasses grasses in the wetter areas. I am sure that while the State Government co-operates with the C.S.I.R.O. and the Commonwealth Government, we may yet develop new grasses to give a heavier yield than any of the introduced species.

The clearing and cultivation of forest land is very expensive, amounting to £50 an acre.

It is only when the price of cattle bears a reasonable relationship to the cost of machinery involved that this becomes an economic proposition.

One of the most attractive means of increasing the production of beef cattle in our area is by easing the conditions necessary to obtain substitution of cane lands. As hon. members know, every cane-farmer is allowed a certain area on which to grow his cane and that most mill areas allot a cane tonnage to each farmer which is related to his assigned area. The farmer must produce his allotted tonnage from the area assigned. He cannot move around and make the best use of his total acreage. As a result, he grows cane on the same land, year after year. In some cases there have been over 50 years of continued cultivation, yet they have more land, equally as good, uncleared, because they cannot obtain substitution. This results in high costs of production because of the need for heavy applications of fertiliser. If a system could be devised within the framework of the control exercised by the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board whereby a farmer could spell his ground every few years, and run stock on it, the fertility of the land would increase, the general structure of the soil would improve, and we would have the added advantage of hundreds of acres of new land being brought under the plough each year.

Agricultural scientists all over the world have always stressed the importance of the rotation of farm lands with stock grazing, but here we have a statutory body condoning a practice that is contrary to all good agricultural principles.

The tourist industry promises to become one of the most important industries in the Whitsunday electorate. The beauty of the Whitsunday Islands has to be seen to be believed, and with the Barrier Reef within easy sailing distance of these islands and Mackay, we have an attraction of world-wide importance. Security of tenure to these island proprietors has encouraged them to spend large sums of money on the development of these resorts. Plans have been completed for an additional expenditure of over £350,000 on accommodation and amenities on these islands. A fleet of launches operates from Mackay Harbour and at Proserpine launches run a round trip of the islands. With the completion of the Bruce Highway and of jetty installations at Shute Harbour, this tourist traffic will be greatly increased and, with the warm hospitality extended to all visitors by the proprietors of the island resorts, the area could prove to be one of the top revenue producers of the State.

It is hard for some people to realise the value of this industry. Last year over 19,000 people visited the Whitsunday Islands and over 6,000 more took advantage of the launch cruises. Consider the amount of money this brings into a district. Among those people are many overseas visitors. Only last week a party of Americans hired for a

five-day cruise the launch that runs from Proserpine. It is not unusual for southern and overseas visitors to form a party and hire a vessel for a week's cruise. The average tourist spends between £40 and £50 on a visit to the islands and, from the figures I have given, hon. members will realise how important the revenue is to that part of the State. Over 300 people are directly employed in the islands themselves, the same number as that employed in a good-sized sugar mill. Hon. members will realise the benefit that accrues to the rest of the district in the supply of milk and food and the necessary transport to get the tourists to the islands.

We could go on extolling the beauty and attractions of the islands over and over again and at the end still have more to sell as their reputation increases.

I want to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Premier and his Cabinet for extending to me the privilege of moving this motion and to thank the electors of Whitsunday for the confidence they showed in me in electing me to Parliament. It will be my aim to represent them faithfully and well and to do everything in my power to promote the welfare of this great State and its people.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Aspley) (4.48 p.m.): In rising to second the motion, first let me congratulate the newly-elected member for Whitsunday on his excellent speech. Its subject matter and the forthright manner of its presentation indicate that in Mr. Camm the electors of Whitsunday have chosen a worthy successor to our esteemed friend the late Mr. Lloyd Roberts.

As the wording of the motion is traditional and has been the same at each opening of Parliament for many years past, it could be regarded by some as a formality but, like the hon. member for Whitsunday, I believe it acts as a timely reminder of the very real part the Queen plays in our parliamentary democracy and the tremendous contribution the British Commonwealth makes in the realm of world affairs. The future of the Commonwealth is brought into focus by the impending Common Market negotiations and even the wisest among us are not at all certain what political and institutional consequences will ultimately result should Britain join the European community. These uncertainties should prompt us consciously to demonstrate and reaffirm our affectionate loyalty to the Queen. I feel sure that such a tangible expression from the people of this State will tend to mitigate the loss suffered by the Queen through the defection of South Africa from the Commonwealth.

In tendering our thanks to the Governor for his Opening Speech, we take the opportunity of expressing on behalf of the people of Queensland our sincere thanks to Sir Henry and Lady May for the sterling service that they continue to render to Queensland.

Sir Henry's concept of service was recently exemplified by the way in which he set out to promote greater public recognition of Commonwealth Youth Week. Those of us who were privileged to be associated with those activities were grateful for his enthusiastic support, and, for my part, I was extremely grateful for the way in which he joined in the demonstration that was arranged in my electorate and the way in which he personally shook hands with each individual competitor. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it gave the participants a tremendous thrill to be greeted by the Governor in that way.

