

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

SCHEMES FOR RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The third session of the 26th Parliament of South Australia was opened on Thursday by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray). The Governor's Speech indicated that the Government viewed with anxiety the unemployment now prevailing, and desired to secure authority for expenditure on public works, which would relieve the situation.

Australians dearly love a spectacular display, consequently it was not surprising that the proceedings in connection with the opening of the State Parliament on Thursday were watched by a large number of spectators, who assembled on both sides of North-terrace. A space in front of Parliament House was kept clear by the police, whose task was made easier by the fact that the excavations in progress for the new tramline

troop of a Squadron of the 18th Light Horse Regiment, under Lieutenant M. A. Walloscheck. In front of the Legislative Council building a guard of honor composed of cadets of the 10th Battalion (Adelaide Rifles) was drawn up. It was in charge of Captain J. H. Hill, who was assisted by Lieutenants A. S. W. Arnold and S. O. Sincok, the latter of whom carried the King's colors of the regiment. On the arrival of his Excellency he was

Commander Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel Durrant, and Captain Andrew, he entered the Legislative Council Chamber. Sir George Murray was accorded another salute by the guard as he left the Chamber, after having read the Governor's Speech.

Members assembled early in the Legislative Council, the only absentee being the Hon. J. Jelley. The galleries were thronged with spectators.

It struck 12 o'clock as the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by his staff, and naval and military officers, entered the Chamber. He was received by the President (Sir Lancelot Stirling), and conducted to the chair, where, on arrival, members of the Assembly, in response to his request, for their attendance, he read his speech.

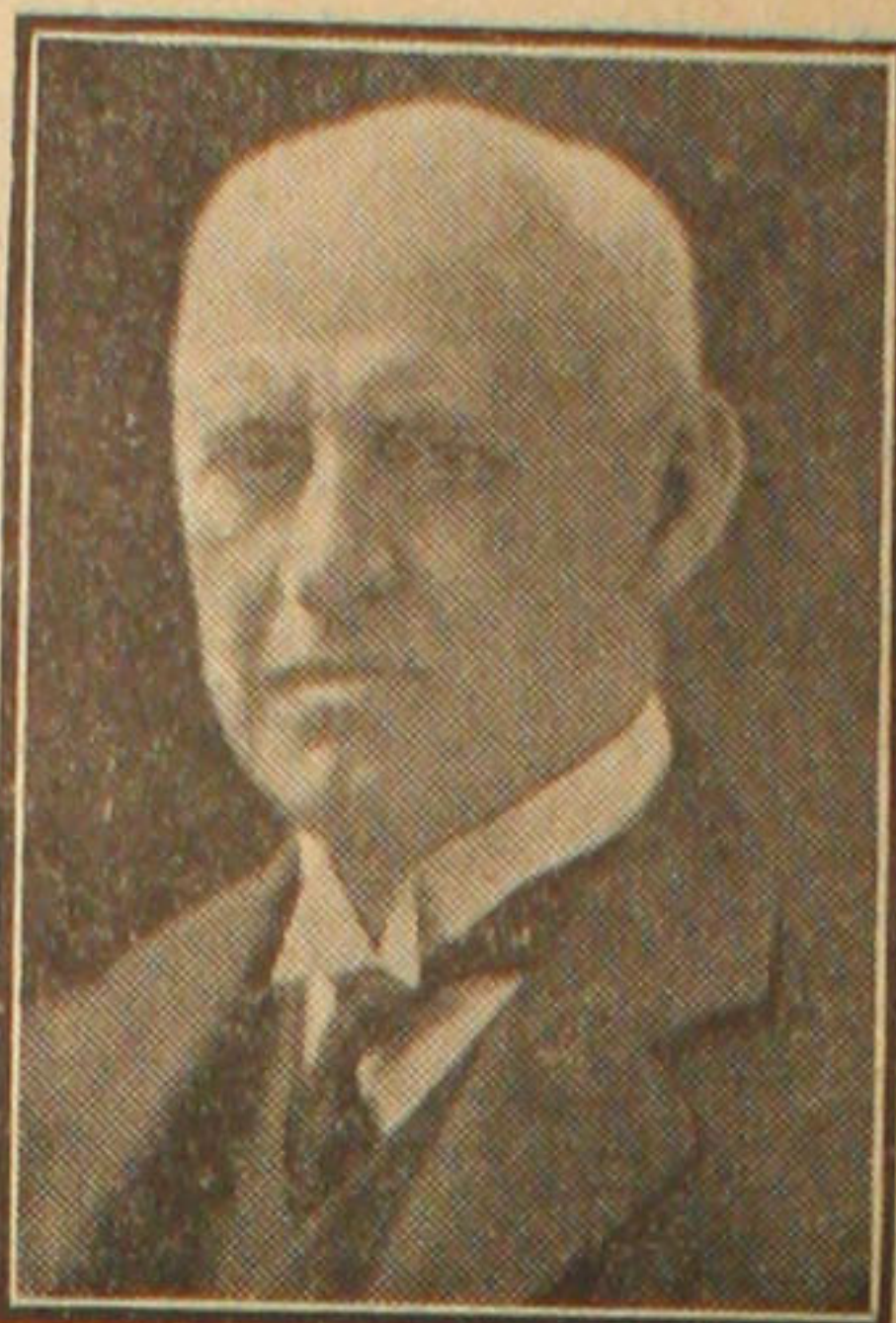
Speech of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Addressing the members of both Houses, his Excellency said:—
"I have summoned Parliament for the dispatch of business.

