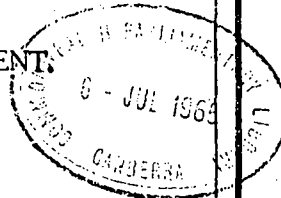


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COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT



DIGEST OF DECISIONS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

AND

IMPORTANT SPEECHES

BY

THE PRIME MINISTER
(THE RIGHT HON. J. B. CHIFLEY).

No. 128.

PERIOD—5TH JUNE, 1947, TO 31ST JULY, 1947.

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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

VISIT OF BRITISH CARRIER SQUADRON.

On 5th June, 1947, the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Riordan) announced that exercises in which two aircraft carriers and two destroyers of the British Pacific Fleet and ships of the Australian and New Zealand squadrons would take part, would be carried out off the Australian coast in July, 1947. The British carriers were H.M.S. *Theseus* and H.M.S. *Glory*, accompanied by the destroyers *Contest* and *Cockade*. *Theseus* would visit Melbourne from 11th July to 20th July. *Glory* would visit Adelaide from 4th July to 9th July. The carriers and destroyers would stay in Sydney from 24th July to 6th August, and would then go to Brisbane where they would remain from 8th August to 18th August.

JUDICIARY.

ARBITRATION COURT—APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUDGE.

On 9th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Mr. Justice H. B. Piper has, owing to ill health, resigned his office as Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court as from 16th June, 1947, and Mr. Justice E. A. Drake-Brockman is being appointed Chief Judge in his stead.”

INDUSTRIAL.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF TRADES UNIONS.

On 20th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“I met the president (Mr. P. J. Clarey, M.L.C.) and the secretary (Mr. A. Monk) of the Australasian Council of Trades Unions to-day.

“They conveyed to me a resolution of the council supporting the continuance of Empire preference.

“The officers put to me certain aspects of the 40 hours week and also discussed National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations covering wage-pegging.

“The decision of the Council regarding the expediting of food for Britain was conveyed to me.

“The officers informed me that the council was opposed to any proposed ban on the construction of the guided projectile range but asked that further investigations be made to ensure the welfare of aborigines and their land. War and defence were touched on by the officers who asked that the Commonwealth Government should use its influence at the United Nations in support of a policy of progressive disarmament and control of atomic bombs.

“The continuance of price control and the position arising in Victoria and other States because of the attitude of the Legislative Councils was mentioned to me and an intimation given that the Commonwealth Government should take measures to assure control of prices and rents.

“I gave the deputation my views on all the subjects and added that their representations would be considered by Cabinet.”

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—CONFERENCE, AUGUST, 1947.

On 15th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“The conference of representatives of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures and the Australasian Council of Trades Unions will be held on 2nd August and 3rd August, 1947.”

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS—AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY COMMITTEE.

On 16th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“At the request of the general secretary of the Australian Labour Party (Mr. P. J. Kennelly, M.L.C.), I have agreed to meet the Industrial Committee of the Australian Labour Party on 5th August, 1947.”

(The Industrial Committee of the Australian Labour Party comprises: Messrs. A. S. McAlpine (New South Wales), P. J. Kennelly, M.L.C. (Victoria), S. J. Bryan (Queensland), and E. Brooker, M.L.A. (Tasmania).)

INCOME TAX.

BOARD OF REVIEW.

On 9th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Cabinet decided to-day that a second Board of Review be established under the Income Tax Assessment Act by appointing the present War-time (Company) Tax Board of Referees as the board. The existing board of review will be given the powers of the War-time (Company) Tax Board of Referees. For the time being the present board will determine cases arising in New South Wales and Queensland, and the second board will determine cases arising in the other four States. The functions of the Board of Review, although primarily associated with income tax, have been extended to matters arising out of sales tax, pay-roll tax, war-time (company) tax, entertainments tax and estate and gift duties.

“At a later date, the second board will be reconstituted with a permanent chairman and two permanent members.”

Personnel of the present Board of Review: Messrs. R. R. Gibson (chairman), J. Hannan, E. F. Hamilton.

Personnel of War-time (Company) Tax Board of Reference: Messrs. H. McGee (chairman), John Spence, A. Barton.

ASSESSMENT BILL, 1947—INSTALMENT SCALES.

On 13th June, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“Regulations under the Income Tax Assessment Act and the Social Services Contribution Assessment Act have been gazetted to-day.

“These regulations prescribe reduced scales of instalment deductions to be made by employers from the weekly salary or wages paid to employees on and after the 1st July, 1947. The reduced scales give effect to the reductions in income tax and social services contribution recently passed by Parliament.

"As in the past, one scale has been printed by the Taxation Department to cover instalments for both income tax and social services contributions. Copies of this scale will be available to employers before 1st July, 1947.

"Some variation has been made in the form of the printed scale to be used. In cases of employees with dependants, the scale at present in operation provides for instalments according to the number and class of dependants maintained. In the new scale, the instalments for such employees are varied according to the total amount on which rebate may be claimed by the employee in respect of dependants. This alteration will simplify the application of the scale by employers. A copy of the scale is attached.

"The regulations contain provisions which will enable farmers, businessmen and other taxpayers from whose income instalment deductions are not made, to obtain the benefit of the reduced income tax and social services contribution rates in the provisional amounts payable by them in respect of the income of the year ending 30th June, 1948.

"Normally, the provisional tax and contribution payable by such a taxpayer would be equal to the income tax and social services contribution, respectively, assessed for the financial year 1946-47. However, in view of the fact that the rates of income tax and social services contribution for the financial year 1947-48 will be lower than those for the financial year 1946-47, the regulations provide for a reduction in the provisional tax and contribution otherwise payable for the financial year 1947-48. Broadly, in cases where the taxpayer will be liable to both income tax and social services contribution, the reduction will be 1s. in the £1 for each £1 of the taxable income derived by him during the year ending 30th June, 1947. In other cases, the reduction will be graduated up to a maximum of 1s. in the £1 for each £1 of the taxable income derived by the taxpayer during the year ending 30th June, 1947.

"The regulations also prescribe the metals to which section 23 (p) of the Act shall apply. Section 23 (p) exempts income derived by a bona fide prospector from the sale, transfer or assignment by him of his rights to mine for gold and for such metals and minerals as are prescribed. The metals prescribed for the purpose of this provision are antimony, arsenic, beryllium, bismuth, cobalt, copper, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, tin and vanadium."

(For earlier references, please see No. 125, page 28; No. 126, page 29.)

FISHING INDUSTRY.

WHALING—AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY.

On 9th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"On 20th November, 1945, Cabinet approved of proposals for Australian participation for whaling in the Southern Hemisphere. Since then an officer of the Fisheries Division of the Department of Post-war Reconstruction has attended an International Whaling

Conference. An inter-departmental committee, representing the Departments of the Treasury, Labour, Commerce, Supply and Shipping, Post-war Reconstruction and Repatriation has considered the general prospects of the industry, and particularly in the light of information received from Britain that the delivery of a factory ship would not be made until 1950 at the earliest. It was considered that Australia's initial entry into the industry should be through land stations and that, when they had been established and personnel trained, consideration could be given to pelagic operations.

"The Minister for Commerce (Mr. Pollard) informed Cabinet today that the present position was that the building of a factory ship could not be completed until 1950 and that the proposal to secure a factory ship as part of Japanese reparations was being investigated by the Department of External Affairs but, even if approved, there would be delay in delivery. It appeared that the Australian industry should be developed on shore-based operations from the New South Wales and Western Australian coasts and by pelagic operations based on Hobart—the latter being subject to personnel being trained at the land stations and prospects carefully checked.

"Cabinet decided to commence negotiations for the engagement of a whaling expert."

(For earlier references, please see No. 108, page 8; No. 110, page 14.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

CREDIT.

On 11th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"A credit of £stg.500,000 has been granted to the Government of Czechoslovakia through the Commonwealth Bank of Australia for the purchase of Australian wool. The period of the credit is one year. Repayment has been guaranteed by the Government of Czechoslovakia. It is a condition of the agreement that Czechoslovakia will make cash purchases of Australian wool to a value at least equal to the amount of the guaranteed credit.

"Before the war, Czechoslovakia was becoming an increasingly important buyer of Australian wool. It is considered that the credit will assist in the early re-establishment of the woollen industry in that country."

DEFENCE.

POST-WAR—UNITED STATES CO-OPERATION.

On 11th June, 1947, the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) and the United States Ambassador (Mr. Butler) said—

"The Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy, Army and Air Forces in the Pacific area (Admiral L. E. Denfeld) has had discussions with the Australian Government and service authorities on

matters of mutual interest in the Pacific. The purpose of his visit was to ensure the continuance of the close co-operation between the United States and Australian services which existed through the war period and which contributed so much to victory in the Pacific.

“There is a practical identity of Pacific interests and excellent relationships existing between the United States and Australia. The discussions Admiral Denfeld has had with the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley), the Minister for External Affairs, the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Riordan), and service authorities have covered mutual interests of the two countries in the Pacific, and it is natural that such discussions should be repeated from time to time. They are the natural outcome of the close association between the two Governments which characterized the war period and, being purely defensive in character, are completely in accord with the principles and purposes of the United Nations. The discussions during the last few days in Australia have been entirely successful from all points of view.”

DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

On 31st July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Following the recent appointment of Mr. A. P. Rowe as defence scientific advisor and chairman of the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee, members of the committee have been appointed as follows:—

The Executive Officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Dr. F. W. G. White), the Professor of Physics at Melbourne University (Professor L. H. Martin), the Professor of Chemistry at Melbourne University (Professor E. J. Hartung), the Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Sydney University (Professor A. V. Stephens), the Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research in Pathology and Medicine (Professor F. R. Burnet).

(For earlier references, please see No. 109, page 42; No. 113, page 15.)

POST-WAR—NEW WEAPONS, LONG RANGE WEAPONS BOARD.

