

service station and was told by the proprietor that I had been very lucky because there was very little grip left in the tyres. We had a conversation about tyre ratings, which subject has received some prominence in the press and has recently been discussed by the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. I found, on examination, that the maximum speed rating for the tyres that were fitted to my car when I bought it new was up to 85 miles per hour sustained speed.

The Hon. D. G. ELLIOT.—That is the maximum speed for new tyres.

The Hon. G. W. THOM.—That is so, and it is an important point. I further found that "sustained speed" means periods of between ten minutes and one hour. As Mr. Elliot so rightly interjected, 85 miles per hour is considered to be the safe speed for those tyres when new. I had been driving that car for twelve months. One can travel at 75 to 80 miles per hour without feeling that one is driving too fast, but after six months' wear the efficiency of the tyres is reduced tremendously.

I believe a committee should be set up to examine the vexed question of the type of tyres for which provision should be made by legislation having regard to the horse-power or potential speed of a particular car.

The Hon. M. A. CLARKE.—Or the weight of it?

The Hon. G. W. THOM.—That is so. If a person buys a motor car which is capable of travelling at 75 or 80 miles per hour, he does not envisage that, when he has been driving the car for six or nine months, his tyres will not permit him to travel safely at those speeds.

The service station proprietor with whom I discussed the matter recommended nylon tyres, which provide a far greater margin of safety than the tyres which were originally fitted to my car. Some consideration should be given to the question of compelling manufacturers to fit higher grade tyres in the first instance when cars

are offered for sale. I believe the whole question of tyres should be examined because tyre problems could be the cause of a number of tragic motor car accidents which occur on country roads.

In conclusion, I am sure that in this sessional period we will be privileged to hear speeches by a number of new members, and I am looking forward to their contributions.

The Hon. S. R. McDONALD (Northern Province).—In taking part for the first time in this debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, I desire to express my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and to endorse Mr. Thom's remarks concerning the great work done by our Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and his good lady.

With my colleague, Mr. Clarke, I have the honour to represent the Northern Province, which embraces a large area—9,000 square miles—of northern Victoria. It extends from Shepparton in the east to Kerang, from Echuca on the River Murray to St. Arnaud. It includes two flourishing cities, two boroughs, one town and fifteen shires. It embraces virtually every type of primary and secondary industry which can be found in rural Victoria.

I know that in replacing the Honorable Percy Feltham I am following a man who made a great contribution to the deliberations of this House. After my election, Mr. Feltham was good enough to give me some good advice and the benefit of his long experience. Among other things, he told me that he considered two of the most important attributes in being a successful parliamentarian were to have an insensitive hide and a sense of humour. On this basis, I am sure Mr. Thom qualifies as a successful member of Parliament.

I should like to refer briefly to three matters. The first concerns the need in Victoria for an increased

rate of land settlement. That this need exists is evidenced by the fact that there is a small but steady stream of Victorians leaving this State to establish themselves in newly-developed areas, particularly in Western Australia and Queensland. It is also evidenced by the fact that, whenever new farms become available in settlement schemes in Victoria, there are often hundreds of applicants for perhaps half a dozen farms.

There are two methods of increasing land settlement. The first is to pursue schemes such as Heytesbury, where 260 new farms have been established, and other schemes such as that west of Rochester in the Campaspe Irrigation District where 60 dairy farms will be established. These schemes are commendable, but they have one great disadvantage in that they require substantial capital expenditure by the State through the Rural Finance and Land Settlement Commission.

The second method is to release suitable Crown lands for development by individual persons. Anyone who examines the State of Victoria will realize that there are substantial areas of Crown land which have sound agricultural potential. In the province that I represent, there are in the Rushworth-Murchison area, for instance, thousands of acres of Crown land which, if released, could be developed quickly.

I have had first-hand experience in that area with land which was purchased for \$10 an acre and which after five years of development has reached a stage where it is capable of yielding 30 to 35 bushels of wheat per acre and of carrying three dry sheep per acre. I suggest that if Crown land of this type, which in many instances is returning virtually nothing in timber royalties, is released, it will be quickly taken up and developed. This would provide the opportunity which might otherwise be denied to some Victorians to strike out for themselves as

farmers. The remarks passed by Sir Percy Byrnes may be relevant in this connexion.

