

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 1941

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PRESENTATION OF MR. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. E. J. Hanson, Buranda) took the chair at 9.45 a.m., and said: Under Standing Order No. 8 I shall now proceed to Government House, there to present myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker, and I invite such hon. members as care to do so to accompany me.

Mr. SPEAKER then left the chair.

The House resuming at three minutes to 12 o'clock,

Mr. SPEAKER said: I have to report that I have this day presented myself to His Excellency the Governor at Government House, as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker of this House, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

At noon His Excellency the Governor came to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr. Speaker (Hon. E. J. Hanson) at the bar, and accompanied to the dais.

Hon. members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech:—

“GENTLEMEN OF THE PARLIAMENT OF QUEENSLAND,—

“In these days of unparalleled danger to the British Commonwealth of Nations, and to free peoples everywhere, it is pleasing to be able to meet you at the opening of this, the first session of the twenty-ninth Parliament of Queensland.

“Parliament never has been opened in such serious circumstances. All those great ideals for which Britain and Australia have fought during so many years are imperilled.

“The people of Britain to-day are suffering much, but are meeting all discomforts and dangers, with a spirit and courage indomitable and unconquerable.

“My advisers are determined to do all that lies in their power to maintain that same spirit and to give all practical assistance possible. Queensland already has shown herself, in so many ways, determined to play her full part in defeating for all time the threat to our freedom.

“I have been able to visit many areas in this great State during the past year, and I am grateful and proud of the effort, self-sacrifice, and determination of all classes in every part of Queensland.

“The people of Queensland are demonstrating their unswerving loyalty to the British Empire in the present crisis by the number of enlistments in the Navy, Army, and Air Force, by their subscriptions to war loans and war-savings certificates, and their generous support of the various patriotic funds. It is gratifying to record that Queensland was the first State to purchase its allotted quota of war-savings certificates and is still in the lead. Great praise is due to the members of the numerous patriotic bodies who have worked so hard for the welfare of the men of our fighting services and their dependents.

“The financial year 1940-1941 closed with a surplus of £28,436—receipts amounting to £21,539,749, and expenditure to £21,511,313. This result is extremely gratifying, following as it does on the surpluses of the two preceding financial years.

“My advisers, however, recognise the increasing difficulties caused by the struggle in which the British Commonwealth of Nations has been engaged for nearly two years. They are giving earnest and unremitting attention to the finances of the State, and trust that at the end of the present financial year they will be able, for the fourth consecutive period, to present a balanced Budget.

“My advisers report with satisfaction on the measures adopted for civil defence and security and air raids precaution. Members of the various branches and subcommittees under enthusiastic and competent wardens have freely given their services and time for instruction in first-aid, fire-fighting, decontamination, rescue, and demolition work. The local authorities, hospital and ambulance services, and the fire brigades throughout the State have willingly co-operated with the central authority in these operations. This work is being carried out in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Government through the service departments and the Department of Defence Co-ordination.

“A basic duty of the State is to provide for the welfare of its citizens and to be prepared for every emergency. In the last

session of Parliament the Public Safety Act was placed on the statute-book. The passing of that Act was an acceptance by the State of its responsibility to the civil population in the event of an extreme emergency arising out of the war.

“Measures already have been taken, by the promulgation of the National Security (Emergency Supplies) Rules, to ensure that adequate supplies of essential commodities will be available throughout the State in the event of any interruption to transport either by sea or land or through dislocation of trading facilities generally.

“Workers in industry have uniformly played their part in the general welfare of the State and in aiding the war effort on the land and at sea. Industrial disputes have indeed been few, and the machinery under the industrial conciliation and arbitration law of the State has speedily and effectively wrought satisfactory settlements between employer and employee.

“According to the latest statistics, unemployment in the State has reached the low figure of 3.9 per cent. The basic wage at present, £4 9s. per week, is the highest ever fixed in the State.

“During the year the shipment and marketing of our primary products overseas have met with considerable success despite the serious shortage of ships and the dislocation caused by the war. It is to be expected that these difficulties will increase with the prolongation of the war.

“Early winter rains assured the maintenance of good conditions in farming districts, while the pastoral lands of the interior seldom have been so uniformly supplied with winter feed of such abundance. The preliminary estimate of the number of sheep in the State at the beginning of 1941 is 24,000,000, compared with the actual record total of 24,190,931 a year earlier. It is estimated that cattle have increased by about 100,000 to 6,300,000.

“The foresight of my advisers in passing legislation to encourage the production of power alcohol is revealed in the steps now being taken to expand the industry on national lines.

“All possible aid is being given to the Commonwealth Government in the prosecution of the war. Particular mention might be made of the assistance rendered in the completion of the inland strategical road, the preparation of the site for the munitions factory near Brisbane, the establishment of shipbuilding yards from which several vessels already have been launched, and the training of munition workers in our Technical College. The principle of planned co-ordination of public works observed in this State has aided greatly the construction of defence works undertaken for the Commonwealth.

“Housing difficulties in certain towns of the State consequent on the influx of munition workers have been brought under the notice of the Commonwealth Government, and

the services of the State Advances Corporation will be gladly made available to assist in overcoming the shortage.

"The erection of the new University buildings at St. Lucia is progressing satisfactorily.

"The opening of the new Dental Hospital at Brisbane marked the completion of another stage in the Government's plans for improved social services.

"Education in a democracy is so important that it calls for periodic revision if it is to keep abreast of progress. My advisers, for some time past, have been considering a co-ordinated scheme of national education. To that end a measure will be introduced, having for its object a greater co-ordination of the Education Department with the University. It will embody certain principles laid down at the recent successful Education Convention. By this means it is hoped that a liberal and practical education will be offered to everyone.