On 31st July, 1947, the Acting Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Mr. Pollard) announced National Security (Munitions) Regulations to set up within the Department of Munitions a Long Range Weapons Board of Administration. The board would be responsible for the conduct of factories engaged in the production of long-range weapons; for the setting up of ranges and testing establishments, and for testing operations; for all matters relating to scientific research and the technical development and design of long-range weapons and equipment. The board would consist of two representatives of the Department of Munitions, three representatives of the British Ministry of Supply and a representative of each of the Departments of Defence, Navy, Army, Air and Works and Housing.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE. AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY.

On 12th June, 1947, the Governor-General announced the following awards:—

Air Force Cross.—Squadron-leaders J. R. French, C. C. Henry, J. G. Hoskins, J. R. Lavers, J. T. O'Brien, Flight-lieutenants R. W. Adsett, E. M. Allison, M. W. Baker, M. C. Clifford, C. R. Gallwey, E. T. W. Holt, P. J. Love, A. W. P. Malcolm, C. R. McNichol, J. Rankin, E. B. Stacy, Flying-officers A. Burns, H. A. Kirkhouse, N. J. Properjohn.

Air Force Medal.—Flight-sergeant D. W. Hosking.

CHIEF OF AIR STAFF--VISIT TO BRITAIN.

On 7th July, 1947, the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) announced that the Chief of the Air Staff (Air Marshal G. Jones) would visit Britain and the United States of America during August, 1947. He would attend a conference called by the British Chief of the Air Staff (Lord Tedder) of the commanders-in-chief of Royal Air Force commands at home and overseas, and to which Dominions Chiefs of Air Staff had been invited. In the United States of America, Air Marshal Jones would attend talks with General Spaatz and General Kenny of the United States of America Air Force.

COMMAND CHANGES.

On 9th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that Air Commodore J. P. J. McCauley, who had been appointed Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan, had been promoted to the acting rank of air vice-marshal.

On 25th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that Air Commodore F. R. W. Scherger had been appointed deputy-chief of the Air Staff.

CADET COLLEGE.

On 23rd July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that commencement would be made on 1st August, 1947, to establish the Royal Australian Air Force Cadet College at Point Cook for the training as officers of boys between the ages of 16 and 18 years. Annual courses would commence in 1948 and would be of four years' duration. Annual intake of cadets would be about 24 pupils.

STRENGTH AND ACTIVITIES—EXCHANGE WITH ROYAL AIR FORCE.

On 30th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that five Royal Australian Air Force crews would be sent to Britain to become members of the No. 24 (Commonwealth) Squadron on an exchange basis with the Royal Air Force.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

EXPORTS TO BRITAIN—BRITISH POLICY.

On 12th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“The policy of the British Government on foodstuffs so far as Australia is concerned is to import the maximum quantities of basic foodstuffs, such as dairy products and meat, from us. Britain wants many other products in addition to these basic lines including—

Tomato puree, chutney, apple butter, vinegar, bonox, vegemite, fruit juices, canned meat and vegetables, canned steak and vegetables, canned rabbit, canned poultry, fricassee of poultry, fricassee of rabbit, fricassee of mutton, steak and kidney pudding, and irish stew.

“Britain does not want certain foodstuffs in a processed form because she prefers the raw materials. She does not want plum puddings, for instance, from Australia, if she can obtain the flour, dried fruits and fats in bulk and use these items to the best advantage.

“Australia has been cognizant of the British Government's decision to restrict the import of certain processed and semi-luxury foodstuffs. It has been the policy of the British Ministry of Food to import foodstuffs in particular forms so that the Ministry may implement its rationing scheme. Knowing the position of Britain, the Australian Government has done, and will continue to do, everything possible to shift the maximum foodstuffs to Britain. The British import policy on food is the concern of the British Government.

“Australia has serious problems for tinned plate supplies and does not always desire to send goods in cans which can be exported in bulk. Australian exports to Britain of goods which are subject to import restrictions are not appreciable and make very little impression on the quantity of foodstuffs required by the British Ministry.”

DAIRY INDUSTRY—CONTROL.

On 2nd July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“The Australian Dairy Produce Board was set up in October, 1924, and consists of seventeen members appointed under the Dairy Produce Export Control Act. The members comprise—

Four producers, nine representatives of butter and cheese factories, two representatives of proprietary and privately-owned butter and cheese factories, one representative of the Australian Council of the Australian Institute of Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries, and one representative of the Commonwealth Government.

“During the war, the board's activities were curtailed and under National Security Act regulations, control of the industry was taken over in November, 1939, by a small committee vested with wide powers.

“Cabinet decided to-day that legislation be prepared to amend the Dairy Produce Control Act to provide for a board of twelve members, with a Government nominee as chairman; to be vested with such additional powers and functions as might be necessary in the light of circumstances now obtaining in the industry. It is proposed that, when the new legislation operates, National Security Act regulations will be withdrawn.”

DAIRY INDUSTRY—MILK, SUBSIDIES.

On 15th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“A decision as to the future control of milk will be made by the Commonwealth Government in September, 1947. The decision to be made is whether the Commonwealth should take any further interest and step out, or whether control should be handed to a State or local authority. If subsidies are discontinued by the Commonwealth, that will mean substantial increases in milk prices to consumers. One of the Commonwealth's difficulties is that at places such as Hobart and Launceston there is no authority to which the Commonwealth can hand control.”

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY—EXPORT CONTROLLED.

On 3rd July, 1947, the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Pollard) announced that controls would be exercised over the export of essential agricultural machinery to ensure that the greatest possible volume would be available in Australia. Types involved were—

Tractors, grain and fertilizer cultivator drills, and seed drills for cereal crops, header harvesters, reaper threshers, reapers and binders, hay balers, side delivery rakes, mowers and spare parts.

Token overseas shipments would be permitted as the nucleus of trade must be preserved.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING—DECISIONS.

On 21st July, 1947, Mr. Pollard said that a meeting of Australian Agricultural Council had been held. Decisions were—

MARKETING OF EGGS.—At its last meeting, council adopted recommendations embracing the formation of the Australian Egg Equalization Committee Limited for the marketing of eggs. The Standing Committee on Agriculture now reported that unless the necessary legislation could be passed in New South Wales and Victoria to enable the company to operate as from 1st January, 1948, there would be disorganization in marketing and a fall in prices. Dealing with the question of surplus funds from Commonwealth egg control, Council expressed the view that the Commonwealth Government should be informed that some portion of the fund should be distributed as working capital of the Australian Egg Equalization Committee Limited.

BARLEY.—Proposals for the future marketing of barley, previously agreed to by representatives of Victorian and South Australian Governments and growers, and trading interests in those States, were adopted by council. The proposals provide for marketing barley under a pool system operating under State legislation without any guarantee of price; growers in effect receiving the average return obtained by the pool. Council decided that draft legislation prepared by the South Australian Government be considered by a conference of Commonwealth, Victorian and South Australian legal officers and that the draft bill then be submitted to the Commonwealth Government for approval and preparation as a Commonwealth Bill. The measure is to cover marketing of barley in Victoria and South Australia and any other States prepared to participate.

TOBACCO.—Council adopted a tentative outline of Commonwealth and State legislation embodying principles considered necessary for a tobacco marketing scheme. The proposals envisaged a central authority charged with appraising tobacco leaf submitted to it under complementary State legislation. It would be necessary for the States to invest the central authority with necessary powers to

appraise Australian tobacco leaf and allocate leaf to manufacturers. The legislation would provide for a table of limits which would be used to appraise leaf and should prohibit transactions except in accordance with the requirements of State Acts.

POTATOES.—Council noted that the Commonwealth had decided to continue the contract system with potatoes to cover the 1947-48 crop. The area desired was 185,000 acres calculated to give production sufficient to supply the population of Australia with 2½ lb. of potatoes a week throughout the year with a margin of safety. It was proposed to allocate the area for 1947-48 as follows:—New South Wales—31,533 acres; Victoria—66,347 acres; Queensland—17,735 acres; South Australia—7,880 acres; Western Australia—7,823 acres; Tasmania—54,149 acres; Total—185,467 acres.

Basic price for best varieties of No. 1 grade was being raised from £12 10s. to £13 10s. a ton to cover increased costs arising from the removal of the subsidy on cornsacks and other increases. Council was informed that the existing scheme would not be extended after the season ending 1948 and stressed the necessity for all State legislation to be ready for operation before that date.

SOIL CONSERVATION.—Council decided that, recognizing the importance of rye corn in soil conservation in Australia, immediate steps should be taken to build up in the Commonwealth a comprehensive collection of the world's rye corn varieties. Council recommended that a duly stubble mulch farm machine set be imported and made available to the New South Wales Conservation Service for testing as to efficiency.

FERTILIZERS.—Council adopted recommendations from the conference of Commonwealth and State fertilizer officers as follows:—

Sulphate for 1947-48 would be allocated to each State in the same proportion as in 1946-47.

Nitrate of soda for 1947-48 would be allotted as follows:—New South Wales—1,100 tons; Victoria—1,100 tons; Queensland—2,000 tons; South Australia—450 tons; Western Australia—1,000 tons; Tasmania—350 tons; Total—6,000 tons.

Superphosphate supplies would be similar to the 1946-47 period—1,250,000 tons.

Potash supplies would be ample through commercial channels. Accordingly supplies would not be allocated between the States for 1947-48.

INSECT PEST CONTROL.—Council agreed to recommendations by the Standing Committee on Agriculture that a trial plan against plague locusts be undertaken in New South Wales.

STOCK DISEASES.—Recommendations to council by a conference of Commonwealth and State veterinary officers on control of stock diseases were approved as follows:—

In view of the serious position developing in connexion with ayian tuberculosis, poultry slaughtering should be subject to inspection under veterinary control in all States.

Tuberculosis-free herd schemes should be uniform. Schemes in operation in New South Wales and Victoria, with agreed amendments to be accepted as a guide.

Disease of Poultry.—Pullorum-free flock schemes were desirable in each State and those in operation should be used as a basis by States preparing schemes.

An organized investigation into Birdsville and other related diseases of horses be conducted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in conjunction with the Departments of Agriculture of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and the Northern Territory Administration.

In the event of private institutions preparing living canine distemper virus vaccine, it should be controlled by requiring it to be issued only to veterinary surgeons.

