

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, July 23, 1953.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

(Continued from July 22. Page 108.)

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH (Central No. 1)—I support the motion, and compliment both the mover and seconder as well as other members who have contributed to this debate. I pay a tribute to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Condon, for his excellent address yesterday. He mentioned a variety of subjects and in closing recited the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. That prayer had a profound effect upon members of this Council and it should inculcate into the proceedings of Parliament that Christian attitude which all members hold and desire to see maintained. British Acts of Parliament are all designated with the letters AD (*Anno Domini*) following the year. That means in the year of our Lord, but for some unknown reason those letters have been omitted from our Parliamentary papers and Bills since we have had representative government in Australia. The Jewish people have their year, the Chinese theirs, and as we are a Christian people I would like to see the British practice adopted here. The wording of the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency conveyed all the noble thoughts of this House in relation to the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Leader of the Opposition has dealt with most of the subjects which concern the Opposition and I think, perhaps, it may not be inconvenient that I should make some few practical remarks upon the character of the British Constitution—upon that monarchy, limited by the co-ordinate authority of Estates of the Realm, which under the title of Queen, Lords and Commons, has contributed so greatly to the prosperity of the British Empire, and with the maintenance of which I believe that prosperity is bound up. The British Constitution is an unwritten one and the British Parliament from time to time meets the various exigencies that arise by legislative Acts. In Australia we have copied some other parts of the world and have a written Constitution.

Since the settlement of the British Constitution three centuries ago England has never experienced a revolution, though there is no country in which there has been such continuous and considerable change. That is because the wisdom of our forefathers in particular placed the prize of supreme power without the sphere of human passions. Whatever the struggles of the people have been, whatever the strife of factions, whatever the excitement and exaltation of the public mind, there has always been something in the British Commonwealth around which all classes and parties could rally, representing the majesty of the law, the administration of justice, and involving, at the same time, the security for every man's rights and the fountain of honour. Now, it is well clearly to comprehend what is meant by a country not having a revolution for nearly three centuries. There have been economic revolutions but not uprisings against Parliament with assassinations. It means, for that space, the unbroken exercise and enjoyment of the ingenuity of man. It means, for that space, the continuous application of the discoveries of science to his comfort and convenience. It means the elevation of labour and the unwearied improvement of the cultivation of the land, which has extracted from a somewhat churlish soil harvests more exuberant than those furnished by other lands. All these things have been achieved and are continued by our British system of Government with its Parliament and its Monarch. It means the continuing Parliamentary order which is the only parent of personal liberty and political right, and we owe all this to the British Crown. I have expressed my views in this way because it has been said that members of the Labor Party are not as loyal as other sections of the community. I do not say this to provoke anger, but I say quite candidly that members of the Australian Labor Party are just as desirous and just as keen to maintain our British system of Government and our Australian way of life as any other member of the community.

I pay a tribute to the manner in which His Excellency opened Parliament and I join with other members in conveying my felicitations to him and expressing the wish that he will be long spared to represent the British Crown in South Australia and to be as closely associated with its people as many of his worthy predecessors have.

The present Government lays claim to be the author, architect and builder of quite a number of the vast public works. One paragraph of

His Excellency's Speech refers to the establishment of the Nairne pyrites undertaking, but I think that the leaders of the Government should be fair with Parliament and admit that that project could not have been successfully undertaken but for the unanimous report and recommendation submitted by the Industries Development Committee. This project was submitted to the Government recommending that the company be loaned £800,000 for the work. Two superphosphate companies were vitally interested, as well as another large organization for which I have the highest regard. Members of the committee gave their time and much thought to the proposal and had before them all the material witnesses and gathered all the technical advice possible and it was their recommendation that made the start of this work possible, so I say that the Government should be fair and give credit to the committee, instead of accepting unto itself all the plaudits of the populous.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Whose brain wave was it?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I doubt whether it was the Government's.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—It certainly was not the committee's.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The Government realized that it was impossible to continue the importation of all the component parts of superphosphate and they were charged by the users of that commodity to see that there was sufficient, so it is not a question of anyone's brain wave but of the Government carrying out a task for which it was elected by the people.

