

endeavouring to provide food at lowest possible prices is not in the long run in the best interests of primary industries or of the nation as a whole.

In his Speech, His Excellency the Governor referred to the formation of two new Ministries and to legislation providing for the appointment of an additional Minister in the Legislative Council. I wish to place on record certain comments concerning the activities of Mr. Granter since he was appointed Minister of Water Supply. The honorable gentleman has gone through a testing and trying period because most of northern Victoria has experienced a high rainfall and serious results from flooding and inundation.

The new Minister has been extremely active in travelling around Victoria and inspecting the trouble spots. I am sure he has the right outlook and has adopted a conscientious approach to his new responsibilities. I trust that the honorable gentleman will be able to extract from the Treasurer and the Government sufficient finance to solve some of the problems that he has encountered in recent weeks.

**The Hon. D. G. CROZIER** (Western Province).—I feel privileged to speak in support of the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech by His Excellency the Governor on the opening of this session of Parliament. I also take the opportunity of reaffirming my loyalty and that of the electors of the Western Province to Her Majesty the Queen. I join with Mr. McDonald and previous speakers in adding my thanks to His Excellency for his Speech and in congratulating both him and Lady Delacombe on the excellent manner in which they have undertaken their official duties during their tenure of office. Recently Sir Rohan Delacombe once again visited the shires of Wannon, Glenelg and Portland in far western Victoria and subsequently, in company with Lady Delacombe, other parts of my

province. The obvious warmth of their reception at each place they visited was clearly in keeping with the warmth and affection in which the vice regal couple are held by the people of this State.

In contemplating the ordeal which inevitably confronts any new member on the occasion of his first speech in this Chamber, I naturally sought the advice of those who are wise and experienced in such matters. I was told that there are two guiding principles, the first being that one should attempt to make one's maiden speech as early as possible in one's Parliamentary career, the second being that it should be concluded as speedily as possible.

However, I am aware also of the convention that there is extended to honorable members on this occasion a certain latitude which is not subsequently afforded them. Therefore, I should like to add a purely biographical comment that, unlike many other members of this Chamber, I have no family or personal connection with the Parliament of Victoria. However, it may interest honorable members to know that my great grandfather, John Crozier, was a member of the Legislative Council in South Australia from 1867 until his death twenty years later. I have no intention of competing with him in this latter regard.

This rather remote association with the Parliamentary process serves to remind me, if indeed any reminder is needed in these days, that we as a nation are a Federation; that long before Canberra was ever thought of, responsible government existed in Melbourne. I stress this point, because, in common with many of my colleagues and I believe most members of this Chamber and of course many people outside, I am alarmed at the unmistakable tendency towards an all-powerful central Government. It was neither the expectation nor the intention of the far-sighted authors of our Constitution that within 50 years a Federation of States would be reduced to a mendicant status. It

was appropriate that Mr. McDonald should mention the Constitutional Convention. I certainly hope this meeting will be the beginning of better things.

If I had not believed in the Federal system, I would not be a member of this House. I believe the Federal system is under threat because of the stranglehold which the Federal Government exercises and can exercise in revenue-raising matters.

In conclusion, I am mindful of the responsibilities that I now have as a member of this House, and as one of the elected members for the Western Province. I am extremely fortunate in that I share the duties and responsibilities with an experienced and senior member of this House, Mr. Gross. I am conscious of the contribution made by my predecessors in the past to the well-being of the province and the Government of the State.

**The Hon. K. I. WRIGHT** (North-Western Province).—I am pleased to support the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech and to express the loyalty of the electors of the North-Western Province to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the way in which he has represented the Crown in Victoria. Sir Rohan Delacombe has been tireless in travelling the length and breadth of the State and has repeatedly visited many areas. He has been ably supported by Lady Delacombe and both His Excellency and Lady Delacombe have endeared themselves to the people of Victoria.

On one occasion when I was Mayor of the City of Mildura, I had the privilege and honour of being host to His Excellency and Lady Delacombe. I was amazed at His Excellency's knowledge of various matters affecting north-western Victoria. I particularly noticed that the vice regal couple were fond of children and that wherever they went groups of children gathered to talk with the Governor and his wife.

I am proud to represent the electors of the North-Western Province with my colleague, Mr. Dunn. It is a huge province of almost 21,000 square miles, nearly one-quarter of the size of the State. Its boundaries are part of the South Australian border, along the River Murray to Swan Hill, thence through Wycheproof, Donald, Murtoa, Dimboola Kaniva and Nhill to the south and from there to the border. The people in the area are hospitable and frequently it is difficult to travel without accepting overnight hospitality or having a meal with one's hosts. Generally speaking, they are not wealthy people, but they are rich in the other things of life that matter. They have the problems of droughts, bush fires and floods. They have shown outstanding qualities of courage and tenacity—especially the women folk—and those qualities have pulled them through. I might add that at all times the men are loyally supported by their wives. In days gone past they did not have refrigerators, hot water, air conditioning or all of those things which we now take for granted.

I should like to refer to particular areas within my province. Swan Hill is a prosperous and rapidly growing centre. I am sure that most honorable members would be aware that at Swan Hill there is a Pioneer Settlement which would be probably one of the greatest single tourist attractions in Australia. It is visited by hundreds of thousands of people every year. A number of people in the district have been responsible for the development of the settlement. One who played a predominant part in its development was a former councillor, Ross Mellor. I realize, also, that the Premier and the Government of the State of Victoria played an important part in this project.

Unfortunately, Swan Hill has been beset by several problems which, undoubtedly, will find their way into this Parliament by way of representations which will be made. One of