

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 1939**

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# Queensland Parliamentary Debates.

## Legislative Assembly.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to Meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF AUGUST, IN THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI., IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1939.

**TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST, 1939.**

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 6 July 1939, appointing Parliament to meet this day for the despatch of business, the House met at 12 o'clock noon in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The Clerk of the Parliament 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 the Chairman of Committees (Mr. E. J. Hanson) at the bar, and accompanied to the dais.

Honourable members being seated,

His Excellency said: Ladies and gentlemen: I regret that, acting under medical advice, I am unable to read my Speech. I therefore ask the Premier to read it for me.

The **PREMIER** (Hon W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) read the following Opening Speech:—

“GENTLEMEN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND,—

“It gives me great pleasure to meet you at the opening of this, the second session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of Queensland.

“Since I last opened the Queensland Parliament, the State has suffered a grievous loss in the death of the Honourable M. P. Hynes, Minister for Labour and Industry, of the Honourable George Pollock, the Speaker of this House, and of Mr. W. J. Wellington, the representative in Parliament of Charters Towers.

“Mr. Hynes rendered over many years conspicuous service to Queensland, and the death  
1939—B

of Mr. Pollock, who, by his keen appreciation of parliamentary procedure, and his desire to enhance the dignity of Parliament and improve Parliament House, in which work he played a successful and leading part, is a loss which is deeply felt. Mr. Wellington was a member of this House for 24 years, and was held in high regard in his constituency, and by all who knew him.

“In many parts of the State which I have visited during the past 12 months, there are, I am happy to say, definite signs, not only of progress, but also of a very lively appreciation of the necessity to further develop the great assets which this State possesses.

“It is true that, to-day, we live under a cloud of uncertainty as to the future, owing to grave international problems and difficulties. We can only hope and pray that wiser counsels will prevail and the world may not be shattered by war. If peace is ensured, Queensland will be enabled to take further steps on the road of prosperity for all, and for the full development of that wealth with which she has been blessed by Divine Providence.

“My advisers are gratified at the continuous progress the State has made towards financial equilibrium. Compared with an actual deficit for the financial year of 1931-1932 of £2,075,180, the transactions of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the financial year just closed resulted in a surplus of £14,046. The actual improvement in the finances for last year was £242,538.

“Receipts amounted to £19,330,368—£1,413,583 in excess of the estimate—and expenditure totalled £19,316,322—or £1,183,763 in excess of the estimate.

“The programme of planned development of the State inaugurated in 1932 has been very successful, and also has been instrumental in reducing unemployment. The percentage of unemployed males for the

three months ended May, 1939, was 4.2. The average percentage for 1932 was 22.2.

"Queensland has succeeded in attracting a greater rate of population growth than the other States, and in providing employment for them, as is shown by the marked drop in our unemployment percentage as compared even with 1928-1929.

"The volume of production in Queensland is the greatest on record. The gross value of recorded production in all industries for the year 1937-1938 was £68,136,000—compared with £44,970,000 for the year 1931-1932—or an increase of over 50 per cent.

"The gross value of primary production in 1928-1929 was £40,334,000; in 1937-1938 it was £49,533,000, an increase of 22.8 per cent.

"In 1937-1938, as compared with 1928-1929, factory employment increased by 16.1 per cent. and factory production by 11 per cent.

"During the same period the national income increased by 11.3 per cent.

"Direct overseas exports during 1938-1939 constituted a record, the value being £28,018,899, as compared with £26,481,083 in the previous year.

"These figures provide striking evidence of the general expansion of the industries of this State.

"The pastoral districts, with the exception of small areas in the Central-West, benefited throughout the year by useful and fairly regular falls of rain.

"Seldom has the great percentage of our sheep pastures been in better condition for winter grazing. The number of sheep at 1st January, 1939, was approximately 22½ millions, and should now be equal to, or greater than, that of the peak year—1914—when 23,129,919 was the total recorded.

"It is also gratifying to know that the average wool clip per sheep over the whole State has increased to over 8 lb.

"During the year progress has been made with the reorganisation of plant industry research activities, and a comprehensive survey has been made of pasture problems.

"Raw cotton obtained this season will be of a quality superior to that of the previous crop. Unfortunately, a considerable decrease in acreage occurred through exceptionally wet conditions preventing the preparation of the seed beds in time for planting.

"Investigations into the advantages of irrigation where farmers had auxiliary pumping plants to supplement the natural rainfall have given such encouraging results that my advisers are expanding their programme of investigations in relation to cotton and irrigation.

"The area under wheat was largely increased, and a record crop of 8,500,000 bushels was harvested. This yield was considerably in excess of the requirements of the State, and a large quantity was available for export.

"The grain generally was of excellent quality. Average yields were heavy, and as much as 50 bushels to the acre was recorded.

"The sugar industry established during the year a new record of production; approximately 776,800 tons of raw sugar were manufactured from 5,342,000 tons of cane, exceeding the 1937 crop by 13,000 tons of sugar and 210,000 tons of cane, respectively. The average yield of 3.19 tons of sugar per acre harvested was also a record. This was the third successive year in which the sugar yield exceeded 3 tons, and this figure, it is believed, may be further improved.

"In December, 1938, a royal commission was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into sugar problems generally, but more specifically to deal with the proposed amendment of the 1929 mill peaks, which did not directly limit the manufacture of excess sugar.

"My advisers, after consideration of the report which was presented in April, 1939, accepted the majority recommendations of the commission, and the proclamation acquiring the 1939 crop embodies the new mill peaks.

"Legislation will be introduced during the forthcoming session to give effect to the commission's recommendations.

"There has been a great advance in the dairying industry, the value of the production of which, during last year, was greater than that of wool and second only to sugar.

"Factors in the development of this industry are the utilisation of land reclaimed from prickly-pear infestation, more intensive farming methods in established areas, the opening of new lands, and good seasonal conditions.

"Towards the end of 1938 the Bureau of Rural Development was created and charged with the administration of matters relating to advances previously made by the Agricultural Bank and the Rural Assistance Board, the functions of which were absorbed by the Bureau, as well as those connected with advances to discharged soldier settlers.

"The Bureau, on behalf of the Government, makes liberal advances at low rates of interest to foster all classes of primary production commensurate with the recognised needs of each settler, and in the best interests of the State.

"The Department of Public Lands granted, during the year, new or adjusted tenures over 6,333,000 acres comprised in 633 selections and new or adjusted pastoral leasehold tenures over 19,300 square miles. The revenue of this department was the second highest since 1923-1924.

"The year just closed has been one of record railway traffic. Cash collections, tonnage of goods and livestock conveyed, train miles, and ton miles all have exceeded previous peaks.

"During the last seven years railway business has increased in volume by 38 per cent. In that period more than one and a-half million pounds have been expended upon the relaying, improvement, and duplication of the permanent way, additional sidings,

improvement of station yards, signalling, &c., and expenditure on the provision of additional workshops accommodation and machinery, to deal more effectively with the construction and repair of rollingstock, has exceeded £390,000.

"The value of railway concessions granted by the Government to the pastoral industry since 1932 exceeded £850,000, and to the timber industry was more than £100,000. Reductions in cream rates since 1934 have totalled £45,000. The value of the concession in women's and children's fares from the West to the coast during the past seven years has been £194,285.

"There is a growing appreciation of the tourist attractions of Queensland, which is reflected in the increasing numbers of visitors from overseas and all parts of Australia.

"My advisers report the success of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act which was passed last session. This measure crystallised the policy of an orderly system of Governmental and semi-Governmental works designed to avoid overlapping and equalise the spread of employment. Co-operation between the Commonwealth and the State, which is a vital factor in the planning of national security, is also facilitated by the passing of this measure.

"With a view to increasing production in certain settled areas, the Co-ordinator-General, at the instance of my advisers, is investigating schemes of irrigation.

"The Department of Public Works has progressively maintained its building programme. Satisfactory progress is also recorded in the construction of the Story Bridge and the Stanley River Dam under the supervision of the Bureau of Industry.

"A vigorous policy of main road construction is being pursued throughout the State. In addition to the permanent construction to date of over 5,550 miles, a considerable length of road has been put in trafficable order.

