

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, April 24, 1957.

The House met at 11 a.m. pursuant to Proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. B. H. Teusner) presiding.

The Clerk read the Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George) summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker the House, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 11.07 a.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech. Honourable members returned to the Assembly Chamber at 11.22 a.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

NEXT DAY OF SITTING.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, May 14, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER—I have to report that, in compliance with summons from His Excellency the Governor, the House attended in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which I obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

PRESENTATION OF DIVISION GLASS.

The SPEAKER—Honourable members will recall that on 27th November last a delegation from the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association comprising the Marquess of Lansdowne, the Right Honourable Emanuel Shinwell, M.P., and the branch secretary, Major J. G. Lockhart, C.B.E., paid a visit to our Parliament. On behalf of their branch, they presented to this House a handsome division glass to commemorate the centenary of the introduction of responsible government in South Australia. I tendered thanks to the delegation on behalf of the House of Assembly and requested them to convey our appreciation to members of the United Kingdom Branch for this fine gesture.

On the fourth Wednesday in April, 1857, the House of Assembly of South Australia met for the first time. It is a privilege today, on the fourth Wednesday of April, 1957, to place in commission on the table of this House a gift from Westminster which will serve as a constant reminder of our proud link with the Mother of Parliaments.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The SPEAKER laid on the table reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (together with minutes of evidence) on the following projects:—Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Victor Harbour and Port Pirie sewerage systems (final) and water supply for the Hundreds of Burdett, Ettrick and Seymour.

Ordered that reports be printed.

LAND DEVELOPMENT: HUNDRED OF WOOLUMBOOL.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on land development in the Hundred of Woolumbool, together with minutes of evidence.

Ordered that report be printed.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The Speaker and Messrs. Geoffrey Clarke, O'Halloran and Quirke.

Library.—The Speaker and Messrs. John Clark, Millhouse and Stephens.

Printing.—Messrs. Bywaters, Coumbe, Harbour, Heath and Jennings.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

PETITIONS, QUESTIONS, ETC., AND PAPERS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That Standing Order No. 94, relating to the conduct of ordinary business (petitions, questions and notices), and Standing Order No. 408, relating to papers required to be referred to the Printing Committee, be suspended.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer) moved—

That it be an order of this House that all papers and other documents ordered by the House during the session, and not returned prior to the prorogation, and such other official reports and returns as are customarily laid before Parliament and printed, be forwarded to the Speaker in print as soon as completed, and if received within two months after such prorogation, that the Clerk of the House cause such papers and documents to be distributed amongst members and bound with the Votes and Proceedings; and as regards those not received within such time, that they be laid upon the table on the first day of next session.

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF MACE CEREMONY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That the practice and the Standing Orders of the House be so far suspended as to enable the Speaker to invite members of the Legislative Council and strangers to be seated in the benches and on the floor of the Assembly to view the ceremony of the presentation of the mace and to enable the proceedings in connection therewith to be photographed for television and other purposes.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved—

That a committee consisting of Messrs. Dunage, O'Halloran, Stott, Frank Walsh and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech on opening Parliament, and to report this day.

Motion carried.

Later:

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD—I bring up the following report of the committee:—

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.
2. We are greatly honoured to receive a gracious message from Her Majesty on the occasion of the centenary of responsible government in South Australia and we ask Your Excellency to express to Her Majesty our profound thanks for her warm congratulations.
3. We further ask that Your Excellency convey to Her Majesty a re-affirmation of our unfeigned attachment to Her Majesty's Throne and Person.
4. We gratefully acknowledge our debt to the pioneers of this State whose love of freedom and democratic zeal made possible the inauguration of responsible government in South Australia 100 years ago.
5. We join in the prayer of Your Excellency for the divine blessing upon the deliberations of our Parliament.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—In moving the adoption of the Address in Reply, I know that it affords every honourable member pleasure that His Excellency Sir Robert George today opened this special session of Parliament, celebrating 100 years of responsible government in this State. His Excellency, since he took office, has been associated with many good works in this State and won the affection of all sections of the community. I am sure that every member heard with great gratification the message from Her Majesty the Queen. We remember with great affection

that Her Majesty opened Parliament when she came amongst us, bestowing her royal favour upon us, and we derive great pleasure from the fact that she has remembered this occasion and favoured us with a special message.

