

been agreed to and ordered to be transmitted to the Assembly and their concurrence therein desired.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was passed through all its stages.

CROWN PROCEEDINGS BILL.

The Hon. A. M. FRASER (Melbourne North Province) moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to civil liberties and rights of the Crown and to civil proceedings by and against the Crown, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

DAYS OF MEETING AND HOURS OF SITTING—
ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Hon. P. P. INCHBOLD (Minister of Education).—I move—

That Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week be the days on which the Council shall meet for the despatch of business during the present Session, and that half-past Four o'clock be the hour of meeting on each day; that on Tuesday and Thursday in each week the transaction of Government business shall take precedence of all other business; and that on Wednesday in each week Private Members' business shall take precedence of Government business; and that no new business be taken after half-past Ten o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The Hon. C. E. McNALLY (North-Western Province).—I move—

That the Council agree to the following Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to His Excellency's opening Speech:—
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Council 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 feel that it is a great honor and privilege for me to be asked to submit this motion. I realize that the opportunity does not come very often in the life of a member of this Chamber to move the motion for the adoption of an

Address-in-Reply to the opening speech of His Excellency the Governor. Many honorable and distinguished citizens have sat in this House as members over the past century of parliamentary government in Victoria and they set a high standard for us to follow. We have many distinguished citizens as members of the House at present, and I feel that we should resolve to take into the second century of parliamentary government in Victoria that spirit of service and resolution that brought about the setting up of responsible government in this small but important part of Australia, and of the British Empire.

Thanks to Divine Providence, His Majesty the King continues to improve in health and we trust that, in the words of our National Anthem, he will be spared "Long to reign over us." As his loyal subjects we support the moves that are being made to lessen the arduousness of his duties, especially during the convalescent period of his illness, and also the action that is being taken to remove all possible causes of anxiety to His Majesty and the Royal Family. We are particularly proud of the constitution of the British Commonwealth of Nations and we appreciate the self-sacrificing lead given the people by our Sovereign.

It was with pleasure that members of this House heard His Excellency the Governor mention in his speech the proposed Royal visit. This Parliament will combine with the people of Victoria, and with the Federal Parliament, in paying homage to the Royal couple when they visit Victoria next year. It is our hope that the reception given to the Royal visitors will leave in their minds welcome memories that will redound to the credit of Australia.

In his address last week, His Excellency the Governor spoke of this loyalty, just as did Charles Joseph La Trobe, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, 100 years ago. The special opening of Parliament, the spectacle we witnessed last week, was to mark the first 100 years of self government in Victoria. On the 1st of July, 1851, this State separated from New South Wales, and it was named Victoria. A few months later, this Legislative Council met for the first time. Since then, there have

been 42 Governors, Lieutenant-Governors and Administrators, representing His Majesty. Each has played his part, nobly and well, in the progress and development of the State.

We of the present day, naturally pay our tributes to His Excellency, General Sir Dallas Brooks who, with his family, has greatly endeared himself to the people. Many of us have pleasant and proud memories of Sir Winston Dugan, Lord Huntingfield, Lord Somers, the Earl of Stradbroke, and others back through the noble list of representatives of the King. Doubtless, each and every one of the holders of this great position, under the Throne, was in his day held in high esteem, representing that vital link between His Majesty the King and his young colony.

His Majesty's representatives in this State of Victoria have given sterling service, and have more than played their parts, but we must also pay our tribute to the various Victorian Governments during the last 100 years. It was on the 28th day of November, 1855, that the Honorable W. C. Haines became first Premier of Victoria, and the two Houses of the legislature were brought into being. Down through the century, Governments, like Governors, have come and gone, but Parliament has proceeded on its way, developing, working, and planning. Fifty-five Premiers have led the various Governments from the time of Mr. Haines down to our present Premier, the Honorable J. G. B. McDonald. All political parties have served the country. Many great men have given their lives to the service of their fellows, and whilst it was only human for them to have differences of opinion from time to time, all were working towards one end—the better development of this State of Victoria.