I quite agree with the comments in His Excellency's speech concerning the difficult task confronting the Education Department. Education has become one of our greatest problems as it requires a vast amount of money to build schools and educate and pay teachers, and so forth. I know all these things are necessary, but I pay a tribute also to the private schools for the work they have done and are doing, because if all private schools closed their doors tomorrow the Government would not be in a position to educate those children as required by the Education Act. School committees and parents' organizations associated with Government schools, by a great amount of voluntary work and organization, raise funds for buying school equipment and the Government subsidizes the amount raised on a pound for pound basis. This is a

very laudable object, but similar organizations working for private schools receive no subsidy, and I think this is a question that the Government might well examine with a view to putting them on the same basis, because these private schools are, in some cases, doing even greater work in teaching their students and equipment is just as necessary for them.

I see no reference in His Excellency's speech to our university and I wish to express my appreciation of the manner in which it is conducted. The Commonwealth Government, no matter what its political complexion is, has devised a plan whereby £250,000 is distributed amongst the universities of Australia. I have read reports in the press of the wondrous work in this connection being done by the Commonwealth Government, but the people are not told that it is the main tax collector. The Commonwealth Government, through uniform taxation, is the only Government which can tax for this particular purpose. Since 1951 the Commonwealth acknowledged its obligations to universities, being the main tax-gatherer, and last year about £250,000 of overall taxation was allocated to universities throughout the Commonwealth. Our education system requires that children shall go through the primary and high schools and obtain their leaving certificate before entering the University. The same consideration as regards finance should be given to all universities in the Commonwealth, and particularly to our University. If students receive their early training and qualify at the University it is incumbent on the University to make them qualified for the various professions they enter. The fees received by our University, as well as other universities, could be raised another 50 per cent or even 100 per cent—I think they have been raised in Victoria and are to be raised in New South Wales—but even that would not provide sufficient to enable the University to carry on. It is a responsibility, not so much of this State's Government, as of the Commonwealth Government.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—No Government has ever done so much for Adelaide University as this Government has done. I mentioned that last year.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It is an overall Commonwealth matter, and the South Australian Government should make an urgent request to the Commonwealth to see that the Adelaide University is not kept in penury.

It is pleasing to note that the nurses' home at the new Western Districts Hospital is to be used

temporarily as a maternity hospital. Members of Central District No. 1 and other members have, for a number of years, been urging the Government to provide facilities in this direction. I know that the Government has had difficulties and experienced shortages of materials, but it is pleasing to note that rapid progress has been made with the construction of that hospital and I trust that it will be occupied at an early date. I have the greatest admiration for the Hospitals Department and those who control it. They have difficult problems to contend with and the department is a most difficult one to administer. Our hospitals are closer to the people than any public institution in Australia. Great credit is due to the honorary doctors and medical profession and to permanent members of the hospital staff, both medical and otherwise, who carry out the necessary work for the community. I also pay a tribute to the Director-General of Medical Services down to the lowest paid officer in the department.

Mr. Rowe referred yesterday to Labor's policy on electoral reform. Although not saying so directly, he implied that Labor wished to denude the country of representation and place the major portion of Parliamentary representation in the hands of members from the metropolitan area. I point out that 61 per cent of South Australian electors residing in the metropolitan area return 13 members to the House of Assembly, while 39 per cent residing outside the metropolitan area return 26. That is inequitable representation and cannot be justified under any circumstances.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—Do you apply that argument to the Senate?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The Senate is on a different basis. If the Federal electoral system had been adopted for the last State elections and the State viewed as one electorate, the Chief Secretary would not have been sitting here as Minister because his Government would not have been in power.

