

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT (1957)

Parliament, which adjourned on February 13, 1957, was prorogued by proclamation dated February 28. By proclamation dated March 28 it was summoned to meet on Wednesday, April 24, and the Second Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, April 24, 1957.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Walter Duncan) took the Chair at 11 a.m.

The Clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert George) summoning the second session of the Thirty-Fifth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and the members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to the summons of the Governor, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

We have gathered here this morning to celebrate the centenary of responsible government in South Australia. In opening this session, my first duty—and it is one which I perform with very great pleasure indeed—is to read to you a message which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has been graciously pleased to send, with an express request that it be read to you today in Parliament.

The message is as follows:—

“Today on this notable occasion when Members of Parliament of South Australia are assembled in special session in celebrat-

ing the centenary of the grant of responsible government to South Australia I send My warm congratulations on your achievements and My earnest hope that success will crown your work in furthering the progress and prosperity of the people of the State.

I have most happy memories of the sincere and cordial welcome with which you received Me when, on March 23, 1954, it was My privilege to open a session of your Parliament.

I pray the blessing of Almighty God will rest upon your counsel in years to come.

ELIZABETH R.”

I know that every member of this Parliament will be most gratified and encouraged by this thoughtful and inspiring message from Her Majesty.

It was on April 22, 1857—just over one hundred years ago—that the first fully elective Parliament of South Australia was opened by Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell. Some twenty years had then elapsed since the first settlers arrived in Holdfast Bay. But the promise of self-government had been freely given many years before. The Imperial Act of 1834, which provided for the foundation of South Australia, empowered His Majesty King William IV to grant self-government as soon as the Colony should have a population of 50,000 souls. By 1849 this condition was fulfilled. In the following year the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed the Australian Colonies Government Act authorizing the establishment in South Australia of a representative Parliament of two Houses, which should have sovereign powers to legislate for the peace, welfare and good government of the Colony.

The duty of working out the form of the new Constitution was entrusted to a local Legislative Council in which elected members had a controlling majority. The Council performed its task, not without difficulties, but with notable success. It framed the Constitution laying down the fundamental rules under which this State is governed today—a Constitution embodying the spirit and traditions of Westminster with modifications required to meet local circumstances.

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. Of necessity, it imposes restraints on governmental action; but it is, nevertheless, consistent with efficiency. In this State, through all the great developments of the past hundred years, it has not been found wanting. In that century our population has grown from 100,000 to nearly 900,000; our agricultural, pastoral and irrigation settlements have spread widely through vast areas of virgin land; secondary industries supplying markets throughout the Commonwealth and in overseas countries have been established; great systems of roads, railways, communications and water-works have been constructed; schools, hospitals and law courts have been built; social services have been created or expanded to meet the needs of citizens in every part of the State. These great undertakings have added enormously to the responsibilities and work of legislators and administrators; but, through all the difficulties, our system of responsible government has provided an adequate instrument both for the decision of policy, and for carrying decisions into practical effect. In the catastrophic wars which the British people have had to fight for freedom and survival, the Parliamentary system has not failed to meet the demand for strong and courageous action, and at the same time to maintain the liberty of the subject and the rule of law.

And although the growth of responsible government among British people has affected the exercise of royal powers, the prestige of the monarchy stands as high as ever before in our history, and our loyalty towards the Sovereign remains steadfast and undiminished. My Ministers are proud to claim that in no part

of the world does Her Majesty enjoy a greater measure of esteem and affection than in this State.

The Government believes that the celebrations of today will recall to our minds the remarkable achievements of our predecessors, and their sterling qualities of courage, vision and energy. By these they have built up this happy and prosperous State. It remains for us to carry on, in the same spirit, the work so well begun.