I am also sure that every member is delighted that the Commonwealth and our sister States have seen fit to send representatives to take part in this day of celebration. The Australian States all received self-government about the same time and have progressed together in many ways since then. We have grown up together and had much benefit and assistance from each other and established various useful interstate conferences and councils.

During their 100 years of self-government the States have made many notable strides. One of the greatest was the establishment of a national Parliament and of a nation that is now an accepted member of the United Nations Organization and a country that has been pleased with its attachments to the Old Country. Indeed, as the years have gone by, notwithstanding that we have been generously given self-government, that very gift has brought us closer to the Old Country than ever before, so that during the last world war when we saw the Old Country courageously standing alone we were proud to be a member of the community of nations that is pleased to acknowledge Her Majesty, and to acknowledge that kinship. For that reason members will be particularly gratified that today Lord Carrington, the representative in this country of the United Kingdom Government, is to be our guest of honour. He has generously come here today to join in our celebrations, and I extend to him and to the Premiers and other representatives of other States and the Commonwealth a warm welcome. We hope that their stay here will be as pleasurable to them as I am certain it will be to us.

During our hundred years of self-government we have been fortunate in the standard of service given to Parliament and to the State. Consequently, today we have, I believe, a much easier task, for many institutions that go to make up good government are firmly established and accepted and they are doing a magnificent service to the community. Among them are our free press and our great institutions of learning. We have established precedents for dealing with almost all the problems that may arise, and for this we have to thank particularly our forefathers who came to this country and, in accordance with British tradition laid down the forms of government we now enjoy.

I believe that with their example before us, with the tolerance shown by all sections of the community, with the wise leadership of our industrial unions, and particularly with the co-operation which has been received from Parliamentary Oppositions from time to time (without which spirit of give-and-take no system of government can function), this country will reach even greater heights. Probably no one, at the time self-government was granted to South Australia, visualized the success it would be. This State lacks many geographical advantages enjoyed by other States, yet we have in the course of one hundred years built up a community that is accepted by other States as an equal partner and is an integral part of the great Commonwealth of Australia. Indeed, I believe South Australia is respected for its achievements.

I thank members, particularly members opposite, for their assistance from time to time in connection with legislation brought forward for the good of this country, and have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—At the outset I wish to express the great pleasure we all feel on the receipt of the gracious message from Her Majesty the Queen on this memorable occasion and to affirm our loyalty to the Throne which Her Majesty so completely symbolizes. In the normal course of events, following the opening of Parliament by His Excellency the Governor, it is customary for a member of the Government Party to move the adoption of the Address in Reply and for a member of the same Party to second it. Since the introduction of Parliamentary government a hundred years ago the Governor's Speech has invariably been a record (expressed in the most glowing and flattering terms) of the Government's past achievements and a forecast (not always realized) of its legislative proposals for the future; and, quite naturally, perhaps, this procedure has been resorted to as a means of creating the most favourable possible impression of the Government before other members have the opportunity to show the Government in its true light. But this is no ordinary occasion, and consequently the customary procedure is not being followed—the Premier has moved the adoption of the Address in Reply, and it is my privilege and pleasure to second it.

In doing so I congratulate all concerned upon the attainment of the centenary of Parliamentary government in South Australia—from

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert George who has the unique honour and distinction of being Her Majesty's representative at this time—and, if I may say so, a very worthy and popular representative—down to the humblest citizen whose life has been made happier and more complete because the benefits of the British Parliamentary system were conferred upon the colony of South Australia a hundred years ago.

On a commemorative occasion such as this, we feel impelled to speak of those leaders of the past who by their words and deeds have contributed to the progress and prosperity of the people and particularly those who have initiated improvements in legislation and in the principles and practices of Parliament, which have such an important bearing on progress and prosperity. Many great and influential men have embellished the history of Parliament in this State, among them being—to mention only a few—Sir George Kingston, Sir Richard Hanson, Sir Hurtle Fisher and Sir Robert Torrens, each of whom made his particular contribution to the achievement of responsible government besides playing a prominent part in framing our early statutes. Nearer to our own time, we cannot but be grateful for the work of such men as Charles Cameron Kingston, who made his mark in the Federal sphere as well, and Thomas Price, the first Labor Premier, who, 50 years ago, strove to advance the cause of democracy and education.