As penicillin was widely required for the treatment of bovine mastitis and other diseases, any restrictions on the issue of penicillin for veterinary use should be abolished.

VEGETABLE OIL PLANTS.—Council was informed by the Standing Committee on Agriculture that it had considered the report of the Commonwealth mission which visited the United States in 1946 to inquire into the soybean industry. The committee informed council that it had accepted recommendations as follows:—

Commonwealth and State Governments should take energetic action to promote the economic production of vegetable oil plants in Australia.

The Commonwealth and States should set up a Vegetable Oils Committee to recommend broad policy on vegetable oil production to the council. Funds should be made available to undertake an intensive programme of plant breeding and selection and testing of soybeans and the vegetable oil producing plants appropriate to their environment.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research should undertake investigation into the industrial uses of vegetable oils. To allow manufacturers to exploit the possibilities of soybean oil, permits be issued for the importation of soybeans.

MIGRATION.

OVERSEAS OFFICES.

On 12th June, 1947, the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) announced that nine new Australian immigration offices would be opened as soon as arrangements could be completed at Oslo, The Hague, Paris, Berlin, San Francisco and New York, Shanghai, New Delhi and Cairo. The offices would deal with all migration matters, including official migration schemes, and the handling of landing permits, passports and the like. Duties of the offices at San Francisco and New York would include reception of applications and selection for the Government's new assisted passage scheme for United States ex-servicemen.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN.

SALES AND TRANSFERS OF LAND—ADMINISTRATION. ROYAL COMMISSION.

On 13th June, 1947, the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt) announced that Judge Kirby, of the New South Wales District Court, had been appointed a Royal Commissioner to inquire into and report on certain matters arising out of the administration of land sales control. Terms of reference were—

Whether there was misconduct or wrong-doing on the part of any person in or in connexion with the handling of or dealing with any of the following transactions by the Sydney Land Sales Control office of the Department of the Treasury, or the Canberra Land Sales Control office of that department:—

The transactions submitted for the Treasurer's consent by or on behalf of Stanley Evan Parry, Edward Richard Courtney McCormac, Sub-division Estates and Land Pty. Ltd., Burke Naughton Pty. Ltd., and Australian Securities Ltd.; and

The transactions specified by Frederick Alan Lush in his letter of 23rd May, 1947, to the Prime Minister.

If you are of opinion that there was any such misconduct or wrong-doing what person or persons were guilty of it and in what did it consist.

FIXATION OF WAGES AND SALARIES—REGULATIONS
FURTHER AMENDED.

On 13th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“The Executive Council has approved a further re-organization of the wage-pegging provisions of National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations. The amendment now made will permit action to be taken under the 40-hour week legislation recently passed in New South Wales without danger of conflict with the wage-pegging provisions of the regulations.

“The amendment will, however, apply also to any similar measures that may be passed in other States. Its effect is to permit the payment of remuneration at an altered rate where the alteration is consequential on a reduction in working hours made under any State Act coming into force after to-day.”

(For earlier references, please see No. 122, page 22; No. 125, page 30.)

THE GOVERNMENT.

POLICY—PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH, JUNE, 1947.

On 15th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said*—

“The Labour party is the greatest political party to-day that Australia has ever known and the only political party that proved, in the years of war, capable of governing this country. The Labour party at such conferences as this voices its views and discusses not only internal problems but also gives some thought to international problems associated with the life of this nation.

“I feel that the work of the Labour movement in New South Wales and in the federal sphere during the past six years is not a story I need reiterate. I do not say that there have not been some shortcomings. I am one, privileged as I have been to lead the Federal Parliamentary Labour party, who realizes that in the life of a government there are some things that call for criticism. Criticism is not a bad thing, but I think criticism should be based on facts and should be directed, not towards individuals particularly, but generally towards the methods used.

“Now, after six years in which the people have trusted the Labour party in the federal sphere and in a majority of States, we are faced with an equally grave responsibility, although not in the atmosphere of danger and war nor with the same difficulties. But we face a re-orientation of some of the views on some of the problems. We can face our internal problems in an atmosphere of full employment and a better standard of living than in most countries to-day. We live in a very troubled world. Great economic problems face other countries to-day. Europe is in a very bad way and many persons feel frustrated and disappointed that leading men of the world cannot find solutions to great

* At the annual conference of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Labour party.

problems which beset the world and set a road of guidance for the future. That is because countries hold such widely diverse views of what should be the methods and what guidance should be given.

"Australia can look at the problems very clearly. Great opportunities and the fulfilment or the achievement of the matters that those opportunities offer rests with the people in Australia—the Government can legislate and provide machinery.

"In the Pacific, Australia is an isolated island continent, but it can no longer stay out of the affairs of the world or for protection in defence depend on Britain. The economic problems which beset Britain to-day have left her in a position in which she must look to the Dominions to play a great part in maintaining stability and security.

"This country, which is young and a country I hope which will grow to greater proportions offered opportunities and the Labour party is the only political party capable of governing the people and giving effect to their wishes.

"Those opportunities must not be lost. First, we must face the problem of bringing here hundreds of thousands of people from other countries. If British people are available so much the better, but manpower in Britain is much needed to-day, so we must turn to Europe for hundreds to build up this country. We must determine the best methods to build Australia and fulfil our destiny. Because of isolation, we are far from the stress and strife in Europe. We have some reasonable stability. The efforts of the Government have been able not only to meet the effects of war, but also the transition to peace. Some persons believe that because there is prosperity—because there are more jobs than people to fill them, because there are high prices from overseas exports—that that particular state of affairs, particularly in regard to prices, might last for ever. We must be prepared, in giving consideration to our economic affairs, for a reduction in those prices. It is possible that some measure of decline will come in the market before many years are passed. We must, in planning the economy of this country, realize that there is likely to be some recession in the money coming to this country from our exports.

"In the world of international affairs, Australia has played a great part. It has participated in all the councils of the nations of the world. The Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt), the Australian High Commissioner in the United Kingdom (Mr. Beasley), the Australian Minister at Washington (Mr. Makin) and the Australian High Commissioner to Canada (Mr. Forde)—all representatives of the Labour movement—have played their part in seeing that Australia has been heard. We cannot any longer depend on Britain for the defence of this country. There may be a feeling of frustration that so little has been achieved so far towards a lasting peace, but there can be no mistake in the minds of people that there shall be an improved living standard and their objective is to achieve by some means or other some peace for the workers of the world.

"Internally, we are living in a period of full employment. That has been one of the ideals of the Labour movement, but for the first time in my association with the Labour movement we have achieved that object. There must be no faltering in the Federal or State Labour parties to ensure that that condition of affairs is maintained and, of course, to maintain the standard of living of the people. That does not rest with politicians and it does not rest with parliaments; it rests with the trade unions and the workers of this country. Unless they are prepared to play their part and give to the nation and to the community the very best that they can give, those objectives cannot be achieved.

"I say that the trade union movement owes not only a duty to their own organizations, but a duty to the community in which they live and the nation to which they belong. I hope that leaders in the trade union movement will be inspired in their efforts to see that some of the industrial troubles which arise will be reduced. I understand that strikes prove a corrective for many injustices. I can understand an industrial stoppage on principle, but there have been a number of stoppages during recent years not connected with such matters. There have been stoppages in connexion with demarcation disputes—not disputes with Governments but dispute among the workers. It is shocking that trade unions in a matter of demarcation are not prepared to take it to a judicial authority. They are like a comic opera and persons working together who create these situations are not working for the common good.

"I make it very clear that you should take from these conferences through the country the realization that this is not a movement organized for the glorification of its leaders or trade union leaders, but for the benefit of the people and workers of the country. Personal animosities cannot be avoided, but whatever they are they have to be subjugated to the great masses of the people. I ask you to infuse the fire and spirit which characterized the pioneers of the Labour movement into the hundreds and thousands throughout the country and see that Labour is returned to power.

"There are persons who try to cling to the coat-tails of the Labour movement to espouse philosophies which are not philosophies of the Labour movement. I say that this is a country of freedom of expression and freedom to establish any political philosophy, but let those persons preach their philosophy from their own platform. The Labour movement lives and achieves the ideals and aspirations of the great working class persons of this country. The working class consists of men and women who work, whether manually or otherwise, for the country and give of their best in their daily toil, whatever that may be.

"The Labour party is unique among political parties because in six States it has its organizations. Men come from 4,000 miles apart who bring to that Federal Parliamentary Labour party many diverse views. It is no easy matter to cater for the many parts of Australia in federal policy, and that is done by federal conference and translated

into action by the Federal Labour party. It is a great achievement for a party to create such solidarity as that. There is only one way to achieve such things, whatever personal feelings we have, and that is by solidarity. The history of this and every country shows that the people will not trust parties who are not able to govern themselves and trust only parties who have ways and methods of achieving their objective. I think it does no harm to the Labour party or trade union movement (which forms the foundation of the Labour party) when criticism is levelled from time to time provided the criticism is based on facts. We do not wish to live in a mutual admiration society. I have in my party over 70 federal members drawn from all parts of Australia. It is not to be expected that they will agree on every proposal or be able to agree with one another always. They always agree on objectives, but sometimes not on the methods to achieve those objectives. That does not harm the Labour movement. No party can live unless it is progressive and pressing forward. It must go onwards or die. The conservative parties of this country, because of the diverse interests and animosities which exist between persons opposed to Labour methods, are not able to survive. The solidarity of this movement, particularly in the war period, was the solidarity necessary for the welfare and preservation of this country.

“In regard to international affairs, our relations with other countries, our defence policy and the building up of industries are some of the great problems only Labour governments are capable of solving. Relations with other nations of the world must go through the Federal Government. The Federal Labour party should know the feelings and views of the people we represent. Out of these conferences you will give an indication to the Federal Labour party of your outlook on the questions of the future. I do not think that some persons in Australia fully realize the changed order in the world to-day. We have a proud history, but we must not live in the past. The methods of 20 years ago are no good to-day. We live in a troubled world. We must be prepared to keep to the fundamentals of the Labour party, but always be prepared to modify the general outlook of our views on the affairs of the world and, in turn, on our own affairs as the affairs of the world affect us. We have to prepare to build a stronger nation in the Pacific than to-day, and try to look into the future. Many think just of to-day or just a year or two ahead. They feel that some particular features affect them personally and that they are the only ones that matter. I ask those persons to give some thought to overseas affairs and the future of this country. We must keep ourselves in close contact with the affairs of the world and in close contact with other nations. I believe that only by close co-operation with the people of Great Britain and the people of America—indeed, with the English-speaking peoples of the world—can we keep world peace in the future.