I declare this session open and I trust that now and in the years to come Divine Providence will guide your deliberations in the interests of the welfare of the State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber and the members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT—I have to inform the Council that the British and Foreign Bible Society has graciously presented five volumes of the Holy Scriptures to the Legislative Council to commemorate the Centenary of Responsible Government in South Australia. The presentation was made yesterday on behalf of the society by the Hon. Sir Herbert Mayo, President of the S.A. Branch, T. H. Elder, Esq., Chairman of the Commonwealth Committee, and the Rev. Leo Buckman, Secretary of the S.A. Branch. I have thanked the representatives of the society on behalf of the Council and asked them to convey to their members the sincere appreciation of the Council for the handsome presentation. The volumes will be used by members when taking the "Oath of Allegiance."

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE.

The PRESIDENT—I wish to announce that this morning I received a telegram from the Hon. W. E. Dickson, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, as follows:—

The President, members and officers of the New South Wales Legislative Council send their greetings and best wishes on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of responsible government in South Australia.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The following sessional committees were appointed on the motion of the Hon. C. D. Rowe:—

Standing Orders.—The Hons. Sir Walter Duncan, Sir Lyell McEwin, F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore and A. J. Melrose.

Library.—The Hons. Sir Walter Duncan, K. E. J. Bardolph, J. L. S. Bice and Sir Arthur Rymill.

Printing.—The Hons. S. C. Bevan, J. Cowan, A. J. Shard, C. R. Story and R. R. Wilson.

Later a message was received from the House of Assembly notifying the appointment of Sessional Committees.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The President, having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. C. D. Rowe (Attorney-General) moved:—

That a committee consisting of the Hons. F. J. Condon, C. R. Cudmore and the Attorney-General be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor.

Motion carried.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor:—

May it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the Members of the Legislative Council, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session of Parliament, on the occasion of the centenary of responsible government in South Australia.

2. We are profoundly grateful to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth for her courteous message of congratulation, and desire Your Excellency to express to Her Majesty our affectionate loyalty and warmest thanks.

3. We sincerely trust that under the beneficial system of responsible government our citizens may long continue to enjoy their British heritage of freedom and justice.

4. We acknowledge with gratitude our debt to the founders and pioneers of this State who, by their vision and enterprise, made possible the progress we enjoy today.

5. We join with Your Excellency in praying for Divine Blessing on this Parliament in years to come.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General)—I rise to move the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency has been pleased to open this special session of the Thirty-fifth Parliament of South Australia called for the express purpose of celebrating the centenary of responsible government in this State. The events which led to the establishment of self-government here were remarkable. They found their birth in the mind of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, a convict at Newgate prison in England, and the idea first saw the light of day—if that is the correct term—at 2 o'clock on the morning of July 23, 1834, when a private member, Mr. Whitmore, moved in a thin House of Commons the second reading of the South Australian Colonization Bill. Its preamble recited that the territory consisted of

vacant and unoccupied land which was supposed to be fit for the purpose of habitation, and a Mr. Baring, one of the few speakers on the Bill, speaking in Committee, "doubted whether there would be found any individual who would be so great a fool as to lay out the necessary sum of money required to establish himself in a community of kangaroos." However, there were people who were looking for opportunities in this land, and 546 of them were in this colony on December 28, 1836, when it was proclaimed a colony by Governor Hindmarsh.

The important point about the Proclamation Bill was that it provided that the colony was to have self-government when the population reached 50,000, and immediately that requirement had been fulfilled the pioneers set about the serious business of preparing for themselves a Constitution which would give them the self-government they desired. As mentioned by His Excellency, in 1851 an enabling Act was passed by the legislature in Great Britain giving us the powers we needed in that connection. This was sent out to Australia on the ship *Ascendant*. When it arrived here the proper authorities from this State went down to it and introduced themselves to the captain, but when they asked to be given the enabling Act they were promptly informed that he knew nothing about it. It was subsequently discovered by a laundress in a dirty linen bag, having been entrusted in Great Britain to a steward in the absence of the captain, and the steward promptly forgot about it.

