

ited, to amend the Second Schedule of the Trustee Companies Act 1958 and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The SPEAKER (the Hon. K. H. Wheeler).—I have the honour to report that the House this day attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament of which, for greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy. As the Speech is printed, and copies are in the hands of honorable members, it will not be necessary for me to read it.

Mr. McCLURE (Bendigo). — I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I have the honour, on behalf of the people of the electorate of Bendigo, of expressing our loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and also our thanks to His Excellency, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and Lady Delacombe for the service they have given to this State over many years. Both have given freely of their time in the discharge of their respective duties and have earned the admiration of all of us. It would be difficult to name a place in Victoria which they have not visited.

It is also my duty to pay tribute to a man who, for the past nine years, ably represented the electoral district of Bendigo. Mr. Bob Trethewey was well known for his hard work in the electorate and he has earned our heart-felt thanks. If ever a man was

well-known to and well-liked by everyone in his electorate, it was Bob Trethewey. He was respected by all, regardless of political affiliations. On behalf of the people of the Bendigo electorate, I convey our thanks to Bob and Mrs. Trethewey for their efforts in the past, and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

The matters to which His Excellency referred in his Speech could be summarized under the heading "Quality of Life". Most of the measures foreshadowed will affect the well-being of all of us, whether we live in the city or in the country. City or Country—it is a pity that there seems to be such a distinction between the two. As the representative of a country electorate, I am extremely pleased to note the effort now being made to promote balanced development throughout the State so that residents in the country will be able to share in some of the advantages of city life. I am also pleased to note the work being undertaken to control pollution in the metropolitan area so that people living in the city will be able to share in some way in the advantages of living in the country, one of which is a clean environment. Surely the key to this is planning, and today the Governor informed honorable members that it is proposed to establish a Ministry of Planning to plan and develop new regional centres throughout the State.

The principal urban area in my electorate—the City of Bendigo—was selected some years ago for accelerated development, and I am pleased to be able to report that rapid progress is now being made. In the intercensal period from 1966 to 1971 the population of Bendigo increased by about 4,000 persons—a growth rate of 9.45 per cent, which is above the State average and by far the best increase of any country urban centre.

I wish to dwell on Bendigo for a short period because, without it, the State of Victoria would not be in the buoyant position which it is in today. Bendigo was Victoria's leading gold

producing area, and as such made a profound contribution to the welfare and prosperity of Victoria. Although gold mining brought advantages to the State as a whole, it created many problems for the city which I have the honour to represent. Mining was so extensive that literally thousands of acres of land were spoilt. However, the challenge is being met although the cost of reclamation is high. Sand heaps are now being levelled to provide space for new houses and new industry. Estates are growing up out of the sand heaps, filling the gaps between the pockets of older residential and industrial development.

One cannot but be impressed by the aptitude for planning of Bendigo's pioneers. His Excellency, in his Speech, referred to town planning, youth, sport and recreation, education, transport, health and social welfare. The pioneers of Bendigo prepared such a blueprint about 120 years ago, and I can vouch for the quality of life which exists in the "golden city" as a result.

In 1854, when the city was three years old, the Government surveyor laid out the first streets. He provided for wide roads and, in the centre of the city, a 70-acre recreational area which today contains sporting ovals, tennis courts, bowling and croquet greens, and the restful Rosalind Park—surely all the ingredients of youth, sport and recreation.

Education came next with the early Mechanics Institute. Later this became the Bendigo School of Mines, which this year is celebrating its centenary under the name of Bendigo Institute of Technology. For the requirements of social welfare, 10 acres of land was reserved for the Bendigo Base Hospital and, although the city was only three years old, 10 acres for the Bendigo Home and Hospital for the Aged.

Transport was an urgent need, and the people of Bendigo and the Government were equal to the task. In 1862 they built the Melbourne to Bendigo railway in record time. The

route chosen necessitated the construction of huge viaducts and two long tunnels—at a time when all they had were picks and shovels, horses and carts. At the same time, provision was made for twice what was then necessary; they provided for duplication of the track—the type of thinking which we are often loath to accept today.