“It may be that the Australian Government has had differences with Great Britain on administrative matters. Whatever those differences and however justifiable, one fact is completely clear—we in the

Pacific must maintain a close co-operation not only with America but with Great Britain. Regarding Great Britain, apart from sentimental reasons, a great material factor applies. Great Britain has been the greatest market for Australian primary product exports, and if only for material reasons close co-operation with Great Britain for trade is essential.

"It is a great thing in the Labour movement to feel that we take in thousands of unions and branches. Men and women are working for no reward to themselves but to give effect to the wishes of the Labour movement. It is a great thing and a great comfort for any one leading a party or associated in some task of leadership of a party to know that these men and women support them. I know that in Australia hundreds of thousands have been in the Labour movement for 30 or 40 years without seeking any reward for themselves but for the Labour movement to be placed in power. The future of this country and the future of the Labour movement rest with the people themselves. Every one must be prepared, whatever be his calling, whatever his duty, in this time of opportunities, to give of his very best. There is only one way of achieving success and that way is hard work. I ask nothing more of the movement but to stick solidly together. It has been trusted by the people to perform the great tasks connected with the problems of the war and to carry on the tasks associated with the transition into peace and plan for the years ahead. That is the great trust the people have placed in us, and I ask the Labour movement to give to those chosen to lead all the help that can be given for the needs of the community and the needs of the nation. By that means can the Labour movement remain great. If that is done, I have no fear that the Labour movement will go on growing stronger, and greater, in the interests of Australia."

ACTING MINISTER FOR INFORMATION.

On 29th June, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

"The Minister for Munitions (Senator Armstrong) will act as Minister for Immigration and Minister for Information during the absence overseas of Mr. Calwell from 19th June, 1947, until his return."

ACTING MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

On 8th July, 1947, the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) said that he would leave Sydney on 11th July, 1947, for Japan, where he would be the guest of the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers (General MacArthur). While in Japan, he would visit the Australian forces at Kure and consult with General MacArthur and the Australian representatives to ascertain at first hand facts essential to the consideration of the peace settlement with Japan.

On 14th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said:—

“The Minister for Health (Senator McKenna) will act as Attorney-General from 11th July, 1947, and I will act as Minister for External Affairs during the temporary absence overseas of Dr. Evatt.”

CONVERSION LOAN.

NEW YORK OPERATION, JUNE, 1947.

On 15th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“A Commonwealth loan has been issued in New York for 38,000,000 dollars to pay off a Commonwealth 5 per cent. loan that matures in 1957, but over which an option of redemption is being exercised.

“The terms of the new loan provide for a coupon rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for ten years as to 19,000,000 dollars and a coupon rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 20 years as to 19,000,000 dollars, the issue price to the public in both cases being $97\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The yield to the investor in the case of the $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. bonds will be £3 11s. 1d. and for the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds £3 13s. 7d.

“The new loan will result in a saving of interest to the Commonwealth and to the Governments of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.”

NEW YORK OPERATIONS, 1946-47.

On 14th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“In July, 1946, Australia commenced to refinance American loans for which there was an option of redemption before maturity dates. Total loans raised by the Commonwealth and the States in respect of which amounts were outstanding at 30th June, 1946, amounted to 200,000,000 dollars, of which there was an option of redemption by September, 1947, of 128,000,000 dollars. The summary of operations since July, 1946, is:—

Date Raised.	Amount Raised.	Rate.	Period.	Issue Price to Public.	Present Price.	Loan Repaid.
August, 1946 ..	Million dollars. 20	Per cent. $3\frac{1}{4}$	Years. 10	100	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	New South Wales, 5 per cent.
December, 1946..	25	$3\frac{1}{2}$	20	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	New South Wales, 5 per cent. — 18M. dollars; Queensland, 6 per cent. — 7M. dollars
February, 1947 ..	45	$3\frac{3}{8}$	15	99	96	Commonwealth, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
July, 1947 ..	19	$3\frac{1}{4}$	10	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	..	Commonwealth, 5 per cent.
	19	$3\frac{1}{2}$	20	97 $\frac{1}{2}$..	

“The first three operations were highly successful, the amount underwritten being promptly absorbed by investors.

"The last operation has not sold as promptly as the previous issues, due to a variety of reasons, the factors chiefly responsible being the disturbed international situation. Whereas bonds were underwritten for the full amount, the underwriters were left with 2,000,000 dollars of the short term and 6,500,000 dollars of the long term when the loan closed on 8th July, 1947. Sales of these securities in large parcels resulted in a heavy fall on the market. At the close of business on 11th July, 1947, only 2,000,000 dollars of the long term issue was unplaced, the whole of the short term having been sold. The short term are selling at approximately 96 dollars and the long term at 94 dollars.

"Total interest saving over all operations for the abovementioned loans is about 2,000,000 dollars a year.

"There will be no further operations by the Commonwealth on the New York market before 1952."

WHEAT STABILIZATION SCHEME. POST-WAR—FEDERATION PROPOSAL.

On 19th June, 1947, the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Pollard) said that representatives of the Australian Wheat Growers Federation from New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia had placed proposals before him for amendments to the Government's five years wheat stabilization plan. The federation asked that the guaranteed floor price for wheat be based on the cost of the production, which would include a remunerative wage for the grower and interest on capital involved. It asked that the price of wheat for local consumption as flour should be based on a "cost plus" principle, subject to immediate and periodic review and adjustment in accordance with fluctuations in cost.

The federation's request that the plan should not begin until the marketing of the crop subsequent to its proposed amended plan coming into effect would mean that the present plan as it affected 1945-46 and 1946-47 crops would be abandoned. It might also require the abandonment of the stabilization plan in respect of the 1947-48 harvest, because it was likely that time would not permit the Commonwealth and the States to pass legislation through the respective Parliaments in time to make it apply to that harvest.

He had told the deputation that if the Government was to go on with stabilization it could be expected that when prices for wheat were high growers should provide some reserves for periods when prices were low. If they did so, the Government was prepared to back the plan's operation. It could not exclude from the operation of the plan the harvest marketed when prices, as at present, were abnormally high. The Government would be prepared, however, to consider an extension of the plan beyond the 1949-50 harvest. The present Act would enable that to be done provided State Governments were agreeable. He would

consider recommending to the Government that the present plan be extended for two years with provision that a review be made during the period to determine whether it should be extended for a further three years, making ten years in all.

POST-WAR PRODUCTION COSTS, INQUIRY.

On 4th July, 1947, Mr. Pollard said—

“The chairman of the Wheat Costs of Production Committee informs me that over 3,000 questionnaires were issued at random to wheat farmers and that only 250 have been completed and returned. I have informed the committee that I would not ask it to make a report if it were of the opinion that the facts before it were not sufficient to give a true picture of the industry. I ask wheat-growers to fill in the questionnaires and return them without delay.”

(For earlier references, please see No. 116, page 30; No. 123, page 28.)

ACREAGE—1947-48.

On 29th July, 1947, Mr. Pollard said that Australian wheat sowings, which had declined heavily during the war, had now appreciated, and for 1947-48 the acreage sown would be 15,500,000 acres, compared with an average of 13,303,000 acres during the 10 years prior to the war.

FIGHTING FORCES.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES—RECONSTRUCTION TRAINING SCHEME, FIGURES.

On 21st June, 1947, the Minister for Labour (Mr. Holloway) said that at 23rd May, 1947, 135,648 ex-service personnel had either begun training, completed training, or had been placed in employment as 40 per cent. efficient and were completing their training on the job, or were still carrying on their training in the training centres under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme.

WAR SERVICE MORATORIUM—EXTENSION.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“National Security (War Service Moratorium) Regulations give special rights and protection in tenancy matters to ‘protected persons’ The most important protection is a provision that a tenant who is a ‘protected person’ cannot be evicted unless the lessor can show that suitable alternative accommodation is or has been available to the tenant. A discharged member of the forces is a ‘protected person’.

“Cabinet decided to-day that the period of protection under the regulations to discharged members of the forces and their dependants be extended from two years to three years.

“The Re-establishment and Employment Act provides that land owned by a member of the forces shall not be acquired compulsorily without the consent of the Attorney-General. Cabinet decided to-day that the period of protection to discharged members of the forces be extended from one year to two years.”

RETURNED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE BADGE.

On 17th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“When the badge was introduced in 1941 it was laid down that it would be issued at the time of discharge or, in the case of the Royal Australian Navy, at the cessation of hostilities. Recently it has been represented that eligible serving members of the forces who may be permitted to wear civilian clothes were at a disadvantage by comparison with discharged members because they were not in possession of the appropriate emblem denoting their having participated in active service. It has been decided that the authority under which eligible personnel who are still serving in the Royal Australian Navy may be issued with the ‘Returned from Active Service’ badge shall be extended to apply to eligible serving members of the Australian Military Forces and the Royal Australian Air Force.”

PEACE.

JAPAN—WHALING EXPEDITION.

On 23rd June, 1947, the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) said—

“On 7th August, 1946, the Japanese Government was authorized by S.C.A.P. to undertake a whaling expedition to the Antarctic during the 1946-47 season. Principal reasons given for the authorization were shortage of food in Japan and world shortage of oils and fats. There was no prior consultation with interested Allied Governments, such as Australia, Britain, New Zealand and Norway.

“The Australian Government immediately made strong representations to the United States on grounds of past prejudicial action by Japanese ships to Australian security, on earlier violations by the Japanese of international whaling regulations, and on the inefficiency and wastefulness of Japanese methods. It was a matter for special concern to Australia that decisions of this kind should be made while the occupation of Japan was still proceeding and in advance of the peace settlement, and without reference to the overall question of reparations. The Australian protest was supported by Norway, Britain and New Zealand.