At the same time as the colonists were getting their legislation drawn they were also putting their ideas into a more tangible form, and authorized the construction of what we now know as the old Legislative Council building. It is rather interesting that the contract was let on a cost-plus basis because no contractor at that stage would agree to sign a firm contract at a time when the population was moving to Victoria in connection with the gold rush there. It was completed at a cost of approximately £17,000, and was opened on November 1, 1855, by the Governor, Sir Richard MacDonnell.

On October 24 in the following year, at a Cabinet council meeting in Buckingham Palace, Queen Victoria assented to the Act providing for the Constitution of the State of South Australia. That is the Act that gave us our self government and provided for the establishment of the first fully elective Parliament in this State, the centenary of which we celebrate today. The first elections for the new Parliament were held on March 9, 1857. So much

importance was attached to the event that it was proclaimed a public holiday. There were no speeches on the hustings, voting was by ballot, and no votes were counted until the ballot was completed, which was a new provision in those days.

The first Parliament was called together at one o'clock on Wednesday, April 22, 1857, in the old Legislative Council Chamber. The first President was Sir James Hurtle Fisher, who had been the first Colonial Commissioner in this State, and the first Speaker was the Hon. Sir George Strickland Kingston, the Deputy Surveyor-General under Colonel Light. Members were sworn in at one o'clock, and at 3.20 p.m. on that day—100 years ago to the day from today—His Excellency the Governor, Sir Richard MacDonnell, arrived on horseback at the front of the old Legislative Council building and, in the presence of about 1,000 spectators, declared open the first session of the first Parliament. It is significant that that first Parliament was declared open in the 21st year after the establishment of the colony; that is to say, in the same year as the colony obtained its majority it also obtained responsible government. Those 21 years represented a period of unparalleled progress in the history of this State; the population in that period increased from 546 to 109,000 people.

The first session of the new parliament was a lively and contentious one, which was a foretaste of things to come, because in the first 21 years of responsible government there were 25 separate ministries. The most important Act passed during the first session is what we now know as the Real Property Act. This was moved by the Treasurer, the Hon. Sir Robert R. Torrens, and it has set the pattern for all land transfer systems in this and many other countries. Another Bill then passed provided for the raising of £73,000 to build a railway to Gawler. As a matter of interest, I point out that the Bill that created one of the most controversial debates in that session was for an Act to amend the Marriage Act to provide that a man could marry his deceased wife's sister. This measure succeeded in getting through the second reading only on the casting vote of the President, who voted in favour of the Bill when normally one would have expected him to vote against it, and after the Commissioner of Public Works, who had introduced the Bill, voted against it. In some respects it became a tradition in this House.

Right from the time of that first Parliament, which was noted for its energetic and pains-

taking approach to its work—40 Bills were introduced, 20 of which were passed—this Parliament has kept very strictly to the forms and procedures of the Mother of Parliaments and through the century has earned for itself a reputation for its ability to conduct its affairs with ability and decorum and to discharge its duties with advantage to its citizens and credit to itself. Such was its success in that direction that it was no accident—indeed it was a unique compliment—that when the Commonwealth Parliament was formed it chose as its first Speaker the Hon. Sir Frederick Holder, a former Premier of this State, as its first President of the Senate the Hon. Sir Richard Baker, a former President of this Council, and as its first Clerk of Parliaments that prince of authorities on Parliamentary procedure, Mr. E. G. Blackmore, who had formerly been a Clerk of this Parliament.

As I consider all these matters and as I survey the work that has been done by this Parliament and its institution, I feel that four facts are outstanding. These are:—

Firstly, that the affection and loyalty of the people of this State for the person and throne of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has never been higher, and that the opening of Parliament by Her Majesty in person in this Chamber on March 23, 1954 was a day of singular significance in the State's Constitutional history, and for those of us who were privileged to be present, the event was the most outstanding and thrilling experience of a lifetime.