"It is not generally known that the contribution of the Main Roads Commission to the development of the State is approximately 5½ miles of new road per working day.

"My advisers are pleased to be able to state that the strict measures adopted during the year by the Department of Health to prevent the spread of the infantile paralysis epidemic from other Eastern States were attended with gratifying results. The restrictions so promptly introduced were the means of saving a great number of lives and preventing a much greater amount of crippling and suffering.

"During the past financial year eight new part-time ante-natal clinics and 15 new part-time baby clinic centres were opened. In addition, three centres previously part time were established as resident centres. At present, approximately 54 per cent. of the babies and mothers in this State are reached by the service. Ten years ago the percentage was only 30 per cent.

"The Department of Public Instruction has maintained all existing services. Children in isolated areas receive education by means of the Primary Correspondence School, the average enrolment being in excess of 6,000.

"Broadcasting to schools has been developed and increasing recognition is being given to it as an aid towards providing the children with a wider cultural background. The other modern aid in education—the film—has also been introduced into Queensland schools.

"Considerable advance has been made in erection of University buildings on the site at St. Lucia.

"My advisers, being mindful of the necessity for keeping the education system of the State in line with present-day requirements with due regard to both cultural and vocational aspects, gave serious consideration to the highly important matters of post primary education and school leaving age.

"Five expert groups were appointed to make an investigation from the viewpoints of education, health, apprenticeship, industrial considerations, and employment; the reports of the groups have been received and are still being considered.

"The reports disclosed that in certain callings there was definite evidence of dead-end employment for juniors and that replacement of older juveniles by younger persons was fairly extensive, particularly in unskilled and semi-skilled callings.

"My advisers viewed the matter so seriously that they have appointed an expert committee to make comprehensive inquiries so as to assist them in formulating a plan to obviate the disadvantages of dead-end callings.

"The electrical industry in Queensland during the last twelve months has seen unprecedented development and progress, most of which may be attributed to the State Electricity Commission, which, since it commenced early in 1938, has initiated many long-overdue reforms, carried out most useful investigations, and achieved much of benefit to the people of this State.

"The successful negotiation by the commission of an agreement with the City Electric Light Company Limited will result in the full and economic development of approximately 9,000 square miles of territory in South-Eastern Queensland. It will eliminate unfortunate duplication and uneconomic distribution of electricity and give a valuable stimulus to the provision of electricity at low tariffs in many rural districts.

"The interconnection of the electricity systems of the two largest authorities in the State brought about by the commission will result in savings in capital expenditure of at least £250,000, besides improving the reliability of supply—an important factor in national development.

"Substantial tariff reductions already have been made by the commission, resulting in a considerable saving to consumers.

"During the year the commission has approved of capital expenditure on new works and extensions totalling £533,031.

"Queensland's gold production was worth £1,377,155 in 1938-1939, an increase of £142,667 over that of the previous year. Base metals also played a prominent part in the State's mineral production, which continues to show very material development.

"Prospecting for petroleum is still in progress, and indications appear to be favourable in several localities.

"The operations of the North Australian aerial survey, in which Queensland has collaborated with the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments, have already yielded valuable data which will be of considerable assistance in the further development of the mineral wealth of the State.

"The financial emergency legislation, giving relief in respect of mortgages and kindred transactions, has been extended to the end of the year, and further extensions will be made.

"The confidence of the people in the office of the Public Curator is expressed in the steadily increasing volume of business transacted.

"The State Advances Corporation continues to do valuable work in making funds available for housing. During the financial year ended 30 June, 1939, 552 workers' dwellings were completed and 116 were under construction at the close of the year.

"The public service maintains its reputation for loyalty and efficiency. It is being administered justly and equitably and provides economically for increasing public requirements as State development expands.

"The Estimates for the current year are now in course of preparation, and will be submitted for your consideration at an early date. These Estimates will be found to have been prepared not only with due regard to economy, but with full regard to the essential requirements of the State.

"Among the proposals which will be brought before Parliament, you will be invited to give consideration to the following measures:—

- A Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts Amendment Bill.
- An Income (State Development) Tax Act Amendment Bill.
- A Pest Destroyers Bill.
- A Medical Acts Amendment Bill.
- An Aboriginals Protection Bill.
- A Torres Strait Islanders Bill.
- A Health Acts Amendment Bill.
- A Navigation Acts Amendment Bill.
- A Workers' Compensation Acts Amendment Bill.
- A Motor Vehicles Insurance Act Amendment Bill.
- A Coal Mining Acts Amendment Bill.
- A Miners' Homestead Leases Act Amendment Bill.
- An Explosives Bill.

"I invite your earnest consideration to the various matters that will be submitted to you, and I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES left the chair at 12.30 p.m.

The House reassembled at 2 p.m.

#### BY-ELECTIONS DURING RECESS— NEW MEMBERS.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OF CHARTERS TOWERS, GREGORY, AND TOWNSVILLE.

The Clerk informed the House that during the recess three seats in the Legislative Assembly had become vacant, namely:—

For the Electoral District of Charters Towers through the death, on 2nd March, 1939, of William John Wellington, Esquire;

For the Electoral District of Gregory through the death, on 24th March, 1939, of the Honourable George Pollock; and

For the Electoral District of Townsville through the death, on 27th March, 1939, of the Honourable Maurice Patrick Hynes.

That Writs of Election to fill those vacancies had been issued by His Excellency the Governor, and that these Writs had been returned endorsed as follows:—

For the Electoral District of Charters Towers, Arthur Jones, Esquire;

For the Electoral District of Gregory, Charles Victor Watson Brown, Esquire; and

For the Electoral District of Townsville, George Keyatta, Esquire.

Also that the three members had taken the prescribed oath of allegiance and signed the Roll before His Excellency the Governor.

#### VACANCY IN OFFICE OF SPEAKER.

The Clerk reported that a vacancy in the office of Speaker had occurred during the recess by reason of the death of the Hon. G. Pollock. Under Standing Order No. 9 the House proceeded to the election of a new Speaker.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

Mr. GAIR (South Brisbane) (2.1 p.m.): Mr. Dickson, I have much pleasure in moving—

"That the hon. member for Buranda, Mr. Edward Joseph Hanson, do take the chair of the House as Speaker."

It is with the utmost confidence that I move this motion. Mr. Hanson has all the necessary qualifications for the high office of Speaker of this Parliament. (Hear, hear!) He has been a member of Parliament continuously for the past 15 years and for seven years has occupied the position of Chairman of Committees with credit to himself and I

believe to the satisfaction of all hon. members.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. GAIR:** I have no doubt that with his knowledge of the Standing Orders, and his tactful and courteous manner, he will succeed in conducting the business of this Parliament in a way that will earn for him the respect and co-operation of all hon. members.

The duties of Speaker are many, but the most important is to maintain decorum, and the dignity and prestige of Parliament. In this respect each and every hon. member has an equal responsibility. I am sure that all will co-operate with both Mr. Speaker and the Chairman of Committees at all times to ensure that the Parliament of Queensland will continue to enjoy the respect and admiration of the people of the State.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. GAIR:** I hope that the motion will be carried unanimously and that Mr. Hanson will be long spared to occupy the exalted position of Speaker of the Parliament of Queensland.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. WALSH (Mirani) (2.3 p.m.):** I have very much pleasure in seconding the nomination so ably moved by the hon. member for South Brisbane. Mr. Hanson has had a long association with the parliamentary life of this State and during the seven years that he has occupied the position of Chairman of Committees he has displayed courtesy and tact, and firmness when the occasion demanded it. These attributes have fully qualified him to hold such an important and honourable position as that of Speaker of this House. It gives me great pleasure to commend Mr. Hanson's nomination to hon. members generally.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. HANSON (Buranda) (2.4 p.m.):** It is with a deep sense of appreciation of the honour that it is proposed to confer on me that I now submit myself to the will of the House.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. SPEAKER** was escorted to the chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, and speaking from the dais, said: I thank hon. members for bestowing upon me the high and honourable position to which they have just called me; I hope that I shall justify the confidence they have shown in me.

