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Christmas message for the Stock Journal

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
THE HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P., FOR THE STOCK JOURNAL.

The past year has been one of outstanding achievement in South Australia in very many fields. If one thinks of the vast quantity and mammoth nature of the social, educational, welfare and industrial reform to which effect has been given, then one will appreciate the significance which 1967 will hold in the history of the State.

However, just as 1967 has been a year of achievement for the people of the State as a whole, it has been a year of misery and suffering for some. Earlier in the year the slackened demand for the products of South Australian industry resulted in us having a percentage of registered unemployed to estimated workforce which no Government could tolerate. Later in the year the full effects of the worst drought in the past 81 years of the State's history were beginning to be felt really harshly by drought stricken families especially in the Murray Mallee area.

It is pleasing that the employment situation in South Australia has now been righted as we now have a percentage unemployed significantly less than 1.3, a rate which is deemed by economists to signify an economy operating at better than full employment level. A solution to the unemployment problem rested with the Commonwealth Government which had to accept responsibility for the problem, but there is no such man-made solution to the problem of drought.

The provision of adequate assistance to all those courageous people who have been impoverished by drought is one of the great problems facing every South Australian in 1968. As sensitive people and as South Australians we cannot tolerate the existence of a significant and vital section suffering financial privations in an otherwise prospering community.

To all readers of the Stock Journal may I express the gratitude of the Government for the outstanding degree of co-operation which it has received during the past year and its best wishes that those engaged in primary industry may prosper in 1968 and all South Australians with them.

PREMIER.