Among other things, it is interesting to recall that when our Constitution was being hammered out by members of the partially elective Legislative Council of the day, the vital issue was whether the Upper House of the proposed bi-cameral legislature should be composed of nominated or elected members. The first Parliament Bill, passed in 1853, provided for a nominated Council because, rightly or wrongly, that was what most members thought was best for the colony. This decision reflected a political philosophy determined by the fact that nomineeism was an accepted feature of previous and existing legislatures; and no doubt some of the members regarded nomineeism as inevitable. However, the majority of those citizens who had the right to vote, including the majority of the elected members of the Council itself, were strongly opposed to nomineeism and sent petitions to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that she should withhold her assent to the Bill. So it was that the British Government rejected the first Parliament Bill and suggested that the local Legislature should

further consider the matter. The second Parliament Bill therefore provided for an elective Upper House, and that was the Bill which received the Queen's assent and became our present Constitution Act.

The provision for elective Houses has remained unaltered in the Constitution ever since; and no-one, I venture to say, would suggest that we should revert to nomineeism as the basis of membership of either House. But there are many other provisions in the Constitution which could, with advantage, have been deleted or at least amended. During the hundred years that have elapsed since the election of the first Parliament the Constitution has not been changed very much; and if there is one note of criticism that I feel I ought to sound at this juncture, it is that the Constitution has not moved forward with the times. I do not think the framers of the Constitution intended it to be as static as circumstances and policies have conspired to make it. Progress in education, in the development of a political sense and an awareness of public issues has outmoded the Constitution, which, however liberal it may have seemed to the pioneer statesmen of a hundred years ago, now stands between the people and the complete realization of their democratic ideals. We achieved a degree of responsible government a hundred years ago—and since then a greater degree of responsibility has been conferred upon us—but we have not yet achieved truly democratic government. Perhaps that is something we may look forward to in the next hundred years.

We have met to commemorate the summoning of the first Parliament, and it is appropriate that the day should be almost the exact centenary of that occasion. Great changes have come about since April 22, 1857. Our present Parliament House, noted for the grace and beauty of its exterior architecture, is the very antithesis of the old Legislative Council building in which the first Parliament assembled and which, miraculously enough, is still standing. Times and customs have changed also. When the first Parliament met, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Richard MacDonnell, rode from Government House on horseback and, as the *Register* of April 23, 1857, rather whimsically recorded, a salute was fired from the "cannon paddock", which had apparently not then been dignified with the name of "Parade Ground"!

The proceedings of the first Parliament were enlivened by two interesting diversions. One of the defeated candidates for the district of Barossa submitted a petition against the return of a certain famous (or infamous) Dr. Dean,

who, it was alleged, had been elected although he was not a naturalized British subject and, indeed, was not really Dr. Dean but someone else and had, in addition, resorted to bribery and corruption to secure the necessary quota of votes. Dr. Dean did not take his seat.

The other interesting diversion resulted from the election of Charles Simeon Hare for the district of Yatala. Mr. Hare was at the time Comptroller of Convicts—and that does not mean that South Australia had been founded as a convict settlement, but merely that at that time all persons convicted of crimes against society were referred to as "convicts"—and, apart from the legal difficulty created by the election of an employee of the Government, there was speculation whether he should remain in his job or take his seat as a member. On this issue, the *Register*—somewhat critically, I think—expressed the view that it would be a pity if Mr. Hare "abandoned a post he occupies so worthily for a position of inferior usefulness." Apparently the leader writer of the *Register* at that time did not place very high civic value on members of Parliament. Mr. Hare resigned his seat not long afterwards.

However, the editor of the *Register* probably expressed the sentiments which we all feel on this occasion when he wrote; "May our legislators so discharge their high and honourable functions as best to promote the public weal. May we, while we seek to develop the spirit of enterprise which has ever distinguished this community, be careful to cherish that commercial integrity and public honour which have been no less its characteristics; and may we never individually or collectively forget our obligations to that Supreme Providence to whom we owe the prosperity for which we now rejoice."

With these sentiments—a grateful appreciation of all that is good in the heritage we have received from the past and a confident faith in our ability to face the problems of the future—I second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. STOTT (Ridley)—I associate myself with the previous speakers in their expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and their references to her graciousness in sending such a splendid message to this Parliament on the celebration of 100 years of responsible government. These celebrations would not be complete without some reference to the early pioneers—their exploits in taking axes and billycans into the heart of the colony and their courage in hewing homes and an existence out of the scrub. Their deeds laid the foundation

for the sound economy of the State as we know it today. There is a startling contrast between the tent in which the first Parliament met 100 years ago and the marble halls in which we legislate today. No doubt if it were possible for them to attend those pioneers would be awed and amazed at the progress made during 100 years of responsible government.

