

pioneers a great debt for the accomplishments of a century. They have built strongly and well; they have set us an example, but as the poet John O'Brien puts it:

Ah, newer methods, younger men! The times
are moving fast,
And but in dreams we tread again the wheel
ruts of the past;
The eyes are filmed that watched of old,
the kindly hearts are still,
And silent tombstones white and cold are
glimmering on the hill.

May we live to labour in the reflected
brilliance of those great people of bygone
years.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion (by Mr. Heffron) agreed to:

That this House do now adjourn until
to-morrow at 11 o'clock, a.m.

House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 31 May, 1956.

Petition: Boggabri District Hospital—Printed Question
and Answer—Questions without Notice—Governor's
Speech: Address-in-Reply (Fifth Day's Debate)—
Adjournment (Centenary Celebrations: Public In-
spection of Parliament House).

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair at 11 a.m.

The opening Prayer was read.

PETITION: BOGGABRI DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

Mr. CRAWFORD presented a petition from
certain residents of the Boggabri district
praying that a new hospital and operating
theatre be provided in Boggabri.

Petition received.

PRINTED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WESTERN DIVISION.

Mr. WATTISON asked the MINISTER
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER FOR
HIGHWAYS,—(1) Is it a fact that local gov-
ernment shires have been established in the
Western Division with headquarters at
Bourke and Brewarrina? (2) Is it a fact
that inquiries under the Local Government

Act were recently conducted at Wilcannia,
Wentworth and Balranald at which evi-
dence was taken in connection with the
possible establishment of shires in these
areas? (3) Is he able to inform the House
as to the outcome of the inquiries?

Answer,—(1) It is a fact that shires
have been constituted in the Western Divi-
sion with headquarters at Bourke and Bre-
warrina. These shires came into operation
as from 1st January, 1955, and were the
outcome of proposals put forward by the
Bourke Municipal Council and the Brewar-
rina Municipal Council for the extension
of their areas to take in land within the
Western Division and for the conversion of
the areas into shires. These were the first
shires to be formed within the Western
Division and the action was taken on the
recommendation of an officer of the Depart-
ment of Local Government who conducted
two public inquiries, as a commissioner
under the Local Government Act, at Bourke
and Brewarrina. At each of these inquiries
the proposals were strongly opposed by the
grazing interests but I am pleased to say
that with the creation of the shires there
has developed a greater community of in-
terest: between the town and rural com-
munities which augurs well for the future
of the districts. Already signs of marked
improvements are manifest, especially at
Bourke and Brewarrina where local gov-
ernment and town development had stag-
nated for so long. (2) It is a fact that
similar inquiries were held by the same
commissioner at Wilcannia, Wentworth and
Balranald following proposals submitted by
the Wilcannia, Wentworth and Balranald
municipal councils. (3) After considering
the reports of the commissioner on the
inquiries mentioned in (2) I have approved
of action being taken to constitute two
further shires centred on Wentworth and
Balranald. The commissioner reported
against the proposal put forward by the
Wilcannia Municipal Council not because
he considered the proposal had no merit
but because he was of opinion that the
question of local government administra-
tion in that part of the State should be con-
sidered in conjunction with the question
generally of local government in the central
Darling region including the towns of

Menindee and Ivanhoe whence requests have been received over the years for the introduction of some form of local government. The same opposition by grazing interests to the proposals for the formation of shires at Bourke and Brewarrina was expressed at the other inquiries, the opinion of the graziers being that local government administration was impracticable within the rural districts of the Western Division of the State. The report of the commissioner in relation to the Bourke and Brewarrina proposals was laid on the table of the House last year. These inquiries have provided the first opportunity for an exhaustive study of the problem of local government administration in the western districts of the State and in view of the importance of the matter, I propose to lay on the table reports on the inquiries held at Wilcannia, Wentworth and Balranald.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

MARGINS FOR SKILL.

Mr. WILLIS: I ask the Premier whether yesterday he refused to receive a deputation of tradesmen employed by the Department of Public Works? Were these men complaining about an attempt being made by the Government to reduce by from 30s. to 40s. a week the margins for skill included in their awards? Is the Government trying to create industrial unrest in the vital building industry? Has the Labor Government of New South Wales reversed its long-standing policy of paying its employees the same wages as they would receive from private enterprise? Does the Government intend to campaign for a general reduction in margins for skill?

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: Such a question could come only from one who was formerly an extreme Labor man.

Mr. STEWART FRASER: The hon. member still believes in the rights of labour.

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: The hon. member who interjects does not know anything about it. The answer to the question is no—

Mr. WILLIS: The Premier did not refuse to see the deputation?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: As the remainder of the question was based on its first part, the answer is no.

Later,

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: The hon. member for Earlwood asked me a question that I answered in the negative. However, my secretary has told me that yesterday afternoon a number of men saw him, seeking to interview me. At the time I was in the chair at the table of the House, and the deputation was informed that I was not available. If this is the matter to which the hon. gentlemen was referring, the position is as I have just stated. Should a deputation come to this House to seek an interview with me on a problem about which I have no information personally, they would not be granted an interview. Also it is not my practice to interview deputations on matters over which my Ministers have control. If their problem did not concern my own department they would be referred to the appropriate Minister.

QUEANBEYAN: SCHOOLS.

Mr. SEIFFERT: I ask the Minister for Education whether it is a fact that over a number of years I have made representations for the provision of a new full high school at Queanbeyan, and also for the provision of other education services at West Queanbeyan? Is it a fact, also, that the Department of Education has acquired 20 acres of land at Queanbeyan for the establishment of the proposed "new high school building, additional to the existing intermediate high school and primary schools, and that action has been taken to acquire a site at West Queanbeyan for a primary school? If these are facts, bearing in mind the urgent necessity for this additional accommodation, will the Minister ensure that the proposed buildings are included in the coming year's building programme?

Mr. HEFFRON: The Department of Education has secured school sites at Queanbeyan and West Queanbeyan. Had

I known that the question was to be asked, I should have found out the place of the proposed school on the building programme and how far planning had advanced. At the moment, I am not quite certain of the position, but I will check on it. I may be able to answer the hon. member's question before the end of question time, but if not, I shall do so on Tuesday.

SIR HENRY PARKES MEMORIAL SCHOOL.

Lt.-Colonel BRUXNER: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education whether some years ago the Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School was begun in Tenterfield and the foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Governor, who was then Administrator of the Commonwealth? Is it a fact that during the centenary celebrations Sir Henry Parkes has been named as one of the outstanding figures in the history of this State? If these are facts, will the Minister proceed with the completion of that school as one of the outstanding memorials of the centenary year?

Mr. HEFFRON: It is a fact that several years ago the Governor of the day was good enough to set the foundation stone of the Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School at Tenterfield. With the hon. member, I had hoped that the building would have been completed before the centenary year. The only reason—and it is quite a legitimate reason—that I can offer for the school's not having been finished is the terrific pressure on the Department to provide school accommodation for the enormous number of new pupils. Every year 20,000 extra pupils have to be accommodated and the Department has had to forge ahead to meet this urgent and desperate need. It has been beyond its resources to rebuild schools though some of them should have been replaced long ago. The present secondary school at Tenterfield could very well be replaced, and it should have been rebuilt years ago. My predecessor, with the hon. member's assistance, obtained the best site in Tenterfield, on which we built a modern infants' school of which the Department and the residents of Tenterfield are proud. I agree with the hon. member

that, having regard to the great work of Sir Henry Parkes, not only in education but also as the father of federation, and the fact that his famous speech on federation was made at Tenterfield, an appropriate way in which to remember him would be the construction of a modern school at Tenterfield. I assure the hon. member that only two things could delay it. Last year the Department had to build 1,053 classrooms to meet the huge influx of children and this year its target is 1,500. Only the extreme pressure on the Department's resources and lack of necessary finance can prevent the Department from going on with this work, but I hope that during the life of this Parliament we shall see the building started and completed.

SCHOOL BUSES.