"I have received from the Imperial Government an intimation that his Majesty has been pleased to appoint Brigadier-General the Hon. Sir Alexander Gore Arkwright Gore-Rutthen, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, and Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Victoria Cross, as

season, this result is a striking testimony to the industry of our farmers and the improved methods of agriculture now being followed.

"My Ministers are more than ever convinced of the importance of the State's agricultural industry. To increase the area under production they have carried out a vigorous policy of land settlement. For the year ended March, 1928, 624,119 acres were allotted to 498 applicants. The fact that in all 1,540 applications for land were received during that period is evi-



Sir George Murray.

dence that there is a great demand for land in this State.

Settling Vacant Land.

"As successful land settlement will depend largely upon transport and water facilities, my Government has invited the Public Works Standing Committee to enquire whether it is practicable to provide these facilities for certain large areas of land, now unoccupied. These areas include 218,000 acres in the Counties of Buxton, Bosanquet, and Le Hunte, on Eyre Peninsula; 175,000 acres in the County of Way, 55,061 acres already surveyed on Eyre Peninsula, and 384,000 acres north of the River Murray in the counties of Young and Hamley. The Committee has been asked also to enquire into a proposal for settling a large area near Keith, in the South-East, of which a preliminary survey is now being made.

"My Ministers are anxious to receive the report of the Committee on these matters sufficiently early to enable them to proceed during the coming financial year with works which will develop the land to which I have referred. Should the report be favorable, it is anticipated that the Commonwealth Development and Migration Commission will co-operate with the State to bring about the occupation and utilisation of this land.

"My Government has further augmented the staff of agricultural instructors. The officers of the Department of Agriculture are using every effort to induce producers to aim at the greatest possible production. Given adequate rains during the forthcoming season, there is every reason to hope for a greatly increased yield.

"The erection of an Agricultural High School at Urrbrae on land given for that purpose by Mr. Peter Waite will be proceeded with. The members of my Government acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of Mr. John Melrose, who gave £10,000 towards the construction of a research laboratory at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

Education.

"My Government is anxious to effect further improvements in our educational system. A scheme to give vocational guidance to parents and assist children to find suitable employment will be organised.

"The Irrigation and Drainage Commission has almost completed the hearing of the appeals instituted by settlers in irrigation areas in respect of the amounts due by them to the Crown under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts. Further inspection of blocks are being made, and the Commission's report will be presented at an early date.

"The Frost Relief Act, which was designed to give assistance to the settlers who suffered loss by the disastrous frost in September last, is now in operation under the direction of the board of management of the State Bank.

"As a result of a recent conference in Canberra an advisory committee has been appointed, representing New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, to investigate the market prospects for the fruit industry, and to advise on the co-ordination of production and future developments in the irrigation areas of the three States.

"To promote closer settlement my Government has authorised the Irrigation and Drainage Commission to investigate the possibilities of draining large areas in the western-division of the South-East. The preliminary surveys of the first section, comprising approximately 50,000 acres, is nearing completion, and it is intended to continue the work until sufficient data have been obtained to enable definite drainage schemes and estimates of cost to be formulated.

Murray Locks.

"Good progress has been made in construction of the River Murray locks. Advantage was taken of the low river to push on the work, and, approximately, £40,000 more was provided by South Australia for this work during the current year than in the previous year. Five locks have been completed; Locks 4 and 6 are in progress, and the site of Lock 7 has been approved.

"The need for an improved sewerage system and a better water supply for the metropolitan area has been referred to the Public Works Standing Committee. Your authority to carry out these works will be sought early in the session. "The trunk main to Thevenard will be completed before the end of the current financial year. Retention mains have already been extensively laid.

"During the past year 5,640 acres of forest lands have been planted—an area in excess of that planted in any previous year.