**The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (2.5 p.m.):** Mr. Speaker, I desire to offer you my congratulations on your election to the high and honourable office of Speaker of the whole House. The position is one of great importance and of considerable historical interest. The Speaker in his office represents the freedom of Parliament and the immunities of Parliament. It is

also his duty so to guide the debates of the House that they may proceed with due order and relevancy, that the final will of Parliament may be placed on the statute-book.

The casual listener of parliamentary debates wonders why it is thought necessary to observe so many forms as those that govern our proceedings. He is apt to come to the hasty conclusion that to a greater or a lesser extent formality is so much waste of time. But the duties of the office of Speaker, closely associated as they are with the Standing Orders and the constitution of Parliament itself, are the result of many years of experience, and represent the considered wisdom of Parliament itself; the whole of the duties that you perform, Mr. Speaker, are based on the principle that before any proposal becomes the law it shall be ensured that it is the final expression of the will of the majority of the hon. members of Parliament. Hence we have the initiation of a Bill or other measure by resolution, the first reading, the second reading, the Committee stage, when it can be debated clause by clause and amended, and then, finally, the third reading. All these things are part of the essential machinery of government, and the Speaker is the pivotal point of the machinery of Parliament itself.

I feel sure every hon. member in this House agrees that you, Mr. Hanson, will fill the office of Speaker with dignity, with fairness, and in a manner that will add lustre to the traditions of Parliament itself.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**The PREMIER:** I wish you long life and happiness, and strength to carry out the onerous, but nevertheless, honourable duties that you are called upon to perform.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MAHER (West Moreton) (2.8 p.m.):** I, too, Mr. Speaker, wish to congratulate you upon your attainment of the high and very honourable office of Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. As stated by the mover of the motion for your election, you have been a member of the House for 15 years, and during the last seven years you have occupied, with very great distinction, the office of Chairman of Committees. After all that office is in the nature of a probation for the higher office of Speaker. During the period that you have served as Chairman of Committees every member of the Opposition—and I am sure, every other hon. member of this Parliament—has felt that you had the requisite temperament for the Chair, that you were impartial, and that you did your best in the general interests of every hon. member of this Parliament quite irrespective of party. Therefore, we are very gratified that you have been called to the very high office of Speaker of this Parliament this afternoon.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MAHER:** I hope that in the discharge of your duties you will be able to resist—and I am certain that you will—any attempt to impose the will of the Government on you. There is the temptation in

politics for the will of the Government sometimes to prevail against the considered judgment and opinion of the Speaker; but I feel certain that you will have the backbone and the courage to resist any attempt that might be made in that direction.

I regret very much to see that on taking the chair this afternoon you are not wearing the traditional Speaker's robes. It is not undemocratic for a man to recognise the traditions of an office by wearing the robes associated with that office. There is a dignity that comes from the use of robes of office. Apart altogether from the man who occupies the chair, the wearing of the Speaker's robes commands respect, much as do the robes of office worn by a judge of the Supreme Court. The public have an appreciation of the meaning of the pageantry associated with matters of this kind—a wider appreciation of the significance of robes of office than many persons think. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you may yet decide to wear the Speaker's robes.

We on this side of the House feel very pleased that you were chosen to occupy this very high office and feel certain you will be as impartial, just, and tactful as we have found you to be as Chairman of Committees. We wish you well in your new office.

**Mr. NIMMO** (Oxley) (2.12 p.m.): On behalf of the United Australia Party in this House, I offer you, Mr. Speaker, our congratulations on your elevation to the Chair. This is an occasion on which I can agree with every word uttered by the hon. member for South Brisbane.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. NIMMO:** We, on this side, as are hon. members opposite, are very happy that you have been elected. I have often thought it right to have as Speaker a non-party man, and I believe that in that respect your choice is a good one. As Chairman of Committees, you dealt out justice fairly, and we of this section of the Opposition will use our best endeavours to assist you to preserve the dignity of the House and to carry out the duties of your high office as you yourself would like to discharge them.

**Mr. MORRIS** (Kelvin Grove) (2.14 p.m.): On behalf of myself, and the party I represent, may I offer you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations. The choice was obvious. I offer you my congratulations because you are a man who can hold the balance of justice impartially. I hope and trust you will remain as good a man in the chair as Speaker as you were as Chairman of Committees. I will not repeat the eulogies of previous speakers, but I hope and trust that you will be long spared to carry out the duties of your office in the same manner as you did those of Chairman of Committees.

**Mr. SPEAKER** (2.15 p.m.): I must again thank hon. members for having elevated me to a high and honourable office and I appreciate highly the fact that my selection was unanimous.

I regret very much indeed that circumstances have rendered it necessary to elect

another Speaker during the currency of this—the twenty-eighth Parliament of Queensland.

There are many duties associated with the office of Speaker, and varied conditions surround it. Some of those conditions are pleasant, and with them, of course, it is not difficult to deal. There are, however, some unpleasant duties associated with the position, but I shall attempt, at any rate, to discharge them in the most pleasant manner that is possible, always having in mind that we have our Standing Orders to control the business of Parliament. I shall endeavour at all times to interpret those Standing Orders as fairly as it is possible for any man to do.

I thank you once again for the great honour that you have conferred upon me.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

#### PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER TO GOVERNOR.

**The PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (2.16 p.m.): I desire to inform honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will receive Mr. Speaker and all other honourable members who care to accompany him at Government House at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** (Hon. E. J. Hanson, Buranda): Under Standing Order No. 8 I shall now proceed to Government House, there to present myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and I invite all honourable members who care to do so to accompany me. I shall resume the chair at 3 p.m.

At 2.17 p.m. the House adjourned until 3 p.m.

The House resumed at 3 p.m.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that I have presented myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ITHACA ELECTION PETITION.

##### REPORT OF ELECTIONS JUDGE.

**Mr. SPEAKER** reported the receipt of a letter from the Elections Judge in regard to the petition of George Sydney Webb complaining of the undue election and return of the Honourable Edward Michael Hanlon as a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Ithaca, certifying that on 28 April, 1939, in accordance with the judgment of the Full Court of Queensland, he had dismissed the petition and declared the Honourable Edward Michael Hanlon to be duly elected.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. SPEAKER** laid on the table a copy of the evidence accompanying the certificate.

**The PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I move—

“That the certificate of His Honour the Judge of the Elections Tribunal, declaring that the Honourable Edward Michael Hanlon was duly elected and returned as Member for the Electoral District of Ithaca, be entered on the journals of the House.”

Motion agreed to.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

##### CHANGES IN MINISTRY.

**The PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (3.3 p.m.): I desire to inform the House that during the recess the following changes have taken place in the Ministry:—

On the 16 January, 1939, the Honourable James Larcombe and the Honourable David Alexander Gledson were appointed members of the Executive Council.

On the 12 April, 1939, consequent upon the death on the 27 March, 1939, of the Honourable Maurice Patrick Hynes, Secretary for Labour and Industry, the Honourable Thomas Andrew Foley resigned his office as Secretary for Mines, and was appointed Secretary for Labour and Industry; and the Honourable James Larcombe was appointed Secretary for Mines.

On the 4 August, 1939, the Honourable John Dash resigned his office as Minister for Transport, and as a member of the Executive Council; the Honourable James Larcombe resigned his office as Secretary for Mines, and was appointed Minister for Transport; and the Honourable David Alexander Gledson was appointed Secretary for Mines.

I lay on the table of the House copies of “Government Gazettes” containing the notification of these changes.

#### PAPERS.

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

Report of the Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1938.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Regulations, dated 15 December, 1938, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1938, the Tramway Acts, 1882-1890, and the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937.

Order in Council, dated 16 March, 1939, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1938—Bundaberg Electric Authority.

Regulations, dated 16 March and 15 January, 1939, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1938, and the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937.

Order in Council, dated 15 June, 1939, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1938—prescribing articles to be approved before sale.

Order in Council, dated 13 July, 1939, under the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937—Agreement with City Electric Light Company, Limited.

Order in Council, dated 28 July, 1939, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1938—Childers Electric Authority.

Regulations, dated 22 February, 1939, and 27 June, 1939, under the Abattoirs Agreement Ratification and Meat Industry Acts, 1930 to 1932.

Regulation, dated 20 July, 1939, under the Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1934.

Order in Council, dated 2 March, 1939, under the Health Act of 1937.