Secondly, that the institution of responsible Parliamentary government was never so well rooted in the opinions and in the feelings of the people of this State, it having secured and preserved for them through all the vicissitudes of fortune those basic rights and privileges of freedom, justice and liberty without which the superstructure of a healthy, contented and prosperous people cannot exist.

Thirdly, that responsible Parliamentary government is an affair of the heart as of the head. It is something that cannot live if it has to depend solely upon a written Constitution for its support. It will be the tragedy of our history if what began in the minds of the pioneers and the founders of this State as a noble ideal, a splendid adventure, an enduring vision giving courage, determination and foresight for the future should end up in our hands as a corpse under the knives of constitutional lawyers.

Fourthly, that although circumstances have changed, and although the situation as we see

it today is different in almost every respect from what it was 100 years ago, whether approached from an economic or a social, political, national or an international point of view, there is one respect in which it is the same—for our pioneers as for us—the future is a closed book. The only certain thing that we know about it is its uncertainty, and in those circumstances, if we can meet the challenge of the future with the courage, determination, foresight and application to duty of the pioneers we shall not fail in the trust and the responsibility that has been reposed in us, nor shall we pray in vain the prayer with which every day the proceedings of this Council are opened: “that God will direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of His glory and to the continued welfare of this State.”

Mr. President, with a deep sense of the responsibility of this occasion, I move the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. F. J. CONDON (Leader of the Opposition)—It is with a great deal of pleasure that I second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply in this our centenary year. The message from Her Majesty the Queen extending her congratulations on this notable occasion is most gratifying, and we greatly appreciate the wonderful sentiments expressed. A paragraph in His Excellency the Governor's Speech mentioned that the prestige of the monarchy stands as high as ever before in our history and the loyalty towards the sovereign remains steadfast and undiminished. On behalf of the Opposition I add to the sentiments which were expressed, that we are all proud to claim that in no part of the world has Her Majesty a greater measure of esteem and affection than in this State. I am reminded that when I entered this Chamber a third of a century ago it was then my duty to second the Address in Reply under different circumstances from today.

His Excellency's Speech was short, but covered a great deal of ground in showing the wonderful progress that this State has made. His Excellency said:—

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.

During the last century legislation has been placed on our Statute Book that is of great benefit to the community, and we have much to thank the members of the legislature who have preceded us. Whilst not desiring to detract

from the able administration and good work of all the Governments and legislators, may I be permitted to refer to the wonderful part that the trade union movement has played in building up this great State of ours. Although South Australian legislation may be lacking industrially in some respects compared with other States, we all claim that we have made good and splendid progress without any serious upheavals. I trust that the good fellowship that exists will long continue and that we will have nothing to complain about in the future. Our present standards were built up by great organizations that fought to improve the standard of living, with reasonable hours and fair conditions for everyone. The courts lay down a basic wage, working conditions, and margins which are built up according to skill and responsibility, and even the highest person in our land receives the benefit. This has all been achieved by constitutional government and legislation, and the pioneers of our legislation should never be forgotten. I am not unmindful of the wonderful part that the captains of industry have played. Manufacturers, primary producers and transport authorities have all played their part to make this State what it is today. I am also not unmindful that church organizations, by teaching the Christian spirit, have achieved wonders in South Australia, and I commend them for their splendid work.

Her Majesty's Opposition has played a very important part constitutionally in building up this State's progress, and to those members with whom I have been associated over a number of years I express my deepest thanks. I cannot go back more than a half a century when I first used my franchise, but I look with pride upon the wonderful progress that has been made. We have achieved a lot in this State during the last quarter of a century. I remember that when the Millbrook Reservoir was constructed it was said that we would not need another reservoir in the metropolitan area for 30 years, but only a few short years afterwards we constructed Mount Bold.