Great political giants of the past included Mr. Charles Cameron Kingston, who was famed as a silver-tongued orator, Sir Robert Torrens, renowned for the Torrens system of land titles, which has been adopted in all other parts of the British Commonwealth, and in later years the late Sir Richard Butler, and the Hon. A. H. Peake and T. Price (the first Labor Premier); nor can we forget the long service given to the State as President of the Legislative Council by Sir Lancelot Stirling and as Speaker in the House of Assembly by Sir Robert Nicholls.

I join in the welcome to the Premiers and Leaders of the Opposition from other States, who are with us to help make this celebration a memorable occasion, and in honouring those who have played such a wonderful part in the building up of responsible government in this State. I also pay a tribute to the people of South Australia. We can look forward to the next 100 years with much confidence, and with the hope that above all else Parliament of the people, for the people and by the people will prevail.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide)—I cannot let this occasion pass without adding a few words. First, I suggest that we are not celebrating today 100 years of responsible government. The Leader of the Opposition referred to 100 years of "Parliamentary government," and that is all that we can justly claim to be celebrating. I draw attention to the following paragraph in His Excellency the Governor's Speech:—

The merits of the system of responsible government are well known to you. It is the product of the political genius of the British people, developed and improved through centuries of struggle, trial and error. Its basic purpose is to secure that the executive and legislative powers of the Crown shall be used in accordance with the popular will, to promote the peace and welfare of the people. It ensures that administrators shall be subject to the control of Parliament and Parliament to the will of the people.

We cannot claim that this Parliament is using its powers in accordance with the popular will, nor that Parliament is subject to the will of the people. In support of that statement I shall do no more than refer honourable members to the result of the 1956 State election.

The returns show that Australian Labor Party candidates polled between 29,000 and 30,000 more votes than Government supporters; so the will of the people was thwarted. The figures also disclose that whereas it took an average of only 10,500 votes to elect a member of the Liberal Party, 14,500 were required to elect a member of the Labor Party or an Independent. That is how the political set up in South Australia has been gerrymandered. The public are deprived of voting for the Legislative Council unless they have first and foremost the prerequisite of the Liberal Party—wealth. Unless a person owns a property or is an ex-serviceman he cannot vote for the Legislative Council. Above everything else, the Liberal Party says a person must have wealth, and thus it has got away from the principles of democracy. Democratic principles do not exist for them. It is sheer hypocrisy to say on this day that we are celebrating 100 years of responsible government, because we are not.

In another part of his speech His Excellency said the Imperial Act provided that there should be two Houses of Parliament to legislate for the welfare and good government of the colony; but the people have been deprived of the opportunity to elect a Government of their own choice and to change a Government if dissatisfied with it. We are not legislating for the welfare of the people of this State. I hope that later this year the Government will say that as it is 100 years since we inaugurated the Parliamentary system of government it is about time the people were given the opportunity to elect a Government of their own choice, and give every person 21 years of age or over, irrespective of his wealth, the right to vote for the Legislative Council.

Address in Reply adopted.

[*Sitting suspended from 12.9 to 2.15 p.m.*]

On resuming:—

PRESENTATION OF MACE.

The President, officers and members of the Legislative Council entered the Chamber and took their seats.

The SPEAKER—I notice beyond the bar His Excellency the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Australia (The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington, M.C.). I ask the Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition to conduct His Excellency to a seat on the floor of the House.

Lord Carrington, escorted by the two honourable members, was introduced to the Speaker and took a seat on the floor of the House.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—It is the unanimous

desire of the House, Mr. Speaker, that you request His Excellency to present the Mace to you as Speaker of the House.

The SPEAKER—His Excellency, Lord Carrington.

LORD CARRINGTON—Mr. Speaker, I am very conscious of the privilege given me this afternoon of performing this ceremony and formally handing over to you the Mace. I do so, not as High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, but as a member and representative of the oldest of Parliaments to a Parliament celebrating 100 years of responsible government—a hundred years in which your House has established throughout the Commonwealth a reputation for the orderliness and dignity of its proceedings.

In the context of history, Mr. Speaker, a hundred years is but a short time. In 1857 Queen Victoria had already been on the throne for 20 years. We in England were in the middle of the great Victorian age of prosperity. With the exception of the Crimean War, 40 years of peace and assurance lay ahead of us. In 1857, however, you in South Australia had yet to celebrate your coming of age. Young and vigorous, you had overcome the initial difficulties and trials, hardships and privations of your founding, and before you had reached your 21st birthday you had been given responsible self-government. Indeed, a remarkable century of progress lay in front of you.