Proclamation, dated 11 May, 1939, under the Health Act of 1937.

Regulations under the Health Act of 1937—

Dated 15 December, 1938, amending Regulation 14 of the Food and Drug Regulations, 1928, relating to flour, bread, and cereal products.

Dated 16 February, 1939, the Scarlet Fever Regulations, 1939.

Dated 16 February, 1939, the Typhoid Fever Regulations, 1939.

Dated 2 March, 1939, the Health (Food Supply) Regulations of 1939.

Dated 16 March, 1939, the Venereal Diseases Regulations of 1939.

Dated 15 June, 1939, amending the Poisons Regulations of 1924, relating to benzedrine and sulphanilamide and their derivatives.

Dated 29 June, 1939, the Rat Prevention and Destruction Regulations of 1939.

Proclamations, dated 19 January and 2 March, 1939, under the Health Act of 1937.

Ordinances under The City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1937—

Buildings, dated 17 November, 1938.

Health, dated 17 November, 1938.

Sale of Land for Arrears of Rates, dated 22 December, 1938.

Theatres and Places of Amusement, dated 12 January, 1939.

Boarding-houses, Flat Buildings, and Tenement Buildings, dated 30 March, 1939.

Discount on Rates, dated 29 June, 1939.

Regulations under the Local Government Act of 1936—

Dated 10 December, 1938, relating to the conduct of elections.

Dated 1 February, 1939, relating to the conduct of elections.

Dated 6 July, 1939, relating to the appointment of a president of a joint local authority.

Rules, dated 6 April, 1939, under the Police Act of 1937, for the general government and discipline of the members of the Police Force in Queensland.

Regulations, dated 22 December, 1938, under the State Children Acts, 1911 to 1938, relating to rates of payment to State children apprenticed or placed out for hire.



## Regulations under the following Acts:—

- The Apiaries Act of 1938.
- The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.
- The Dairy Products Stabilisation Acts, 1933 to 1936.
- The Diseases in Poultry Acts, 1923 to 1937.
- The Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1936.
- The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1934.
- The Milk Supply Act of 1938.
- The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1938.
- The Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Acts, 1915 to 1938.
- The Stock Foods Acts, 1919 to 1935.
- The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1938.
- The Veterinary Medicines Acts, 1933 to 1938.

## Orders in Council under:—

- The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.
- The Dairy Products Stabilisation Acts, 1933 to 1936.
- The Farmers' Assistance (Debts Adjustment) Acts, 1935 to 1936.
- The Fauna Protection Act of 1937.
- The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1938.
- The Rural Development Transfer and Co-ordination of Powers Act of 1938.
- The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1938.
- The Wheat Stabilisation Act of 1938.

## Proclamations under:—

- The Apiaries Act of 1938.
- The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1937.
- The Milk Supply Act of 1938.
- The Rural Development Transfer and Co-ordination of Powers Act of 1938.
- The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1938.
- The Wheat Stabilisation Act of 1938.

Statements of various insurance companies under section 47 of the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1901.

Fifty-fourth annual report of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Limited.

Orders in Council under the Supreme Court Act of 1921.

Orders in Council under the Magistrates Courts Act of 1921.

Order in Council under the Mortgage Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.

Order in Council under the Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.

Order in Council under the Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932.

Order in Council under the Financial Emergency Act of 1931, the Financial Emergency Relief Extension Act of 1932, and

the Law of Distress and Other Acts Amendment Act of 1934.

Order in Council under the Financial Emergency Act of 1931, the Financial Emergency Relief Extension Act of 1932, and the Contracts of Sale of Land Act of 1933.

Order in Council under the Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1938.

Orders in Council under the Coroners Act of 1930.

Proclamation under the Fair Rents Act of 1920.

Proclamation under the Justices Act of 1886.

Regulation under the Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1936.

Regulations under the Friendly Societies Acts, 1913 to 1938.

Regulations under the Trust Accounts Acts, 1923 to 1925.

Regulation under the Explosives Act of 1906.

Regulation under the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act of 1936.

Regulations under the Navigation Acts, 1876 to 1930.

Regulation under the Racecourses Acts, 1923 to 1936.

Regulations under the Racing and Coursing Regulation Acts, 1930 to 1936.

Regulation under the Statistical Returns Acts, 1896 to 1935.

Regulation under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1936.

Regulation under the Workers' Compensation (Lead Poisoning, Mount Isa) Act of 1933.

Order in Council under the Bureau of Industry Acts, 1932 to 1935.

Orders in Council under the Industries Assistance Acts, 1929 to 1933.

Order in Council under the Insurance Acts, 1916 to 1934.

Order in Council under the Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904.

Order in Council under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1936.

Regulations, dated 16 March, 1939, under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1938.

Regulations, dated 15 December, 1938, under the Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.

Order in Council, dated 23 March, 1939, under the Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.

Loans Regulations, dated 23 March, 1939, under the Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.

Order in Council, dated 25 May, 1939, under the Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.

Order in Council, dated 3 August, 1939, under the Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.

Regulation dated 15 December, 1938, under the Unemployed Workers Insurance Acts, 1922 to 1936.

Regulations dated 22 December, 1938, under the State Transport Act of 1932.

Regulations dated 26 January, 1939, under the State Transport Act of 1938.

By-laws Nos. 370 to 388 under section 134 of the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1934.

#### COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

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

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

#### PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

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

William Alfred Brand, member for the electoral district of Isis;

Samuel John Brassington, member for the electoral district of Fortitude Valley;

Thomas Dunstan, member for the electoral district of Gympie;

William Thomas King, member for the electoral district of Maree;

Thomas Nimmo, member for the electoral district of Oxley.

#### PAPER PRINTED DURING RECESS.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to report that the following paper was ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess:—

Report of the Royal Commission on Sugar Peaks and Cognate Matters.

#### QUESTIONS.

##### GENERAL MANAGER, RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION).

**Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba),** without notice, asked the Minister for Transport—

“Is any action contemplated to give effect to my representations favouring the restoration of the position of General Manager of the South-Western Division of the Railway Department, with headquarters at Toowoomba?”

**The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. J. Larcombe, Rockhampton)** replied—

“Yes. It is proposed to raise the classification of the present office to that of General Manager, South-Western Division. The Commissioner is now making the necessary adjustments.”

**Mr. NIMMO (Oxley),** without notice, asked the Premier—

“Will he lay on the table of the House the report of the commission that inquired into the workings of the Brisbane City Council, particularly as the affairs of that institution are in such a precarious position at the present time?”

**The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay)** replied—

“No royal commission of any kind was appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Brisbane City Council.”

#### DEATH OF HON. M. P. HYNES, HON. G. POLLOCK, AND MR. W. J. WELLINGTON.

##### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

**The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay)** (3.22 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 Hon. Maurice Patrick Hynes, member for the electoral district of Townsville, and Secretary for Labour and Industry in the present Administration; the Hon. George Pollock, member for the electoral district of Gregory and Speaker of the Queensland Parliament since 1932; and William John Wellington, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Charters Towers.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the families of the deceased gentlemen expressions of the sympathy and sorrow of members of the Parliament of Queensland.”

The late Mr. Hynes, as most members will recollect, was first elected member for Townsville on 15 May, 1923, in the twenty-third Parliament, and represented that electorate till after the end of the first session of the present Parliament. He died on 27 March of the present year. He was Secretary for Labour and Industry from 17 June, 1932, to the date of his death.

The late gentleman was a native of Mackay, his mother having been the first white child born in that distinguished part of the State. He and the members of his family were personal friends of mine.

Early in Mr. Hynes's youth he took an active part in Labour organisation and the building up of unionism, thus helping to obtain for the people better working conditions and higher wages.

**Honourable Members:** Hear hear!

**The PREMIER:** Later, he became an official of the Australian Workers' Union, a position he occupied until his death. As a unionist, trades-union official, member of Parliament, and a Minister of the Crown, he rendered yeoman service to the State of Queensland and the people of Queensland. He was only 52 years of age at the time of his death and the State is poorer because of his loss.