“After the Australian representations, it was agreed that an Australian observer should accompany the expedition; furthermore, that an international flag should be substituted for Japanese insignia; that the routes to be taken by the expedition to and from the Antarctic should be notified to interested governments and that the oil obtained as a result of the expedition should be subject to allocation by the International Emergency Food Council. Authorization of the expedition became operative only for the 1946-47 season, the United States undertaking that other interested governments would be fully consulted should

any further Japanese activities outside Japanese waters be contemplated. The United States agreed that the future of the Japanese whaling industry and the disposal of Japanese whaling equipment was a matter for decision by the Allies.

"The Australian Government is opposed to the re-establishment of the Japanese whaling industry in Antarctic waters. Such re-establishment, which in effect means the creation again of naval potential, is opposed to a just settlement with Japan and should be strenuously resisted by every Allied country which contributed to victory in the Pacific war. When it became apparent recently that, notwithstanding the undertaking regarding consultation and the adverse report by the Australian observer with the first expedition, it was proposed to send a second Japanese expedition to the Antarctic, the Australian Government made the positive and practical suggestion to the United States that a unit of the Japanese whaling fleet be operated by Australia, with the aid of Britain, New Zealand and Norway. Food, fats and oils from the expedition would be at the disposal of S.C.A.P. for distribution. The Australian offer was communicated to the United States State Department, and while under consideration the announcement of a second expedition was made.

"The decision of 22nd June, 1947, to approve of a second Japanese whaling expedition for 1947-48, thereby by-passing the Far Eastern Commission, which alone is supposed to determine questions of policy and which actually has this matter on its business sheet for 26th June, is opposed to the best long-term Allied interests. The Australian Government intends to press this question in the Far Eastern Commission to secure a review of the present proposal.

"The ultimate disposition of Japanese whaling facilities and equipment, as well as the question of the future of the Japanese whaling industry, must be a matter for Allied consultation and decision. The appropriate place for any decision that may be taken is the peace table."

JAPAN—BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

On 23rd June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"The preliminary conference of British Commonwealth countries to discuss the peace treaty with Japan will meet in Canberra on 26th August, 1947."

JAPAN—ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

On 8th July, 1947, Dr. Evatt said that he was establishing an advisory committee to examine questions related to the Japanese peace settlement. The committee would meet under the chairmanship of Sir Frederic Eggleston, formerly Australian Minister to China and later

to the United States. Sir Frederic had been working on problems related to the Japanese settlement in conjunction with departmental officers both at Canberra and abroad. The committee would include members of Parliament in addition to a representative group of Australians versed in one aspect or another of the subject.

JAPAN—PROPOSED UNITED STATES MEETING.

On 17th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“Australia is always prepared to take part in any discussions that will expedite the Pacific peace settlement and appreciates the present proposal of the United States Government to hold a conference of eleven nations on 19th August, 1947. But the date is entirely unsuitable to Australia in view of the British Commonwealth conference on 26th August, 1947.”

On 18th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“Australia will attend the conference convened by the United States Government on the Japanese peace settlement, but on the date will depend which Minister will attend, and whether the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) can fit in his engagements with the conference.”

NATIONAL THEATRE.

On 23rd June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“I propose to appoint a committee soon after Parliament re-assembles in September, 1947, to examine the possibility of establishing a national theatre at Canberra. Some persons believe that the theatre is for educational purposes but I think it should also have an entertainment value as well. I believe that it would be possible to have a small theatre to which leading players in companies from the States could be brought to give performances.”

(For earlier references, please see No. 98, page 13.)

MOTOR CAR PRODUCTION.

CAR CHASSIS IMPORTS.

On 24th June, 1947, the Minister for Customs (Senator Courtice) announced that imports of pressed metal body panels, not fabricated beyond trimming of the edges, would be permitted for use in the manufacture in Australia of bodies for car and truck chassis, provided the panels were shipped from the country of origin to Australia on or before 31st December, 1947. The imports were permitted because of the present shortage of steel sheets suitable for motor vehicle body manufacture and to assist in making the maximum number of motor vehicles available to Australian essential users in the shortest possible time.

JAPAN.

TRADE—PRIVATE TRADING.

On 26th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“The control authorities in Japan have fixed 15th August, 1947, as the date on which the resumption of private international commercial relations with Japan will be authorized. Because of accommodation difficulties, only 400 private trade representatives will be allowed entry into Japan in the initial stages and the length of their stay will be limited to 21 days unless arrangements are made by the Governments concerned with the control authorities for an extension of this period. Australia has been provisionally allotted a quota of 24 representatives.

“An inter-departmental committee is engaged in considering the priority to be accorded to private traders who desire to visit Japan and interested persons are invited to submit applications before 5th July, 1947. Traders who desire to arrange for the purchase of Japanese goods should submit full particulars to the Department of Trade and Customs, while those interested in selling goods to Japan should furnish details to the Department of Commerce and Agriculture.

“In the early stages private trade will not reach substantial proportions. Because of prior commitments, the control authorities have indicated that cotton textiles, raw silk and tea will not be available immediately for sale to private traders. The Commonwealth Government has arranged for the purchase of 12,000,000 yards of cotton textiles and quantities of raw silk and will continue these purchases until private traders are permitted to operate. Purchases on private account will be governed by the range and quantity of goods available and the limitations imposed by the Australian import licensing system.

“Australian exports to Japan are likely to be restricted to wool and a few minor commodities not subject to international control nor covered by long-term contracts with other countries.”

On 16th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“A number of applications have been received from businessmen who desire to send representatives to Japan. A selection has been made by an inter-departmental committee to determine the limited number who will comprise the first party to visit Japan. The interests concerned will be notified of the selections at an early date.

“Priority has been accorded to firms which had extensive pre-war interests in Japanese trade and representatives of associations and manufacturers who are anxious to obtain supplies of essential commodities for use in Australian industry.

“An overall consideration has been the class of goods in which it is desired to trade. In this connexion, when private trade with Japan is resumed, raw silk and cotton textiles will not be available for purchase by private traders immediately. Merchant-to-merchant trading will be permitted in other goods, but imports to Australia will be subject to licensing control on the basis at present accorded to imports from hard

currency areas. Import licences will be granted only for essential goods which are not available in adequate quantities from local or sterling sources of supply. Licences will not be granted for importation of fancy goods, toys, crockery and other less essential goods that featured in pre-war trade with Japan.

"As each party will be allowed to stay in Japan for only a limited period, further opportunities will occur for visits by Australian business representatives. Commercial interests not included in the first party will receive consideration in subsequent parties."

TRADE—WOOL.

On 2nd July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

"Following negotiations between the Commonwealth Government and the Supreme Command Allied Powers in Japan, 7,481 bales of particular types of low grade wool were shipped to Japan in May, 1947. Arrangements were made for payment in dollars in New York as a set-off against the purchase price of raw silk obtained in Japan by the Commonwealth Government.

"Following representations by S.C.A.P., Cabinet decided to-day that further negotiations be instituted for the sale of somewhat better types of wool. The Minister for Commerce (Mr. Pollard) has been authorized to take up the negotiations and, if successful, the Australian Wool Realization Commission will arrange for the purchase and shipment of the wool to Japan."

(For earlier references, please see No. 123, page 36; No. 124, page 22; No. 125, page 29.)

RECONSTRUCTION.

U.N.R.R.A.—AUSTRALIA'S PART.

On 30th June, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"I have to-day received the following message from the Director-General of U.N.R.R.A. at Washington (Major-General Lowell W. Rooks):—

"To-day U.N.R.R.A.'s operations substantially come to an end in Europe. In a public statement I have referred to the results achieved by this international organization and to the problems which still confront the world in restoring its economy.

I should like to take this opportunity of extending to the Commonwealth Government and to the people of Australia the great appreciation for the generous and effective contribution they have made to the work of this organization. Those contributions, with similar assistance from other uninvaded members of the United Nations, have provided the means of saving the lives of endless millions of people in the war devastated countries. From its experience, U.N.R.R.A. knows how much that assistance has been appreciated, and there exists to-day in

the hearts of millions of people throughout the world a very real gratitude to the people of Australia for the supplies and services they have received through the organization of U.N.R.R.A.

I should like to thank you also for the provision of so many fine and experienced men and women to serve with U.N.R.R.A. in many parts of the world. They have served with distinction and success and have done much to enhance the reputation of their country.

U.N.R.R.A. has done its best to carry out the instructions of the United Nations in commencing the work of economic recovery in many parts of the world. U.N.R.R.A. trusts that this work will be carried on quickly and effectively, realizing that one of the essentials of world peace is that reasonable economic conditions shall exist in all countries."

WOMEN'S WAR ORGANIZATIONS.

W.A.A.A.F.—CESSATION.

On 30th June, 1947, the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) said that the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, which had a peak strength of 26,245, had ceased to function that day.

PRICES.

GOODS "DECLARED"—BANANAS, REVOCATION.

On 1st July, 1947, the Minister for Customs (Senator Courtice) announced that it had been decided to lift growers' ceilings on bananas. Retail margins on bananas would continue to be fixed. Wholesale prices would be kept under notice and control would be re-imposed if there was any suggestion of exploitation of the market.

GOODS "DECLARED"—PINEAPPLES, REVOCATION.

On 1st July, 1947, Senator Courtice announced that it had been decided to lift growers' ceilings on pineapples. Retail margins on pineapples would continue to be fixed. If prices rose to a level that suggested exploitation, consideration would be given to re-imposing controls.

CIVIL AVIATION.

BRITAIN-AUSTRALIA SERVICE—QANTAS LTD.,

AGREEMENT, DIRECTORS.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"Following the conclusion of the agreement by which Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., has been taken over by the Commonwealth Government, Cabinet decided to-day to appoint Mr. W. H. Fysh as general manager, with the vice-chairman of the Australian National Airlines Commission (Mr. W. C. Taylor), the Treasury member of that commission (Mr. G. P. N. Watt) and Sir Keith Smith as members of the board of directors."