I can well imagine that Sir Richard MacDonnell, the Governor of the day, would be astonished if he could return to Adelaide and to South Australia and see the far-reaching changes that have been made in such a comparatively short time. The development of the whole State, both in agriculture and in industry, must give cause for pride in the hearts of all South Australians; indeed, in that time the city of Adelaide has grown from a small beginning to a city of half a million people. On that occasion 100 years ago Sir Richard MacDonnell, at the opening of Parliament, said this:—

The personal satisfaction which I experience at thus meeting you on an occasion so auspicious as the opening of the first Parliament, wholly elected by the people, is much increased by the confidence with which I anticipate a no less prudent than energetic exercise of their extensive powers by the representatives of the people.

Sir, his confidence was not misplaced. It would be true to say that even before 1857 South Australia had been in the van of political development. You were the first State to introduce manhood suffrage; you were the first, with Victoria, to introduce voting by

ballot; you were the first to decide that the number of voters in each electorate should be the same. Since then, however, many other Acts of real significance have been passed by a South Australian Parliament, including that which contained the secret ballot provisions that were the basis for similar legislation later passed both in England and Canada.

To commemorate this occasion a Mace is being presented to the House, the Mace having been the symbol of authority from earliest times. As an Englishman I am proud to think that this Mace was made by a famous English firm of goldsmiths and silversmiths; and to commemorate this 100 years there are together on the head of the Mace the ciphers of both Queen Victoria and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am proud to think that you, Sir, intend in using this Mace to follow the practice which we at Westminster follow, and I hope it will serve as a reminder, not only of this occasion, but of the strong links that bind our two countries and our two Parliaments.

Mr. Speaker, it is a commonplace nowadays to speak of Parliamentary democracy and self-government, and perhaps we take it too much for granted. Surely it is something we should cherish most deeply. One has only to look around the world today, let alone the world of 1857, to see how many nations and how many people have not yet attained responsible self-government or in the course of time have lost it or had it taken from them. Parliamentary democracy is much more than a phrase or an Act of Parliament or a formula: it is a living thing which, unless it is husbanded and cultivated, will wither away more quickly than it grew.

Parliamentary democracy means tolerance and forbearance and the ability to see that other people are entitled to hold and to express a point of view contrary to your own. It means the acceptance of policies of which you may wholeheartedly disapprove provided those policies are the express wish of the majority of the electorate. Parliamentary democracy places upon the people the responsibility of recording their opinions in a sane and reasonable way. It affords to men and women the opportunity to influence the conduct of their own affairs. With all these positive benefits that lie in this system we are perhaps at the same time particularly vulnerable to the demagogue who sways the electors for his own ends; and even more, perhaps, are we threatened by apathy and lack of interest in the public affairs on the part of the people.

Mr. Speaker, it says much for the sanity of the British people that they have managed for so long a time to conduct their affairs with success. In celebrating this day I recollect and echo some words written 100 years ago:—

We congratulate our fellows on the cheering aspect of affairs, political and social, at the present time. May no shadow fall from any unseen cloud. May our legislators so discharge their high and honourable functions as best to promote the public weal. May we, while we seek to develop the spirit of enterprise which has ever distinguished this community be careful also to cherish that commercial integrity and public honour which have been no less its characteristic, and may we never, individually or collectively, forget our obligations to that Supreme Providence to whom we owe the prosperity for which we now rejoice.

Lord Carrington then presented the mace to the Speaker.

THE SPEAKER—Sergeant at Arms, I hand to your care the custody of this Mace, the symbol of the Speaker's authority in the House of Assembly of the Parliament of South Australia.

It is with feeling of justifiable pride that I accept this ornate Mace from Your Excellency. I say with pride, not only because the presentation has been made by so distinguished a person as yourself, but also because this day—commemorating as it does the inauguration of responsible government in South Australia a century ago—is indeed a memorable and historic occasion.

I extend to Your Excellency on behalf of the members of the House of Assembly our sincere thanks for your presence here today and for making this presentation. This assemblage is unique in the 100 years' history of the House of Assembly for it is, I believe, the very first occasion on which honourable members from another place and a considerable number of visitors have been provided with seating accommodation on the floor of the House.