Mr. TULLY: I ask the Minister for Education whether several times I have made representations with respect to the rates paid to school bus operators in country districts? Is it a fact that these rates are based on the findings of a committee that was set up some years ago? If these are facts, will the Minister arrange for representatives of the Goulburn School Bus Operators' Association and me to interview officers of the Department of Education, or representatives of the committee, to discuss the rates and their basis?

Mr. HEFFRON: Naturally the bus proprietors in the Goulburn district claim that the mileage rates should be increased. Hon. members will recall that some years ago it was decided to hold an inquiry into rates that should be paid by the Department of Education to country bus proprietors, because extortionate demands were then being made by them. Had their demands been met, sooner or later the whole of the bus system for conveying country school children to their schools could have been destroyed. An inter-departmental committee consisting of representatives of the Treasury, the Department of Government Transport and the Department of Education determined economic mileage rates for buses of varying carrying capacity, and a clause was inserted that if petrol, tyres and other items rose in price, proportionate increases

would be made to the rates. The effect of this rise-and-fall clause has been always in the same direction. This agreement still functions satisfactorily. If the hon. member for Goulburn and the people whom he represents feel that they have some constructive criticism to offer, I shall arrange for the appropriate departmental officer to discuss the matter with them.

INFANTS' SCHOOL: EAST MAITLAND.

Mr. MORRIS: I ask the Minister for Education whether it is a fact that for some time past the Department of Education has been considering the building of a new infants' school at East Maitland, and also the making of substantial additions and renovations to the existing building used by the primary school children? Because of the considerable and continuous increase in population in the East Maitland area, can the Minister say when work will start on the project?

Mr. HEFFRON: For some time the Department has been considering the necessity for additional accommodation for both infants and primary school children at East Maitland. Plans are well advanced, and this project will receive high priority next year. The provision of additional accommodation there must be regarded as essential. An infants' school consisting of six classrooms, two kindergarten rooms and auxiliary accommodation, is planned. Also, additions and renovations are to be made to the existing primary school building in which some of the infants are now housed. Eight or ten additional rooms are planned, and the two projects will proceed concurrently.

PAYMENT FOR JURY SERVICE.

Mr. BOOTH: I ask the Premier in the absence of the Minister representing the Minister of Justice whether it is a fact that citizens of this State who are required to serve as jurors are paid only 37s. 6d. a day? Is it a fact that many jurymen come from factory, workshop or office, and cannot afford to lose their wages sometimes for two, three or four days a week? If these are facts, will he ask the Minister

to give serious consideration either to an increase in the rate or the exemption of working men from jury service?

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: If the second suggestion of the hon. member were adopted it would almost destroy the jury system, because the majority of the community are workers. If they were exempted, juries would consist only of privileged persons and further complaints would be made. Many people claim that the payments made for their services are inadequate and I suppose that this is only to be expected. Not so long ago the payment to jurors was 9s. a day. This emolument was never intended to meet the expenses or loss in wages of a juror, it being assumed that as a matter of principle if a man were called for jury service he would make some sacrifice. However, it is now accepted that if anyone gives public service he should not lose by it, and I shall ask the responsible Minister to examine the matter raised by the hon. member for Kurri Kurri and to take into consideration the views expressed by him. I shall give the hon. member a further reply later.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

Mr. McCRAW: I ask the Premier whether it is a fact that during the past eighteen months or so, I have made several representations to the Government to set up an independent committee to investigate and report upon the incidence and causes of juvenile delinquency and the means of combating it? Is it a fact, too, that in his maiden speech the hon. member for Drumoyne eloquently, sincerely and strongly dealt with this subject and advocated the establishment of such a committee? Is it further a fact that in December of last year the Premier informed me, by letter, that he had referred my request to the Advisory Council under the Child Welfare Act? If these are facts, will the Premier say whether he has yet received a reply from the Advisory Council; if he has not will he seek a reply with expedition and inform the House whether he will now appoint the committee?

Mr. J. J. CAHILL: It is a fact that the hon. member for Lane Cove has consistently

spoken of this matter and has suggested a certain course of action. It is further a fact that the hon. member for Drummoyne last night referred to it and supported the hon. member for Lane Cove. One should not oppose or disagree in such a matter simply because the question has been raised by a member on the opposite side of the House, and that is not being done.

Although the hon. member for Drummoyne said that some of those charged with the administration of the Child Welfare Act are not suited for their work, the administrators of that legislation should have the opportunity of examining the suggestion and telling the Government whether it is desirable or necessary to have an outside inquiry. If it is felt that the purpose behind the suggestion can be achieved by those whose special job it is to look after delinquent children, the House will be informed accordingly. On the other hand, if it would contribute to a solution of the problem I should not object to the adoption of the suggestion of the hon. member for Lane Cove. I have not yet received the report from the Child Welfare Department but I will submit it to the House when it is available. If the hon. member for Lane Cove then feels that further action is necessary I will consider any suggestions that he may make.

Later,

Mr. WYATT: I ask the Minister for Education whether the schools can make a contribution to the control of juvenile delinquency?

Mr. HEFFRON: At present there is much loose talk about child delinquency. The fact is that child delinquency is not increasing in proportion to population, as the reports of the Child Welfare Department will prove. Teachers and schools make a notable contribution to keeping children on the straight and narrow path and I am confident that everyone will agree that the major cause of delinquency is lack of attention to children outside school hours. Parental indifference and neglect are the root cause of children's troubles. Apart from the delinquency that is brought about through both parents going to work all day and leaving children unsupervised,

there is a tendency also for many parents to go out at night in the pursuit of their own pleasures and leave children untended in the evening. These are major factors contributing to delinquency. I have been Minister for Education for twelve years and have found that 99 per cent. of the instances of delinquency that come before me have been caused by the neglect or indifference of parents.

I do not know to what extent schools and teachers can do more than they are now doing and I do not know to what extent any inquiry could improve the methods that are now used to combat juvenile delinquency. Before I became Minister in the middle of 1944 there had been twenty-five royal commissions and Public Service Board inquiries into child welfare. There has not been one since then and in that time child welfare has so advanced in New South Wales as to lead Australia. Indeed, no system is better than that in New South Wales and few in the world are as good. Sir Basil Henriques is the foremost authority in Britain on matters of juvenile welfare. He is a special magistrate in London, has written a number of books about juvenile delinquency and has had much to say in his writings and in his speeches in praise of the New South Wales system. He and his wife have spent a lifetime in the care of delinquent children and he came to this State at his own expense to study methods in use here. He says without equivocation that New South Wales leads the way.

As soon as I took over the administration of child welfare I realised that men and women were needed who would get down to work under inspiring leadership. Mr. Hicks, the Director of Child Welfare, is an outstanding man who is devoted to his work. His advice and assistance have been sought not only by other Australian States but also by overseas countries. He is leading the Child Welfare Department to great achievements and the devoted men and women in the department are responding to his leadership. My advice to my colleague who succeeded me was not to take too much notice of the theorists but to see to it that the staff is kept up to standard

and that the good system of "in-service" training which had been established is continued.

Above all, it is a matter of getting men with their hearts and souls in the job who will take off their coats and keep working. They are doing this and setting an example to the Commonwealth. I hope that this House will leave the Child Welfare Department alone and allow those in charge to staff it with competent men and women. My advice to everyone is to leave experts of the type of Mr. Hicks, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Heffernan, the three senior officers of the department, and others, alone. Before any hon. members give advice about the Child Welfare Department, they should visit its institutions. Let them go to Parramatta and Mt. Penang, where great rehabilitation work is being done and the inmates are being taught useful occupations. They leave those institutions good citizens and hardly ever return. This job should be left to those who are competent to do it.

Mr. McCAW: I ask the Minister for Education whether the last report that the police were allowed to make on juvenile delinquency showed an 18 per cent. increase in child delinquency in this State? Does the Minister allege that this figure is incorrect and is it correct that the system has been changed so that the police no longer report on this matter? Is it a fact that church leaders, school principals, members of the judiciary and the police have all intimated that there has been an increase in juvenile delinquency in this State? Further, is it true that the Child Welfare Department is the only authority to claim that there has been no increase? If these are facts, will the Minister say whether those who are doing this wonderful job might not be assisted by an independent committee such as has been suggested?