We can look, with pardonable pride, on some of the achievements of our predecessors, namely, ballot voting, adult franchise, and other major items of legislation, which have had a most momentous effect on our progress. It is well from time to time to take stock of what has been accomplished, but it is very dangerous to adopt an attitude of complacency. Although we have a very

high standard to follow, an enormous amount of work remains to be done. There have been mistakes—there will undoubtedly be many more. It is our duty to rectify the mistakes of the past, profit by them, and do our best to see that as few as possible occur in the future.

We in Victoria have a very sound and sensible form of government, but the best legislation in the world can achieve its proper objects only with the full co-operation of the people. No matter where you start from, no matter what you plan or undertake, you inevitably come back to the people—the backbone of the country. Melbourne had its first superintendent in Charles Joseph La Trobe, as early as 1839. The first Victorian Parliament was formed 100 years ago, when the office of State Governor was also created, but much earlier than that time the first permanent settlement was established in Victoria, at Portland.

It was 127 years ago yesterday, on the 19th of November, 1824, that Edward Henty—not at the command of His Majesty, and not at the request of any Government, but imbued with the pioneering spirit of the British race—came to Victoria, settled, worked, and prospered. He was the first of many—of hundreds, then of thousands—who, realizing the great possibilities of this country, were prepared to make sacrifices and to work hard in order to establish the British Empire in another corner of the world. But it was not simply that; it was not just to go and live where no other white man had lived. They did not select Victoria out of a hat, and they did not come to this State because of the valuable mineral deposits, the extensive coal fields, or the possibilities of secondary industries. They came because of the enormous potentialities which they could see existed in primary production.

So, in 1824 a start was made to develop Victoria as a primary producing State. It had developed very successfully along those lines by 1851, and now—100 years later—Victoria is still essentially a primary producing country. The man on the land is still the backbone of the State. Cities have sprung up, secondary industries have come into being, but Victoria is still the land of the farmer, the

grazier, and the horticulturist, and Victorians go forward to-day into new areas, growing more essential foodstuffs and building the wealth of the country, following in the footsteps of and emulating the example set by Edward Henty 127 years ago.

It is, perhaps, rather a significant coincidence that the youngest settlement in the State is situated on the River Murray. From that old established pioneer, scattered settlement of Portland in the south, to the more recently established soldier settlement of Robinvale in the north, men and women of all classes and creeds have played their part in the progress and development of Victoria. During this centenary year we should, I suggest, pay tribute to those who have gone before, to those who went out into the virgin country of this State, as many did, to carve out a home for themselves, without the amenities that we enjoy to-day, without medical assistance of any kind and also, in most cases, with only primitive forms of transport. The only means of transport which existed in those days were the bullock waggon and the dray. Therefore, I repeat that we should pay tribute to those who have gone before, and cherish the inheritance which has come to us through the courageous efforts of those pioneers.

North, south, east or west, no matter where we go, the same picture is to be seen—wheat growing, fruit growing, grazing, dairying, vegetable growing, and many other forms of primary production, settlements of pioneers, settlements of promise, settlements of progress—the backbone and the lifeline of this State. The picture is indeed one to be justifiably proud of, but, unfortunately, there is another side to it. While primary production has literally created the State of Victoria, can it be said that we have done everything possible for the primary producer to whom we owe so much?

Previously, I praised the work of our predecessors in the Parliament of Victoria and I mentioned our own obligations, but without detracting in any way from what has been achieved, the fact remains that an enormous number of tasks are still undone. So great, so magnificent, so extensive, has been the

progress made by the men on the land that I am regretfully and reluctantly forced to admit that we have not kept pace with them, and even if the reasons for this are to a great extent beyond the control of this Parliament, that does not alter the present position in the slightest. If we want to succeed, we must to the fullest possible extent be self-supporting. In this mechanical age there is one basic requirement; never mind if it be for the all-important primary producer, or the essential secondary industry, that requirement is the same—fuel and still more fuel.