(For earlier references, please see No. 123, page 10.)

POST-WAR—INTERNAL ROUTES, AIRWAYS CHARGES.

On 4th July, 1947, the Minister for Civil Aviation (Mr. Drakeford) announced that the Government had decided to introduce charges for the use by operators of aircraft of airways facilities provided by the Commonwealth. Modern air transport demanded increasing ground facilities, aeradio, and navigational aids and meteorological services, and it had become customary throughout the world for the authority providing the airways facilities to make charges for their use, designed to recoup part of the expenditure. It had been decided that a system of air route charges should be applied on regular services regardless of the number of landings involved. Aircraft used for purposes other than regular airline services would be classified according to the nature of the use to which they were put, and annual fees would be charged. Payment of charges would be introduced as from 1st August, 1947.

On 25th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced details of the system of charges for the use of Commonwealth aerodromes and air route facilities to be payable as from 1st August, 1947. It was estimated that the charges would bring in about £300,000 a year, but that would recoup the Commonwealth for only a small portion of its annual expenditure on maintenance of air ports and airways facilities. Aircraft would be divided into four classes—

Those used for purely private purposes; those used for the business purposes of the owner; those used for remunerative purposes other than on regular airlines; and those used for the operation of airline services.

The first three classes would pay an annual fee which would be lowest in the private category and progressively higher in the other two classes. The fee would be based on the weight of the aircraft and would cover the use of any aerodromes and airways facilities. Examples of the annual charges payable by owners of aircraft in each of the three classes were:—

—	Class 1.		Class 2.		Class 3.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Tiger Moth	3	5 0	6	10 0	9	15 0
D.H. 84 (Dragon)	8	2 6	17	5 0	25	7 6
Anson	14	12 6	29	5 0	43	17 6

Operators of aircraft used on regular aircraft services would not pay the annual charges for those aircraft but would pay a charge in respect of each route unit traversed. To determine the number of units the routes had been classified having regard to their length, the number of aerodromes and emergency landing ground and the availability of navigational aids. The comparatively short Melbourne-Sydney stage was rated as a two-unit route, while a much longer but less highly developed route such as the Derby-Kimberley Stations route was classified as one unit. A basic charge had been fixed for each type of aircraft

and the amount payable for each flight would be the basic charge multiplied by the number of units traversed. Examples of the charges were:—

Melbourne to Sydney, Adelaide or Hobart—D.C.3, £4 14s. 6d.; D.C.4, £13 15s. 6d.
 Adelaide to Perth—D.C.3, £9 9s.; D.C.4, £27 11s.
 Sydney to Tamworth—Anson, 11s. 3d.
 Brisbane to Charleville—D.C.3, £2 7s. 3d.
 Melbourne or Adelaide to Broken Hill—D.C.3, £2 7s. 3d.
 Perth to Wiluna—D.H.89, 7s. 6d.
 Cloncurry-Normanton-Cloncurry—D.H.83, 3s. 9d.
 Alice Springs-Wyndham-Alice Springs—D.H.90, 10s.
 Cairns to Horn Island—D.H.89, 7s. 6d.

Trans-Australia Airlines and Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. would pay the charges on the same basis as other airline operators.

The charges did not apply to aircraft used on regular international air services. Charges for those services would be promulgated later.

I.C.A.O.—AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

On 10th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that Dr. K. N. E. Bradfield had been appointed Australian representative at the International Civil Aviation Organization's head-quarters at Montreal, Canada.

INTERNAL ROUTES—LICENCES.

On 25th July, 1947, Mr. Drakeford announced that the inter-departmental committee set up to consider applications for licences to operate internal air services had made recommendations as follows:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Sydney-Broken Hill with possible extension to Adelaide; Sydney-Tamworth-Glen Innes; Sydney-Corowa; Sydney-Cootamundra-Griffith; Sydney-Temora-Griffith; Sydney-Old Bar-Kempsey-Coff's Harbour-Grafton-Casino; Sydney-Jervis Bay; Tooraweenah-Narrabri-Goondiwindi; Walget-St. George; Bourke-Thargomindah; Bourke-Wincannia and Bourke-Cobar-Parke.

VICTORIA.—Melbourne-Warrnambool; Melbourne-Bairnsdale and/or Sale; Melbourne-Ararat-Nhill; Melbourne-Benalla-Corowa and Melbourne-Echuca-Deniliquin-Hay.

QUEENSLAND.—Brisbane-Oakey-Roma-Mitchell; Brisbane-Tenterfield-Glen Innes; Rockhampton-Longreach; Townsville-Charters Towers-Julia Creek-Cloncurry; Brisbane-Coolangatta-Casino and Cairns-Georgetown-Croydon.

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“In 1945, the Northern Australia Development Committee was appointed comprising representatives of the Commonwealth, Queensland and Western Australian Governments. Matters of policy are considered by the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Johnson), the Premiers of Queensland and Western Australia and myself.

"The committee has prepared a comprehensive report dealing specifically with general measures for the relief of disabilities; specific measures for the development of industries; and measures necessary to develop specific regions.

"Cabinet decided to-day that a sub-committee, comprising the Minister for the Interior, the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction and myself as Treasurer and Acting Minister for Defence, should examine the report and recommendations of the committee, and report to Cabinet."

EXTERNAL TERRITORIES.

NEW GUINEA-PAPUA—WAR GRATUITY FOR NATIVES.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"The question of payment of war gratuity for natives of New Guinea and Papua was considered by the Parliamentary Committee which furnished a report on the question of war gratuity. The outstanding service rendered by these natives was fully recognized, but the committee was not in possession of sufficient information to enable a recommendation to be made as to the appropriate method of rewarding their service. The question has been since considered after consultation with the Departments of External Territories, the Navy and the Army.

"Cabinet to-day approved of a gratuity for natives of New Guinea and Papua who were enlisted as members of the forces, payment to be at the rate of 5s. a month for each month of service; the gratuity not to be paid for any period prior to 7th December, 1941; no qualifying period to be required; native members who have been discharged for disciplinary reasons to be ineligible for the gratuity; payment to be made as early as practicable.

"An *ex gratia* payment has been approved, subject to the conditions approved for natives enlisted in the forces, for the following classes of civilian natives—members of the New Guinea Police Force and the Royal Papuan Constabulary; civilians employed as combatant soldiers by the Allied Intelligence Bureau prior to their enlistment in the "M" Special Unit Infantry Battalion on 1st February, 1945."

SERVICE PAY RATES.

REPATRIATION—COMMISSION, APPOINTMENTS.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"Following the recent death of the Deputy Chairman of the Repatriation Commission (Mr. John Webster), Cabinet to-day appointed Brigadier H. H. Hammer as a member of the commission until 14th October, 1950. Mr. H. F. Gascoigne-Roy and Mr. T. S. Hooks have been appointed Assistant Commissioners until 13th July, 1950."

RATIONING. SUGAR—REVOCATION.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Cabinet decided to-day that rationing of sugar be abandoned forthwith. The principal reasons for introducing sugar rationing no longer apply.

“Sugar rationing in Australia does not greatly help Britain. There is an arrangement whereby the United States, Canada and Britain draw equal per capita shares from the world's sugar supply. For every 10,000 tons of sugar contributed by Australia to the pool, Britain draws only about 2,000 tons. Distribution of sugar is decided by the World Emergency Food Council. World production of sugar showed a marked increase in the 1946-47 season.”

MEAT—CONTINUANCE.

On 2nd July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“Cabinet was informed to-day that representatives of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation had asked the Minister for Commerce (Mr. Pallard) and the Minister for Customs (Senator Courtice) that rationing and price control of meat should be removed from 15th August, 1947, that being the period of flush supply.

“The meat position in Britain is acute and on 30th June, 1947, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Dr. Dalton) announced in the House of Commons that there would be a further cut in the meat ration from 1s. 4d. worth a week (including 4d. worth of canned meat) to 1s. 2d. worth a week.

“Cabinet decided that it was not possible to remove the controls. It would be very wrong for the Commonwealth Government to permit unrestricted consumption of meat when the British people are having their meagre ration further reduced. The matter will be brought before Cabinet again when there are indications that supply of meat in Australia will be sufficient to provide not only an unrestricted Australian demand but an adequate amount for export to Britain.”

SHIPBUILDING.

POST-WAR—DE-REQUISITIONING.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Cabinet decided to-day that interstate and intra-state vessels (but not including passenger and other vessels required by and under charter to the Navy Department) be de-requisitioned at the earliest possible date and that the Minister for Shipping (Senator Ashley) de-requisition individual vessels as they terminate voyages and come into position for re-delivery at home ports. But the Minister is empowered to defer the de-requisitioning of particular vessels when such action is regarded by him as essential to ensure efficient conduct of particular services, for example the services to New Guinea and adjacent islands.

"Details associated with the matter will be dealt with by a Cabinet sub-committee comprising Senator Ashley, the Minister for Customs (Senator Courtice) and myself."

(For earlier references, please see No. 126, page 41.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

On 2nd July, 1947, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Chambers) announced that the intake of cadets into the Royal Military College, Duntroon, would be increased in 1948 to 60 Australians and ten New Zealanders.

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION. APPOINTMENTS.

On 3rd July, 1947, the Postmaster-General (Senator Cameron) announced that Mr. J. S. Hanlon and Professor J. D. G. Medley had been appointed members of the Australian Broadcasting Commission for three years from 1st July, 1947.

TARIFF. EXPORTS—STANDARDS.

On 5th July, 1947, the Minister for Commerce (Mr. Pollard) said that Australian manufacturers must pay greater attention to the sales of their products overseas if present industrial employment and production levels were to be maintained. There were no grounds for complacency in the fact that, despite export restrictions to ensure supplies for local needs, value of manufactures exported would probably reach £45,000,000. The figures had been achieved at a time when many competitive European countries had not reached their full export capacity of manufactures. Once local demand fell to normal, Australian surplus production would have to be exported, or productive capacity reduced with consequent unemployment. Manufacturers should remember that not only Australian production would reduce local demands.