Mr. HEFFRON: I do not wish to encroach on a subject that obviously should be replied to by another Minister. However, the figures submitted by the police, to which the hon. member has referred, were challenged by the Director of Child

Welfare, who said that they were inaccurate. There has been no further argument about that. The figures compiled by the Child Welfare Department that are given in the annual reports laid from time to time on the table of this House, defy contradiction; nobody has been able to disprove them. I have not known church leaders or judges generally to say anything to indicate that the Child Welfare Department is not doing everything that is humanly possible. I am sure that it is doing so. Some of our most eminent judges are among the best friends of the department.

HOUSING: MIGRANT CENTRE, COWRA.

Mr. FRED CAHILL: I ask the Minister for Housing whether the Commonwealth Government has decided to close the migrant centre at Cowra and to declare the building surplus? Is it true that the centre was formerly a military camp, the finest of its type in the State, with all modern conveniences? In view of the desperate housing plight of many thousands of people in cities and towns throughout the State, will the Minister arrange for an official inspection of the camp and negotiate to take it over for the alleviation of the widespread distress created by deplorable housing conditions?

Mr. LANDA: I will ask the Housing Commissioner, who will be visiting that part of the State soon, to have a look at the camp and give me a report upon it.

INVERELL: RAILWAY STATION.

Mr. HUGHES: I ask the Minister for Transport whether the crane at Inverell railway station is obsolete and quite unsuitable for present requirements? Is it a fact that working conditions in the goods shed office are unsatisfactory because of lack of modern facilities? Was this matter recently investigated by his predecessor in office? If these are facts, will the Minister consult his colleague and urgently instal a modern mobile crane and improve conditions generally at the station?

Mr. ENTICKNAP: I do not doubt that what the hon. member suggests about the

mobile crane and facilities generally at Inverell station is true. Unfortunately, the same conditions apply at many other stations in the country areas. I will ask the Commissioner for Railways to give me a report on Inverell station and will see what can be done.

FEEDER BUS SERVICES.

Mr. MORTON: I ask the Minister for Transport whether some time ago I suggested that a number of feeder bus services now operated by the Department of Government Transport should be offered to private persons willing to conduct them? Is it a fact that the Minister of the day refused to agree and even went so far as to say that the Government would take over further private services? If these are facts, and in view of the serious financial position of the department, will the Minister personally consider my suggestion?

Mr. ENTICKNAP: I do not know what the previous Minister said in relation to this matter, but recently I was visited by a deputation of omnibus proprietors who informed me that they are in a bad financial position. That deputation represented all sections of private transport operators in this city. I have discussed with one or two private omnibus proprietors the possibility of their taking over certain routes, and I was informed that they did not want anything to do with them. I do not know which services the Leader of the Opposition has in mind but I shall discuss the matter with departmental officers and omnibus proprietors.

MINING LEASE: MIDDLE HARBOUR.

Mr. MANNIX: I ask the Minister for Lands and Mines whether his attention has been drawn to a statement attributed to Councillor Fisher, President of the Warringah Shire Council, appearing in this morning's issue of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, that his council has sought the services of a Supreme Court judge to conduct an inquiry concerning a mining application at Middle Harbour? Can the Minister say

whether he has been requested by the council to order an inquiry in terms wider than those contained in section 127 of the Mining Act.

Mr. R. B. NOTT: My attention was directed this morning to a statement by Councillor Fisher in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He is reported as saying that his council has asked for an inquiry wider in scope than that envisaged under section 127 of the Mining Act. The statement attributed to Councillor Fisher is entirely incorrect. The facts of this matter are that in 1955 a Mr. Morris made an application to enter. This was heard before the Metropolitan Mining Warden on 16th May, when counsel for the Warringah Shire Council asked that the matter be adjourned so that the Minister could consider ordering an inquiry under section 127 of the Mining Act. Councillor Fisher tabled a minute, which was fully reported, and which was adopted by the council. This morning's issue of *The Sydney Morning Herald* reports a statement by Councillor Fisher that if I studied the application I would find that the council had asked for an inquiry in terms much wider than are provided for by section 127 of the Mining Act. I have here the letter from the Warringah Shire Council to the Under Secretary for Mines dated 29th May, 1956, and the appropriate paragraph reads:

The Council has resolved that the Minister for Mines be asked to arrange a public inquiry under section 127 of the Act with a view to a thorough investigation being made into the applications of Mr. Morris and the objections of the Council and the owners.

Section 127 of the Act provides that the Minister may direct the Mining Warden to hold an inquiry. I have done that, and the inquiry will be held in due course.

MARK FOY'S LTD. AND GRACE BROS. PTY. LTD.: BALLROOMS.

Mr. DEANE: I ask the Colonial Secretary whether both Mark Foy's and Grace Bros. have been prevented from holding dances on their premises? Is it a fact that since an order was issued by the Minister's department many organisations, including police organisations, have had to cancel their bookings? If these are facts, will the

Minister inform the House who issued the order and why? Will he also examine the matter with a view to allowing these firms to continue to hold dances as they have done in past years?

Mr. C. A. KELLY: The answer to the first two parts of the question is yes. It was found that the firms concerned were not conforming to the Theatres and Public Halls Act, and that the danger was such that if a serious fire occurred there would be no possible hope of escape. In the circumstances officers of my department recommended that these two establishments be brought under the Theatres and Public Halls Act. This has been done. Until alterations are made to make the buildings safe, I have no intention of changing that decision. If there is any variation in the situation, I shall be pleased to review it.

SCHOOL RESIDENCE: LADEVALE AND WINDELLAMA.

Mr. TULLY: I ask the Minister for Public Works whether it is a fact that, following representations by me seeking the removal of a school residence from Ladevale to Windellama this matter has been referred to his department for a report on the practicability of the suggestion? Is it a fact, also, that this is an urgent matter, and will the Minister ask his department to make the report as soon as possible?

Mr. McGRATH: This is the first intimation I have had of the matter. I assure the hon. member that I will ask for a report and give him a further reply as soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: By consent of the House, I propose to leave the chair until 2.30 o'clock p.m. to enable hon. members to attend the Governor's levee at Government House.

[Mr. Speaker left the chair at 11.43 a.m. The House resumed at 2.30 p.m.]

CAMPBELLTOWN: NEW HIGHWAY.

Mr. PELLY: I ask the Minister for Local Government and for Highways whether it is proposed to build a new road through Campbelltown which will pass through a

built-up residential area in which many hundreds of children attend school? Is it a fact that this is causing grave concern to many residents of Campbelltown? If these are facts, will the Minister be good enough to ascertain whether the road can be given a more suitable route?

Mr. RENSHAW: I have no detailed knowledge of the location of many roads under construction throughout New South Wales, but I will inquire into the matter and give the hon. member an answer at a later date.

TEACHERS: LEAVE AND RESIGNATION.

Mr. EARL: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education whether at the recent triennial election of administrative officers of the New South Wales Teachers' Federation four new officers were elected? Is it a fact that these officers are employed full time within the Federation serving their fellow unionists? Is it a fact, also, that on accepting office they have to resign from the teaching service, and if at the end of three years they are not re-elected to their union offices, they may return to the teaching service only as new employees? Is it a fact, too, that the Public Service Board has refused to grant them leave without pay, a procedure which would enable them to return to the service without any loss of superannuation rights or long-service leave entitlement? Is it further a fact that the Chifley Government amended the Commonwealth Public Service Act to enable its public servants to take leave without pay while serving their unions? Will the Minister confer with the Premier with a view to bringing down similar amending legislation to enable trades unionists within the public service to serve their unions without loss of continuity of employment and its concomitant rights?