"My advisers also have under consideration proposals for employment-placing generally on the basis of the principles contained in the Public Works Organisation and Co-ordination Act, having in view the effect of war on industry and the necessity for the early planning of post-war problems. These problems are engaging the serious attention of my advisers, and plans are in course of preparation for improving settlement, housing conditions, and living standards of the people generally.

"The public service continues to render loyal and efficient service to the State. The services of a number of State officers have been made available to the Commonwealth for important war duties.

"The Estimates for the current financial year are in course of preparation and will be submitted to you as early as possible. These Estimates will be found to have due regard for the necessity for economy while at the same time providing for all the essential requirements of the State

"During the coming session you will be invited to give consideration to the following among other measures:—

- Emergency Supplies Bill.
- Group Sales Bill.
- Commonwealth and State Income Taxes Further Agreement Bill.
- Seeds Act Amendment Bill.
- State Electricity Commission Act Amendment Bill.
- Justices Acts Amendment Bill.
- Education Co-ordination and University Bill.
- Labour and Industrial Affairs and Labour Exchanges Co-ordination Bill.
- Public Curator Acts Amendment Bill.
- Bills of Sale Acts Amendment Bill.
- Married Women's Property Acts Amendment Bill.
- Stock Returns Acts Amendment Bill.
- Supreme Court Acts Amendment Bill.
- Possessory Liens Bill.

Workers' Compensation Acts Amendment Bill.

Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill.

"I invite your earnest consideration to these and all other matters that may be brought before you.

"In conclusion, I join with my advisers in rejoicing that the indomitable spirit which characterised the Anzacs and animates our brave sons and daughters in the present war is characteristic of the people of this State and of the Commonwealth as a whole. We, as an integral part of the Empire, are passing through a severe testing-time, but I am confident that victory will soon crown the efforts of the nation and that the sacrifices which our people are making will be rewarded by the triumph of the cause of freedom and democracy.

"I pray that the blessings of Divine Providence may attend your labours."

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER left the chair at 12.10 p.m., resuming it at 2 p.m.

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency has been pleased to issue a commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as may hereafter present themselves to be sworn, which I now direct the Clerk to read to the House.

Commission thereupon read by the Clerk.

MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. J. E. DUGGAN AND Mr. J. V. HAYES.

Mr. John Edmund Duggan and Mr. John Vincent Hayes, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took their seats as members for the electoral districts of Toowoomba and Nundah respectively.

ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL.

JUDGE FOR 1941.

Mr. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a letter from His Honour the Chief Justice intimating that His Honour Mr. Justice Mansfield would be the judge to preside at the sittings of the Elections Tribunal for the year 1941.

PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order No. 13, I hereby nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present session—

- Samuel John Brassington, member for the electoral district of Fortitude Valley;
- William Logan Dart, member for the electoral district of Wynnum;

Eric Paul Decker, member for the electoral district of Sandgate;

Thomas Dunstan, member for the electoral district of Gympie;

Ernest Joseph Riordan, member for the electoral district of Bowen.

BY-ELECTIONS DURING RECESS.

MERTHYR AND HERBERT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to inform the House, for purposes of record, that at the by-elections for the electoral districts of Merthyr and Herbert held on 9 November last, William Matthew Moore, Esquire, and Stephen Theodore, Esquire, were returned as the duly chosen members for those districts respectively. These members were sworn in before me on 12 December, 1940, and signed the roll of members.

I also have to inform the House of the death, since his election to the present Parliament, of Randolph Bedford, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Warrego. Mr. Bedford died on 7 July, 1941, and I have received from the Registrar-General a certified copy of the registration of his death. A writ of election to fill this vacancy was issued by His Excellency the Governor on 7 August, 1941.

PAPER PRINTED DURING RECESS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that the following paper was ordered to be printed and circulated during the recess:—

Report upon the Establishment and Operations of the several Organisations for the Civil Defence of Queensland.

DEATH OF HON. P. PEASE AND
LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. D. W. RANKIN.

REPLIES TO MOTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received letters from the widows of the late Hon. P. Pease and Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. W. Rankin, conveying thanks for the motions of condolence passed by the House during the last session of Parliament.

DEATH OF MR. RANDOLPH BEDFORD.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (2.5 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Randolph Bedford, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Warrego.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the widow and family of the deceased gentleman an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of

the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

The late Mr. Bedford, Mr. Speaker, was a member of the Legislative Council from 12 October, 1917, to 21 February, 1918, and from 27 May, 1918, to 23 March, 1922. He was elected as member for the electoral district of Warrego, succeeding the late Hon. J. H. Coyne in October, 1923. That was in the twenty-third Parliament, and except for a short break in the twenty-eighth Parliament, when he resigned to contest the Maranoa seat in the Federal Parliament, he represented that electorate until his death in July, 1941. That is, he represented the Warrego electoral district in virtually six complete Parliaments. He was re-elected to the present Parliament unopposed.