A good deal of Australian secondary industry had been built up behind protective barriers but a considerable section of it had never met the full shock of competition from imported goods, nor participated in the exacting business of overseas trading. Overseas countries had accepted Australian export methods to date, but would continue to do so only if the export business procedures practised by many Australian manufacturers and exporters were radically changed. To gain and hold the export markets they would soon require manufacturers and exporters should conform to trading practices followed by competitor nations. Goods should be strongly packed, correctly labelled and documented and of competitive quality.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. POLICY—MEDIATION.

On 9th July, 1947, the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) said that the Australian Government welcomed reports that further progress had been made towards a permanent settlement in Indonesia. The *de facto* authority of the republic, on the basis of the Linggadjati Agreement, which had been recognized by several governments, including the British and United States Governments, and which the Australian Government recognized, implied the acceptance by the Republican Government of very great responsibility; and the Republican Government, as one of the negotiating parties and as a future essential element in the interim Federal State, had accepted the responsibility. The Australian Government sent representatives to Indonesia to assist in solving problems related to the recommencement of trade. The Australian Government wished both parties to understand that, if, in the interests of agreement between Dutch and Republican authorities on economic and political matters, the good offices of the Australian Government would be helpful, Australia would continue to do anything in its power to afford both the Netherlands and Indonesian authorities its assistance. Further, the Australian Government would give to the interim Federal Government, when established, advice and assistance in such matters as trade, finance, communications, and economic rehabilitation and development.

POLICY—SECURITY COUNCIL.

On 30th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“The Australian Government has instructed its representative on the Security Council to draw the attention of the Security Council to the situation in Indonesia under Article 39 of the United Nations Charter. Australia has taken action ten days after hostilities commenced in Indonesia, because, in accordance with Article 33 of the Charter, the parties to any dispute are obliged to seek a solution by negotiation or mediatics. Strenuous attempts have been made in consultation with other Governments, particularly Britain, United States and India, to bring about a solution in that way. However, it is felt that further delay is not justified because of the loss of life being sustained.

“The policy Australia has adopted in past disputes has been to urge an investigation under Article 34 of the Charter before any decisions are reached. However, the situation in Indonesia differs from any previously brought before the council. Hostilities are being carried on. Investigation is not required to establish the crucial fact, and, before the Council determines further action, it is essential that hostilities cease. For this reason, Australia has drawn the attention of the Council to the situation under Article 39 of the Charter and thereby gives power to the council immediately to order the cessation of hostilities and subsequently to take such further steps as are necessary to restore peace.

"This is the first time that this article has been invoked and it is the hope of the Government, in taking this section, that not only will hostilities cease, but that the Council will prove its worth in dealing quickly and effectively with a situation of this kind.

"In making this move, Australia still maintains the judicial attitude which it has always maintained in considering any situation before the council. No attempt will be made to pre-judge the issue, and discussion of merits of the case will be avoided. The Australian representative will ask first that the necessary steps be taken to terminate hostilities, and, second, without discussing the merits of the situation, that both parties act upon Article 17 of the Linggadjati Agreement, which specifically provides that, in the event of disagreement between the two parties arising out of the agreement, a third party will be asked to arbitrate, or, failing that, the matter should be referred to the Chief Justice of the International Court. If the Australian proposal is given effect to without delay or debate on procedural issues, and if it is readily admitted by the Council that the situation is one within its jurisdiction, there should be good prospect of an immediate cessation of hostilities, and an immediate negotiation between the two parties with the assistance of a third party of their own choosing. Members of the Council should not therefore have to arbitrate or to pass judgment on the merits of the case.

"Action along these lines can be taken by the Council only if the Republican Government, not being a member of the United Nations, undertakes to observe the obligations and duties of the United Nations Charter, and in particular undertakes to observe Article 25, which obliges members to carry out the decisions of the council."

BRITAIN.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH—ENGAGEMENT.

On 10th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"I have to-day asked the Governor-General (Mr. McKell) to convey to His Majesty the King the following message:—

'On behalf of the Government and people of Australia and my wife and myself I send loyal and affectionate greetings to your Majesties and offer to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth our felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the announcement of her betrothal to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH—BETROTHAL.

On 31st July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

"At a meeting of the Executive Council to-night, the Governor-General (Mr. McKell) read the following message from His Majesty the King:—

I should be glad if you, as my personal representative in the Commonwealth of Australia, would convey to your Executive Council that I have to-day, in accordance with the provision of the Royal Marriages Act 1772, declared in Council my formal consent to the marriage of my daughter, the Princess Elizabeth, to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten.

“ On my motion, it was decided—‘ That the message of His Majesty be notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* for general information’.”

STERLING BALANCES.

On 30th July, 1947, Mr. Chifley said—

“ Discussions are still proceeding between the British Government and the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to reach some arrangements on Australian sterling balances at London that will help Britain, compatible with the protection of Australia’s economic interests.”

(For earlier references, please see No. 126, page 31.)

BUDGET 1946-47.

SUMMARY OF YEAR’S TRANSACTIONS.

On 10th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) announced approximate figures of receipts and expenditure for 1946-47 as follows:—

SUMMARY.

EXPENDITURE.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
Part 1.—Departments and Services other than Business Undertakings and Territories of the Commonwealth	295,296,278	306,456,954	311,587,508
Part 2.—Business Undertakings	30,321,644	31,294,195	35,951,734
Part 3.—Territories of the Commonwealth	1,371,583	1,635,664	4,517,328
Part 4.—Payments to or for the States ..	47,868,821	49,614,350	60,373,227
	374,858,326	389,001,163	412,429,797
Part 5.—Primary Production—Self-balancing Items	1,995,775	1,779,238	18,819,506
Total Expenditure for year ..	376,854,101	390,780,401	431,249,303

RECEIPTS.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
Part 1.—Departments and Services other than Business Undertakings and Territories of the Commonwealth	343,665,511	358,372,860	380,902,387
Part 2.—Business Undertakings	30,737,646	30,119,738	30,956,809
Part 3.—Territories of the Commonwealth	455,169	508,565	570,601
	374,858,326	389,001,163	412,429,797
Part 5.—Primary Production—Self-balancing Items	1,995,775	1,779,238	18,819,506
Total Receipts for year ..	376,854,101	390,780,401	431,249,303

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.
EXPENDITURE.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
PART I.—DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES.			
<i>Defence and Post-war (1939-45) Charges—</i>			
<i>Defence and Allied Services—</i>			
Defence and Service Departments ..	331,895,970	306,813,721	109,825,768
Production Departments ..	20,460,773	15,338,778	10,931,489
Reciprocal Lend-Lease ..	89,132,522	26,009,957	5,018,169
War Gratuity ..	..	143,285	2,881,933
	441,489,265	348,305,741	128,657,359
<i>Post-war (1939-45) Charges—</i>			
Public Debt Charges ..	34,139,464	41,485,850	46,011,089
United Kingdom Grant ..	..	..	25,000,000
Re-establishment and Repatriation ..	5,028,804	14,025,635	29,548,679
Lend-Lease Settlement ..	..	..	8,398,339
International Relief and Rehabilitation ..	47,000	5,811,067	18,116,917
Subsidies ..	25,089,708	32,739,119	30,360,514
Miscellaneous ..	10,761,978	9,705,815	3,758,699
	75,066,954	103,767,486	161,194,237
	516,556,219	452,073,227	289,851,596
<i>Less Miscellaneous Credits ..</i>	56,559,819	74,146,909	57,821,718
	459,996,400	377,926,318	232,029,878
<i>Deduct amount chargeable to Loan Fund</i>	266,040,485	152,947,643	37,325,256
	193,955,915	224,978,675	194,704,622
<i>Total Defence and Post-war (1939-45) Charges ..</i>			
	193,955,915	224,978,675	194,704,622
<i>War and Repatriation (1914-18) Services—</i>			
Interest, Sinking Fund and Exchange ..	9,120,975	8,958,552	9,038,512
War Pensions ..	9,250,175	9,120,616	9,302,484
Other War Services ..	917,724	812,715	920,536
	19,288,874	18,891,883	19,261,532
<i>Total War and Repatriation (1914-18) Services ..</i>			
	19,288,874	18,891,883	19,261,532
<i>Other Departments—</i>			
<i>Special Appropriations—</i>			
Interest and Sinking Fund ..	3,203,243	3,413,763	2,781,260
Invalid and Old-age Pensions ..	21,701,127	(a)	(a)
Child Endowment ..	12,036,248	(a)	(a)
Widows' Pensions ..	2,965,446	(a)	(a)
National Welfare Fund(b) ..	30,000,000	46,499,243	64,046,735
Other Special Appropriations ..	550,223	907,820	829,365
	70,456,287	50,820,826	68,257,360
<i>Administrative—</i>			
Parliament ..	207,344	225,264	253,455
Prime Minister's Department ..	1,074,127	1,321,067	1,899,155
Department of External Affairs ..	195,441	404,443	866,260
Department of the Treasury ..	2,150,333	2,354,489	2,900,525
Attorney-General's Department ..	360,624	394,769	465,702
Department of the Interior ..	440,497	535,023	938,112
Department of Works and Housing ..	83,785	160,580	1,710,487

(a) Paid from National Welfare Fund.

(b) For details see page 39.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.