Mr. HEFFRON: I have to confess that I am not sufficiently versed in the Teachers' Federation's domestic affairs to know what has happened. Beyond having heard something about a recent change of officers, I have not previously had to consider the question asked by the hon. member for Fairfield, but I am willing to discuss with the Premier the introduction of amending

legislation and I shall confer with the Chairman of the Public Service Board in respect of the particular officers to whom the hon. member has referred.

Mr. McCaw: Would the same disadvantages be suffered by a member of the teaching staff of the Department of Education who offered himself for election to this House? Will the Minister, when considering the matters raised by the hon. member for Fairfield, consider the broad principles involved in the loss of rights and privileges suffered by members of the teaching profession who give public service in any sphere?

Mr. HEFFRON: For many years it has been the practice that any teacher who leaves the service to become a member of Parliament, resigns subsequently or is not re-elected, may re-enter the teaching service.

Mr. McCaw: Does he retain all the rights that he had prior to submitting his resignation?

Mr. HEFFRON: I am not quite sure of the legal position. A member of the Parliament before last who was not returned to this House interviewed me after the election and I assured him that he would be permitted to re-enter the teaching service immediately and, if he wished, to return to the school at which he was teaching prior to entering Parliament. He expressed a wish to do so, and I asked the Director-General of Education to see that this gentleman received proper treatment in accordance with his wish to take up where he left off. I support the view that a teacher who enters this House to serve his constituents, and subsequently retires or loses his seat, should have his old position open to him provided he is still within the age limit for employment in the department. I shall examine the position, and if it is necessary to bring down an amendment to make the present practice legal, I shall be happy to take action accordingly.

RUSHCUTTERS' BAY RECREATION RESERVE.

Mr. R. B. NOTT: Yesterday the hon. member for Woollahra asked me for information as to when it was expected that

the Commonwealth occupation of Rushcutters' Bay park would end. On investigating this matter I find that there have been long negotiations with the Commonwealth for the return of this and many similar areas to their proper use as recreation and park lands. I am now informed that the Navy has already vacated that section of Rushcutters' Bay park that it occupied. I understand also that arrangements are now to be made by the Commonwealth departments concerned for demolition of the buildings preparatory to handing the area back. A further area of Rushcutters' Bay park is occupied as a recruiting centre and by the R.A.A.F. Air Training Corps. I understand that a new site for the Air Training Corps headquarters has been obtained by the Commonwealth but that they are unable at this stage to indicate when building will commence or when the Rushcutters' Bay area is likely to be vacated. Commonwealth occupation of Rushcutters' Bay park in particular and of many other parks in general has been taken up on numerous occasions by Ministers for Lands and by the Premier with the Commonwealth Government. Following the representations of the hon. member I will ask the Premier to take the matter up again with the Prime Minister seeking the early return to public use of the Rushcutters' Bay park and other parks that are similarly occupied.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

FIFTH DAY'S DEBATE.

Debate resumed (from 30th May, *vide* page 212) on motion by Mr. J. J. Cahill:

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech which His Excellency the Governor had addressed to both Houses of Parliament on opening this session of the Parliament of New South Wales be now adopted by this House:—

To His Excellency Sir JOHN NORTHCOTT, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech.

2. We are greatly honoured to receive the Message from Her Majesty on the occasion of our celebration of the Centenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales and we ask that Your Excellency convey to Her Majesty our deepest appreciation of her warm congratulations.

3. We ask also that Your Excellency convey to Her Majesty an assurance of our unfeigned attachment to Her Majesty's Throne and Person and inform Her Majesty that the people of New South Wales cherish warmly the recollection of the occasion in 1954 when Her Majesty visited this State and graciously opened a Session of the Parliament.

4. We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to promote the highest welfare of the people of New South Wales.

Mr. HUNTER (Croydon) [2.42]: With other hon. members I commend those who have taken advantage of this debate to make their opening address to this Parliament. It always causes some concern and anxiety to hon. members who for the first time have to dare all the possibilities and risks of a maiden speech. The standard that these new hon. members have attained is in keeping with those of this Assembly and all hon. members look forward to their future contributions to the debates.

I am happy to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and am glad, too, that Her Majesty has so graciously sent a message of congratulation and remarked upon the achievements of this young nation in attaining the Centenary of Responsible Government, although its history goes back for only 160 or 170 years. It is good, too, that the Sovereign should recall that she opened this Parliament on a most historic occasion. Other parliaments, both Federal and State, have remembered us at this time, particularly the States, which have much in common with us. Representatives of the Senate and the House of Representatives have sent congratulations to us, rejoicing that in Australia this celebration should be held,

because of its importance to us as a nation. to review the achievements of the past and the possibilities of the future.

One of the most striking aspects of the celebration was the Open Day at Parliament House. It is gratifying indeed that so many people availed themselves of your invitation, Mr. Speaker, to see something of the history and tradition contained here. They were impressed with what they saw, and indeed there was much to see in which they could find interest and inspiration. Hon. members themselves must have been impressed to learn something of the traditions and treasures of Parliament that they previously had not known, which are part and parcel of the atmosphere of Parliament House. Some 3,000 people of the city of Sydney came here last Friday and any inconvenience that Parliament may have suffered was offset by the renewal of interest in State Parliament. For too long the spotlight of publicity and interest has been focused on the central government because the radio has brought the Federal Parliament into the home and because certain responsibilities that were once ours are now the province of the Federal government at Canberra. For these reasons interest in the State parliaments has waned.

Last Friday revealed that more and more people are showing a marked and real interest in this Parliament. Some items of interest and novelties on display then were quite new to most hon. members. In all my fifteen years' service in this House I was not previously aware of their existence. It would be a pity if they were to be put back in their cupboards and remain hidden for another generation. They should be kept constantly before the minds of hon. members and the public generally to inspire us, and I hope that last Friday's Open Day at Parliament House will be repeated before the year ends and that it will become an annual event.

It is a proper thing that there should be jubilees. Having come part of the way, it is good to pause and to draw inspiration for the path ahead by considering the mistakes and achievements left behind. This applies equally in the life of a man or a nation. Australians have every right to

mark with satisfaction and pride their achievements in the past 150-odd years. When the first settlers came to this land they had nothing to help them in founding a colony but what they had brought with them in a six months' voyage from England. From a small beginning on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour, our forefathers struggled for the rights and freedoms that we now possess, including responsible government, and now we are a recognised nation in the world by virtue of our contributions to the civilisation of the world. Our achievements are the result of the effort of great people and little people. In this country there is no class distinction, and the rights of society are available to all, irrespective of background. We may take pride in that glorious tradition which has developed as part of the pattern of Great Britain and the rest of the democratic world.

Australians are proud of belonging to a nation that is an integral part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. New South Wales has cause for satisfaction in the achievements of the past century. However, no society or organisation is able to stand still; it either goes forward to greater things or falls into uselessness and disrespect. I am confident that the State of New South Wales will progress. Precedents established over the past 100 years of responsible government will be a guide for the future. An hon. member said earlier in the debate that for the most part advantage was not taken of knowledge gained in the past. That might be so in some instances but the British system of government as it has been practised in New South Wales always recognises precedent. This regard for precedent has broadened the ultimate expression of freedom. This is a year of rejoicing for a national achievement. It affords the community not only satisfaction for what it has gained but also refreshment, inspiration and a strengthening of its resolution to ensure that the second century of responsible government on which New South Wales has now embarked will be even greater than the first. Let each of us make his contribution and be certain that it is a worthy one. The only value of the present is its usefulness as
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a guide to what will happen in the future. The influence of man is not restricted to his own personal needs—he contributes to posterity.