The Hon. A. L. McEwin—There are six electorates in the Senate.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—No, there are six Federal divisions, but the vote is taken on an overall basis for one electorate. In the State elections in March the average aggregate overall voting figures were Labor 163,000 and L.C.L. 112,000. Notwithstanding that, Labor obtained only 14 seats out of a total of 39.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—How many votes did the leader of the Labor Party get?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—How many votes did the leader of the L.C.L. get in Central District No. 2? In the last Senate elections, a few months after, Labor was 30,000 votes ahead of the Liberals, which easily gave Labor the majority of members in the Senate for this State. The answer is that the Senate has not been gerrymandered. That is definite proof of the present state of the L.C.L. as a minority Government and shows that it is not supported by the majority of South Australian electors. The figures can be obtained from the Electoral Department. I suggest that South Australia's electoral set-up is the worst in the British Empire and if continued will certainly lead to a political dictatorship. The building up of our Parliamentary institutions is linked with the Monarchy and unless we give the people, for whom Parliament was created, the right to return the members they want, we will deprive them of their democratic privileges. My arguments are not against country members, but the country was better served by the Curtin and Chifley Governments which enabled them to receive better prices for their produce.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Who produced those prices?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—While the honourable member slept the wool grew on the sheep's back. Those who produce wheat, barley, butter, cream and other essentials which constitute the major part of our primary production are the people the Federal Labor Party protected.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—And they are the people you want to take the vote from?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I do not. I want them to have all their rights and to afford them all possible protection, but I do not want a Government to remain in office by virtue of pandering to the primary producer. Labor's policy has always given them adequate protection and that cannot be gainsaid. During the war Mr. Cudmore had to support controls which were necessary for a more equitable distribution of the needs of Australia. Those controls were introduced and exercised by Labor Governments, but who will say they were not exercised fairly?

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Do you realize that every member of the Labor Party, including Mr. Curtin, voted against the National Security Act?

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—The honourable member is a legally trained man and makes an all-embracing statement.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—It is a fact.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—It is only half a fact. The Hon. John Curtin pointed out to the then Prime Minister and the then Attorney-General that there were certain provisions in that Act to which his Party could not agree. History records that the Prime Minister with the Attorney-General partly remoulded the Act on the advice of Mr. Curtin. I suggest that Mr. Cudmore read a book by the Hon. P. M. C. Hasluck, M.H.R., in which he eulogizes Mr. Curtin's activities and reports on the conferences between him and the then Prime Minister. This Government, in order to preserve the gerrymander, has crowded industries into the metropolitan area. It does not believe in a policy of decentralization nor in extending industries to the country areas. It has been left to private enterprise to establish factories in country areas. There are clothing factories at Gawler and other works have been established by private enterprise at Murray Bridge. What little decentralization has taken place can be attributed not to the Government, but to private enterprise.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Whyalla is a good illustration.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Yes. That was not established by this Government but under the auspices of a Federal Labor Government for war purposes. It has since developed into an industry unsurpassed in any part of the British Empire. Government members should review the circumstances surrounding this problem but not through politically-coloured spectacles. The development of Australia demands the expansion of our rural activities. Recently, I travelled through the Burra district and noticed many desolated farms where homes were being dismantled. This Government has made no effort to arrest that. Britain and other countries are crying out for food and I agree with Mr. Jude that more people should be placed on the land.

The Hon. N. L. Jude—Upon small holdings.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—I congratulate him for seeing the light of Labor's policy in that regard. Labor has always supported the breaking up of great land trusts and combines which exist to the detriment of the small holder. No less than 20 or 30 small farms around Burra are in a state of desolation. I do not know why people have left them, there may be many reasons, but there is no policy to rectify the position and secure the future. Mr. Cudmore interjected that the Curtin Government voted against the National

Security Act, but Mr. Curtin brought himself to an early grave by doing all he could to marshal the resources of this nation to maintain our way of life.

Mr. C. R. Cudmore—He brought himself to an early grave by having to do what he was told by the Trades Hall.

The Hon. K. E. J. BARDOLPH—Members of the trade union movement not only played their part in the armed forces, but worked round the clock in industry to provide the necessary equipment for war. It ill-behoves Mr. Cudmore to cast aspersions on the members of that great movement. I would remind him that palaces, baronial castles, great halls and stately mansions do not make a nation. The nation in every country dwells in the cottage; and unless the light of our Constitution can shine there, unless the beauty of our legislation and the excellence of our statesmanship are impressed there on the feelings and condition of the people, rely upon it that the L.C.L. Government has yet to learn the duties of government. In Australia we have built a great tradition and the Premier could tell us what people in other parts of the world think of Australians and of the great trade union movement and the tasks that have been surmounted and the victories won by it in the battle to maintain democracy. I hope the Government will consider the points I have raised. There will be an opportunity to discuss them in detail when various Bills are introduced. It is the responsibility of the Government, fresh back from the elections, to see that the excellence of the work done by Parliament is impressed upon the people in order to maintain the worthiness of our Parliamentary institutions.