The Hon. George Pollock was elected member for Gregory in 1915 in the twentieth Parliament and represented that electorate continuously until the date of his death on 24 March, 1939. He was a Temporary Chairman of Committees and later was appointed Chairman of Committees, a position he held from 30 July, 1924, to 11 May, 1929. He was Speaker from 15 August, 1932, to 24 March, 1939.

The late Mr. Pollock was a very able man, a capable parliamentarian, a very competent Chairman of Committees, and a very successful Speaker of the House.

The late Mr. William John Wellington was elected member for Charters Towers on 22 May, 1915, in the twentieth Parliament, and represented that electorate continuously until the date of his death on 2 March, 1939. The late Mr. Wellington, with many others, was elected first in 1915, when the first Labour Government, with a majority at the polls, was constituted. He was a man who paid strict attention to his duties as a member of Parliament and was always at the service of his electorate. He was a courteous and upright man and our sympathy goes out to his widow and young family.

**Honourable Members:** Hear hear!

**Mr. MAHER** (West Moreton) (3.28 p.m.): It is my very sad duty to second the motion of sympathy with the wives and families of the deceased members of Parliament with which it deals. There was during the present year a period of very great grief to every hon. member of the House when death followed death in quick succession.

The late Mr. Hynes entered Parliament as member for Townsville in 1923. He was an experienced and vigorous political fighter, but withal he was a very kindly man outside the political arena. He had a very wide knowledge of industrial conditions throughout the State, and particularly of North Queensland. The portfolio of Labour and Industry, which he held for nearly seven years, is perhaps the most arduous and worrying of all ministerial offices, and, no doubt, the strain of public duty accelerated his death, which occurred at a comparatively early age.

The members of the Opposition also very deeply regret the death of the late Mr. Pollock. The deceased gentleman represented Gregory for about 24 years. As a private member he made his mark in the House by his wide general knowledge of affairs and his forceful debating. He had carried out the duties of Speaker since 1932 with considerable distinction. There were notable occasions when I felt that perhaps party interests had swayed his decisions, but on the whole he brought to the discharge of his important duties the great qualities of impartiality, dignity, and ability.

In recent years he had endured with silent fortitude much mental worry through persistent ill-health. This, of course, contributed to the sad circumstances that caused his untimely end.

The late Mr. Wellington represented Charters Towers for nearly 24 years. He had a very quiet, unassuming personality, and a very friendly disposition. Although he was a staunch supporter of his party, he frequently expressed to me his abhorrence of all forms of political pettiness, meanness, and bitterness in the House; he brought the gold-field tradition of fair play into this Chamber. He had many good personal characteristics, and the Opposition very greatly regret his death. As he lived through the golden era of Charters Towers, let us hope that Bill Wellington will find a congenial home in the golden mansions above.

The Opposition express their very sincere sympathy with the sorrowing wives and families of the three deceased gentlemen.

**Dr. BROWN** (Gregory) (3.34 p.m.): I desire to express my sympathy with the relatives of the three late members of this Parliament. All of them worked honestly and vigorously in the cause of the State and the State can ill afford to lose the services of such men. Mr. Hynes and Mr. Wellington I did not know, but Mr. Pollock was a very great friend of mine. His tragic death was deeply felt by the people in the Gregory electorate. It came as a great shock to me personally, and I felt that I had lost a very true and sincere friend. I agree that our expression of sympathy should be conveyed to the relatives of the late hon. members.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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

**Honourable Members:** Hear hear!

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### OPENING DAY.

**Mr. JONES** (Charters Towers) (3.36 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

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

“May it please Your Excellency,—

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

Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this State is to be congratulated on having a Governor who possesses such a wide knowledge of its people and industries as that possessed by His Excellency, Sir Leslie Wilson. It is gratifying to notice the way in which he keeps in touch with all activities in the State. His visits to the far northern parts of it are greatly appreciated by the people living in those areas. I trust the slight indisposition that now affects him will soon be removed and that he will shortly be restored to normal health.

I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high and honourable office of Speaker of this Assembly. I realise that your elevation to that position is the reward of long and faithful parliamentary service, during which you ably carried out the duties of Chairman of Committees in three Parliaments. I am sure every hon. member in this Assembly agrees with me when I say that I believe you possess the qualities that will enable you to carry out the duties of your new office with credit to yourself and with honour to Parliament.

I feel I should be lacking in my duty as member for Charters Towers if I did not pay a tribute to my predecessor, the late W. J. Wellington, who represented Charters Towers for about 24 years. He was a very fine character; he was a man whom it was good to know. He was not in the habit of making long speeches. Much of his work was done quietly and without blare of trumpets.

He had a long association with Charters Towers and was an admirer of that city, the people of which will be the poorer by his passing. The Labour movement, with which he had a life-long association, will miss him. I extend my sincere sympathy to his widow and family.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. JONES:** Mr. Speaker, I am doubtful if a Queensland Parliament has ever met in a more optimistic atmosphere than that prevailing as to the financial position at the present time, as disclosed by the figures for 1938-39. For the financial year 1931-32, hon. members will remember, there was a record deficit of £2,075,180, but within the short space of seven years this has been converted into a surplus of over £14,000. For this alone the Government may be proud. Compared with the position of the other States of the Commonwealth, Queensland is pre-eminent. The Government of New South Wales were elected in 1932, at the same time as a Labour Administration in Queensland,

but as the result of the policy they followed chaotic conditions exist in that State. As a matter of fact, the Government there may be overthrown at any moment and this is largely a result of their disastrous handling of the finances of that State. The Government of Queensland early laid down a progressive policy which they persistently followed, and the result is now apparent.

It is interesting to note that for the financial year 1938-39 the position of the different States was as follows:—

	£
Queensland .. ..	14,000 surplus
Tasmania .. ..	26,000 deficit
Western Australia ..	220,000 deficit
South Australia ..	402,000 deficit
Victoria .. ..	800,000 deficit
New South Wales ..	2,748,000 deficit

In spite of good seasons, buoyant revenue, and a plentiful supply of loan money, New South Wales showed an enormous deficit. The figures speak eloquently for the policy of the Queensland Government.

Referring to the financial position of the States, the Brisbane “Courier-Mail” of 5 May, 1939, said—

“At the end of March, every Government with the exception of Queensland showed a financial position worse than that shown on the corresponding date of 1938.”

The Brisbane “Telegraph,” discussing the same subject, said on 5 July, 1939—

“With a surplus of £14,046 for the financial year 1938-39 the Queensland Government finances show the best results since 1927-28. The anticipated deficit for the year was £215,774, so the actual result is £229,820 better than was expected.”

This happy position is not the result of a fluke or a game of chance, but because a clearly defined plan was laid down and carried out by the Queensland Government. (Opposition dissent.)

It is important to note, too, that in addition to recording a surplus Queensland was able to show higher wages, a lower cost of living, and lower unemployment figures than any other State. These are important facts.

His Excellency referred to the population of Queensland as having increased in a greater ratio than that of any other State of the Commonwealth, and it is well to remember that we have succeeded in finding employment for these increasing numbers. This is shown by the marked drop in unemployment figures as compared even with 1927-28. Queensland stands like a beacon to the other States.

After the recent increase in the basic wage, the Government Statistician compiled a table comparing Queensland's position with that of each of the other States. He has taken the basic wage in each division of the several States as affected by the cost of living. In this way the effective wage is found and the purchasing power of the pound calculated. It

will be noted that this table is strikingly in favour of Queensland:—

State.	Basic Wage.		Effective Wage.		Difference in favour of Queensland.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Queensland ..	4	4 0	4	6 5½	
New South Wales ..	4	0 9	3	15 5	11 .. 0½
Victoria ..	3	19 10	3	15 7	10 10½
South Australia ..	3	16 7	3	13 6	12 11½
Western Australia ..	4	2 11	3	18 4	8 1½
Tasmania ..	3	18 1	3	12 7	13 10½

Not only is the nominal wage higher in this State; the working week is decidedly in favour of the Queensland working man. After all, although hon. members opposite may attempt to ridicule my argument, the acid test of the government of any State is the social and economic level of its people. Hon. members opposite had an excellent opportunity when they were in power, and we all saw the results of what they did. This table, compiled also by the Government Statistician, shows the effective basic wage in each State, adjusted to the Queensland working week, as at 31 Dec., 1938:—

State.	Average Weekly Working Hours.	Effective Basic Wage on Basis of Queensland Hours.		Final Differences in favour of Queensland.
		£	s. d.	
Queensland ..	43·67	4	6 5½	
New South Wales ..	44·01	3	14 10	11 .. 7½
Victoria ..	45·85	3	12 0	14 5½
South Australia ..	46·31	3	9 3	17 2½
Western Australia ..	45·11	3	15 10	10 7½
Tasmania ..	46·00	3	8 11	17 6½

Those figures are from an unimpeachable source and speak for themselves.