We are also delighted to have with us this afternoon so many guests. Included amongst them are Lady George, wife of His Excellency the Governor of this State; the ladies respectively of members and guests; Sir Philip McBride, representing the Prime Minister; the President of the Senate; Mr. Clyde Cameron, representing the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives; Premiers, Presidents, Speakers and Leaders of the Opposition or their representatives; the Chief Justice and members of the judiciary; the Lord Mayor; my illustrious predecessor in office, Sir Robert Nicholls; former Premiers, former Ministers, former members of the South Australian Legis-

lature and many other distinguished guests. I give a very cordial welcome to all of you and trust that each one of us will, as a result of the celebrations, realize more fully the significance of responsible government.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not place on record our gratitude to the Premier and his Government for making this munificent gift possible. Their generosity and the expert craftsmanship of the manufacturers have produced a Mace which is a superb example of the silversmith's art. The adoption, *namine contradicente*, during last session of amendments to our Standing Orders relating to the use of a Mace in this Chamber is cogent testimony of members' endorsement and appreciation of the Government's action.

It is stimulating in this modern age to observe that there is still a trend towards rather than away from traditional symbolism. In 1951 the House of Representatives was given a Mace as a gift by direction of His Late Majesty, King George VI, the occasion being the Jubilee of the Commonwealth Parliament. In 1954 the Legislative Council of South Australia acquired a Black Rod for initial use in connection with the opening of Parliament by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II; and as recently as December, 1956, the House of Assembly in Tasmania accepted the gift of a mace from a prominent Tasmanian family, the occasion being the centenary of responsible government in that State.

The Mace just presented by His Excellency will, as His Excellency stated, always serve to remind us of the indissoluble link which we have with the Parliament at Westminster; and today we renew our gratitude to that Mother of Parliaments for bequeathing in the days of yore, to us, a freedom loving people, the boon of self-government and the great traditions associated with it. We rejoice in the fact that the strong pulse of that Mother of Parliaments still throbs and tingles to the far fingertips of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Although traditional in style, following in the main the features of the mace in use in the House of Commons, this Mace has devices and symbols featured on it which are typically South Australian. Rivalling in splendour the five stars of the Southern Cross, five magnificent opals adorn its crown, reminding us that South Australia, under the Southern Cross, is a gem of the British Crown. On each side of the head of the Mace appears the South Australian Coat of Arms granted by King Edward VIII, in December, 1936, on the occasion of the centenary of the foundation of this State.

The fleece of wool, the wheat and the fruit depicted on the Coat of Arms and also on the shaft and heel of the Mace symbolise, I suggest, the tremendous importance of our primary industries to the economy of this State.

There is much in the history of the evolution of the Mace to remind us of the development of our South Australian Parliamentary institution. Originally the Mace was one of the most primitive of weapons, being no more than a club or bludgeon. The famous Bayeux tapestry of the 11th Century depicts William of Normandy and his half brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, flourishing such a Mace. Eventually, it became a symbol of power and authority at Court and at proceedings of local government bodies. As it became less and less necessary to knock contumacious people on the head, the knop at "the business end" of the Mace became smaller and smaller, while the device on the other end, which signified its ownership and the authority of its owner, became larger and larger. So on present-day Maces, which are the symbol of royal authority or of authority derived from the sovereign, the crown is several times larger than the knop.

Similarly, in the development of our Parliamentary system from the arrival of Governor Hindmarsh on December 28, 1836, to the attainment of responsible government on April 22, 1857, the powers of the Council of Government of 1836, consisting of the Governor and four Crown appointed officials, diminished progressively while the power of the people increased proportionately. This transition took place in three stages. Firstly, an Imperial Act of 1842 provided for a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor and three official and four non-official members nominated by the Crown. Secondly, pursuant to Ordinance No. 1 of 1851, passed in accordance with an Imperial Act of 1850, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of eight nominated and 16 elected members. Thirdly, the Constitution Act, 1855-1856, marked the introduction of the bicameral system and responsible government, the centenary of which we are celebrating today. The aspirations of the people of this State and the long years of argument, debate and negotiation were at last crowned with the political coping stone whose sheet anchor was a Constitution in which the rights of the people, through their elected representatives and a Ministry responsible to Parliament, were paramount.