The late Mr. Bedford was a well-known figure throughout Australia for many years. He was a man of great mental attainments, and a man with wide human sympathy, and he was known and respected by a very wide circle of friends and a great body of people throughout the State and Commonwealth. Those of us in this Parliament who knew him intimately had a keen appreciation of his qualities, and regret his death very keenly. This Parliament has lost a very able member. He carried out his duties to his electorate faithfully and well, and was esteemed by all his colleagues. I am sure that I voice the views of everyone here when I say we all regret his death, and the fact that he is no longer with us to take part in the proceedings of this Parliament.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (2.8 p.m.): I second the motion moved by the Premier, and join with him in extending sympathy and condolences to the relatives and friends of the late Mr. Bedford; he was a man who will be greatly missed by men of all shades of political opinions. He was a big man in every way, and a man of wide experience, particularly in mining and literary circles. He had an intimate knowledge of the outback of this great country of ours, its people, and its problems. His writings on that part of our country, together with his radio talks, will go down as classics. Although he was severe with the rapier in controversy and in debate, I have never known him to be personally venomous to anyone. In fact, I do not think he had an enemy in this House, and very often the victim of his verbal thrusts enjoyed them as much as did any onlooker. His patriotic poem, “Voices of the Brave,” published this year, gives a true and fervent indication of his love of this country of ours. I think it is one of the most inspiring patriotic poems we have had during the course of this war. The late Randolph Bedford was a good Australian, and his presence will be missed in this House.

With other hon. members on this side of the House I join with the greatest sincerity in seconding the motion moved by the Premier.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

DEATH OF RICHARD ROWLAND BOW, ESQUIRE; HON. JAMES GEORGE DRAKE; GEORGE ALFRED DUFFY, ESQUIRE; MICHAEL JOSEPH KIRWAN, ESQUIRE; JAMES FRANCIS MAXWELL, ESQUIRE; AND THOMAS WELSBY, ESQUIRE.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (2.11 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“1. That this House desires to place on record its sense of the loss this State has sustained by the death of Richard Rowland Bow, Esquire; the Hon. James George Drake; George Alfred Duffy, Esquire; Michael Joseph Kirwan, Esquire; James Francis Maxwell, Esquire; and Thomas Welsby, Esquire, former members of the Parliament of Queensland.

“2. That Mr. Speaker be requested to convey to the families of the deceased gentlemen the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.”

The late Richard Bow was elected as member for Mitchell to the twenty-fourth Parliament on 26 May, 1928. He was returned to the twenty-fifth Parliament and was a member until the end of that Parliament, when the electorate of Mitchell ceased to exist under the provisions of the Electoral Districts Act of 1931. Mr. Bow was born and lived in the West during the whole of his life. He played a very active part in the building up of industrial unionism in this State; and, generally, his whole life was devoted to establishing the cause for Labour and thereby improving the lot of his fellow men.

The late Richard Bow was a friend of mine, as he was of all members of Parliament who knew him. He was a straightforward, resolute, upright man, and the world and this State in particular are the poorer because of his passing.

The Hon. J. G. Drake, who died on 1 August, 1941, represented Enoggera in the tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth Parliaments, and was called to the Legislative Council as the representative of the Government on 7 December, 1899, and was Postmaster-General and Secretary for Public Instruction from 7 December, 1899, to 1 February, 1901. He was elected to the Commonwealth Senate at the general election in 1901. He was Postmaster-General in the first Commonwealth Ministry, Minister for Defence from August to September, 1903, and Attorney-General from September, 1903, to April, 1904.

The late Mr. Drake had a very distinguished career in the State and Commonwealth Parliaments. He was a man of considerable mental attainments but modest withal. I knew Mr. Drake very well, and some years ago used to have many interesting conversations with him about the founding of the

Commonwealth and the problems dealt with by the first Commonwealth Parliament. I hope that his records have been kept and will be made available to the public. I do not know whether he ever wrote them up, but he was singularly well-informed in the activities that led to federation; the early notion of federation, and the problems that confronted the first Parliament in the new form of government in the Commonwealth. Mr. Drake gave good service to the State, a service that is appreciated by all who knew him.

The late Mr. George Duffy, who died on 1 April, 1941, was elected as member for Eacham on 11 May, 1929, and resigned on 23 March, 1932, to become chairman of the Timber Advisory Committee. We all regret what might be described as the untimely death of Mr. George Duffy. Those of us who knew him in Parliament recognised him as a man who thoroughly understood the problems of the man on the land, and who sympathised with him. But more than that, he was eminently practical, a man of sound judgment and considerable executive ability. When he went to the Timber Advisory Committee in the Department of Public Lands, he helped to infuse new life into that organisation, and the improvements made in forestry policy and in the handling and disposal of Queensland timbers were very largely due to his practical methods and his skill in the office that he held. The Government had a very high appreciation of Mr. Duffy as an officer of the State. He was a very conscientious and practical man and of the sound type that we cannot afford to lose in times such as these.

Mr. M. J. Kirwan was elected as member for Brisbane for the nineteenth Parliament in April, 1912. He represented that electorate at the end of the twenty-fifth Parliament in April, 1932. He was Chairman of Committees from 15 December, 1920, to 14 July, 1924, Minister without Portfolio from 14 July, 1924, to 26 February, 1925, and Secretary for Public Works from 26 February, 1925, to 20 May, 1929.

The late Mr. Kirwan was well known not only to the people of Brisbane but also to those of Queensland. In Parliament he rapidly made his mark as a debater and was eagerly sought as a public speaker for important occasions throughout the State. He was, too, a genial, lovable man. I think every hon. member regarded him as a friend and appreciated his personal qualities. He rendered valuable service to this Parliament not only as Chairman of Committees, but also as Secretary for Public Works for a considerable period. He loved Queensland and Australia, and did his utmost at all times to serve his country to the best of his ability.

Mr. Maxwell was member for Toowong in the twenty-second Parliament. He was elected on 8 October, 1920, and represented that electorate until the end of the twenty-seventh Parliament on 5 March, 1938. In addition to being the member for Toowong, the late Mr. Maxwell was very active in local-government affairs. I believe that he was

the Mayor of Brisbane before the establishment of Greater Brisbane. He was well known to everyone in the capital city. He was a genial and courteous member, strong in debate, and a man who held very firmly to his convictions. Those who knew him appreciated his honest devotion, not only to his electorate, but also to those things that he thought were in the best interests of the State in building up its character.