His Excellency referred to the success of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act that was passed last year. At the election in 1938 the Government were given a clear mandate to abolish intermittent relief work progressively.

The Government realised that it was entirely uneconomic and was destroying the moral fibre of the people who had to avail themselves of it, whilst local authorities used it in substitution for the normal works programme. This was perhaps one of the worst features of the old scheme, and created a misleading position in relation to local authority finance. Many local authorities that had previously employed up to 8 and 10 employees reduced the number to two and three—just sufficient to maintain essential services. It will be readily understood that in a State like Queensland, with 144 shire, town, and city councils, when the intermittent relief scheme was abolished these bodies were compelled to employ possibly 800 to 1,000 additional men.

The intermittent relief scheme was, moreover, difficult to control. It was found that

many of the local authorities were employing men as commons rangers, and in other important positions, the payment of the wages for which should not have come from the unemployment relief fund. It is quite possible that had the scheme continued it would only have been a matter of time before mayoral allowances, in many instances, would have been paid from the fund.

When the Government decided last session to abolish intermittent relief work the Premier of this State gave the reasons for the change, in no uncertain language. He said that the objects of the Government were—

- (i.) The progressive restoration of employees to full-time work and full-time wages;
- (ii.) The maintaining of the existing numbers of employees on full-time work and full-time wages;
- (iii.) The progressive development of the State and the spread of employment throughout the State on as uniform basis as possible;
- (iv.) The allocation to the greatest advantage of loan and other funds amongst public works and employment projects;
- (v.) The institution of a systematic method of allocating intermittent relief with the ultimate but speedy objective of its complete abolition.

The Government realised that intermittent relief work was not intended to be a substitute for regular employment; it was unfair to the relief worker himself. When the Government launched their full-time employment scheme in September last year it met with considerable opposition. Hon. members opposite attempted to make political capital out of the change. As a matter of fact, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. members of his party who spoke at the recent Charters Towers by-election accused the Government of being home-breakers simply because they offered men employment, perhaps 80, 100, or 200 miles away from their homes. Such an argument could not be other than cheap and frivolous. How could the Government become home-breakers by offering men full-time employment at award rates and conditions away from their homes? Such a contention is ridiculous.

It must be realised that in a State the size of Queensland there is certain work to be done, and men have to be taken to that work; it cannot be brought to them in Brisbane or the other large cities. Any man who is to argue otherwise is angling for political support; it is not the sort of argument to be expected from members of what was once considered an important political party.

The Government realised that the scheme was uneconomic. Dozens of men made it their business to take relief work whilst they were part-time employed. Numbers of jockeys, horse-trainers, stable hands, hawkers, and dozens of other people who were at the time employed were prepared to accept intermittent work.

**An Opposition Member:** Why should they not?

**Mr. JONES:** I am not suggesting they should not accept it; what I am suggesting is that the Government were prepared to help the relief worker to help himself. Figures I shall quote indicate why the Government were justified in the policy they adopted. At 30 June last, just over eight months after the scheme was launched, the following was the position:—

Eligible men called up ..	14,945
In employment when called ..	3,612
Unemployed called up ..	11,174
Accepted work .. ..	6,485
Refused work .. ..	3,390
Failed to report .. ..	1,270

It is thus seen that the Government have actually offered work to approximately 15,000 people. I am not suggesting that that number of jobs were available, but I am pointing out that so many men were offered employment.

It is interesting to note that no fewer than 4,460 persons in the State refused full-time employment when it was offered. The figures speak for themselves, and show that the Government's action in progressively abolishing intermittent relief work was justified.

A moment ago I referred to the fact that criticism had been levelled at the Government because men had been sent some distance from their homes to full-time jobs. I suppose that no city or town in Queensland has a greater grudge in that respect than Charters Towers. As a matter of fact, I do not think that any of the men there obtained full time employment in that area; all were sent to the coast. The local shires do not appear to have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Main Roads Commission in respect of finance. Whether it is because of a conservative outlook or a lack of vision I do not know, but little work was offering in that area and the majority of the Charters Towers men had to accept full-time employment on the coast.

However, I am pleased that the Government recently gazetted the Ewan-Charters Towers road as a State highway, because that work will absorb a number of the local unemployed. The Government also decided to gazette as a State Highway that part of the Townsville road from Woodstock to Charters Towers, an action that is keenly appreciated by the people of Charters Towers, because after all, two important cities of the size of Townsville and Charters Towers should be linked by a suitable highway. Many parts of that road were in a deplorable condition, and it would require a fairly good car to average 20 miles an hour between Charters Towers and Townsville.

The Government have done remarkable work in their main roads programme. That they have been able to build 5½ miles of road each working day is a remarkable performance. I realise that the people in the west of the State should also be given good roads, and I am not suggesting that the Woodstock-Charters Towers road should be made a metal or bitumen road. All that is asked is that the timber be removed, gully crossings attended to, and

the road straightened. Actually, all that is necessary to put the road into trafficable order is the use of a grader.

The Government continue to take a paternal interest in the welfare of the young people of the State, and every effort is made to provide the teaching staff and equipment necessary to enable them to take their places in industry after they leave school. The Juvenile Employment Bureau, which was established in 1935, has been responsible for placing approximately 17,000 boys and girls in employment—this is a splendid achievement—and the organised method by which this is done is appreciated by the employers, the parents, and the children concerned.

Recently the Government set up five committees of experts to consider the advisability of raising the school-leaving age to 15 years. This is a very important problem and one that will have to receive very careful consideration. The investigations so far have revealed the menace of dead-end occupations confronting some of the young people who get positions in industry. However, the Commonwealth and State Governments are taking a lively interest in the matter, and at a recent conference in Melbourne, which was attended by the Secretary for Labour and Industry as the representative of Queensland, it was decided that common action be taken by the respective Governments to cope with the difficulty.

While dealing with the question of dead-end employment, I would suggest to the Government that they consider the reopening of the School of Mines at Charters Towers, which was closed in 1922 largely because of the depression in the mining industry and lack of students. The standard of training at this school was very high, and I understand it was the only school of its kind in the Commonwealth that was training steel chemists at that time. It is also interesting to know that many prominent mining men in the Commonwealth and, indeed, in other parts of the world received their tuition at the Charters Towers School of Mines. For instance, Mr. Sprott Boyd, the chairman of directors of the Utah Copper Mining Company, with an output of about 50,000 tons weekly, was a product of this school, and so was the present manager of the Broken Hill Company's steel works, as well as many technicians employed by that company. Bearing in mind the menace of dead-end occupations, I respectfully suggest to the Government that they should seriously consider the reopening of the Charters Towers School of Mines. Most of the equipment for the school is already there, and very little more is required to replace the school on the excellent footing on which it rested in 1922.

His Excellency stated that it was the intention of the Government to request the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works to investigate irrigation schemes in settled areas in the State. During the visit of the Acting Secretary for Agriculture and Stock to Charters Towers a few weeks ago a representative deputation waited on him in reference to the opening up of the Sellheim scrub

lands, which lie along the banks of the Burdekin River about 12 miles from Charters Towers. Some time ago the Department of Agriculture and Stock caused soil surveys to be made, and it was ascertained that this was first-class agricultural land. Subsequently inquiries were made about the cost of irrigation. I understand that the cost of irrigating this land, which would support about 30 farmers, was estimated at approximately £23,000, or about £8 an acre, which is an excessive figure. This estimate was based on irrigation of 30 farms, but I believe there is other land suitable for irrigation adjacent to the Sellheim scrub. Soil surveys reveal that this area of approximately 1,000 acres consists of first-class agricultural land, and I believe that other suitable land could be found and included in the original scheme, thereby bringing the cost of irrigation down to about £6 an acre, at which numbers of people would be prepared to take up land in that locality.