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD (Central No. 2)—First, I desire to congratulate sincerely the mover and seconder of this motion which I support. Both Mr. Jude and Mr. Anthoney expressed themselves in a manner well-fitted and suited to the importance of the motion and to the high traditions of this Chamber. All members who have spoken contributed very substantially to the value of the debate and I particularly refer to Mr. Condon's speech. His Excellency the Governor and Lady George came amongst us on the very great occasion of the first day of the first session of Parliament after the Coronation of our Gracious Queen and we extend to them a warm and respectful welcome. During the year that lies before us we are anticipating the singular honour of seeing Her Majesty the

Queen and declaring our loyalty when she confers upon us the distinction of visiting our land. This will be the first occasion in the history of our country that a reigning monarch has elected to visit us, and nothing is more certain than that everyone will be delighted to show their appreciation of the opportunity of expressing their loyalty and joy and to wish Her Majesty a long and happy reign.

It was indeed cheering that the Governor was able to refer to the prosperity that had been enjoyed by both primary and secondary industries as evidenced by the very low degree of unemployment. I think Mr. Jude very satisfactorily expressed the views and thoughts of all of us when he referred to the benefits we have been privileged to enjoy by reason of the unflagging energy and enthusiasms of our Premier. No South Australian audience need be reminded of what we owe to him; it is not possible to estimate our obligation but the progress and security of the State in which we live are the measure of our debt. During his recent absence on the other side of the world our colleague, the Chief Secretary, has had a very heavy burden to carry, but he discharged all the duties of his various offices as well as that of Acting Premier in a manner that has evoked not only our own appreciation but the admiration also of all South Australians. His Excellency informed us that an amendment of the Constitution would be submitted to increase the number of Ministers of the Crown to eight. This, I am sure, occasions no surprise, for the duties and details of administration must have increased tremendously in recent years and the burdens of office has made ever-growing demands on the holder.

Earlier speakers have referred to the settlement of lands throughout the State as proceeding upon satisfactory lines and therefore it is unnecessary for me to deal with this further except that I should like to express the appreciation that all members feel for the work being done on Kangaroo Island. Last summer the opportunity was afforded us to see for ourselves the development that has already taken place there. The problem confronting the island and its settlers is by no means a simple one, but it appears as though there is no doubt of its eventual success. Another inspection of great interest to members of both Houses was that which marked the completion of the broadening of the railway to Mount Gambier and all members will have been pleased to note that the Commonwealth has authorized the broadening of the whole

of the South-Eastern system. This work is to be proceeded with as soon as possible. It is very satisfactory to note also that steps are proceeding apace for the improvement of the metropolitan water supply. With the rapid growth of the population of the capital and the great expansion of secondary industries the knowledge that the Mannum-Adelaide water main has been given priority is both cheering and reassuring. In country districts also provision is being made for permanent water supplies so that in the not distant future a degree of comfort and security can be envisaged and some of the risks of drought greatly reduced.

Mr. Bardolph referred to the production of pyrites at Nairne, a subject on which Mr. Melrose gave an interesting address last year. He then told us that the present needs of Australia are about 260,000 tons of sulphur annually, of which only some 85,000 tons are produced within the Commonwealth. The sulphur is required for making the acid with which phosphatic rock is treated. This rock is found mainly in three islands in the Pacific controlled by the British Phosphates Commission. In its natural form tricalcic phosphatic rock is almost insoluble in water, or at any rate so very slowly soluble that until it has been treated with sulphuric acid, which makes it a soluble chemical, it is not available to a very advantageous degree to the plants that feed upon it. When our country was at war with Japan, and thus denied access to supplies of phosphatic rock in the Pacific, our farmers were hard put to it and it was therefore with pleasure that we learnt that the works at Nairne are progressing rapidly and that by 1955 the output from that source, together with the acid from the waste smelter gases at Port Pirie, may be expected to supply the needs of the superphosphate industry for many years.