Mr. Tom Welsby was elected to the eighteenth Parliament as member for Brisbane North in September, 1911. When the electorate of Mertyr was created by the Electoral Districts Act of 1910, which became operative from the beginning of the nineteenth Parliament in 1912, Mr. Welsby was elected as the first representative for that district, and he sat throughout that Parliament.

I did not have the privilege of being in Parliament during the period when Mr. Tom Welsby was a member, but I knew him well in sporting circles, particularly football and sailing. He was an excellent citizen with a keen appreciation of Australia and her future possibilities. He was ready at all times to help any public movement for the betterment of the people or the promotion of things that were worth while. Tom Welsby had a very wide circle of friends, and all who knew him will revere his memory.

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (2.24 p.m.): I second the motion so ably moved by the Premier. All the gentlemen named in it served their State and country well, and when the records of this State come to be written I think they are justly entitled to have the words "Well done" inscribed after their names. A number of them were not personally known to me, but the excellent records that they had in public life and in the public service, as outlined by the Premier, shows that they were good citizens of Queensland.

I should like to make personal references to two of the gentlemen named—the late Mick Kirwan and James Maxwell. I had no association with Mr. Kirwan in political life, but I was associated with him for a number of years in the surf life-saving movement of this State.

Mr. Kirwan, whose life and soul were centred in the movement, will be sadly missed by those associated with the Surf Life-Saving Association of Australia. His wise counsel and administrative ability helped to place that organisation in the sound position it is in to-day. Mick Kirwan will be missed on the beaches of Queensland, when life-saving carnivals are held in the future.

When I entered Parliament as a young man the late Mr. Maxwell was the whip of the party. He took me under his wing, so to speak, and helped to smooth out many of the difficulties I encountered. He was a likable personality, a good friend to all, and a redoubtable opponent.

Mr. WALKER (Cooroora) (2.26 p.m.): I was pleased to hear the remarks of the Premier, supported by the leader of our party, in reference to these departed gentlemen. It is rather difficult to speak of men one did not know. I suppose the late Mr. Drake was the only one who occupied a position in Parliament before any of us. We, however, remember his record as a public man. Most of us came in contact with the other gentlemen from time to time; I believe several of us here knew them intimately. We sympathise with those who are sorrowing for them; we recognise that they did their work well.

Public men, as you know, Mr. Speaker, are subject to criticism, sometimes rightly and sometimes wrongly—I think mostly wrongly—but, in my opinion, a man who has spent a term in Parliament as these gentlemen have should receive the credit due to him for his work, and the sympathies of all should go to those who are left sorrowing. I have found from my long experience as a member of this Assembly that a natural courtesy exists between all members of Parliament no matter to what party they belong. We all deplore the fact that some of these gentlemen have left us before reaching the allotted span of life, but most of them had a fair share of the joys of the world, as they bore a fair share of the work of building up this great State. They were the elected representatives of the people, sent here to help realise the aims of the people, and were worthy of every consideration it was possible to give them. Anything we can do to help their relatives in their great sorrow should be done.

I support the Premier's motion. If in this way we can help the relatives of the deceased to overcome their grief and do even a little to reconcile them to the passing of the men who in their time did excellent work for our country, I am sure that we shall be justified; moreover, we shall be acting in accordance with a practice that is recognised throughout the British Empire.

Motion agreed to, hon. members standing in silence.

PAPERS.

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Agent-General for Queensland for the year 1940.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Proclamation, dated 28 November, 1940, under the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937.

Orders in Council, dated 28 November, 1940, 22 May, 24 and 31 July, 1941, under the Electric Light and Power Acts, 1896 to 1939, and the State Electricity Commission Act of 1937.

Order in Council, dated 19 December, 1940, 16 January, 20 March, and 3 July, 1941, under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940.

