

the choice of this Assembly, and that His Excellency was pleased to address me in the following terms:—

MR. SPEAKER,

I have much pleasure in congratulating you upon your election to the high and distinguished office of Speaker.

The able manner in which you have always discharged the various duties you have undertaken during your long Parliamentary career proves the wisdom of the members of the Legislative Assembly in choosing you as their Speaker.

I have every confidence that you will fulfil the duties of that high and important office in a worthy and dignified manner.

STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Usher of the Black Rod brought a message from His Excellency the Administrator desiring the attendance of honorable members in the Chamber of the Legislative Council.

The House, headed by the Speaker, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

The sitting was suspended at 2.43 p.m. until 5.5 p.m.

COMMISSION TO SWEAR MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER (Sir William McDonald) informed the House that he had received from His Excellency the Administrator a commission authorizing him to administer the oath of allegiance to such members as had not already taken and subscribed the same since their election.

APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. O. REID (Minister of Labour and Industry).—In accordance with the usual practice, and in order to preserve the privileges of this House, I move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Apprenticeship Act 1958.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The SPEAKER (Sir William McDonald).—I have the honour to report that the House this day attended His Excellency the Administrator of the

Government of the State of Victoria, in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. As the Speech is printed, and copies are in the hands of honorable members, it will not be necessary for me to read it.

Mr. SCANLAN (Oakleigh).—
move—

That the following Address, in reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government to both Houses of Parliament, be agreed to by this House:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I am deeply conscious of the privilege which has been conferred upon me in being selected to submit this motion in reply to the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, not only for myself but also for the residents of the electorate of Oakleigh.

During His Excellency's Speech, we were extremely gratified to hear of the appointment of Lord De L'Isle as Governor-General designate of the Commonwealth of Australia. Our thoughts go to him and we hope that his association with the Commonwealth will be both long and happy.

It was with deep regret that we heard of the recent illness of His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooker, and it is our sincere hope that we shall soon learn of his complete recovery. Sir Dallas is beloved of us all, and we think of him and of Lady Brooker on this occasion.

We, in Victoria, are most conscious of the fact that 50 per cent. of the capital which has been attracted to the Commonwealth has been drawn to this State, and this has meant the establishment of new industries and the extension of existent ones. Our population is continually increasing, and Victoria has established itself as the political, cultural and economic leader of

Commonwealth. With this expansion arise great problems such as confront the Government of any growing nation or State, and this Government has had to seek ways of remedying them.

These problems have manifested themselves in many avenues of social responsibility. Because of the time available to me to-day, I shall instance only two of the fields in which the Government in its wisdom has sought to ease them. Any Government must recognize that efficient transport is necessary to the progress and prosperity of the community in which it has jurisdiction, and it is abundantly clear that the efficiency of the railways is of the utmost importance. It has been the Government's aim to make the railways as efficient as possible, and their efficacy has materially helped in the handling during the last twelve months of a record wheat harvest.

The other vital aspect of transport is that of the roads. I suppose all of us are aware that to-day in Australia an average of one person in every four possesses a motor car, and this fact has created formidable problems to those who plan and construct roads. The Government has sought to facilitate the speed of communication by road and to lower the risks attendant upon road usage. Duplications of the highways between Melbourne and Geelong and between Melbourne and Dandenong are highly commendable, as also is the duplication of the Hume Highway between Fawkner and Campbellfield. It is not so many years ago that we were faced with chaos on our roads, and the Government has deliberately sought to ease the situation by planning measures to make our road system efficient, safe and good for the well-being of the community.

One essential part of this programme has been the construction of over-passes and under-passes. Notable amongst those which we see in the community to-day as a result of the Government's efforts are those at Moorabbin, Newport and Albion. Of course, there is also that system of over-passes and under-passes along the Hume Highway, which is most

commendable. Within the electorate of Oakleigh, two such projects are under consideration. First, there is the proposed under-pass at the Warrigal-road, Oakleigh, railway crossing and, secondly, the project to establish an under-pass or over-pass at North-road, Huntingdale. Both are vital to the people of Oakleigh and both will be welcomed by them and by the community of the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne. It is my sincere hope that the Government will soon be able to complete this programme.