The text of the Governor's Speech indicates the forthright manner in which the Nicklin-Morris Ministry is applying its talents to the administration of the State. It gives promise of continuing the progress achieved in its four years of office. It has not been an easy task, because there have been many problems to overcome, particularly as the State has been beset by four adverse seasons during that period and this has had serious repercussions throughout the whole of the community.

Another problem engaging the close attention of the Government is the displacement of labour brought about by the increasing use of mechanisation, particularly in country areas. This is more serious in Queensland because of our dependence on primary production, and despite the steady growth of secondary industry in the State. For example, the introduction of bulk loading of sugar has not only drastically reduced the labour force required at the ports but it has also reduced the work force formerly used in handling bagged sugar in the mills, and the projected introduction of mechanical harvesting will cut back further the labour required on the farms. A similar situation is developing in the grain-growing industry, and the timber industry has been adversely affected by the change-over to manufactured building products. Plywood, in particular, is being displaced by compressed fibre boards, whilst improved techniques in brick and concrete block manufacture enable these products to be fabricated at a cost that is comparable with timber, and, as production increases, these products will tend to displace timber in building construction.

To meet these and other changes, the Government have appointed a committee comprising the Co-ordinator-General, the Commissioner of Main Roads and the Under-Secretary for Public Works whose duty will be to phase the labour required in public works as far as possible to coincide with the period when seasonal work has concluded. My colleague the hon. member for Bowen has had signal success in a similar scheme in his area, which no doubt he will relate to the House in due course.

Reference in the Governor's Speech to measures designed to accelerate the development of the beef cattle industry in the

State indicates the Government's awareness of the fact that this is one of the few primary industries that will warrant expansion without incurring problems of over-production or, to put it another way, problems of economic marketing. Furthermore, such expansion can be proceeded with confidently as meat is one of the few primary products that continues to command an export market. Indeed, the figures published by the World Health Organisation suggest a definite shortage of animal protein in the near future. These proposals include the construction of roads into the cattle-breeding areas in the West and North-West to carry the increasing volume of road trains, opening up the brigalow country in Central Queensland, and the development of the Green Belt on the tropical coast. This latter area is of great significance to these plans for not only does it possess the advantage of regular adequate rainfall which ensures such prolific growth of nitrogenous fodder, but also in consequence it demonstrates a remarkable carrying capacity when compared with other areas.

Since the introduction of tropical legumes into pastures on the wet coast it has become commercially practicable to carry up to one beast per acre without any deterioration to the pastures. In fact, on the contrary such pastures are improving year by year. Furthermore, the weight gain per beast is superior to those managed on the grain lot feeding system. The consideration of this area as a reservoir from which cattle may be drawn for slaughter when other areas have ceased to be productive of beasts suitable for killing, will be of great economic importance to the meatworks of North Queensland and as a consequence, the labour required to man such works. It is estimated that with an additional 200,000 head of cattle annually these northern works could be converted from seasonal to year-round operations. Research has shown that there is sufficient land available in the wet tropics to achieve this result.

Close co-operation has been offered by the Federal Government in this project, the development of which will be of great importance not only to the progress of the cattle-carrying country but also to the economy of the State.

The tremendous increase in school enrolments in recent years has posed a challenge to the Government to keep abreast of educational requirements at all three levels. The Government can claim credit for a realistic approach to the task of providing classrooms and teachers for this ever-increasing enrolment. Time does not permit me to deal with all aspects of this portfolio but the progress they have made in the field of secondary education is worthy of quotation. In 1957 when the Government came into office there were 36 State high schools and 34 secondary departments attached to primary schools. This year there are 60 high schools and 48 secondary departments, all adequately staffed.

It means that the Government have provided 27 new high school buildings. The number of high schools in the metropolitan area has risen from 12 in 1957 to 21 in 1961, and a total of 650 classrooms has been constructed throughout the State during this period to cater for the rapidly increasing enrolments in high schools. In 1957 there were 14,287 full-time students in State secondary schools whereas now there are 33,000. This figure represents 65 per cent. of Queensland's secondary school population.

In the matter of expenditure, the present Government have proceeded as rapidly as possible with the provision of periphery high schools in the metropolitan area. The under-mentioned comparison of expenditure is ample evidence of the increased work now being performed. For the four years prior to the present Government taking office, the following expenditure was incurred at metropolitan high schools:—

For Buildings	£521,515
On Ovals and Ground improvements	£16,918

For the four years that the present Government have been in office, this expenditure sharply increased to—

For Buildings	£1,633,431
On Ovals and Ground improvements	£195,561

Two other items in the Brisbane area that are evidence of the educational progress being made under the present Government are—

- (i) The opening of a second Teachers' college located at Kedron. Expenditure on this project to date has amounted to £252,390.
- (ii) Approval of the expenditure of £33,000 on developing a site for a further Teachers' College at St. Lucia in proximity to the University.

In the matter of school transport the present Government have instituted daily road transport services to convey secondary school students to the nearest State high school. There are 52 of these services now in operation. The Government have also instituted a scheme of financial assistance to parents of primary and secondary school pupils who are conveyed to school by either licensed bus service or private motor vehicle.