- Proclamation, dated 27 February, 1941, under the Public Works Land Resumption Acts, 1906 to 1938, and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Acts, 1938 to 1940.
- Regulation, dated 17 April, 1941, under the Abattoirs Agreement Ratification and Meat Industry Acts, 1930 to 1932.
- Regulations under the Insurance Acts, 1916 to 1940.
- Regulation under the Motor Vehicles Insurance Acts, 1936 to 1940.
- Regulation under the Navigation Acts, 1876 to 1939.
- Regulation under the Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1939.
- Order in Council under the Bureau of Industry Acts, 1932 to 1934.
- Order in Council under the Bureau of Industry Acts, 1932 to 1935.
- Order in Council under the Industries Assistance Acts, 1929 to 1933.
- Order in Council under the Succession and Probate Duties Act of 1904.
- Regulations under the following Acts:—
- The Diseases in Poultry Acts, 1923 to 1940.
 - The Diseases in Stock Acts, 1915 to 1940.
 - The Drought Relief to Primary Producers Act of 1940.
 - The Fertilisers Act of 1935.
 - The Fruit and Vegetables Acts, 1927 to 1939.
 - The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1940.
 - The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1939.
 - The Second-hand Fruit Cases Act of 1940.
 - The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1938.
 - The Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1936.
 - The Wheat Pools Acts, 1920 to 1930.
- Orders in Council under—
- The Agricultural Requirements Control and Conservation Act of 1939.
 - The Banana Industry Protection Acts, 1929 to 1937.
 - The Burdekin River Trust Act of 1940.
 - The Fauna Protection Act of 1937.
 - The Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts, 1923 to 1940.
 - The Milk Supply Act of 1938.
 - The Peanut Industry Protection and Preservation Act of 1939.
 - The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Acts, 1926 to 1939.
- Proclamations under—
- The Diseases in Plants Acts, 1929 to 1937.
 - The Sugar Experiment Stations Acts, 1900 to 1938.
- Orders in Council under the Income (State Development) Tax Acts, 1938 to 1939.
- Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1932.
- Order in Council under the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act of 1939.
- Regulations under the Backward Persons Act of 1938 relating to the Dalby Training Farm.
- Order in Council, dated 6 May, 1941, amending the Rules of Procedure under the Brisbane City Council Business and Procedure Act of 1939.
- Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1940.
- Regulations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1939.
- Proclamations under the Health Acts, 1937 to 1939.
- Regulations under the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1940.
- Regulations under the Medical Act of 1939.
- Order in Council under the Medical Acts, 1939 to 1940.
- Regulations under the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Acts, 1928 to 1940.
- Regulations under the Motor Spirit Vendors Acts, 1933 to 1934.
- By-laws Nos. 404 to 411 under section 134 of the Railways Acts, 1914 to 1934.
- Regulations under the State Transport Act of 1938.
- Orders in Council under—
- The Coroners Act of 1930.
 - The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1940.
 - The Lessees' Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.
 - The Mortgagors Relief Acts, 1931 to 1932.
 - The Purchasers of Homes Relief Acts, 1930 to 1932.
 - The Financial Emergency Act of 1931, the Financial Emergency Relief Extension Act of 1932, and the Law of Distress and Other Acts Amendment Act of 1934.
 - The Financial Emergency Act of 1931, the Financial Emergency Relief Extension Act of 1932, and the Contracts of Sale of Land Act of 1933.
 - The Jury Act of 1929.
 - The Magistrates Courts Act of 1921.
 - The Supreme Court Act of 1921.
- Regulations under—
- The Coroners Act of 1930.
 - The Elections Acts, 1915 to 1940.
 - The Friendly Societies Acts, 1913 to 1940.
 - The Trust Accounts Acts, 1923 to 1925.
 - The Wages Attachment Acts, 1936 to 1940, and the Justices Acts, 1886 to 1932.
- Rules under—
- The National Security (Fair Rents) Regulations made under the National Security Act, 1939.
 - Statements of various Insurance Companies under the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1901.
 - Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the Union Trustee Company of Australia Ltd.

LEADERSHIP OF OPPOSITION.

Mr. NICKLIN (Murrumba) (2.49 p.m.), by leave: I wish to inform the House that at a meeting of the Country-National Party held on 21 May last, I was appointed Leader of the Opposition as from and including 16 July, in place of Mr. E. B. Maher, who did not offer himself for the position.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay) (2.5 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I desire to congratulate the hon. member for Murrumba on his elevation to the position of Leader of the Opposition. The hon. gentleman was elected to Parliament first in 1932, since when he has made very rapid progress. He has taken part in most of the major debates since his election, and has shown a ready facility for debate and an earnest desire to become thoroughly acquainted with the meaning of measures brought before Parliament.

The office of Leader of the Opposition is a very important one. Criticism of the measures that come before the House is valuable and helpful, and I wish the hon. member for Murrumba every success in the position he now occupies. I shall assist him as much as possible in his work and I trust that he will be long spared to carry out the duties of his office. (Laughter.)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

REAPPOINTMENT OF MINISTRY.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I lay upon the table of the House a copy of a "Government Gazette" Extraordinary issued on 26 April last containing a notification of the reappointment of the Ministry following the general election held on 29 March, 1941.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to report that His Excellency the Governor this day delivered to Parliament an Opening Speech of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. I presume hon. members will take this Speech as read?

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

OPENING DAY.

Mr. DEVRIES (Gregory) (2.57 p.m.), who was received with Government cheers, said: I move—

"That the following Address be presented to the Governor in reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this the first session of the twenty-ninth Parliament of Queensland:—

'May it please Your Excellency,—

'We, His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislature of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our

continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to tender our thanks to Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

'The various measures to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our most careful consideration, and it shall be our earnest endeavour so to deal with them that our labours may tend to the advancement and prosperity of the State.'"

At the opening of my remarks I should like to offer you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations upon your unanimous re-election to the office of Speaker of this Assembly. I could hear the true voice of Labour speaking when I heard my old friend the hon. member for Logan preface his remarks by mentioning your many good qualities and your qualifications for the position. You were re-elected to that office because you are a true son of the Labour movement.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DEVRIES: And because of that fact I believe you will uphold the dignity of your office.

I express pleasure at the honour conferred upon the people of Gregory—the electorate I have been honoured to represent in this Assembly—by my nomination to move the Address in Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech delivered this morning.

I come to this august assembly to speak for the people in the outback parts of the State who carry their burden of work and responsibility gallantly and with little complaint. They suffer the inconveniences they have to bear from time to time, but they strongly resent injustice. As I take my place in this Assembly my mind goes back over the space of time to the grand old sons of Labour who previously graced these benches. They spoke for the self-same type of people for which Labour speaks to-day—the common folk. As time goes on, I hope that I shall be able to emulate those grand old men, to further their ideals and dreams that to-day have become realities and are providing the people with social amenities that were not available in their time.