After the controversies that have arisen at various times regarding the benefits of bulk handling of wheat we were all, I am sure, very grateful to Mr. Rowe yesterday for the interesting figures he gave us regarding bulk handling. I had been inclined to think that the arguments had favoured the bagging of grain under the special conditions which seemed to rule in South Australia, and so much has been said and written on the matter that it will be watched now with more than ordinary interest. One could refer to many of the issues mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, but it is not possible, nor by any means desirable, that any member should attempt to handle

even a proportion of the important subjects enumerated. However, there is one to which I would like to refer, for it is something which always seems to appeal to South Australians, namely our afforestation and timber milling operations. Besides the ever-expanding forestry plantations of private enterprise South Australia now possesses an area dedicated to forest reserves, as at June 30, 1952, of 258,000 acres. The total softwood yield from State forest plantations amounted to the record total of practically 136,000,000 super feet measured in the round, and it is very interesting to note that 83 per cent of this total was radiata pine. The total loan payments and receipts reached record proportions, the figures being £984,000 and £889,000 respectively.

The report of the Woods and Forests Department for 1951-2 is, I think, now in the hands of the printer and we might expect to have it at a not very far distant date. I had hoped that it might be finished a little more quickly, but when one realizes the maze of statistics and details that have to be collected before the finished report is ready I am not surprised that it is not furnished earlier. It seems to me, however, that we might sometimes expect to receive it a little less than 12 months late. The year before we had copies in our hands before the House went into recess at Christmas. I greatly appreciate the excellent work that is being done in afforestation in South Australia. When one considers our large area of varying rainfall land and, in many cases, the quality of the soil which is available and which can be used for very few other purposes, it must be realized that we have obtained wonderful results from growing trees and that South Australia has achieved much to be proud of.

Since the latest report our forests have not experienced any serious fires. A year or so ago in one or two cases our forests suffered considerable damage and loss. Fires cause continuous apprehension in the minds of foresters. Their outbreaks are being more carefully studied every year and they are being constantly reduced by the establishment of watch towers and the general care exercised. I think we can confidently expect further progress and improvement in our forests. The establishment of a saw mill at Mount Gambier has been approved by the Government and has been designed to deal with approximately 35,000,000 super feet of log timber a year.

It is most interesting to learn that a Bill dealing with road traffic may be introduced this session. The control of traffic is engaging the attention of communities in most parts of the world. The development of the internal combustion engine, the almost universal ownership of motor cars—practically every family seems to own a car—and the congested traffic on our roads has added to the risk of accident and I presume that any new road traffic legislation will deal with this. Some accidents, however, appear to be inevitable. Travelling into the city in the mornings I am astonished at the way in which street after street has cars ranked right up to the footpath and it is most difficult to find a place to get through, either from the centre outwards or from the outside to the centre. I am amazed at the space that is taken up by the cars. If a motorist divides the gap with another motorist he will realize that, even in the widest streets of Adelaide, which are regarded as most desirable and advantageous, they simply will not accommodate the traffic. Those who have seen and travelled along the autobahns and special roads made in Central Europe—and to a considerable extent their counterparts in the United States and Canada—must realize the enormous expenditure that has been incurred. I appreciate that we want something like this, although it is a very expensive way of dealing with the problem. In Australia we are far removed from the density of population, yet we are faced with transport problems which demand most careful attention. Doubtless, when the Bill reaches this House many opinions will be expressed. Such legislation will undoubtedly be an improvement and most necessary.

The Hon. S. C. Bevan—Isn't that all one-way traffic?

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—In America and Canada there are frequently four sections of road, the two centre ones being for high speed traffic and the two outside ones for low speed. In some of the Central European countries roads are built for fast traffic only and when motorists come to railway lines they find that the roadway, as a rule, goes overhead. That has reduced railway accidents to a minimum.

The Hon. C. R. Cudmore—Do you think that if lanes were painted in King William Street we could educate people to keep to their own side?

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—I think so.

The Hon. F. J. Condon—What is your opinion about limiting the speed of vehicles to 30 miles an hour?

The Hon. Sir WALLACE SANDFORD—I shall deal with that matter when the Bill comes before this House. In conclusion, I think that His Excellency's speech was an excellent one. It showed the progress and achievement which

has been made in South Australia and the Government has every reason to be pleased with our development.

The Hon. J. L. S. BICE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.10 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, July 28, at 2 p.m.