Some time ago Mr. N. A. R. Pollock, who recently resigned his position as Senior Instructor in Agriculture for the Department of Agriculture and Stock, visited Charters Towers, and at a meeting of a body of public men stated that he believed there was no finer tobacco land in Australia than that adjacent to Charters Towers. He made many inquiries with the intention of taking up tobacco-growing in that area and he told me that he knew of no better tobacco land in Australia than that adjacent to Charters Towers. He also referred me to a number of opinions expressed by competent people dealing with the quality of tobacco grown in North Queensland. I shall quote a few of them.

Giving evidence before a select committee appointed by the New South Wales Parliament to investigate the tobacco industry, Mr. B. P. Cahill, tobacco buyer for Lifeguard Tobacco Limited, Sydney, stated—

“My experience is that there definitely is very keen competition amongst manufacturers for the better grades of Australian leaf, particularly the sand-grown tobacco from Central and Northern Queensland.”

Mr. S. Nimenski, cigarette and tobacco manufacturer, Sydney, stated:—

“We would rather have a leaf from North Queensland, which is four grades darker than bright leaf from New South Wales. It is only quite recently that they have grown this bright leaf in Australia, this North Queensland leaf. As fast as it is grown it is bought at very high prices. All the tobacco grown in North Queensland is bought. None of it is left, and big prices are paid for it.”

Mr. C. W. Heyde, managing director, British Australian Tobacco Company, Sydney, stated—

“We are definitely of the opinion that not only the higher grades, but generally also the lower grades produced in North Queensland, are superior to the corresponding grades produced in other States. If and when the production of bright leaf

in Australia is in excess of the demand, manufacturers will naturally purchase all their requirements in those districts that are producing leaf which has all or a greater proportion of the characteristics of good tobacco leaf.”

As I said previously, Mr. Pollock assured me—and he should know—that this country is first-class tobacco land. The fact that after his retirement from the Department of Agriculture and Stock he went straight to Charters Towers looking for land in order to grow tobacco indicates to me at least that there are possibilities there in this respect. I am informed that the Government have passed this matter to the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, and that it is that officer's intention to investigate further the possibilities of irrigating this area.

His Excellency referred to the gold yield of the State as having again increased. The production for 1938 was 151,432 fine ounces, as compared with 127,281 ounces for 1937, representing in Australian currency a value of approximately £1,334,778. During 1939 the volume of gold production has been maintained, the estimated yield for the six months ended 30 June, 1939, being 71,878 fine ounces. The value of minerals other than gold amounted to £2,625,373 for 1936. The total production for 1938 amounted to approximately £4,000,000. To the end of 1938 Charters Towers and Cape River gold and mineral fields had produced 6,725,484 fine ounces of gold, and the neighbouring field of Ravenswood a further 891,663 fine ounces. The highest annual production for Charters Towers, 319,572 fine ounces, was recorded in 1899. Production followed a rapid decline, until, in 1928, only 147 fine ounces of gold was won. However, since then production has increased year by year. This is due in no small measure to the sympathetic administration and financial assistance rendered by the Labour Government.

Without fear of contradiction I say that had it not been for the sympathetic consideration of the Government it was quite possible that the Black Jack, Swedenborg, Mons Meg, Midas, and Lolworth mines would not have been working to-day. The Swedenborg Company was formed in 1934, and struck difficulty very early. Subsequently, application was made to the Government for financial help. The Government gave both financial help and technical advice, the result being that the company was able to carry on. Production to the end of 1938 amounted to 3,851 tons, yielding 6,007 fine ounces, which, at present prices, will be worth £54,000. That company appreciated the action of the Government, and in a letter to the Department of Mines, the chairman of directors, Mr. Grosvenor A. Francis, at one time representative of the Kennedy electorate in the Federal House of Representatives, said, *inter alia*—

“At the time of the board's decision to declare a dividend, appreciative reference was made to the fact that although the shareholders had put in £16,000 for the exploration and development of the mine,

and (until recently) all money won from the mine, yet the present position is in large measure due to the loan made by (and long since repaid to) your Department under its policy of making advances to aid genuine prospecting in Queensland. It was unanimously resolved by the board that I, as its chairman, write and convey to you the sincere appreciation of the board of the very real and (may I write) wise help extended to this company at a time of need, and that I discharge this duty with a particular and real pleasure. With kind regards, and again the thanks of the board, both for themselves and the shareholders."

Those remarks are significant. They are not the words of any Labour partisan; they represent the opinion of the board of directors.

The Black Jack mine was abandoned for many years prior to its being taken over by the present company. The Government advanced that company £3,300. That money has been repaid and the mine has been a constant producer ever since it resumed operations.

(Time expired.)

**MR. KEYATTA** (Townsville) (4.16 p.m.): I desire to thank the electors of Townsville for enabling me to enjoy the great honour and privilege of seconding the Address in Reply.

First of all, I should like to congratulate the mover, my friend the hon. member for Charters Towers, upon the very capable speech that he has delivered this afternoon. I desire, too, to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to your high and honourable office. Your appointment has been made from due consideration of your loyalty and devotion to principle. You are fitted for your office by your tolerance, impartiality, and temperament; and I trust you will be long spared to carry out the duties appertaining to it, and enjoy the confidence this House has reimposed in you. I trust also that your wife, who has shared your trials and tribulations, be long spared to enjoy also the high honour bestowed upon you.

I desire to compliment the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Gregory for their very kind remarks about the late Hon. M. P. Hynes. Mr. Hynes represented Townsville for many years and the record of his work whilst he represented that electorate stands as a monument of his very fine administration. He was cradled in the Labour movement and elevated to the high position of Cabinet Minister, and he carried out his work as Minister in such an excellent manner that he was returned at every election that he contested in Townsville. I desire to convey to his wife and family my very deep and heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

I should like, too, to congratulate His Excellency the Governor upon his excellent speech this morning. He referred to many matters that are of paramount importance in the development of this very fine State. He referred, for instance, to the fact that unemployment has been reduced to 4.2 per

cent. This is striking evidence of the excellent administration of the present Government.

Another very important matter to which he referred was the employment of juveniles. The Government are to be commended on their intention to introduce legislation to improve the position of our boys and girls who get jobs in industry, and it is to be hoped that every consideration will be shown to such an important matter. The question directly involves the growing manhood of this State—of Australia; the morality of our people is wrapped up in it. I again commend the Government on the move they contemplate. There is nothing more demoralising to a family, nothing that causes more unhappiness, than the spectacle of a youth dismissed from employment on account of his age, and thrown on the labour market. Imagine the feeling of the parents, the outlook of the child; what could be more demoralising? I compliment the Government on the initiative they have taken in grappling with such a vital matter.

My electorate of Townsville is one of the smallest in the State, but, at the same time, one of the most important. Townsville is one of the greatest exporting ports in the Commonwealth of Australia, and on a tonnage basis the greatest in Queensland—even including Brisbane. It ranks sixth or seventh, in fact, among all ports in Australia, reckoning the value of imports and exports together. The total goods handled over the Townsville wharves are approximately a half-million tons a year. That is due mainly to the export of the products of Mount Isa. The city has a population of approximately 30,000, but is of vital importance to the State. The value of the exports over Townsville wharves is approximately £6,000,000 annually, and, given a period of normal production, would touch the £7,000,000 mark. The Government of the State, by subsidies and loans, have made it possible for the port to handle trade of such phenomenal value.

I have here figures supplied to me at Townsville showing that approximately 16,000 tons of wool, representing about £1,500,000, were shipped there last year, but figures supplied by the Government Statistician's office put the quantity at 18,444 tons. I have taken the conservative local figure. The values for the six important exports from Townsville are then—

	£
Wool .. .. .	1,595,597
Sugar .. .. .	1,788,935
Metals .. .. .	1,300,000
Meats .. .. .	845,164
Hides .. .. .	99,904
Tallow .. .. .	59,738

Those values show the importance of the port, and the results have been achieved to a great extent by sympathetic Government administration. Assistance to the Mount Isa mines, given because of the low price of metal, has been a big factor in stabilising the port of Townsville, increasing trade directly and indirectly, and bringing more freight to the railways. The Government must be commended for their work there, because it must react



favourably in the future development of that area. Metals comprise one of the largest exports in Townsville and they are drawn largely from the Mount Isa area. Another result of the Government's policy has been to increase the employment offering for water-side workers at Townsville and, incidentally, it has fostered development generally in Townsville.