The people of Queensland have indeed shown wise judgment in again returning Labour to power. (Hear, hear!) It is obvious that they have entire confidence in the Labour movement, sincerely believing that it will guide their destinies along proper channels during the ensuing Parliament. That confidence is founded very largely on the trust that the people have in our Premier, which springs largely from the fact that he has always given wise counsel and been thoroughly honest in safeguarding the rights of the people. Indeed, a higher public place awaits the Premier, and I hope that in the very near future it will be filled by him. He has the qualifications, not only of a highly competent parliamentarian, but also of a

statesman. Hon. members need not take my say-so for that; all the public records give evidence of its truth

In coming to this Parliament I leave behind me many years of active work as an industrial officer for a Labour organisation that is a big part of the Labour movement, which is indeed the only movement on God's earth that creates hope and aspiration in the hearts and soul of mankind.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. DEVRIES: As I glance round hon. members on this side of the Chamber I can see many who belonged to that organisation, which has given much in the interests of the people that it serves. I take my place in this Chamber with the avowed purpose of endeavouring to follow in the footsteps of the grand old men of Labour, and I am going to try to emulate them in the goodness and beauty for which they fought. After all, the Labour movement is the essence of goodness and beauty.

Opposition Members: Oh, dear!

Mr. DEVRIES: Hon. members opposite do not know the meaning of the phrase "goodness and beauty." The electors of Gregory, in sending me here as their parliamentary representative, have shown plainly their resentment of the unkind statements and, indeed, the false statements that were made by opponents of the Labour movement.

Those who styled industrial unionists half-wits did not go far; the electors of Gregory did not take such an advocate seriously; in short, they considered that person to be not merely a half-wit, but a no-wit at all.

It is pleasing to observe in the speech of His Excellency that he has made an extensive tour of the State of Queensland. I am also happy to know that His Excellency recently travelled through certain parts of the Gregory electorate. It is, therefore, safe to assume that the Governor himself is cognisant of the trials and tribulations that confront the people living in the outback of Queensland. Unfortunately, I was absent from my electorate when it was visited by His Excellency. It was a time when heavy rain was falling and he must be well acquainted with many of the discomforts the people of the western part of Queensland endure during very heavy rains. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the experience gained by the Governor during his travels through Western Queensland will be the means of widening the knowledge of the requirements of the people in that area.

It is also true, Mr. Speaker, that Labour is doing everything possible to aid the war effort, too. Labour does not cause these wars, but it is nevertheless true that Labour has to fight them. What more, then, can Labour do than—as it is doing at the present time—give its very sons, their lives and flesh and blood, in the defence of freedom and liberty. The policy of Labour is not like the policy of its opponents, who believe in riches for the few and poverty for the many. Labour

believes in full and plenty for all, and with that end in view it fights.

It is true also, Mr. Speaker, that during the times we are passing through the Government will be compelled to husband their finances. That is to say, they must exercise care to balance their Budgets, but I do not believe that they will balance their Budgets at the expense of their people. In other words, they would not pursue a policy of balanced Budgets in the midst of unemployment. That is the policy of the opponents of Labour; they believe in taking all and giving nothing.

The Government are faced with very difficult times. Labour's sons are engaged with the fighting forces on the field of battle, but we must realise that any post-war planning must take into consideration the transfer of those fighting forces back into civilian life by creating useful employment. During the war that raged from 1914 to 1918 there was indecent haste on the part of people representing high finance to get back to profit-making. I believe that will not happen again. We have heard much of the new social order, but I submit that Labour, being the only party that is representative of the people, is the only party competent to decide how the new social order shall be controlled.

It is pleasing to note the reference by His Excellency to the part the workers have played in the history of Queensland. It is true that Queensland possesses the finest industrial and conciliation machinery in the Commonwealth; in fact, I go further, and say it represents the greatest piece of legislation in the world. No State in the Commonwealth is able to deal more efficiently than Queensland with industrial disputes that occur from time to time. I speak with some experience, because 15 of my 23 years of residence in the West of Queensland were occupied in carrying out the duties of a union official—a class to whom our opponents refer to as "half-wits" who go round the country creating trouble and preventing the employer from doing what he would like to do. We believe that as time goes on our industrial legislation will be improved. We look forward to the day when disputes will no longer occur, and when peace and good will towards men will prevail; but until then we must safeguard our people by legislation.

Those who are opposed to industrial conciliation and arbitration should give credit to the State of Queensland—and particularly to the Labour Government of Queensland—for bringing down such beneficent legislation as I have referred to. It is true that the Government have been aided by the industrial workers. From time to time, too, little differences occur, but although as a party we speak with one voice, there is plenty of room in our party in which to straighten out all those differences.

It is regrettable that the Commonwealth authorities have not seen fit to use the resources of Queensland more fully in war production. I refer particularly to power alcohol. From time to time the Queensland

Government have sponsored the production of power alcohol in Queensland and it is a matter for regret that they have not received the help from the Commonwealth Government to which they were entitled. Nevertheless, I believe that as a result of representations by this Government the Commonwealth Government will, in the near future, give a greater measure of consideration to the production of power alcohol in Queensland.

The bulk of war production is becoming centralised, which is a bad thing for the country. It is no use saying we need not fear invasion. There is a possibility of invasion and that possibility is a cogent reason why production should be decentralised.

We in Queensland are not enjoying our fair proportion of the money expended on the war effort. On the other hand, Queensland is giving every possible aid to the Commonwealth. For instance, the Railway Department is undertaking a certain amount of defence work at the railway workshops at Ipswich, at which the greater part of the defence work in Queensland is being done. Accommodation for the manufacture of precision tools and gauges to be used at the Rocklea munition factory is in the course of erection, and will be ready for occupation about the end of August. Rockhampton is also busily engaged on defence work. The department has undertaken the construction of additional siding accommodation and other facilities for defence purposes, such as the insertion of crossing loops to facilitate railway movements in a time of emergency. The defence programme undertaken by the Commonwealth Government in the northern portion of the State, which was done under the supervision of the State Government—I refer to the inland defence road—has been completed, and every credit is due to Queensland for the help it gave.

The Government of Queensland are also concerned with the supply of foodstuffs for our people in the event of interruption to transport. Steps have been taken to ensure that the wants of the people are safeguarded.