"The value of the mineral production for 1927 was £1,188,022, a total only previously exceeded under the abnormal conditions of war. The production of iron ore, gypsum, and limestone during the year was the greatest yet recorded.

"My Ministers are making efforts to promote efficiency and economy in the Public Service, and modern commercial practices are being applied to the discharge of Government business.

"Good progress has been made in con-

structing arterial and development roads. My Ministers are of opinion that the most equitable method of raising revenue for road purposes is by means of a tax on petrol, which at present cannot be imposed by the States. Communications have already been addressed to the other State Governments requesting their co-operation in inducing the Commonwealth Government to impose such a tax.

"Regulations have been made under the Highways Act for prevention of damage to main roads.

"My advisers have had under consideration the report of the Royal Commission on the pastoral industry, and will submit to you a Bill to amend the Pastoral Acts.

"The Government has appointed Messrs W. A. Webb (Railways Commissioner), D. V. Fleming (Highways Commissioner), and S. Crawford (representative of motor car-riers) to constitute the board administering the Motor Transport Control Act, 1927.

"In January of the present year the State floated on the London market a loan of £2,000,000, bearing a nominal rate of interest of five per cent., at an issue price of £98. The terms of this loan were more favorable to the borrower than those of any Australian loan issued in London for many months, and its favorable reception by the investing public demonstrated that the State's credit overseas stands high.

"The Government has repeatedly called the attention of the Commonwealth Prime Minister to the disabilities to which Federation has subjected this State, and has requested payment of a grant to compensate the State for its heavy losses. The Prime Minister has now intimated that he will appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the claim.

"The financial burdens consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court in favor of a forty-four hour working week are still pressing heavily upon the State, without any compensating increase in production or trade. Satisfactory arrangements have been made with

State employees to accept either piece work or petty contract prices. This has been followed not only by an increase in output in favor of the taxpayer, but also by an increase in wages in favor of the wage-earner.

"The report furnished in the last session of Parliament by the Electoral Commission has been referred back to the commission for further investigation. Any further recommendations made by the commission will receive careful consideration.

"To the members of the House of Assembly his Excellency said:—

"The estimates of expenditure will be laid before you and will be prepared with the strictest economy.

"It is as yet too early to give the State's financial results for the year 1927-1928. The figures for the period of nine months ending on March 31, last, show that the revenue for that period was £7,511,224 and the expenditure £8,637,001. This excess of expenditure over revenue will be largely offset in the last quarter of the year by the large amounts which will be collected from taxation during that period.

It is unlikely, however, that the revenue will reach the full amount estimated, as receipts from railways and harbors show a temporary depression. The figures relating to expenditure during the year show that my Ministers have exercised all possible economy in items of expenditure which they can control. This policy will be continued.

"My advisers are considering amendments of the law relating to companies, and a Bill relating to this matter may be submitted for your consideration.

"You will be asked to consider a proposal to relieve the judges of the Supreme Court of much formal business, and to

place such business under the jurisdiction of other court officials. It is hoped by this means to relieve some of the congestion which unfortunately still hampers the work of the court.