What a wonderful thing the Morgan to Whyalla pipeline has been. In 1924 I was sitting alongside the late Mr. John Fitzgerald, the member for Port Pirie, when he advocated connecting the River Murray by pipeline to the northern towns, including Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla and further on. Some members said at that time that he ought to be in a mental home. Let us have a look today at what that has meant to the progress of this State. I remember not very long ago when the

Leigh Creek coalfield was opened. On one occasion the Public Works Standing Committee visited that field. All it could see was a shaft, a windlass, and on the end of a rope a bucket of coal which was hauled to the surface for members to look at, but consider Leigh Creek today. These are matters we can all be well proud of, and I think a great deal has been accomplished. One could go on to refer to the Uley-Wanilla water scheme on Eyre Peninsula, the great expansion of our hospital services and the wonderful progress in many other directions.

That we have achieved the centenary of responsible government in South Australia has been made possible only by the work of legislators with the assistance of various organizations and institutions and, not least, of their women-folk. Where would any member of Parliament be today if it were not for the assistance he has received from his wife in carrying out his public duties? Women have played an important part and made many sacrifices in helping their partners to achieve something in the interests of the State. I take off my hat to the women who have done so much to make South Australia what it is today.

In the second session of the 28th Parliament in 1934 a Bill was passed for an Act to provide for the completion of Parliament House. The only Minister at that time in the Cabinet who still has a portfolio today is Sir Malcolm McIntosh, and there are few members left—four in this Council—you, Sir, and Sir Lyell McEwin and Hons. E. Anthony and C. R. Cudmore. In the House of Assembly at that time were Hon. Thomas Playford, Hon. Malcolm McIntosh, and Mr. Frank Perry, all since honoured with Knighthoods, and Messrs. Anthony, Melrose, Pattinson, Riches, Shannon, Stephens and Stott, showing how time marches on.

The presence here today of representatives of other Australian Parliaments is a symbol of the unity of Australia. At no time has there been more harmony and co-operation between Australian Parliaments. All stand for the basic principles of government by Parliament in accordance with enlightened public feeling, equality before the law and social justice. In a changing world, with problems arising and unforeseen events happening every day, our Parliamentary institutions have stood firm and have survived shocks which have destroyed the liberty of many other nations. May I repeat what I said in June, 1939, when this Legislative Council building was opened by the then Governor-General. I expressed the

hope that democratic views would so prevail in the deliberations of those elected to sit in this great hall that the legislation emanating from it would confer lasting benefits on the people of South Australia. This building was made possible by the munificence of Sir Langdon Bonython who played a very important part in the history of South Australia. To whatever section of political thought one may belong one would be less than human if one failed to express publicly appreciation of his generosity.

Many ex-members of Parliament who attended the opening ceremony this morning must feel very proud of the part they have played in the progress of the State, and it is a source of gratitude to me to know that they have been spared to be present on this important occasion. One hundred years is but a short space of time and, knowing the progress that has been made in that time, we honour those who have gone before us. Looking around this Chamber I see members who are carrying on the traditions of those who had the honour to legislate in the past, and the principles that they supported. I express the hope that our absent friends who are living, as well as those who have gone beyond, will never be forgotten.

You, Sir, have occupied the high office of President since 1944. You were elected to the Legislative Council on April 6, 1918, 39 years ago, and your service is a feat to be proud of. You have always maintained the dignity of this Council: you have always been fair and impartial, and it has been a pleasure to sit under your presidency. Mr. Anthony has served this State as a legislator for one-third of a century, which is a long time to be working in the interests of the public. He has been in the Legislative Council for 16 years and he served in another place for 17, a total of 33 years. My friend, and many others here, are 90 per cent wrong because they never agree with me, but that does not prevent my paying them a compliment on the valuable services rendered to the State. I come now to my friend the Hon. C. R. Cudmore, who has had 25 years service in this Chamber. He is very alert, active and an acquisition to Parliament. Although we may differ in our political views this Council has always been fair enough to acknowledge the good work of the other fellow, and thereby a great bond of friendship has grown up.