The early days of this colony were beset with strife and turmoil but those difficulties were overcome. Individual strength was followed by colonial strength and later by national strength. As we pause to consider the Centenary of Responsible Government let us reflect upon our responsibility to ensure that to-morrow shall justify the contribution that we make towards it. Let us use the past and the present to build the future. The greatest feature in the history of Australia and particularly of New South Wales, apart from the glorious deeds of unparalleled valour by the men who left these shores to fight in overseas wars, has been the growth of this nation from a convict settlement. In 1788 the dregs of English gaols were dumped on the shores of Port Jackson virtually without equipment and materials, without knowledge of the geography of their surroundings, without the least idea of the potentialities of this fine continent and with only the barest necessities of life. Those unfortunate men and women were ruled by a strict military governorship but the colony, with such unfortunate beginnings, battled its way to freedom within the short period of sixty-eight years. In 1856 it was able to claim with justice that it had the ability to govern itself. New South Wales won the privilege of responsible parliamentary government by its own magnificent efforts under conditions that enabled one of the earliest poets in Australia to declaim with conviction—"We boast no more of a bloodless rag, that rose from an ocean's slime".

During the debate hon. members have mentioned the names of many prominent people who have contributed to the progress of this State. First, there were those who fought for emancipation and the principle of allowing only free settlers to come to these shores. I add my mead of praise to men who fought for religious toleration, and others like Wentworth, Lowe, Parkes, Gibbs and Reid who helped to shape the destiny of New South Wales and the Commonwealth. I refer also to the inception of liberalism in Great Britain, from which

eventually grew the liberal movement that spread throughout the world. At a time like this one thinks not only of great men in politics, but also of administrators who have ensured not only that government was good but also that laws were based on the liberty of the people and the principle of justice to all.

Though Australia is a bounteous land with potentialities beyond the range of imagination, a land that has been lavishly gifted by our Creator, it must not be forgotten that its settlement and development has been achieved only by hard work. Men of all shades of opinion have made this country what it is by the sweat of their brows, by a knowledge of what they wanted to achieve, and by a recognition that there has always been in this country a conflict between man and the forces of nature. This is instanced by the splendid job that was done in blazing paths across mountains, developing routes into the hinterland and discovering the potentialities of our inland river system.

Man had to learn by experience, as the seasons passed, what could be grown in different parts of the country. Man fought in the war against nature until ultimately he conquered. Once the conflict had been won and man had conquered the elements there was a tremendous advance in our economy, which has been shown in our development. Australia is only 168 years old, but it has developed so rapidly that it can hold its place with pride with the older and bigger nations not only in social welfare but also in assuring that the rights of the people are preserved. Australia's progress has been marked by its achievement in economic and social development, which have not been the prerogative of any political party; they have been gradually carved by the thought and leadership of men. It must be admitted that in politics there have been wrongs and injustices on both sides, as well as an awareness that the welfare of the people is of essential importance and should be the guiding influence to those who take the responsibility of political leadership.

However, the greatness of Australia has been achieved not by such men as Parkes, Wentworth and the remainder of the galaxy

who have been named many times already in this debate, but by the ordinary people, the pioneers of this country, who settled in the loneliness of the Australian back-blocks where, without the advantages of medicine or science, families were raised and livelihoods earned against odds as great as fire, famine and flood. The fear of attacks by aborigines was ever-present in the minds of the womenfolk. Theirs has been the finest achievement of all, and the greatest praise at this time goes not to the leaders who have been mentioned, but to the unsung thousands who, in lonely bush towns, on outback stations, in the smothering slums of the city and on the frozen heights fought the battle of development against heavy odds and in conflict with nature so that this State of ours might win the place in the sun that it now occupies.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the people of New South Wales during the past 100 years has been not the contributions that they have made to war, not even the contributions that they have made to responsible government, but the way that they have gradually hewn for themselves a way of life, a philosophy and an Australian instinct, which has stood them in good stead despite terrific odds. It is true that in these 100 years adversity upon adversity have been heaped upon the people. Great distances and extreme loneliness had to be overcome in the early days; the bank smashes in the closing generations of the last century; the turmoil and tumult concerned with the establishment of Federation in Australia. Then there was the horror of World War I, and the conflict that ceased about ten years ago. There was the dread period of economic depression in New South Wales when hope almost died, when throughout Australia on all sides there was a sense of frustration and marked distress.

There was adversity, sadness, and a sense of complete hopelessness everywhere. Yet, there was no insurrection, the people stood fast; no attempt was made to use violence or to transgress the law. On the contrary, a sense of goodwill emerged between men that has contributed to our national character, and is expressed in initiative and in the

ability to "take it" no matter how solid the odds against us. Tribute is due and should never cease to be given to the ordinary people of this State, the unknown thousands who for a century now have been suffering the ills and conflicts to which human flesh is heir. They have faced the tragedies of depression and war and have surmounted them calmly because of their innate desire and will to let nothing keep them back. Our steadfastness in these matters stems from a determination to emerge triumphant from nature's war against us, and has served to strengthen our desire for freedom.

The people have had leadership and have been given the benefits of education; the barriers of class distinction or class importance have been abolished. Irrespective of background a man has the right to attain the highest office and to choose the type of life he leads. The whole conception of government in this country and our contributions in war are a reflection of the spirit of the democracy that we have built. In this Chamber hon. members have the privilege of representing a people whose greatness is demonstrated in the way that they have overcome adversity in the century that has passed. They have carved a way of life that is free from subservience. One of our characteristics is a sense of humour that can surmount almost any calamity. Our national spirit is expressed also in the initiative shown by those who have fought in war or in politics and who have founded industries.

Gradually Australians have developed a distinct individuality, which is clean and keen, and I hope that it will have an influence for good upon the people of the world. Great have been the achievements of our people in the world of art. Our actors and singers are legion in almost every country. Our painters and musicians are famous not merely here but also in countries where competition for high honour is tremendous. Our sons and daughters have more than held their place! In the fields of science and medicine also Australians have achieved world fame through the genius they have directed to the solution of their problems in the interests of society. Just as in medicine, acting, art and science

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and on the fields of battle, so also in literature have the achievements of our people been great.

Naturally in this newly-settled land our writers first expressed themselves in poetry—poetry that has pictured the rugged country, the mountain-tops, the spreading plains, the rushing floods and the searing drought. Then came the novel writers who have painted word pictures of daily life in the outback. More recently our literature has kept pace with developments in the social and political fields, and now Australia's authors, poets, essayists and philosophers rank equally with the world's best. At present there is agitation for the creation at the University of Sydney of a Chair of Australian Literature—a matter of interest. Only the other day I read a history of Cambridge University. The author, the Professor of English there, stated that it took 1,300 years to create a Chair of English. This event took place in 1912, and the chair was occupied by the late Sir Arthur Thomas Quiller-Couch. In the meantime there had already been created Chairs of Divinity, Philosophy, Mathematics, Art, History and Geography. It is significant that within barely a century the University of Sydney should be striving to obtain a Chair of Australian Literature.

Our history is one of human endeavour, suffering and achievement aptly expressed in the development of a city that ranks in importance, size and influence with the greatest cities of the world. The history of this State is one of the development of large tracts of land to meet the needs of man in both city and country. It is a story of the conflict of man with the mountains, with floods and droughts, and with the many other obstacles of Nature. Many striking stories can be told of the magnificent part that the Australian citizen has played in the fields of battle in New Guinea, of mounted Lancers and other troops taken to China, to the Sudan, and to South Africa. One may speak also of the glory that was won in New Guinea, and on the battlefields of France, Flanders, Egypt and Palestine, of the equally magnificent contribution in the 1939-45 conflict, and of the Korean campaign. These achievements in 100 years

of responsible government and 160 years of settlement compare more than favourably with those of any other country. They have occurred during a century in which an industrial revolution shook the world. Now a new factor has emerged in the form of atomic power that will not only disturb the economic life of the world but also will have important effects on social welfare.