While the Mace is no longer a symbol of power and authority in the arbitrary sense,

its presence in this House will always remind us that the supreme legislative power resides in that trinity to which Your Excellency has referred—the Queen and the elected members of the people in Parliament assembled. In this respect may it also be in the words of a great Australian "The symbol of a free Parliament chosen by a free people making their laws freely and rendering to those laws a free and dignified obedience."

At the direction of the Speaker the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the Mace on the table of the House.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer)—I move:—

That a vote of thanks be recorded to the Right Honourable Lord Carrington for the very gracious service he has done to this House today in presenting the Mace.

Lord Carrington came here today at great personal inconvenience, and has done us a service willingly and magnificently. In presenting the Mace, His Excellency made it clear that he came, not as the representative of the United Kingdom Government, but as a Parliamentarian from Westminster. He is most welcome here to members from both sides of the House both as a representative of Westminster and as a representative of the United Kingdom Government, because we in this State have always felt the greatest affection for the Old Country. We have always honoured the great traditions of the Mother of Parliaments and felt a glow of kinship whenever we have heard of the remarkable deeds of the Mother Country.

Mr. O'HALLORAN (Leader of the Opposition)—It is a privilege and pleasure to second the motion, because it enables me to be associated in some small way with this historic occasion. I have not yet had time to study the evolution of the mace, but in the few moments I have had to examine the brochure recently presented to members I was struck by the statement that the mace as a weapon of war went out of use in England in the reign of Elizabeth I. So it comes to us today in the reign of Elizabeth II as a symbol of a Parliament which has always been conducted on peaceful lines, and, I pray, always will be.

It was a pleasure to listen to the excellent address by His Excellency in presenting the Mace to you, Mr. Speaker, and, if I may digress, it was also a pleasure to listen to your excellent reply to Lord Carrington. The Mace, as has been stated, is a symbol which is used

peculiarly and particularly, I understand, in the Parliaments of the British Commonwealth; and although the British Commonwealth is passing through difficult times, as it has in days of yore, I feel sure, looking at the symbol which is now a symbol of the peaceful enactment of law, rather than the enforcement of the law, that it will, as it has done in the past through the united efforts of its many people through their Parliaments, assist to make the British Commonwealth what it could and should be—the greatest force for peace and progress in the world today.

Motion carried.

Lord Carrington, and the President and members and officers of the Legislative Council, withdrew.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES.

The SPEAKER—It is a privilege for me to be able to announce that the British and Foreign Bible Society has generously given eight copies of the Holy Bible to the House of Assembly to be used for swearing in members of this Chamber. The society has been happy to make these Bibles available in recognition of the centenary of responsible government in South Australia, and they have been suitably inscribed to commemorate the occasion.

The presentation was made yesterday at a short ceremony in the Speaker's office. The Bible Society delegation consisted of the chairman of the Commonwealth Council of the Society (T. H. Elder, Esq.), the president of the South Australian Auxiliary (His Honour Sir Herbert Mayo) and the secretary in South Australia (The Rev. Leo. Buckman).

On behalf of the House of Assembly, I accepted this magnanimous gift and offered sincerest thanks to the society. In making public acknowledgment of this fine and fitting gesture, I desire to associate myself wholeheartedly with the wishes of the society that "each time the members are sworn on these Bibles, they will be reminded (to quote the Coronation service) that 'Here is the Royal Law. These are the Lively Oracles of God'."

CENTENARY CONGRATULATIONS.

The SPEAKER—I desire to read a message of congratulations from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, New South Wales (Hon. W. H. Lamb). It is as follows:—

Please accept congratulations and best wishes on completion of 100 years of responsible government, a momentous occasion in Australian history.

[*Sitting suspended from 2.46 till 3.25 p.m.*]

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive members at Government House at 3.30 p.m. for the presentation of the Address in Reply. I ask the mover and second and any other members who so desire to accompany me now to Government House.

At 3.26 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. On returning at 3.42 p.m.:

The SPEAKER—I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and second of the Address in Reply to the Governor's opening Speech and by other members, I proceeded to Government House and presented to His Excellency the Governor the Address adopted this day, to which His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply:—

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament today.

It will give me much pleasure to convey your expressions of profound thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for the message of congratulations on the occasion of the centenary of responsible government in South Australia, together with the reaffirmation of your loyalty to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty the Queen.

I join with you in the acknowledgment of gratitude to those pioneers who made possible responsible government in this State, and pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

PROROGATION.

At 3.45 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, at 2 p.m.

Honourable members rose in their places and sang the first verse of "God Save the Queen."