

adult lifetime the circumstances of world economics, the problems of the United Kingdom and the very development of this country have led us, and will continue to lead us, nearer to independent nationhood in this troublesome Asian area. The need to maintain and strengthen our ties with the Crown, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family is greater today than ever before, and it will become greater in the future.

If this Address-in-Reply debate is not to become a mere mockery in the years ahead, members of this place, whether Government or Opposition members, must be ever mindful of those influences in our community which seek to break down and deride the respect of members of the community for the Crown and for Her Majesty. I believe that this is particularly important for those in the field of education, who are responsible for moulding the thoughts of our younger generation. In the same way as those who would seek to break down respect for law and order and for this institution of democratic government in which we meet today, those people who tend and seek to undermine and deride the respect for Her Majesty will always be the enemies of the future generations of this State and this country.

It gives me sincere pleasure on behalf of my constituents in Moorabin and myself personally to support this motion. So long as I am a member of this House, whether for a short or a long time, whatever ability, training and experience I have will, I assure the House, be directed to the development of the State, the welfare of its citizens and the maintenance of respect for the Crown, which we now honour.

Mr. BUCKLEY (Lowan).—I feel honoured to be able to participate, on behalf of the electors of Lowan, in the debate on the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. I would respectfully request that the loyalty of the people be conveyed to Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and I give an assurance that, provided some encouragement is forthcoming, food production from that part of western Victoria which I represent will continue to play an important part in the livelihood of the peoples of the world. To the electors of Lowan, I offer my thanks for the confidence they have shown in me by electing me as their representative in this 44th Victorian Parliament. It will be my earnest desire at all times to serve all sections of the community without fear or favour and to the best of my ability.

No doubt, Mr. Speaker every new member who comes to this Chamber has some desire to place before this Assembly at the first opportunity certain matters that concern his or her electorate, and I am no exception in this regard. The shortage of water is an increasing problem in many parts of the world. It is essential not only for drinking and food production, but also for industry and industrial development. Water is the lifeblood of the area I represent. It has been stated that some parts of the Lowan electorate are now experiencing one of the driest periods in living memory. It is a well-known fact that some farms north of Warracknabeal had not cropped an acre of land this year until a week ago, and this is in an area that is generally well known for its grain production.

The water catchment area in the Grampians and surrounding hills, which is the main source of our water supply, is limited. Water is delivered to the farms in the Wimmera-Mallee irrigation system by well over 300 miles of open channel. For many years, repeated requests have been made to have this water delivered by pipe-lines. The cost of such a scheme would be great, but it is now estimated that of the water that leaves the reservoirs, approximately only 10 per cent. reaches the point of its intended consumption on farms at the extremities of the channel

system. Water is one commodity that we must conserve in a continent that is known to be the driest in the world.

It has been stated from time to time that it would cost some millions of dollars to carry out this piping work, and at present it could not be undertaken. However, owing to the seepage of water, there are some bad sections of the channel system that I should like to see piped. This work could be done progressively by setting aside a sum of money each year for that purpose. Whilst we measure the cost of such a scheme in dollars, I am doubtful whether one could assess the value of the primary produce that could be derived from the water that would be saved by such a scheme. The resultant increase in primary produce for our overseas markets would, in turn, prove of great benefit to the State, and indeed to Australia as a whole.

When natural gas is available for consumption, I sincerely hope that the Government, in its wisdom, will ensure that the price of gas is made uniform throughout the State so that business and industry already established in the country areas will be able to enjoy the same privileges as those that will be available to the city industrialists. Not one member of this Assembly would like to experience, in connexion with natural gas, the same difficulties as were encountered in trying to obtain uniform prices for electricity in this State.

I should like to make reference to the excellent work that is being carried out in the Lowan electorate by the Country Roads Board, which works in close co-operation with the various shires. The Board has done a magnificent job. It has provided two over-passes on the Western Highway, and it is always ready and willing to do its best in all areas. Now that the port of Portland has been developed, it is essential that some consideration should be given to the building of a heavy duty highway west of the Henty Highway,

Mr. Buckley.

somewhere between Nhill and Kaniva, to provide access from north-western Victoria and the south-east of South Australia to the port of Portland, which is a great national outlet for the shipping of wool, grain, and other primary products to overseas markets. I feel it is most essential to have the best rail and road links to this port to assist further in its rapid development. The rise in freight charges on the haulage of wheat by rail in Victoria has had a marked effect on wheat farmers, and I hope that freight rates will not be increased further.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the members of this House for the courteous hearing that has been extended to me and other new members of this Assembly during their maiden speeches.

Mr. MUTTON (Coburg).—Mr. Speaker, I join with other honorable members in expressing my loyalty to Queen Elizabeth II. I assure you, Sir, that it is indeed an honour for me to have been elected by the people of Coburg to represent them in this House. While I am a member, I will do all I possibly can to carry out the requirements of those people, impartially and faithfully, in the interests of democracy.

I should like also to avail myself of this opportunity of paying a tribute to the efforts of my predecessor. It is not often that a son has the opportunity of following his father into Parliament, and I feel justified in paying a tribute to this former honorable member. He was first elected to this House on 13th July, 1940, and he remained a member of it until 29th April of this year, thus giving 27 years of continued representation not only to the residents of Coburg but also to the people of Victoria in general. Any one who came into contact with my predecessor could not but be very impressed by his charitable approach and his kindness of thought. I hope that during my stay as a member of this House, no