The world has developed despite the setbacks of war and the ignorance of man. Man's destiny has realised itself in what we know as Western civilisation. We have a wonderful heritage. We have been given philosophy and poetry by the ancient Greeks; we have the conception of law of the Roman Empire and the moralities of the wandering people of Israel in the Sinai Desert. Also, we have had bestowed on us the ethics of Christianity. The story of the valour of the knights of the Middle Ages, too, has been handed down to us. We are heirs to all the advantages of the Renaissance, the manners of the Court of France under Louis XIV and the logic of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who taught the world to think without personal bias or influence and opened a new world of scientific and medical thought. Among the great gifts that have been given to us over the centuries as a contribution to the development of Western civilisation, is Britain's concept of justice. Laid down in Magna Carta are the principles that no man shall be denied, no man shall be delayed, and no man shall be sold, justice. This inheritance has come to us from many people, among them great women, all striving to give for the benefit of their fellow men. This has been so over the centuries—from the ancient Greeks to the jurists of England. These concepts have been so valued by us that to preserve them we have twice gone to war.

It is essential at a time of celebration that one should examine our gifts and see what we can do to help those who will follow in our footsteps. It is essential, too, that we should continue to feed the starving millions, most of whom are to be found in Asiatic countries. The operation of the Colombo plan must be extended and organisations developed so

that once we have filled the belly, in accordance with the Biblical instruction, we may fill the mind. The principles of Western civilisation in philosophy and Christian outlook must be offered to all. In this way we can ensure that concepts foreign to our way of life shall not dominate society. Every effort must be made to increase our production and make more food available to those who need it. Swiftly on the satisfaction of those immediate material wants should follow the mental and moral uplift that has been the hallmark of civilisation. World peace must be put on a surer foundation. For years it was foolishly thought that peace could be achieved only by blocking the expression of other forms of government, but the only solution is co-existence. The influence of Communism can be combated only by example and precept. If the world does not strive for a common peace, and if future wars are fought with cobalt bombs and the other machinations of the Devil, our whole concept of life will become a hollow jest and man's soul will matter not at all.

One of the most urgent problems facing Australia to-day is the welfare of the aged, an ugly blot on our present society. With government leadership many social difficulties have been overcome through child welfare, education, security of employment and the granting of subsistence to the unemployed. But every hon. member will agree that the problem of the aged is becoming more pressing because those unfortunate people cannot raise their own voices. Unfortunately, too, their numbers are increasing. They have served their country well and have slaved to make their contributions to our national welfare; yet they are lonely and unhappy and, in many instances, unloved. As we begin a second century of responsible government we should resolve to make a more sympathetic approach towards this problem.

Other difficulties will be encountered that will affect our lives. Before another generation has gone the effect of automation in industry will be felt. To-day its consequences appear terrifying. The human misery of the last economic depression was unparalleled in this State, and we must

ensure that there is no recurrence of such suffering. Special vigilance will be needed as automation becomes more prevalent. It is axiomatic that progress and development cannot be halted. Therefore, as industry is controlled more and more by the machine, vigilance will be needed to ensure that the social repercussions do not injure working people and cause suffering. Tremendous problems will be created. I learned a few days ago that in the United States of America a machine controls all booking arrangements for the five major airline companies operating in that country. By the mere pressing of a button in any city or town a prospective traveller may learn immediately whether a seat is available. The machine answers instantly. It advises not only whether a seat is available, but also for how long it will be, on which flight, and other relevant information. A fraction of a second is all that the machine needs to sift and arrange the material that is being fed into it all over the American continent and to make its deductions. Automation must come to this country. In the years ahead its ramifications will extend to every industry and its impact upon present conceptions of employment will be tremendous. Its effects must be considered with courage and with deliberation, so that they shall not imperil the economic life of this nation to such a degree as to endanger the lives of ordinary people.

In Western civilisation the greatest importance is attached to the individual. He is regarded as a soul unto himself, a complete and separate entity. It is recognised that every person differs distinctly from his fellow and that no one has an image anywhere else in the world. That conception of the individual is being challenged. In some countries man is regarded as a drop of blood in a stream of racial purity. In others he is but an ant in a bed of ants obeying an instinctive, collective intelligence. In other countries the individual is but a cog in a huge machine that uses him as such until his usefulness is expended and then discards him. Man is first an individual and as such is deserving of respect. It is essential that, irrespective

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of social or industrial developments, he should never be subjected to law or authority that is contrary to his will. Already in this country most people enjoy the same radio programmes, the same film entertainments, and are devotees of the same cartoons in the same newspapers. There is a tendency for man to express himself less and less as an individual and to reflect more and more the life around him. Behind the Iron Curtain he has been placed in complete subjection and is of no significance as an individual.

Even in the Western world there is evidence that the individual is becoming more and more the victim of controlled society, but he must be protected against that trend or his freedom is in jeopardy. No matter what man has achieved or what he achieves in the future, unless he has liberty it will all be a shibboleth and tasteless. We have been given the privilege of freedom and must ensure that it is maintained. We must ensure, also, that Parliament is master of its own destiny, that government by regulation does not impinge upon our freedom, and that Parliament in all its phases is responsible to the people. It is evident that in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America parliament is becoming less and less effective. Decisions are made, regulations are promulgated, autonomous bodies are established and the rights of the individual are cancelled by controls. We must ensure that that state of affairs is not allowed to continue in this country. We have made tremendous gains. Statesmen of the past have proclaimed our future. May the generations that follow say that we, too, served them well, and that their future was proclaimed in contributions made by us to our country's greatness, which were worthy of our own inheritance.

Mr. R. J. KELLY (East Hills) [3.32]: I compliment the hon. member for Croydon on his contribution to the debate. I trust that I can emulate him. As I stand in this hallowed place I should not be human, or even normal, were I not overawed by the responsibility that rests upon me. I am fully cognizant that the many great and brilliant men, some not so brilliant and

perhaps even some who were not good men but villains, who have preceded me in this Chamber brought to this House, irrespective of their reasons for entering this Parliament, a true representation of the public. Upon us there devolves a great responsibility. We have been handed a heritage of freedom and of freedom of expression, and it is our duty to ensure that when we hand on that heritage it is not tarnished. Indeed, we should aspire to add lustre to it.

I have listened carefully to most of the speakers during this debate, and am proud that I am part of the voice of the people of New South Wales. I represent one section of the public, and I will try to bring to this House their views and problems. I am well aware that other hon. members have the same problem. I will respect their views, and I hope they will respect mine. Hon. members who sit opposite represent an important minority of the people of this State. They bring to this House the problems of that minority, and they should share in the responsibility of government. The hope of Abraham Lincoln, "... that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth" is just as vital to-day as it was eighty years ago. People may say that this is a hackneyed phrase, and possibly it is; nevertheless that principle must be preserved.

I agree also with views expressed by some hon. members that Parliament does not meet as often as it should. This is a public forum, and any hon. member who has a grievance to ventilate should be able to bring it forward in this House, irrespective of whether other hon. members agree with him. This is the essence of democracy, and it must be preserved. Out of all the arguments, innuendoes, accusations, intrigues and loyalties that have come from this Chamber during the 100 years of responsible government, the great factor that emerges is that the British parliamentary system is the only system of government that is acceptable to the people of Australia, and it is the duty of every hon. member to see that it is preserved. Some hon. members say, "Another idealist!" Others may say, "A dreamer!" Possibly I

am, but if it had not been for idealists and dreamers, such men as those who entered this House to do something for the betterment of their fellow men, we should not now possess many of those favourable conditions about which so much has been said. These things have been achieved only by men who aspired to do something, as I hope by my own puny efforts to do something also. If a man wants to help his fellow men, to make his country better, to remove injustices, hardships, poverty and misery, and if it be sin to be a dreamer, then I suppose I, like Henry V, am one of the most offending souls alive.

A cynic said that this House was the graveyard of ideals. Possibly at first glance some might accept this as true, but on closer analysis one finds that it is not. The ideals of men such as Sir Henry Parkes and of other great Australians have become realities. In its infancy the Australian Labor party, of which I am a member, aspired to things that are to-day taken for granted. This House could not be a graveyard of ideals. Much has been achieved collectively here, and in the years to come we shall achieve a lot more. Some say that we have gone as far as we can go, but I do not share that view. I believe that this country will be just as great as we make it—and we have the power to make it great. This House should be a real forum of opinion. I do not want to gag anyone: although I might disagree with what another hon. member says, I will defend to the death his right to say it. This is the essence of democracy and must be preserved. No one can be dogmatic about these things, and though our opinions may differ, no hon. member should be ridiculed for what he says; he should be treated tolerantly and at least given the credit of being sincere.

