

advisedly—some of the unnecessary costs that are being incurred because of the futile way in which the State is now dealing with the under-privileged section of the community. I suppose it would be fair to say that about 5 per cent. of the community in Victoria could be absorbing 90 per cent. of the social service payments and the various *ex gratia* payments made by the State and the Commonwealth as well as the various forms of assistance and hand-outs that are given by social organizations.

There must be some way in which the State can deal better with the situation than the system of mere hand-outs. Surely this problem can be tackled socially having regard not only to the effect of poverty but also to the effect of the crime rate in society and the emergence of young people who, because of behaviour patterns established under conditions which should not be tolerated in any good-living society, are being thrown upon the community to the detriment both of themselves and of the proper conduct of law and order. The Opposition hopes the Government will give some consideration to this problem and, I repeat, without regard to whatever political force or whatever political virtues may reside in such considerations. Having regard to its moral obligation to the community, the Government should make a genuine attempt to deal with this very difficult problem.

**Mr. B. J. EVANS** (Gippsland East).—I desire to support the expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty that were so ably proposed by the honorable members for Oakleigh and Geelong in their speeches on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Administrator's Speech. For the past 41 years the people of Gippsland East have been represented by one of the most colourful figures ever to grace the political life of this State. Sir Albert Lind enjoyed the devotion and loyal support of people in all walks of life scattered over the largest electorate in Victoria. In return he gave his constituents, regardless of political beliefs or station in life, attention and service which

could be based only on an intense feeling for his fellow man. In this House he was respected for his unswerving loyalty to his electorate. I trust that in due course I may enjoy a similar reputation.

We live in momentous times, and with the tremendous scientific achievements of this day and age, together with the great expansion in population, one cannot be other than somewhat disturbed by the prospects that will face our children in the future. The true stamp of statesmanship is to foresee and plan for events of the future. I believe that such foresight is more necessary to-day than ever before in the history of mankind. It is widely felt that this country is the subject of the envious eyes of over-crowded countries of the near north. Apart from any Christian principles which may be involved, it is a matter of self-preservation that this country must be geared to produce the maximum of which it is capable. In addition, means must be found for getting the produce of this country to those who need it. Can we continue to justify our claim to this country unless we do so? Our agricultural industries must be provided with the best research and technical assistance. In the interests of efficiency our future farmers must receive adequate training for what is becoming more and more a scientific industry and for which proper training facilities are sadly lacking.

In the course of his fine address, the honorable member for Reservoir stated that Victoria cannot afford to lose one person with the potential for higher skill. I agree with that statement and sincerely trust that the Government does, too. In the extreme eastern portion of Victoria there are children, some of whom have great potential, who live more than 100 miles from the nearest secondary school. Their parents must overcome grave difficulties to provide them with a reasonable standard of education. They are faced with either sending the children to boarding school or finding private board in Orbost or Bairnsdale,

and it is difficult and expensive to find suitable accommodation. Recently, I received a letter from the Orbost Shire Council suggesting that the Government should provide a hostel in Orbost to cater for such school children because in this district the vast distances and the terrain make the provision of bus services to secondary schools impracticable. I commend that idea to the Government.

During the recent election campaign, and since, it has been widely held that the main stumbling block to progress in the more distant parts of the State is the transport system. The situation is little short of chaotic. One cannot deny the feeling of frustration and indeed fear which good men, who are doing a job in the interests of the community, have with regard to their future in the transport industry. I trust that the Government will take some steps to rectify the great anomalies created by the present permit system. I have not met one operator who does not concede the need for reasonable charges for the use of the roads, but the present permit system is at best an extremely inefficient method of taxation. For instance, in Lakes Entrance a trader obtains his cement supplies from Sydney, almost 500 miles away, cheaper than he can obtain supplies from Traralgon, only 100 miles away. In another case a carrier who wishes to transport roofing tiles—which the railways will not handle anyway—can obtain a permit on a basis of £5 a month to transport them up to 100 miles, but if he wishes to exceed that distance, say, to carry material to the Bairnsdale district, a distance of 170 miles, he has to pay £4 17s. 6d. for every load.

In conclusion, I again express my full support for the expressions contained in the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply and also state my hope that I may serve the people of Victoria, and Gippsland East in particular, with something of the distinction of my predecessor.

**Mr. TREWIN** (Benalla).—I join with the honorable members for Oakleigh and Geelong and other speakers who have voiced sentiments of loyalty to

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am also glad to associate myself with the thankfulness expressed at the return to health of His Excellency the Governor. The former member for Benalla, Mr. Frederick Albert Cook, has asked me to express his thanks to his friends in this Chamber for their support throughout the many years he served as the representative of that electorate. I am happy to say that his health is good and that he is enjoying his retirement. It is with humility that I follow a man who served this Parliament for 25 years and who at all times upheld the principles which he cherished. I shall endeavour to warrant the expression of similar sentiments when it becomes my turn to retire.

For 93 years the north-east of Victoria has been the home of my family. Remarkable progress has been made in that district, and the potential remains great. Parliaments and Governments of latter years have done much to assist in the development. I express my appreciation of the work done by the Bolte Government, as well as by other Governments, in assisting in the development of primary industries, and, to a lesser extent, in the establishment of secondary industries in those districts.

Members have heard stories of the struggles of primary producers at different times, and those struggles are still going on. I mention the tobacco, wool and dairying industries and, to a smaller degree, the wheat industry. Producers of these products encounter difficult problems from time to time, and I trust that I shall be able to play a small part in seeing that they receive fair returns. Within twelve months this Parliament may be called upon to ensure that the marketing of wheat is continued in an orderly fashion, as it is to-day.

The north-east of Victoria has the greatest tourist potential of any part of the State. Week-end after week-end, approximately 1,000 cars each convey two, three, four or perhaps half a dozen occupants to Mt. Buller for participation in snow sports. Parliament