As a member of the State Development Committee, I was recently in the Yallourn and Morwell areas. There I saw something of the great development that has taken place. I saw also the enormous potentialities that exist. Yet, the development of wonderful assets for this State has been brought almost to a standstill. The enormous coal field in the Latrobe valley, 40 square miles in extent, 300 feet or more in depth, lies under the trifling overburden of from 30 to 60 feet. I saw the lack of progress made in the installation of the Lurgi gasification plant. I saw the raw materials available in sufficient quantities to make this State independent concerning its fuel supplies. I witnessed also all these great projects being hindered, delayed, handicapped and brought to a standstill, because the loan funds were not available to permit of the work being expedited. There is no one in Victoria, or in Australia—to whom the British tradition means anything at all—who would deliberately prevent the carrying out of these great and vital projects.

It is a tragic fact that the powers that be in Canberra have a complete lack of understanding of the requirements of Victoria and the urgent need for loan money. The State Government had planned for a record expenditure during the current financial year on essential and urgent works, but our ambitions, our aims and our ideals were slashed at the fountain head, and the financial assistance from Canberra, so necessary, was not forthcoming. In spite of this, the fact still remains that expenditure during the next year will be the greatest in any

year since self government was introduced a century ago. Yet, because of the lack of foresight of the Federal Government, the programme envisaged by the Victorian Government cannot be realized. The primary producer has developed this State. We desire not only to assist but also to lead in this development but, as I said earlier, through circumstances beyond our control we are falling behind.

We all know that many people want homes. Private enterprise is doing its best in providing accommodation, and a very good best it is. The Housing Commission has done a wonderful job. It intended and had planned to undertake a much greater job, but reluctantly Parliament has to say to the Commission, "No, the money is not available."

Over and over again, we have all heard the phrase "An Englishman's home is his castle," and it is equally true of the Australian—the desire to own one's own home, to have a small permanent foothold in one's own country. That is part of the great British spirit of independence and freedom which is at present being frustrated by the shortsightedness of the authorities in Canberra.

The growing requirements in education, health services, recreational facilities and roadways are vital factors, with which we must keep pace or perish. At present, we are not keeping pace, and are faced with an awful alternative. One of our greatest assets—the railways—which was responsible for the opening up of immense tracts of land, should not be regarded as a potential source of taxation, but as a powerful developmental weapon to assist us to keep up the pace. I shall not belabour the shortcomings of those in the Federal sphere, because we have plenty of our own. Greater co-operation among the States would be really worth while. Some people are big enough to realize this, and I know what many of them are endeavouring to accomplish. The Murray Valley Development League comes to my mind. I was associated with that organization for a short while. It consisted of representatives from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. To them, the River Murray

is an immense source of power, development and wealth, which they plan to utilize to the best advantage. They do not regard it as a wavering, wet line of demarcation which sets the respective States in self-contained compartments. The objectives of the league are worth while, because they are aimed at accelerating production, which is so necessary for our very existence. State Parliaments would do well to take a leaf out of its book, so to speak, to end once and for all the barbarism of borderism.

It is the considered opinion of some persons who know the potentialities of the Murray valley that 1,000,000 persons could be established under closer settlement. Soil tests conducted by Government Departments have proved that irrigated land in the area could produce dried fruits, citrus fruits, fat lambs, dairy products and vegetables. It is not a credit to this or any other State that the fullest possible use is not being made of the Murray valley area. I sincerely trust that the Federal Government will decide that closer settlement in that area is an urgent necessity. Climatic conditions are ideal and the land has been proved to be fertile. I know that many thousands of young men to-day are both willing and anxious to cultivate irrigated land under closer settlement conditions.