It has been said that Parliament in this State has slipped in favour. There may be truth in that, too. Generally, the reaction of the man in the street towards those who serve in this House borders on contempt. During the opening ceremony, a chap said to me in the street, "What is on here to-day, mate?" I said, with all the dignity that I

could muster, "The opening of Parliament." He said to me, "Oh, those so-and-so's." That is the common reaction of the man in the street. We must seek to uphold and to uplift the dignity of Parliament above this level. In the early 'thirties it was proposed that the proceedings of Parliament be broadcast over Station 2KY. Possibly the Government might consider broadcasting question time, or even interesting debates. That is not beyond the realm of possibility and it is a matter to which serious consideration could be given. If it were not practicable, we could at least advertise in the press the programme and a synopsis of bills to be introduced, and interested citizens could come along to hear the debate. I suggest those points for the Government's consideration.

In the main, the Leader of the Opposition's centenary speech was interesting, though he was rather pessimistic in his outlook on the Government and said that there were weaknesses in it. The Opposition must do a little soul-searching. If there is a weak government, possibly there is a weak opposition. Jim Bailey would not have broken the "four-minute mile" recently had he not had solid opposition. This is demonstrated by the fact that the next time he ran he could do no better than four minutes and six seconds, if I remember rightly. An opposition's duty is not merely to oppose, though some people say so. The Opposition might be able to assist the Government when legislation is brought down. I am willing as a member of my party to listen to the arguments of all hon. members, provided that they are sincere. Members on the Opposition side represent a large and important minority and their voices must be heard. I say that as a true democrat, though possibly I shall not agree with their politics.

The Leader of the Opposition proposing a Bill of Rights has taken exception to compulsory unionism. Ever since I have been employed I have been a member of various unions and have voluntarily contributed to their upkeep. It costs money for unions to present applications to the court for higher wages. Union money has been poured out to pay legal costs incurred in

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obtaining awards, but some unionists will not accept their responsibilities. They let me and other unionists contribute money that possibly we cannot afford, and allow us to fight their fight, but when higher wages or better conditions are obtained, they are quite willing to accept them though they refuse to contribute to the cost of gaining them. We have taxation to finance this country, and it is not voluntary. If it were voluntary how many would contribute to it? We must have compulsory taxation to finance our country, but when we want compulsory contributions to finance our unions, it is called an infringement of human rights. That may be so. I pride myself on being a supporter of the principles of democracy. I recognise that every individual should have his freedom and is entitled to his rights, and I shall do everything I can to ensure that these are preserved. Every democrat, irrespective of the side of the House on which he sits, should do the same.

Twelve months ago a constituent of mine, a gentleman whom I did not know for I had never met him, named Raymond Fitzpatrick, and a journalist unfavourably known to many parliamentarians, were sent to gaol by the colleagues in the Federal House of hon. members opposite. No talk of a Bill of Rights was heard then—only the cry "let them go to gaol"! Who cared? They were only ordinary citizens, and they were denied basic justice. They were not brought before their fellows to be tried; they were merely packed off to gaol, and there they rested for three months. If hon. members opposite are sincere, let them be sincere at all times, not just when they want to call for some nebulous Bill of Rights that has no basis in their philosophy. The members of this House should have been bitterly opposed to that travesty of justice. I, as a member of this Chamber, do not want the right to send to gaol any citizen who dares to suggest that I am doing wrong, or endeavouring to influence someone to do something, or who endeavours to prevent me from doing my duty. The courts have been established to do this. Let them determine the guilt or otherwise of the accused

in accordance with the British system of justice to which all in this country subscribe.

Mr. MURPHY: This Parliament could not do it.

Mr. R. J. KELLY: I do not know whether this Parliament could do it or not. If any hon. member wants to have the right to send a fellow citizen to gaol, I do not. I thank those electors of East Hills who returned me to this House. I succeeded Mr. A. J. Williams, who was the first representative of the East Hills electorate, which is now one of the largest in the State, having about 35,000 people on the roll. The population is increasing steadily in number. The East Hills district is an area of Sydney with a history older even than Woolloomooloo, of which the hon. member for King spoke in this debate. Sir Joseph Banks, when in Botany Bay with Captain Cook in 1770, explored the George's River and discovered the area that was named "Bankstown" in his honour. The suburb of Revesby was named after Revesby Abbey in England where Sir Joseph Banks was born. Herne Bay, of course, was named after Herne Bay in Kent. East Hills may thus claim earlier historic associations than the Port of Sydney itself. This is not a matter of great importance, but it indicates that the electorate that I represent is one of the oldest in Australia though possibly it is one of the most recently developed.

When the Hon. James McGirr was the first Minister for Housing he realised the potentiality for development in the East Hills district, which was then part of the Bankstown electorate, as there were large areas of land suited admirably for housing projects. The soundness of his judgment is seen in the fact that about 3,000 Housing Commission homes have been built in that district, over a period of ten years, involving a capital outlay of about £10,000,000. I am most proud of that record. Those figures might have been better had the Federal Government made available the necessary finance. The movement of a large population to an area that had been mainly semi-rural, consisting mostly of poultry farms, market gardens and open

areas of land, brought in its wake many problems. The pioneers of the district tell me that when they first lived in Padstow they had to walk to Belmore station to catch a train to the city to go to work, and then had to make the return journey at night. Apparently the old pioneering spirit is dead; if a bus is two minutes late, I hear about it. No doubt that is progress.

Last Saturday it was my pleasure to accompany the Minister for Education when he opened at East Hills a new boys' high school that cost more than £200,000. The Government has spent another £200,000 on twelve other schools in the area and it seems that it will have to spend a further £200,000. Bankstown Public School is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. Eleven other public schools serve that electorate and the Department of Education has resumed land on which it intends to provide additional schools. Children born in the later years of the war are now entering secondary schools and thought must be given to the provision of accommodation to meet their needs.

In the 1930s Mr. J. T. Lang turned the first sod on the East Hills railway. This line has had rather a chequered career and has not been developed as it should have been. Hon. members will appreciate the growth of the area when I explain that revenue from the stations on the East Hills line, Padstow, Revesby, Panania and East Hills, has increased from £450 a month in 1946 to over £6,000. Hospitals are badly needed in my electorate. The Hospitals Commission has resumed land at Peakhurst and I hope that construction of the hospital begins shortly. Bankstown Hospital is still incomplete but I expect that next year I shall have the privilege of attending its opening, though it is in the neighbouring electorate of Liverpool.

Traffic on Canterbury-road has reached saturation point. The Federal Government in its defence allocations should appreciate that good roads are vital to defence and should make adequate funds available to this Government so that roads equal to Hitler's autobahnen might be built. Better roads and wider lanes would carry

traffic out of Sydney much more rapidly and safely. The Liverpool-Milperra bridge is not an all-weather structure and it is obvious that other access must be provided across the George's River. The Federal Government is constructing a reactor at Menai, and might assist in the construction of a bridge at Lugarno and so give access to the South Coast. A bridge across the Salt Pan Creek is also urgently needed to give to those living in that isthmus of the East Hills area access to the southern suburbs and to Hurstville.

Unfortunately, much valuable land in my electorate has been zoned as green belt under the Cumberland County Council planning scheme, but I hope that this restriction will be lifted to allow home seekers to obtain building lots at prices that they can afford. At present, home blocks in the area are fetching up to £700, a figure that no ordinary worker can afford. More baby health centres are needed throughout the electorate as a result of the increased population. My first duty as a member of this Assembly was officially to open a new baby health centre at Herne Bay. I hope before long to have the privilege of opening others. In this debate some criticism has been levelled at the attitude of the press. An old axiom of the Labor party was that a press which lampooned Labor supporters must be doing a good job for the people it served. I believe that that is true to-day. Newspapers have never been on the side of the worker. They depend for their advertising—their bread and butter—on big business, and if the press began to slate big business it would quickly lose its advertising and go broke. I do not give a fig for what they say in the newspapers so long as my conscience is clear. I have been lampooned and on one occasion I even rated an editorial in the *Daily Telegraph*. All I ask is that the press should print the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth—though I have yet to see that done.