Expenditure—continued.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
<i>Part I.—Departments and Services—continued.</i>			
<i>Other Departments—continued.</i>			
<i>Administrative—continued.</i>			
Department of Civil Aviation ..	428,350	728,105	1,269,956
Department of Trade and Customs ..	747,950	837,936	1,183,070
Department of Health ..	162,583	173,979	206,986
Department of Commerce and Agriculture ..	377,234	406,232	569,023
Department of Social Services ..	400,901	600,023	698,856
Department of Supply and Shipping ..	268,129	272,876	326,319
Department of External Territories ..	35,374	44,119	54,704
Department of Immigration ..	32,420	72,551	176,624
Department of Labour and National Service ..	(c)	(c)	1,031,658
Department of Transport ..	(c)	(c)	54,618
Department of Information ..	(c)	(c)	330,458
Department of Post-war Reconstruction ..	(c)	(c)	526,329
Total Administrative ..	6,965,092	8,531,456	15,462,297
Miscellaneous Services ..	2,787,207	1,331,754	5,225,797
Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c. ..	1,842,903	1,902,360	8,675,900
Total Expenditure—Part I. ..	295,296,278	306,456,954	311,587,508
PART II.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.			
<i>Commonwealth Railways.</i>			
Trans-Australian Railway ..	1,027,406	919,767	885,837
Central Australia Railway ..	994,579	792,829	690,925
North Australia Railway ..	620,705	314,745	159,996
Australian Capital Territory Railway ..	14,087	13,609	14,881
Miscellaneous Expenditure ..	138,019	147,312	169,536
Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c. ..	137,998	94,360	137,293
Total Expenditure ..	2,932,794	2,283,622	2,058,468
<i>Postmaster-General's Department.</i>			
Postmaster-General's Department ..	23,993,463	24,774,998	26,755,407
Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c. ..	3,395,387	4,235,575	7,137,859
Total Expenditure ..	27,388,850	29,010,573	33,893,266
Excess Receipts ..	482,961	..	..
	27,871,811	29,010,573	33,893,266
PART III.—TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.			
Northern Territory ..	294,800	365,990	819,614
Australian Capital Territory ..	736,898	831,289	941,275
Papua—New Guinea ..	6,748	6,654	1,526,344
Norfolk Island ..	4,074	4,074	4,075
Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c. ..	329,063	427,657	1,226,020
Total Expenditure ..	1,371,583	1,635,664	4,517,328

(c) Included under Defence and Post-war (1939-45) Charges.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.
Expenditure—continued.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
PART IV.—PAYMENTS TO OR FOR THE STATES.			
Special Grant to South Australia	1,200,000	1,400,000	2,000,000
Special Grant to Western Australia	904,000	950,000	1,873,000
Special Grant to Tasmania	742,000	646,000	875,000
Federal Aid Roads and Works	2,200,902	3,327,553	4,797,325
Interest and Sinking Fund on Loans for Local Public Works—Grant towards	100,000	..	..
Contributions towards Sinking Fund on State Debts	1,682,869	1,615,604	1,636,120
Contributions towards Interest on State Debts	7,584,912	7,584,912	7,584,912
Contributions towards Interest on Loans for Drought Relief	22,035	16,052	10,103
Grants to States—Tax Reimbursement	33,432,103	33,521,057	39,463,847
Special Grants—Income Tax Reimbursement .. .. .	..	553,172	2,132,920
	47,868,821	49,614,350	60,373,227
Balance of Interest on State Debts—recover- able from States	24,436,259	23,693,664	23,149,160
	72,305,080	73,308,014	83,522,387

PART V.—PRIMARY PRODUCTION, SELF-BALANCING ITEMS.

Wheat Industry—Assistance to	1,995,775	1,779,238	1,747,383
Wool Use Promotion and Disposals Plan .. .. .	..	..	4,497,123
Wool Industry Assistance .. .. .	..	..	7,075,000
Wheat Industry Stabilization .. .. .	..	..	5,500,000
	1,995,775	1,779,238	18,819,506

RECEIPTS.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
PART I.—DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES.			
<i>Taxation—</i>			
Customs	21,487,538	28,893,682	45,889,732
Excise	45,689,133	49,066,962	56,356,602
Sales Tax	29,671,802	33,600,175	36,264,642
Income Tax ^(a)	215,534,037	194,593,578	156,764,940
Social Services Contribution .. .. .	..	20,000,000	51,000,000
Pay-roll Tax	11,088,088	11,499,243	13,646,735
Land Tax	3,664,420	3,782,359	3,679,482
Estate Duty	3,090,200	3,880,041	4,018,620
Entertainments Tax	5,026,821	5,069,672	5,137,805
Gift Duty	329,296	392,949	544,672
Gold Tax	342,457	383,552	556,434
	335,923,702	351,162,213	373,859,664

(a) Includes War-time (Company) Tax.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.

Receipts—continued.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
<i>Part I.—Departments and Services—continued.</i>			
<i>Other Revenue—</i>			
Coinage	1,307,037	604,599	..
Defence	126,318	250,184	238,677
Civil Aviation	1,172,958	1,166,551	961,294
Attorney-General	140,198	135,239	155,418
Health	11,889	13,696	15,747
Commerce and Agriculture	87,961	280,933	35,156
Marine	261,068	250,991	147,615
Net Profit—Australian Note Issue	2,948,472	2,939,405	3,792,383
Miscellaneous	1,685,818	1,569,049	1,696,433
	7,741,719	7,210,647	7,042,723
Total Receipts—Part I.	343,665,511	358,372,860	380,902,387

PART II.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

Commonwealth Railways.

Trans-Australian Railway	939,194	768,885	691,740
Central Australia Railway	1,045,423	710,648	395,377
North Australia Railway	819,884	174,271	58,141
Australian Capital Territory Railway	11,334	10,496	9,260
Total Revenue	2,865,835	1,664,400	1,154,518
Excess Expenditure	66,959	619,222	903,950
	2,932,794	2,283,622	2,058,468

Postmaster-General's Department.

Post Office	27,871,811	28,455,338	29,802,291
Excess Expenditure .. .. .	..	555,235	4,090,975
	27,871,811	29,010,573	33,893,266

PART III.—TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Northern Territory	84,965	116,601	148,649
Australian Capital Territory	370,204	391,964	421,952
Total Revenue	455,169	508,565	570,601
Excess Expenditure	916,414	1,127,099	3,946,727
	1,371,583	1,635,664	4,517,328

PART IV.—PAYMENTS TO OR FOR THE STATES.

Contributions from General Revenue	47,868,821	49,614,350	60,373,227
	47,868,821	49,614,350	60,373,227
Interest on State Debts—payable by States	24,436,259	22,693,664	23,149,160
	72,305,080	73,308,014	83,522,387

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—*continued.*
Receipts—continued.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
PART V.—PRIMARY PRODUCTION, SELF-BALANCING ITEMS.			
Flour Tax	1,995,775	1,779,238	1,747,383
Wool Contributory Charge .. .. .	..	..	4,497,123
Wool Committee Operations Surplus .. .. .	..	..	7,075,000
Wheat Export Charge .. .. .	..	..	5,500,000
	1,995,775	1,779,238	18,819,506

SOCIAL SECURITY.

EXPENDITURE—1946-47.

On 10th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) announced details of expenditure on social services in 1946-47 as follows:—

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47. Approximate.
	£	£	£
National Welfare Fund—			
Invalid and Old-age Pensions	(a)	26,962,420	29,416,673
Funeral Benefits	163,992	184,478	209,349
Widows Pensions	(a)	3,247,334	2,366,288
Maternity Allowance	2,542,801	2,492,495	3,028,460
Child Endowment	(a)	18,019,178	19,862,933
Unemployment and Sickness Benefits .. .. .	..	1,144,412	1,650,125
Hospital Benefits .. .. .	..	1,111,292	4,380,296
Tuberculosis Benefits .. .. .	..	..	109,603
Balance for year remaining in National Welfare Fund	27,293,207	..	2,625,008
<i>Deduct</i> amount paid from balance in National Welfare Fund	30,000,000	53,161,609	64,646,735
	..	6,662,366	..
	30,000,000	46,499,243	64,646,735
Other Special Appropriations—			
Invalid and Old-age Pensions	21,701,127	(b)	(b)
Child Endowment	12,036,248	(b)	(b)
Widows Pensions	2,965,446	(b)	(b)
Total Social Services paid from Revenue	66,702,821	46,499,243	64,646,735

(a) Paid from Other Special Appropriations. (b) Paid from National Welfare Fund. (c) Balance of National Welfare Fund at 30th June, 1947, was £49,994,273.

COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS.

STRENGTH, MARCH, 1947.

On 14th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

“Incorrect statements have been published that Commonwealth employees numbered 556,700 in March, 1947. The fact is that in March,

Commonwealth Departments and statutory authorities employed only 156,500, the balance of 400,000 being employed by State and local government authorities.

"The latest bulletin issued by the Commonwealth Statistician shows that, of the total number of 'government' employees, 28 per cent. were employed by Commonwealth authorities, 62 per cent. by State Governments and 10 per cent. by local authorities. Nearly one-third of all Commonwealth employees are employed in the Postmaster-General's Department, and nearly another third in the Services departments and in post-war services, including the Repatriation Department."

ANTARCTICA.

EXPEDITION—ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

On 21st July, 1947, the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) announced that a Walrus and a Kingfisher aircraft would accompany the forthcoming Australian antarctic expedition. The Walrus, equipped for vertical and oblique photography, would be carried aboard an L.S.T. The Kingfisher, equipped for oblique photography, would operate from the *Wyatt Earp*.

CAPITAL ISSUES.

COMPANIES—ISSUE OF SHARES AT A PREMIUM.

On 21st July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"A statement I made in October, 1946, set out that premiums on new share issues would not necessarily be insisted upon. In that statement I requested that, where an issue at par was proposed by a company whose shares were appreciably above par, the application should include a statement of the reasons for not requiring a premium. Since then some companies had required premiums—others had not.

"I have reviewed the position and have decided that it is desirable in the interests of the Australian economy that a premium should be required in all cases where there is an appreciable margin between par value and market price. I have accordingly requested the Capital Issues Advisory Committee to give this aspect consideration in future. The committee will not insist on prohibitive premiums but will allow reasonable margins."

(For earlier references, please see No. 120, page 12.)

CENSUS.

HOUSING INFORMATION.

On 28th July, 1947, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said—

"Census returns are absolutely confidential. This is guaranteed by Act of Parliament. They cannot, therefore, be used for any purpose as has been suggested."

(It had been stated that the information given in regard to dwellings might be used to compel small families with large houses to provide space for others.)

MINING.

STRATEGIC MINERALS—CONTROL.

On 31st July, 1947, the Acting Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Mr. Pollard) announced National Security (Minerals) Regulations giving power to acquire minerals compulsorily and to apply compensation provisions to any acquisition. The power would be used only in connexion with strategic minerals and metals.