The second vital field in which any Government of responsibility must take an interest is that of education. I should like to spend a little time on two aspects of education which are receiving more and more attention throughout the world. First, there is tertiary education, in which all countries of the world have shown a greater interest. I commend the Government for the appointment of an expert committee to consider the establishment of a third university. This committee is at present conducting investigations. I commend the Government also for the establishment of our second university—Monash—which was ready for use two and a half years before the completion date set originally.

Another aspect of education on which I commend the Government is in relation to the welfare of the pre-school child. First, we have the promise made in the Premier's policy speech that further Government grants will be made to kindergarten teachers to enable them to receive their just rewards and that their salaries will be increased from £720 a year up to a maximum of £1,100 a year. Secondly, the Premier promised that substantial increases would be made in the allowances paid to students attending kindergarten training colleges. These promises are highly commendable and must be welcomed by us all.

Thought will have to be given in the future to the great problems that may arise in connexion with kindergarten training colleges. I believe the Government may soon have to give serious consideration to this vital

aspect of training, because we are all aware of the fact that the quality and calibre of education is dependent upon those who teach, and the quality and calibre of those who teach is dependent upon their training.

I shall at all times strive to uphold and maintain the traditions which have been established in Parliament. It is my sincere hope that I shall be able to uphold and maintain those traditions and standards which were set by the former member for Oakleigh, Mr. Doube. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I move this motion expressing loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and to thank His Excellency the Administrator of Victoria for his most gracious Speech.

Mr. BIRRELL (Geelong).—Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to the electors of Geelong and a pleasure to myself that I have been asked to second the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered this afternoon by His Excellency the Administrator to both Houses of Parliament. I feel honoured to be a member of the 42nd Parliament of the State of Victoria, and I trust that during its term of office a significant contribution will be made to the welfare of this State and its people. The honorable member for Oakleigh mentioned several matters relating to the metropolitan scene. As a country member from a mixed rural, industrial and seaside electorate I shall address myself to a few matters outside the metropolitan scene.

I shall refer first to industry. A number of new industries have recently announced their intention to set up operations in the Geelong district. A huge aluminium industry operating its own powerhouse on the Anglesea coalfield — itself recently opened up by private enterprise — will be spending multiple millions of pounds at Geelong. Point Henry, historically a famous spot, has been chosen as the site of the new industry. This opens up a completely new waterfront area in Geelong, and only last month a large chemical firm showed its confidence in Victoria and in Geelong by announcing a plan for a chemicals plant nearby at Point Henry.

A new cement works at Waurin Ponds near Geelong is under way, and with expansion plans announced by the Ford company at Geelong and the Australian Cement Company, decentralization is being shown to be a reality. The water frontage at Geelong, together with the proved extent and quality of the Anglesea coalfield, will almost certainly guarantee further industrial growth and progress in the Geelong area. To assist decentralized industry, the Government is taking steps to help country industries which do not obtain their raw materials locally, by permitting them to carry anywhere in Victoria at their own discretion the materials required by them and the goods manufactured by them.

I shall now refer to farming and the rural scene. At the present time the rural areas around Geelong have never looked better. I think this is the case for most of the State. Although I have not travelled widely recently, I gather that things have never looked better. A mild winter, with moderate rainfall and the incentive of the Government's drive for increased rural output has put the rural areas in good heart for the coming season. Land values in the country are high, and the Government will introduce a new scale of land tax for productive rural areas and raise the exemption of properties not subject to land tax. As I drive from Ocean Grove to Geelong each day, I gather the impression from the healthy looks on the faces of the cows and sheep that even they know that there is a Liberal party Government in office. It is possible that there will be a rise in the world price of wool this coming season. We do not know what will be the effect on the common market because it is only of recent origin. However, a rise in wool prices will help not only Australia but also the grazier, who is trying to carry on with a lower income and higher cost

The fishing industry along the coast and in Port Phillip Bay has had a good season. This is attributed to the mild weather and the normal balance of good and bad seasons. The tourist industry is slowly expanding and modern hotels in the capital cities will cater for an increased flow of tourists. In my own