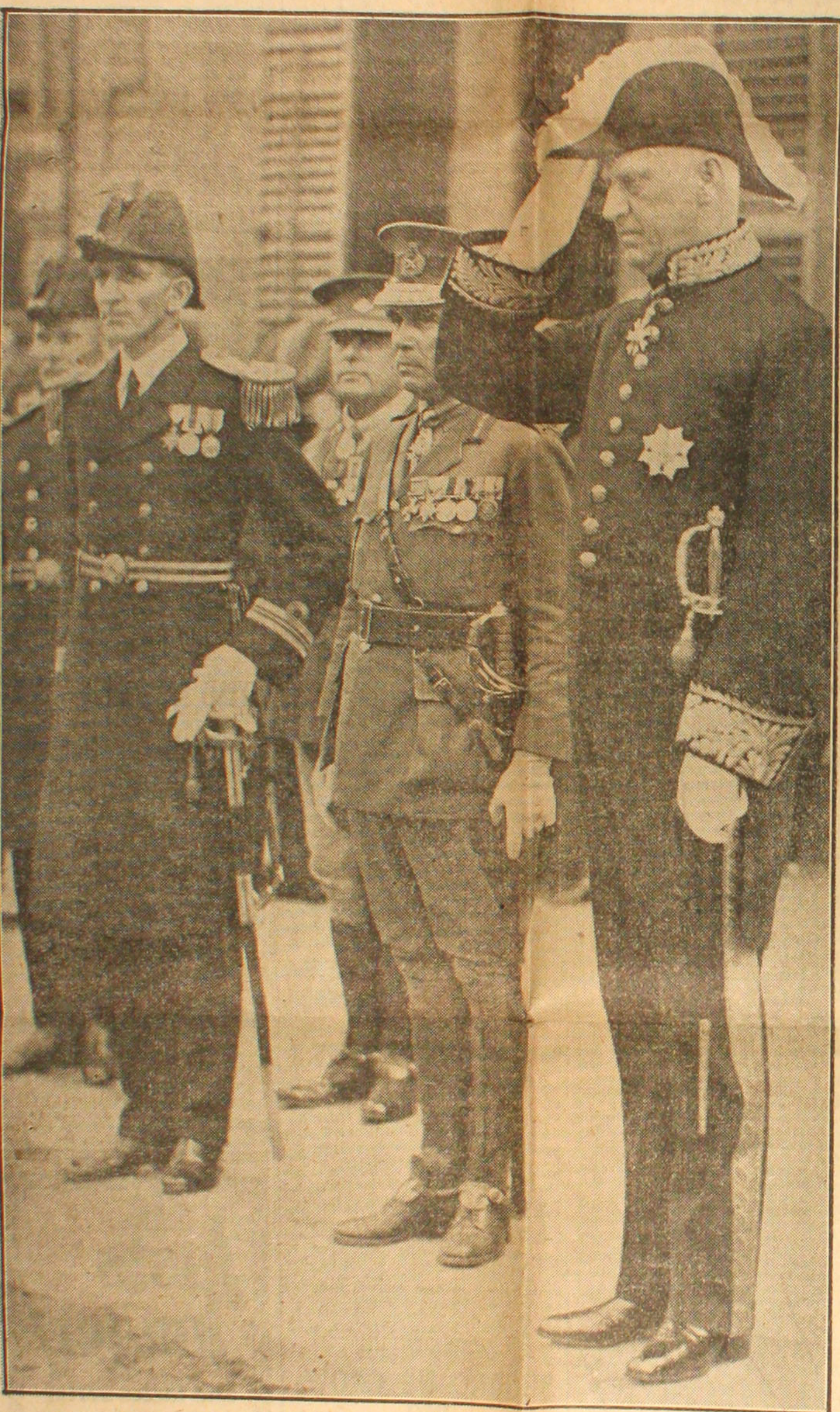
"Measures to amend the Police Acts, the Early Closing Act, the Municipal Corporations Act, the Irrigation Act, and the Registration of Firms Act will be introduced.

"Legislation will be introduced to provide that a sum of money shall be set aside annually out of general revenue, to meet expenditure on public works.

"Proposals to amend the law relating to Crown Lands, the Dairy Industry, Pharmacy, Licensed Victuallers, Trespassing on Land, Mining, Evidence, Industrial Relations, Betting, and other matters, will also be placed before you.

"I now declare this session open, and trust that Divine Providence may bless your labors and advance the welfare of the State."

THE STATE PARLIAMENT.



RECEIVING THE SALUTE.

The third session of the 26th Parliament of South Australia was opened yesterday by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray), who is shown taking the salute from the guard of honor. From right to left:—Sir George Murray, Brigadier-General O. F. Phillips (Officer Commanding Field Troops in South Australia), Colonel J. M. A. Durrant, Lieutenant-Commander C. J. Hill, R.N. (Relieving District Naval Commandant), and Lieutenant H. P. Jarrett.

—Krischock Photo.

to be laid there acted as a barrier on the south side. Additional interest was lent to the proceedings in view of Parliament's having been summoned to assemble two months earlier than usual to consider the Government's proposals to enable works to be undertaken to relieve the unemployed position in view of the approach of winter.

A few minutes before noon the booming of a salute of 19 guns, fired from the Parade Ground by the 48th Battery, Australian Field Artillery, under Lieutenant O. S. Hanson, heralded the approach of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir George Murray), and immediately afterwards his car was seen leaving Government House grounds, escorted by No. 1

greeted with a Royal Salute, and the band of the 10th Battalion, under Band-Sergeant N. C. Pearce, played the National Anthem. His Excellency was met by the Officer Commanding Field Troops in South Australia (Brigadier-General O. F. Phillips), who was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. A. Durrant, and by the Acting District Naval Officer (Lieutenant-Commander C. J. Hill, R.N.), with R.A.N. In attendance on Sir George Murray were Captain B. J. Andrew, A.D.C., and Mr. Leigh Winsor (private secretary).

After his Excellency had inspected the guard of honor, accompanied by Brigadier-General Phillips, Lieutenant-

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Opening Parliament

by Sir George Murray.

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