The pioneers of Bendigo were also very much aware of urban transport requirements, and as early as 1890 tramcars graced the streets of Bendigo. First, there were battery trams which rarely made the distance and which often suffered the humiliation of being towed to their destination by horses. Then there were steam trams which scared the horses; and finally the first electric trams. I am pleased, as are the residents of the Bendigo electorate, that the Government has seen fit to allow a section of the Bendigo tramway system to be retained as a tourist attraction since the system was abandoned last year in favour of buses for commuter services within the city.

Bendigo is fortunate to have retained much of its "old-world" charm, and in this regard it has set an example for the rest of Victoria to follow. If we are to attract tourists, they will want to see the things which are old and significant. We must retain our heritage and in so doing take heed of the advice of tourist and historical bodies. Tourism could well become our principal industry, and it is one that can be developed State-wide.

My final remarks relate to a question which is of primary concern to all of us—housing. Victoria has a proud record in this field and a world-wide reputation for home ownership. This State has recognized that it is a fundamental right of every person to have the opportunity of owning his own home. It is pleasing to note that in the near future low-income families will be able to purchase homes on no deposit, and that the

waiting time for a Housing Commission home in the country will be only about six months, which is about the time it takes to build a house. If there is a key to balanced development surely it is housing. Victoria has seized the initiative in this field and undoubtedly will continue to do so. Not only in housing but in almost every field Victoria is the "shining light" within Australia. Today, with his outline of the programme for the Forty-sixth Parliament, the Governor has given us every reason to be optimistic for the future.

Mr. LACY (Ringwood).—I am pleased to have the honour of seconding the motion for the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. It is an honour not only for myself but also for the people of the Ringwood electorate whom I am pleased to represent in this House. This electorate has been most fortunate up to now to have had as its member the Honorable J. W. Manson—a man who has set for his successor an extremely high standard of local representation. It is my ambition to attain that standard.

I congratulate the honorable member for Bendigo on his speech in moving this motion and I endorse the sentiments he expressed. It is indeed a privilege to have this opportunity, at the beginning of the Forty-sixth Parliament of Victoria, of paying tribute to the distinguished service rendered to this State by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe, and Lady Delacombe, as well as having the opportunity of expressing our profound loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Sir Rohan Delacombe, who is the 22nd representative of the Sovereign in this State, completed ten years of service to Victoria on 3rd May of this year. I mention this fact because it is a distinction which he shares with only three others in the history of Victoria—Charles La Trobe, Sir Winston Dugan, and Sir Dallas Brooks. Moreover, it has been a decade of our history which has been

more difficult than any other for representatives of the Crown in this country. Many strains have been placed on our relationship with Great Britain. This now seems to be building up to some sort of climax which could for many years to come determine the quality of our association with the Crown.

Sir Rohan and Lady Delacombe have handled their important responsibilities with energy and initiative, and my constituents and I hope they will be able to continue for many more years—at least for the duration of the Forty-seventh Parliament, and thereby become the longest-serving representatives of the Sovereign in the history of Victoria. They have the experience and the understanding to carry us through this critical time.

The people of the Ringwood electorate would also wish me to express their loyalty to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family. Nations around the world look at this and other Commonwealth nations with envy, for many good reasons. Chief among the reasons for this envy are the character and quality of our first family. There is a value that is enshrined in our relationship with the Queen and her family which many forces in our society would want us to have done with. It is the value of grace—that is, free, unmerited favour, or simply giving. In fact, the people of Australia, including Victorians, give Her Majesty and her family their place in our society; they are not elected to it; they do not have to strive for it; they do not have to curry favour for it; we give it to them freely and without directives, without conditions. But because we exercise grace on her behalf, she is also free to exercise grace on our behalf. She is free, if she wishes, to use her position of leadership for our benefit. She is free to give to us. The envy of other nations is not only that this gracious system works without engendering strife and creating divisions in our society but also that under Queen Elizabeth II. it has worked