I have noticed in the public galleries today several gentlemen who have illustrious Parliamentary records. Sir Robert Nicholls was for 41 years a member of Parliament, most of the time in the capacity of Speaker of the House

of Assembly. The Hon. R. S. Richards devoted 31 years of his life to service in Parliament. We cannot overlook the foundations laid down by such men who have helped to make the State so prosperous. I notice also an ex-Chief Secretary, the Hon. S. R. Whitford, who was a Minister of the Crown for many years, the Hon. Lionel L. Hill, and the Hon. Sir Richard Butler, both former Premiers.

I cannot conclude without paying a tribute to my past and present colleagues who have been very loyal to me and who have played their part also in serving the State. In your high office as President, Sir, you are not in a position to speak to the Address in Reply, but I, as second to you in years of service in this Chamber, feel sure that you will endorse my sentiments in relation to members of Parliament who have served this country during the past century. In seconding the motion, I trust that in the years to come Divine Providence will direct and prosper our deliberations in the interests of the welfare of the State.

The Hon. C. R. CUDMORE (Central No. 2) —I consider myself extremely fortunate that on this historical day I happen to be Leader of the Liberal and Country Party, and therefore entitled to say a few words on its behalf in support of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I join with the Attorney-General in his excellent remarks. I think he summed up the position extraordinarily well. It was a delight to listen to his speech. I also thank Mr. Condon for his remarks about myself and about so many others who have worked in this place and in this Parliament.

I join with others in thanking Her Majesty the Queen for her gracious message of congratulations and her good wishes for the continued work and progress not only of this Parliament, but of the people of this State. I am sure we are all taken back to that wonderful day three years ago when Her Majesty was here in person, and we are further encouraged to carry on as best we can the work before us by her gracious message included in today's speech by His Excellency the Governor. As to that speech, to paraphrase perhaps without justification the words of a great British leader, I doubt very much whether so much has been said about so many things in so few clear words, in this or any other Parliament. To me, it was a thrill to listen to; it was an example of how the English language can be used to the best advantage.

Speaking as a third generation member of a family that arrived in this State early in

1837, I was thrilled at the reference to the old pioneers and what they achieved. It is extraordinary to consider what was done before 1857, in the first 20 years of this State, by these pioneers.

We have been told today by the Attorney-General that the old Legislative Council, in which you, Mr. President, and I and others have sat, was built and completed in 1855—that is to say, 18 years after the first settlers arrived in this State. Government House had been built, or a great part of it, and many other things, despite the fact that during those 21 years there was a first class depression in 1840 and we had to stand up to the fact that gold was discovered in New South Wales and Victoria, where everyone wanted to rush, whereas we had no such discoveries here, but we carried on and weathered the storm, and the old pioneers set the tone for the progress of this State which has been so well followed during the last 100 years. It is thrilling to me to realize how much they did in those first 20 years. I remind members that the Constitution which came into force in 1857 and which we are celebrating was drawn up by a partly elected body, the Council of the State, which conducted affairs during those early years.

I have read with very much interest the reports of the sitting of this Chamber on the very first day in 1857. There was considerable discussion as to how the President should be elected, whether it should be by exhaustive ballot or by nomination and seconding and so on, but the thing that interested me was the Address in Reply, the equivalent of what we are saying today, and to find that it was not quite bereft of the same old subjects that we are discussing now 100 years later. Members then were particularly interested in the River Murray, whether it would be developed and whether there was to be a harbour established at Victor Harbour sufficiently useful to carry all the traffic from the River. They were also very interested about the borders between the States and the position of customs officers and so on at those borders on the river. The river was a matter of great concern. In the events that have happened we have used the river in another way and supply water to Adelaide and a great part of the State.

Another matter that it interested me very much to discover was that they were very greatly exercised in their minds with the question of distillation. Apparently they realized that brandy was to be one of the things to be produced in this State, and we have not been

altogether free from some discussions on the licensing and liquor affairs of this State even up to the last two years.