The Government have also actively and extensively concerned themselves with shipbuilding. On the completion of the Story Bridge the labour engaged was transferred to the shipbuilding industry, and from time to time the Government have indicated that they are willing to make sites available to contractors if the expansion of this industry warrants it. To this end, in fact, suitable sites have been surveyed.

The possibility of constructing wooden ships has received the attention of the Government. The local shipbuilders have indicated their willingness and ability to proceed with the construction of this class of ship immediately orders are received. The Government have stated that if the capacity of existing shipbuilding yards is exceeded they will give immediate assistance in providing additional accommodation. These are proofs that the Government of Queensland have given every possible assistance to the war effort.

Every possible consideration has been given to air-raid precautions, but the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs, who controls this work, is faced with great difficulties, and in the past has been subjected to much unjust criticism. After all, the thing that counts is the preservation of the lives of our people. We who remain at home are just as important as the fighting forces in the front line, for the destruction of the back line leads to the ultimate defeat of the front line. It is our belief that in the event of invasion it is the Government's duty and right to protect the civilian population, and that is all that the Public Safety Act seeks to do.

The policy pursued by this Government has led to the general prosperity throughout the State. For three consecutive years there have been surpluses in the State finances, and any increase in revenue has not been due to increased taxation, as has been suggested by our opponents—but to the fact that more people are at work than at any previous stage in our history. The greater amount of employment has meant increased earnings in all phases of productivity, and this in turn has brought about increased revenue.

The Australian Labour Party takes the view that as this war will be won by the common people, those common people must have the right to work at honest toil, and I am confident that records will give the lie direct to any suggestion that the Labour Government are not pulling their weight in the effort to win this war.

I desire to thank the various Ministers for the cordial and sympathetic consideration they have given to my representations since I have been elected to this Parliament. It is encouraging to one who supports our Labour Government to know that whenever he presents a case for the people of his electorate he receives the utmost courtesy and consideration. I have already had ample evidence of it.

In conclusion, I hope and trust that when this Parliament reassembles in 1942 the dark clouds of war will have vanished and that we shall be able to walk once again in the bright sunshine, being able to say that we have won not only the war but also the peace. Had we won the peace as well as the war at the end of 1918 we should not have been faced with the present turmoil and destruction.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. TURNER (Kelvin Grove) (3.25 p.m.): I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, so ably moved by the hon. member for Gregory. At the outset, I should like to congratulate him upon the able manner in which he moved that motion. I think we all shall agree that he has set a solid foundation for a very successful political career; his services will be valuable not only to the State but also to the Government.

I consider it a privilege to second the motion before the Assembly. The Government have honoured the electors of Kelvin Grove

electorate in this respect, and I am confident that the people of Kelvin Grove will show their appreciation of the fact whenever an opportunity offers.

Like the hon. member for Gregory I desire to offer you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your re-election to the office of Speaker of this Assembly. Like the hon. member for Logan I have known you a considerable number of years and was closely associated with you in the industrial movement before you were elected a member of Parliament. I can honestly say that if your conduct and actions in this Chamber are anything like what they were when you were connected with the industrial movement, no-one in Queensland need have any fear about how you will control the conduct of this House. I was associated with you in many industrial battles; at all times you were willing to make sacrifices in the interests of those you represented—financial and other sacrifices—but more often financial. I know that you made a great sacrifice when you took up a position as an official in the industrial movement of Queensland; I know that you made sacrifices throughout your industrial life—in fact, your whole life was one of sacrifice. I was one of those who were happy to learn that the people were to reward you for your activities in the industrial field by electing you a member of this Assembly. I have nothing but the greatest admiration for you and feel confident that you will carry out your duties with credit to yourself and reflect dignity on the position you hold.

I should also like to congratulate the Premier upon the success he achieved at the last general elections in having the Government returned to office once again. The Premier, in his wisdom, made no promises to the electors of Queensland because he knew that with the changing circumstances and the conditions operating it would be unwise to make promises from an election platform that he might be unable through no fault of his own to fulfil. Knowing our hon. leader as we do, we know that he does not make a promise that in his own heart he believes he cannot fulfil. On this occasion the Premier created a political record, one that has never been equalled in political history. It was the first occasion on which the same Government on their appeal to the people of the State won back seats they had lost on a previous occasion. Such a thing has happened under different leaders, but this is the first time in political history that seats have been lost and won back under the same leadership. It is, no doubt, a wonderful achievement. With all due respect to the previous representatives, I can say without a blush that those electorates were never better represented than they are to-day.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. TURNER: As a representative of an industrial organisation extending over 17 years I share the views expressed by the hon. member for Gregory concerning our industrial arbitration system. Recently I

had the privilege of attending a union conference in the South and I was amazed to learn that although a branch of my organisation down there which was subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Court of Conciliation and Arbitration had made application for a variation of its award in August, 1939, it was not until 28 July, 1941, that the matter was listed for hearing. I recall that about 10 years ago my organisation applied to the Queensland Industrial Court for a variation of the award relating to oil stores and that the employers in the industry immediately applied to the Federal Court for an order restraining the State Court from hearing the case. Nothing further was done by the employers for three years. Their sole purpose was to move the Federal Court so as to prevent the State Court from functioning as it was intended to function, and so my branch in Queensland was prevented from obtaining an improvement in the wages and conditions of the workers in that industry. I can say without fear that there is no other industry in the State or the Commonwealth that is better able financially to grant improved conditions to its workers than the oil industry. Its profits over the years conclusively prove my statement.