There lies ahead a grave responsibility which is not only ours but that of all residents in this State, both young and old. The past few years have been years of plenty. Lucrative jobs have been easy to get and if one did not suit, another could be obtained easily, just around the corner. I fear, however, that we may be getting around the last corner, so to speak, and may now have to face up to the dangers that exist here and elsewhere. As I said earlier, it is a realization that comes slowly and, perhaps, reluctantly, but, nevertheless, it must come. The spirit of Captain Cook and Edward Henty is still with us. The determination for freedom and endeavour, which brought this Parliament into being 100 years ago, still lives. That public spiritedness which inspired Mr. Haines to lead the first Victorian Government is found in our present Premier, the Honorable J. G. B. McDonald. That bond between the Throne and the people,

which was established here in Victoria by Charles Joseph La Trobe, is stronger than ever, under the governorship of His Excellency Sir Dallas Brooks. During the last 100 years a great British tradition has been maintained in Victoria, and, under Divine Providence, it will continue to flourish and strengthen. We face the future with a full realization of what lies ahead, and with confidence.

I desire to conclude, as I began, with a message of loyalty to the Throne, and I could perhaps use the words that were expressed on one occasion by His Most Gracious Majesty King George VI.—I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown";
 And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God; This shall be to you better than light, and safer than the known way."

The Hon. WILLIAM MacAULAY (Gippsland Province).—It is my great privilege to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, so ably proposed by Mr. McNally. His Excellency's speech is probably a record of brevity, but possibly that is due to the peculiar circumstances in which it was delivered. This historic occasion marks the close of the first 100 years of self-government in Victoria and opens a new century. Might I take as a basis for my remarks the following words that are contained in His Excellency's speech?

It is the earnest hope of my advisers that the next century of Parliament will be marked by wider development of the State, a fuller appreciation of the responsibilities of citizenship and a greater degree of co-operation and goodwill in the community.

There are some significant aspects relating to the development of this State which impress themselves on the minds of those who pause to reflect upon the last 100 years. Perhaps the most outstanding is that which was mentioned by Mr. McNally, namely, the life and work of the pioneers. They were possessed of undaunted courage and they faced tremendous odds. They displayed initiative in attacking new problems in a new land, and persevered against all setbacks and losses. Only persons of sterling character could succeed in those circumstances in which our pioneering forebears laboured. I think

that is even more applicable to the women pioneers; they suffered not only hardships, but extreme loneliness and severance from their loved ones. All of those men and women had a common belief that this State would at some time become great and, having put their hand to the plough, they would not look back. While they believed in the future development of the State, it is quite possible that they could not foresee the nature or extent of that development, but to-day the pattern is fairly clear.

The discovery of gold has played an important part in the development of Victoria during the last century, not merely because of the value of the mineral that has been dug from the earth, but more particularly because the attention of the world has been focused on this State. That has resulted in the investment of much new capital in developmental work and a great influx of persons who, once their natural curiosity in regard to the discovery of gold was satisfied, became good citizens and followed their former avocations as farmers, business people and so on. We have good reason to feel proud of those early residents of Victoria, who earned a tradition of integrity, industry, frugality and foresight. Another aspect is the important position in the State of Victoria which is held by the city of Melbourne. When persons in other States speak of Melbourne, they think of Victoria, and when they speak of Victoria, they immediately think of Melbourne. A study of the map of this State reveals that the reason for that association of ideas is that Melbourne, at the head of Port Phillip Bay, occupies a position almost in the centre of Victoria.

As it has been said of Rome so it can be said to-day that all roads lead to Melbourne, in Victoria. All railways also lead to Melbourne. All sea-borne trade and commerce, whether inwards or outwards, must pass through this great city. It is the greatest industrial centre in the whole State. In finance it controls the whole country, or it did until very recently when the high prices of wheat and wool brought a measure of prosperity to some of the people living in the rural areas and gave them a de-