We might ask what we have really done in this last one hundred years. A cynic might refer to the famous Mr. Hamilton, the draftsman of the Declaration of Independence in the United States, who said that in his opinion the desiderata of the human race were life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The natives of this country had all those things before we interfered with them in any way, whereas today one cannot cross the street or buy a bag of peanuts, much less some liquid refreshment, without being up against some rule or regulation that has emanated from the laws passed by Parliament. But other things have happened in this last one hundred years which have affected the position of the individual. I consider that the invention of the telephone and the internal combustion engine are the two things which have made life so unpleasant in comparison with the days when it took a whole day to drive 40 miles and people had time to think and were not disturbed by the thought of aeroplanes coming from nations which were then, fortunately, months away from us. These, however, are the minor things. The big thing is that what we have done in this State is to show that the British system of responsible Parliamentary government can be transplanted and can be made to work in a small community in a very little known part of the world.

What we are discussing and celebrating today is the success of responsible Parliamentary government in this State, and therefore we have to remind ourselves that there are really only two systems of Government. One system is the old autocratic dictatorship, Fascism, Communism, or Nazism; call it what you like, it means that the state is everything and that the individual is nothing and has no rights. Under the other system which the British people have evolved, as His Excellency pointed out in his speech, in a battle extending over 700 years, it is the freedom of the individual which matters and cannot be attacked at the will of anybody. The ex-President of the United States, in a speech at Oxford not long ago, said:—

I have faith in any government which is responsible to the people; I have no faith in governments which are not responsible to anyone.

I think it can be said that we have proved here that the British system, which we inherited and which our forefathers brought out with them, can be and has been transplanted.

We celebrate the fact that we have responsible government, but we must do more than that. We must put our faces towards the future as the pioneers did. We celebrate a system which is firmly founded on our belief in the Monarchy and our loyalty to the Queen as the head of the State, but we also say to future generations:—

Do not be satisfied with what we have done. We have done our best, but the work must be carried on.

In my opinion this system of bi-cameral Parliamentary government, with a different franchise between the two Houses—and I emphasize that—has proved itself the most effective system of responsible government yet devised. I say to the people of the future:—

Be quite sure you have something better to put in its place before you discard it.

I have great pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Motion for adoption of Address in Reply carried.

The PRESIDENT—I have to inform members that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive them for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 12.30 p.m.

At 12.22 p.m. the President and honourable members proceeded to Government House. They returned at 12.40 p.m.

The PRESIDENT—I have to report that, accompanied by honourable members, I attended at Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address in Reply adopted by the Council. His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the speech with which I opened the second session of the Thirty-fifth Parliament today. It will be my pleasure to convey your affectionate loyalty and thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for her message of congratulation.

I trust that our citizens will continue to enjoy their heritage of freedom and justice, and I also acknowledge our debt to the founders and pioneers of this State.

I pray God's blessing upon your deliberations.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The PRESIDENT 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.

LAND DEVELOPMENT: HUNDRED OF WOOLUMBOOL.

The PRESIDENT 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.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

The Hon. C. D. ROWE (Attorney-General) moved—

That it be an order of this Council that all papers and other documents ordered by the Council 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 President in print as soon as completed, and if received within two months after such prorogation, that the Clerk of the Council cause such papers and documents to be distributed among members and bound with the minutes of 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 AND UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE.

The following message was received from the Speaker of the House of Assembly:—

In pursuance of the authority vested in me by resolution of the House of Assembly passed this day, I invite the President, honourable members and officers of the Legislative Council to be present within the bar of the House of Assembly Chamber at 2.15 p.m. this day to witness the ceremony of the presentation of the mace.

At 12.50 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 2.10 p.m. It was further suspended while the President and members proceeded to the House of Assembly to witness the presentation of a mace to the Speaker and, later, the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in the main entrance hall. The sitting was resumed at 3.15 p.m.

PROROGATION.

At 3.15 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday, May 14, 1957, at 2.15 p.m.