A good season is all that is required to increase the output of wool. The normal export of that commodity from Townsville is approximately 160,000 bales, but at present the total reaches only 140,000 bales. An increase of 20,000 bales would not only be of enormous benefit to the producer, but it would also have an indirect effect on trade and all its ramifications in the district. Townsville is also the distributing centre for North Queensland. Approximately 270,000 tons of goods are imported into Townsville and that city can be likened to Brisbane, inasmuch as it supplies North Queensland as Brisbane supplies South Queensland.

Recently a deputation of graziers from Townsville submitted to the Premier a proposal that abattoirs should be established there, and the Premier rightly replied that the matter was one for investigation by experts. The Premier has previously considered the possibility of establishing abattoirs at Townsville, and I have no doubt that if the report is favourable it will be carried into effect. This would have an important bearing upon the prospects of the grazing industry in the Far North and on the trade of Townsville.

It is also important that adequate stock routes should be provided so that cattle may be taken over the roads to the meatworks without undue loss. The deputation of graziers also impressed upon the Premier the importance of providing these facilities to enable the cattle to reach the meatworks at Ross River or Oolbun without bruising. At the present time the stock routes are so narrow that travelling stock are excited by vehicular traffic and considerable bruising takes place. I appeal to the Premier to make every endeavour to provide convenient stock routes for fat cattle going to the meatworks. It is a vital matter for Townsville, and, according to one member of the deputation, the removal of the present inconveniences would mean an increased annual killing at the Townsville works of 10,000 head of cattle. That increased number of cattle would mean an increase of thousands of pounds in the wages of the workers, and I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without stressing the importance of convenient stock route facilities. A comparison of the periods of operation at the meatworks discloses that they are getting shorter, but we cannot afford any loss in this important trade, which in employment alone means much to the stability of Townsville.

I congratulate the Minister on gazetting the Burdekin highway from Woodstock to Charters Towers, thus breaking the isolation of Townsville from the West. This is a very important step in the interests of Townsville

and other places, as well as from the viewpoint of defence. I compliment the hon. gentleman on his initiative and foresight. Because of its importance Townsville is deserving of such consideration in this regard. From Stuart Town, commonly known as Stewart's Creek, to Charters Towers, a distance of about 77 miles, is gazetted as the Burdekin Highway. The route from Townsville to Stuart Town has also been declared a main road. This will be an important factor in relieving unemployment at Townsville.

During a recent interview I had with the Secretary for Public Works he expressed surprise at the number registered for employment at Townsville, and he informed me that at the first opportunity he would relieve the position. I thanked him on behalf of the citizens of that city.

Tourist traffic is another important consideration. I urge upon the department controlling tourist traffic the need for providing further facilities for tourists in the Townsville area. Because of its geographical position, Townsville is more fitted to be the centre of tourist traffic than any other town in the North. A very large number of attractive launches at that centre could be placed at the disposal of tourists at a very reasonable rate. Many tourists desire to see the beauties of the Barrier Reef, and the Department should investigate the possibilities of this important branch of tourist trade. Approximately 23 tourist ships arrive in Townsville, carrying approximately 92,000 passengers, during the tourist season. Many of these tourists visit Magnetic Island and other neighbouring beauty spots, but the Barrier Reef, where deep-sea fishing can be had, is the main attraction. Approximately 50 launches of comfortable dimensions, including fishing craft, could be made available for transporting tourists to the Barrier Reef. As a matter of fact, some boats travel as far as Dunk Island to the north and Whitsunday Passage in the south. This route enables tourists to see the famous Hinchinbrook Island and the Palm Islands group, the latter consisting of islands ranging from small cays to big islands. The Whitsunday group also comprises a number of islands, and there are others in the neighbourhood. The fishing grounds are well known to experienced fishermen. I emphasise this matter and ask the Department to give consideration to an extension of the facilities of this highly important tourist traffic.

The fishing grounds in the neighbourhood of Townsville are among the best in Australia, and with intelligent development and good marketing Townsville could be made an important fishing port. I need mention only mackerel fishing. Official figures disclose that 79 boats load and unload, pack and recondition in the harbour. The expansion of this industry would be for the benefit of the State from both commercial and economic viewpoints. I urge that the responsible department investigate the possibility of creating a fish board at Townsville for the purpose of marketing the fish, as with intelligent administration this could be made a very

important industry. Information supplied me by the department shows the value of the output as approximately £40,000. A fish board constituted on similar lines to that of the one operating in Brisbane would be of immense benefit to Townsville, and of great value in supplying the fish needs of the north and west of the State, in which there is a great potential market. Co-ordination with the Railway Department would also be of great help. The fishermen of Townsville are anxious for the creation of such a board, and would co-operate in every possible way. The late Mr. Hynes showed much foresight in this respect. It was he who, on the representation of the fishermen of Townsville, was responsible for the establishment of a fund from which to construct a wharf to enable the fishermen to load and unload, pack their catch, and recondition their boats. The harbour board, realising the possibilities of this trade, decided to build a wharf at its own cost. Had the late Mr. Hynes lived he would have pushed this matter to its conclusion. The possibilities are there, and I commend them to the Government. There is no greater fishing ground in the Commonwealth of Australia than that adjoining Townsville.

The department might also investigate the activities of the sporting fishermen, who, after making a catch of 1 cwt. or 1 ton of fish, sell it in the market at any price that can be obtained, so competing with the licensed or professional fisherman. In addition to having to maintain his boat, the professional fisherman risks his life in all weathers. I do not suggest for a minute that the sportsman should be deprived of his pleasure, but do not let him compete in the open market against the man who is dependent entirely upon fishing for his living.

A matter to which I desire to make passing reference is the fact that, at present, North Queensland is without any form of defence. Much has been said about the defence of Australia by the authorities concerned, but one of the most vulnerable parts of the Commonwealth, a port that taps the rich primary-producing areas of the State, is without protection. It is the right of the people of this very important wealth-producing area of the Commonwealth that they be given adequate protection against an invading army. An invasion by a squadron of enemy planes could dislocate the whole of the life of that area.

Finally, I desire to congratulate the Minister concerned upon the very humane consideration that he has given to the Sister Kenny method of treatment of infantile paralysis. No-one can deny that this noble woman has performed invaluable work in the cause of humanity. She has given her services free to the Commonwealth of Australia—she makes no charge—and rich and poor alike receive equal consideration. She fought against all opposition, and it is to the credit of the Queensland Government and the Minister concerned that her very fine work has been encouraged and its scope enlarged for the benefit, not only of the Queensland people, but also of the citizens of the whole of the Commonwealth. I have been in close touch

with Sister Kenny, and I have seen her work. I am proud of the fact that I have brought the matter up before and taken various Ministers of this Government, including the late Mr. Hynes, the Hon. J. Dash, and the Hon. H. A. Bruce, to see the fine work that is done at these clinics. I feel sure that this has had something to do with making this wonderful work available for the benefit of the people of the whole of the Commonwealth. I compliment the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs and his officers on what they have achieved.

I wish to make reference also to the resignation as Minister of the Crown of the Hon. John Dash. My friendship with that gentleman has extended over many years, and it was with regret that I learned that he was forced to lay down his office on account of illness. I wish him a speedy recovery. I trust that he will recuperate and will again be a member of the Cabinet. He has rendered a very fine service to this State and is a man of great personality.

I thank the Premier and members of the Cabinet, together with officers of various Government departments, for the assistance rendered to me during the recent Townsville by-election.

I conclude by again complimenting you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to a high and honoured office. May you long be spared to carry out your duties!

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. KEYATTA:** I have pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so capably moved by my friend, the hon. member for Charters Towers.

**Government Members:** Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr. Maher, adjourned.

#### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

**The PREMIER** (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay):—I move—

“That the House at its rising do adjourn until 10 o'clock a.m. to-morrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.