I was delighted when the Labour Government in this State passed legislation compelling oil companies to blend a percentage of power alcohol with petrol with the object of reducing the amount of money that was sent overseas every year to pay for motor spirit produced in America and other overseas oil-bearing countries. I can say from practical knowledge that that action was a blessing not only to Queensland but to the Commonwealth as a whole. Indeed, the people associated with the motor industry, men of considerable experience, express the view that the blended spirit is the best that can be used in any internal-combustion engine. I know that the Government are insisting that the blended spirit be used in Government cars, and I know, too, that the oil companies are insisting that it be used not only in their trucks but also in the cars that are used by travellers in scouring the country soliciting orders for their products.

During my trip to the South I bought a copy of the paper, "The Border News," at Albury, and I was pleased to read that the wheatgrowers in that district were urging the wheatgrowers to unite in an endeavour to compel the Federal Government and the New South Wales and Victorian Governments to follow the example of the Queensland Government in insisting upon the use of a blended motor spirit. The Federal Government were proposing to use the surplus wheat crop for the distillation of power alcohol and so the wheatgrowers in the Southern districts were urging the farmers to organise with the object of having a power-alcohol factory established at Albury. This would enable them to reduce transport costs to a minimum because the wheat that would be required for alcohol would be treated near at hand.

I considered that a compliment to the State of Queensland, and the Government of

Queensland in particular. It is quite evident that the wheatgrowers in the Southern States have appreciated the legislation enacted in this State to enable power alcohol to be extracted from our sugar molasses, inasmuch as they are agitating for their Governments to take similar action with respect to the surplus wheat crop. If similar legislation had been enacted throughout the Commonwealth when this Government took action, our stocks of petrol to-day would be considerably greater than they are, and we should be further removed from danger in that respect.

I observe from the Speech by His Excellency that the Government intend to bring down a co-ordinated scheme of national education. As one who has been very active in school-committee work—at the moment I am chairman of the school committee in my area—I do not hesitate to say that my electorate possesses one of the finest State school buildings in the southern hemisphere. It was one of the first schools constructed as a result of the rehabilitation policy adopted by this Government when they took office in 1932. I am happy to say that through the greater facilities made available to the children of this State those attending the Ithaca Creek State School have had their share of success in the scholarship examination. From 95 to 98 per cent. of the children attending that school are workers' children. Since the privilege of winning State scholarships was extended to the whole community, instead of being confined to selected classes, the Ithaca Creek School has succeeded in obtaining between 50 and 60 scholarships each year. For the extension of that privilege I voice my appreciation to the Government on behalf of the workers. I trust, when the Minister and his department announce the amendments to be introduced into our educational enactments, it will be found that vocational scholarships will have the same value as academic scholarships. Many children attending our State schools are not academically minded, but are mechanically minded. Although some have been unable to reach the present standards of the scholarship examinations, they have gone a considerable distance in the industrial field and have become not only valuable citizens, but also of great assistance to industry. I hope, therefore, that the Minister will see to it that the vocational scholarships will have the same value as the academic scholarships.

There is not much more that I can say. My colleague, the hon. member for Gregory, covered much of the ground it is necessary to traverse on an occasion such as this, but I should like to supplement his remarks on the A.R.P. work. As chief warden in my locality, I desire to pay a compliment to and congratulate the Secretary for Health and Home Affairs on the success his efforts have achieved. He has not allowed himself to be intimidated or embarrassed. From time to time he has been charged with doing nothing worth while, but I think last Saturday night's display at the Exhibition grounds was a complete answer to his critics. I think even

the Minister himself was amazed at the success of that display, which gave the people of Queensland some idea of what has been done. Although the organisation has been a silent one the work has been carried out most effectively and efficiently.

From my experience, I know we have been criticised, because of the detailed nature of information we solicited. When we asked the people for detailed information that would be of assistance to the Government in the event of an attack by an enemy invader, such as the number and type of vehicles owned or any other equipment likely to be needed, the people thought we had gone mad, but I think Saturday night's display must have given them a realistic idea of what to expect should this country be invaded. The people who missed seeing that display missed something worth while; and judging from the remarks of the Minister when addressing the people after that display I feel confident he was absolutely staggered at the success of his own efforts. I offer him my sincere congratulations. It has been no easy task to build up an organisation that was so efficient as to give the display that we saw last Saturday night.

I know it is the ambition of the Minister that the same effective organisation should operate in all the principal coastal towns, particularly in the North, because they are nearer to our immediate enemy than we are. Should there be an attempted invasion—of course, with the hon. member for Gregory, I sincerely hope that day will never come—I feel confident the organisation in our coast towns will give an effective account of themselves.

In conclusion, I also hope with the hon. member for Gregory that when this war is won we shall win the peace with it; but I am very much afraid that if the present conditions continue that will not happen. A young man in my own electorate who has a wife and three children served his country at Port Moresby for some time and was discharged as unfit on account of a germ in the foot that rendered him unfit for active military service. I say emphatically that this man should be accepted for home service. Could not his services be utilised in some of the canteens or at the officers' mess where able-bodied young men are employed? Should the military authorities not show some appreciation of the services this man has rendered to his country? I think it is a crying shame that men who have served this country to the best of their ability should be treated in such a manner that they should have to come to members of Parliament, as this man came to me, and ask what can be done for them in regard to employment. If that state of affairs is going to continue, the winning of the war will not be of as great benefit to us as it should be. The winning of the peace, too, is of great importance to us. As I have frequently heard our worthy Premier state, what is won and taken away to-day by might will be taken away by might another day. We do not want that to happen.

With the hon. member for Gregory, I sincerely hope that in winning this terrible war we win the peace that should go with it.

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr. Nicklin, adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. W. Forgan Smith, Mackay): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 10 o'clock a.m. to-morrow.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.48 p.m.