Again in relation to ovals and ground improvements, as each new high school is established, the Department of Public Works excavates and levels the ground to form a school oval and it attends to the initial planting of grass. Thereafter the grounds are maintained in good order by janitors and the groundsmen appointed by this Department.

Mr. Houston: Don't you think it is only right that that should happen?

Mr. CAMPBELL: Yes.

Mr. Houston: Don't you think any Government would do it?

Mr. Pizzey: Your Government did not.

Mr. Houston: Of course they did.

Mr. CAMPBELL: In regard to school improvement the present Government is conscious of the need for a town plan for the City of Brisbane and has appointed an officer of the Department of Education to act in liaison with the Brisbane City Council so that the acquisition of sites for both primary and second schools will keep pace with home construction wherever development occurs. Sites are being selected now although they may not be required for school purposes for many years to come.

There are seven vacant sites being held for the provision thereon of high school buildings as soon as the need arises. Action is nearing completion for the acquisition of four further high school sites.

Certain aspects are of interest so far as the Aspley electorate is concerned. An area of over 100 acres of land is being held for a future high school and primary school. This site has frontages to Zillmere, Beams and Norris Roads.

Sites are being acquired at Aspley East, just off Robinson Road, and at Chermide West in the vicinity of Rode Road for future primary schools, and a preliminary survey has been made with a view to the acquisition of both a high school site and a primary school site, the location being at the junction of Hamilton Road and Maundrell Terrace.

I should also mention the assistance given by the Government to the Kindergarten Association. As this field of education embraces a proportion of pre-school children, the importance of it is growing year by year as the details I shall give amply illustrate. In 1958 the Government decided upon a revised system of financial aid. The assistance given by the previous Government to the kindergarten movement comprised grants of £6,000 to the Creche and Kindergarten Association and £200 to each of the nine affiliated kindergartens in the country areas, a total assistance for that year of over £7,000, but the present Government increased the grant to £11,000 in 1958 and it has continued to rise until the grant to the Kindergarten association movement throughout Queensland at the end of the last financial year was no less than £24,000.

Reference is made in the Governor's speech to the effect of credit restrictions upon the community. These restrictions imposed by the Federal authorities in November last have retarded the development of some branches of secondary industry and have produced some side effects that were perhaps not expected at the time the measures were introduced, but they have already achieved the purpose for which they were introduced, namely, the diversion of capital from the highly speculative fields to the gilt-edged and likewise orthodox loan fields. Examples such as the good subscription to the recent Brisbane City Council loan

and the support being offered to other local authority loans are surely a vindication of the measures taken by the Commonwealth Government.

The activities of the Tourist Bureau were dealt with in the Governor's speech. They indicate the Government's awareness of the increasing importance of the tourist industry to the economy of the State and, although the figure quoted of 1.85 million pounds is the highest yet achieved by this department, it is only a small proportion of the total income the tourist industry brings to Queensland. It is safe to say that in due course it will be one of the best income-earning industries in the State and, with the rapid development of high-class accommodation, particularly the excellent motel installations that are rapidly being built throughout the State, the Tourist Bureau can promote the tourist attractions that Queensland has to offer and that are gaining international prominence.

The Bureau is to be commended on the initiative that permeates all its activities, and there is no doubt that the enthusiasm of the Minister has infected it in this manner. An outstanding example of this initiative is the tourist manual, a handsome publication giving details of the attractions of the many tourist resorts, so attractively illustrated. This production is principally for overseas distribution and has earned highly commendable comments from tourist authorities overseas. Indeed, it may be regarded as unique in the field of tourist promotion.

The acquisition of a new office for the Tourist Bureau in Melbourne was also referred to in the Speech. I believe that this will greatly enhance the prospects of bringing tourists to the State because it provides an up-to-date service which was somewhat lacking with the cramped conditions in the office that the Bureau previously occupied. It will also provide much better facilities for improved working conditions for the staff. The members of the staff were previously working under extreme difficulties because of the shortage of space. The Bureau has devised a great number of new means of attracting tourists to Queensland. An example of this is a new design on an envelope adopted by the Bureau. It is very pleasing in design and attractive in production. The Bureau has also greatly increased its production of tourist pamphlets and is now engaged in the production of very attractively designed posters. I have one here which, hon. members will see, is a splendid illustration of the manner in which the Tourist Bureau is setting out to attract tourists to the State. It is intended to make these posters available to shipping lines and air lines. These companies, incidentally, are very happy to enter into the arrangement. A space is left on the bottom for the overprinting of the companies' names and the posters will be distributed by these companies, without cost, throughout the whole of the areas in which they operate. Because of the expansion of the activities of the Tourist

Bureau, we may confidently expect a great increase in the number of tourists coming to this State.

In conclusion, I appreciate the honour conferred upon me by the Ministry in giving me the opportunity to second this motion.

Debate, on motion of Mr. Duggan, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

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

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.17 p.m.