The second matter to which I desire to refer concerns the eradication of bovine brucellosis. This disease, which is more commonly known as contagious abortion in cattle, is one of the most serious in the Australian cattle industry and is one of the main factors contributing to infertility in beef and dairy herds. It has been reduced in Victoria to a large extent by a voluntary vaccination campaign. This campaign was pioneered in this State in 1943 and the stage has now been reached where the incidence of the disease in vaccinated herds is from 5 to 8 per cent. This has been proved by surveys conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

There are several reasons why it is desirable and possibly essential that this disease should be eradicated. The first is an obvious one, that it would eliminate economic loss in these two industries. It has been stated authoritatively that the losses in infected herds which are not subject to vaccination can be as high as 20 per cent. in milk production and 15 per cent. in annual calf drop.

The second reason why eradication is desirable concerns the element of public health risk associated with this disease. Human brucellosis, or undulant fever, can be contracted by humans who come in contact with the brucella organism. For this reason, it is found in dairy farmers, abattoir workers, veterinarians, and others. It can also be contracted by consumption of unpasteurized milk from infected cows. The statistics available indicate that the incidence of the disease in Australia and in Victoria is not high. Up to 50 cases have been diagnosed in Victoria in one year. However, the statistics relating to human brucellosis are not necessarily reliable, and the actual figure could be much higher.

I wish to quote from the Commonwealth Department of Health publication, *Bacterial Diseases*, Volume II., by Dr. H. R. Seddon. At page 39, the author states—

Official figures do not necessarily give a true indication of the extent of human brucellosis. The signs of the disease are so variable, and the infection is so insidious that medical practitioners sometimes fail to recognize the disease or take the necessary steps to establish an accurate diagnosis. Therefore, the number of cases in human beings can be higher than evidenced by statistics. In humans, the disease is extremely unpleasant; it is usually acute; it recurs at regular intervals; and there is no permanent cure. Accordingly, it is desirable that it should be eradicated.

There is only one practical method by which eradication of bovine brucellosis may be achieved—that is to institute a compulsory vaccination campaign followed by a test and slaughter programme after, say, a period of five years. Vaccination would reduce the incidence of the disease to a level where a test and slaughter campaign could be usefully carried out. This type of campaign has been undertaken in some European countries. Such a programme is in progress in the United Kingdom and in New Zealand. There is no insurmountable reason why a brucellosis eradication campaign similar to the tuberculosis campaign in Victoria should not be implemented.

One further point concerning brucellosis has a bearing on the export meat trade. West Germany has seen fit to introduce stringent regulations which require a declaration that meat imports are from brucellosis-free animals. Similar steps may be taken by other countries. This is an additional reason why brucellosis should be eradicated.

The final matter to which I wish to refer is the provision of resident police officers in small country communities. In some places—at Bealiba and Maldon in the Northern Province, for example—the police stations have already been closed. At Ultima, the police station has been partially

The Hon. S. R. McDonald.

closed; the officer has been transferred to Swan Hill, and the station is temporarily open for two days a week. In other areas where the population is increasing, such as at Lockington in northern Victoria, applications for resident policemen have been refused. I realize that these decisions have been reached on the ground of economy, but I venture to suggest that in matters such as this financial considerations are not the only criteria on which decisions should be made. The people of these small communities are entitled to the service and protection afforded by resident policemen. It is to be hoped that this trend to close police stations will be stopped and that some means will be found to provide resident policemen in growing communities.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I am aware of the responsibilities that are now mine as a member of this House, and that I shall endeavour to discharge these responsibilities to the best of my ability. I thank honorable members for their indulgence, and look forward to long and pleasant associations in this Chamber.

On the motion of the Hon. W. G. FRY (Higinbotham Province), the debate was adjourned.

It was ordered that the debate be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

The House adjourned at 9.0 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, September 19, 1967.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. Vernon Christie) took the chair at 4.4 p.m., and read the prayer.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

OVERTIME PAYMENTS: ADDITIONAL STAFF AND EXPENDITURE.

Mr. MOSS (Leader of the Country Party) asked the Premier—

1. By what amount (if any) overtime payments to the Public Service have been increased in each of the last twelve years?