One hon. member opposite had much to say about the platform and policy of the Labor party. I wanted to reply to his criticism by examining the policy of the Liberal party to see what achievements it could claim. Apparently that party has no written policy—at least I could not obtain

Mr. R. J. Kelly.]

a copy of it. The Australian Labor party has a flexible policy which has been hammered out in a democratic way by the rank and file at many conferences. Every Government supporter has made his contribution to it. I am proud of our policy, which I accept *in toto*. It is true that not all the planks of Labor platform have been implemented, but they are the beacon on the hill. Perhaps all hon. members opposite hope one day to become millionaires. Any hon. member on that side of the Chamber who does not become a millionaire would not deny that this had been his objective.

I signed a pledge to honour the policy of the Australian Labor party at all times, and I did so willingly. If the party decides that the time is ripe for any part of that policy to be implemented, I will support it to the hilt. Indeed, I am in duty bound to do so, as is every other hon. member on the Government side of the Chamber. Sometimes caucus is spoken of critically, but what sort of rabble would supporters of the Government be if they come into this Chamber with a dozen conflicting opinions? Supporters of the Government sit in this Chamber as a party, and they are proud to do so. Party government has brought stable government. There were no parties in the First Parliament, which lasted only a few weeks. The Second Parliament lasted a little longer—about three months. Party government has brought stability to government in this country, in Britain, in the United States of America and in other important democratic nations. In France there is a multiplicity of parties and the alliances made there are constantly breaking down and causing instability. If there were but two or three parties in France stability would be assured, as it is here.

The Leader of the Country party is the father of this House and commands the respect of all, though I do not know him personally. I looked forward to his speech in this debate, but was disillusioned by it. His experience in this House should have enabled him to contribute something worth while for the future of this country, and as a new member I hoped to profit from

the words of wisdom that would fall from his lips. I was disappointed. He indulged merely in violently lampooning the Australian Labor party. Unfortunately his speech was recorded. Perhaps in 100 years it will be taken out of some pigeon hole and played back, and the listeners will say, "No wonder the Country party is extinct". I do not express myself in this fashion out of spite. I speak as a disillusioned new member who hoped to profit from the speech of an elder statesman in this House but gained none. The Leader of the Country party mentioned a "quinella". I remember vividly the "quinella" that the Stevens-Bruzner Government paid—a dole of 6s. 8d. a week for a single man!

I come into this House with no delusions of grandeur. Before I was elected I worked in a brick pit and on my first visit to this Chamber, as I gazed at the picture of William Charles Wentworth with his Mona Lisa smile, the author of the "Bunyip Aristocracy", I wondered what he would have thought of the entry into the Legislative Assembly of a worker from a brick pit. Let me say, without being egotistical, that I bring to this House the views of the workers in the brickyards, who do a colossal job. Their work is hard and unhealthy, but without the bricks they produce New South Wales could not have homes, schools and hospitals. They are playing an important part in the building of this country. Possibly they are not politically minded. They do not worry about their future, but they have a child-like faith in the party that I represent, and it is our duty to ensure that the trust reposed in us is not betrayed.

As an employee of the State Brickworks, I came to this House one evening with a delegation to the Premier, who was then Minister for Local Government. We put to him the proposition that the Government should socialise those works by allowing its employees to share in the profits. It is to the everlasting credit of the Premier that he agreed. Before that agreement was reached there were strikes and stoppages, but everything possible was done to keep the brickworks going. Hon. members possibly know that the brick combine did all in its power to prevent the

State Brickworks from working. Machines and patterns could not be obtained locally and had to be made by the State Dockyard. Despite all the hurdles that had to be negotiated, the undertaking succeeded. We thought that possibly it was being sabotaged by some employees. As a delegate of my union, I am proud of the part that I played in bringing industrial stability to the industry, in proving that it could pay its way, and in showing that the employees of the State Brickworks were entitled to a share in the profits that they make to-day. The undertaking is a monument to this Government. It fought the brick combine and defeated it. To-day it is producing annually 52,000,000 bricks and making a profit of some £70,000. Incidentally, the Commonwealth Government collects from it about £9,000 in payroll tax, so that it, too, is profiting from this State undertaking.

There is a need for radical thinking, particularly in regard to finance. Hon. members on both sides of the House know the crippling burden of interest borne by our railways and other State undertakings. Earnest consideration should be given to financial reform. This State cannot afford to go on in the same old way. Everybody knows the crushing interest burden that is shouldered not only by the Government in respect of its transport undertakings but also by everyone who is trying to provide himself with a home, furniture or any of the other things that the people need. I do not wish to dwell at length upon this matter, but it is indeed strange that, with our silos full of wheat, and with our inability to sell our surplus eggs, butter and beef, we cannot pay our interest bill to Great Britain in kind. It is a mystery to me why it must be paid in cash. We have real wealth in this country, and I suggest to those who, perhaps, know more about this matter than I do that they should give urgent consideration to paying our overseas debts in kind instead of in cash, which payments impoverish the country. I thank hon. members for their courtesy in hearing me in silence. I know that it is traditional for hon. members to observe that precedent when new members are making their

maiden speeches, and I appreciate that in future I may not receive the same consideration.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

Motion (by Mr. Gollan) proposed:

That this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next at half-past 2 o'clock, p.m.

Lt.-Colonel BRUXNER (Tenterfield) [4.12]: I believe that I voice the wishes of all hon. members when I thank the Clerk of the House and the rest of the staff of Parliament for the manner in which they received visitors last Friday, when the precedent was created of throwing the establishment open to inspection by the general public. On that day I received from visitors many expressions of appreciation of the courtesies extended to them by the staff, who showed them all the interesting features of the building and told them something of its history. No time should be lost in saying "Thank you" to the entire staff for the part they played in this most successful experiment, which I hope will become a regular feature of this institution.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 4.13 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 5 June, 1956.

Governor's Speech: Address-in-Reply (Sixth Days' Debate)—Adjournment (Railways: Cartage of Wool).

The ACTING PRESIDENT took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

The opening Prayer was read.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

SIXTH DAY'S DEBATE.

Debate resumed (from 30th May, *vide* page 165) on motion by the Hon. R. R. Downing:

That the following Address be presented by the whole House to the Governor, in reply to

the Speech, which His Excellency had been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, viz.:—

To His Excellency Sir JOHN NORTHCOOT, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General on the Retired List of the Australian Military Forces, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency,—

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, express our thanks for Your Excellency's Speech.

2. We are greatly honoured to receive the Message from Her Majesty on the occasion of our celebration of the Centenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales and we ask that Your Excellency convey to Her Majesty our deepest appreciation of her warm congratulations.

3. We ask also that Your Excellency convey to Her Majesty an assurance of our unfeigned attachment to Her Majesty's Throne and Person and inform Her Majesty that the people of New South Wales cherish warmly the recollection of the occasion in 1954 when Her Majesty visited this State and graciously opened a Session of the Parliament.

4. We join Your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to promote the highest welfare of the people of New South Wales.

The Hon. C. COLBORNE [4.34]: I am honoured to participate in this historic debate, on the occasion of the Centenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales. The importance of the event is marked by the length of the debate and the number of hon. members who have supported the motion. I pay a tribute to the three hon. members who made their maiden speeches during this debate, the Hon. E. E. Warren, the Hon. G. H. Sutherland and the Hon. C. A. Love. I am sure that hon. members will hear more from them with the passing of time. A remark by the Hon. L. B. Saddington might have left the impression that this House adjourns from time to time to suit the personal convenience of hon. members so that they may keep social engagements. Of course, that is far from fact. During the time that I have been a member of this House I have never known the Chamber to adjourn