

However, that is for experts to decide. But the bottle-neck from Bulwer-street to the city causes considerable and many delays. What I have mentioned concerns only one area. This traffic question must be faced. Before the war the city experienced a lot of traffic congestion which has been relieved because of the war. However, as the position will arise again in the near future the people concerned should take the matter in hand and do something about it before it is too late. I support the motion.

On motion by Hon. H. L. Roche, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 21st August, 1945.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

MOTIONS—THE WAR.

(a) Cessation of Hostilities.

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [4.32]: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and with the indulgence of the House, I desire to move, on behalf of the Government, the following resolution:—

That, following the recent unconditional surrender of Japan and thereby the complete victory of the Allied Forces, the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled expresses its profound gratitude to Almighty God, its deep and abiding loyalty to His Majesty the King, and its great admiration of all those men and women of the British Commonwealth of Nations and the other United Nations who fought and worked to destroy German and Japanese aggression and tyranny and that His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor be asked to transmit the foregoing resolution to His Majesty the King.

The recent unconditional surrender of Japan, following the previous unconditional surrender of Germany, brought the war to a complete end. Not only was this world-war the most terrible of its kind in human history, in regard to the destruction which it brought to the world, but it had an unusually destructive feature which had been associated only to a small extent with previous wars. I refer to the death and destruction which it brought to civilians, and to property of all kinds, in countries that were not actually in the firing-line, in the old sense in which that term was always used. So we have every reason, I think, to feel grateful that this terrible conflict between nations has at last come to an end.

Some people might feel that the war was decided entirely by the weight of arms, by the weight of numbers, by the work of scientists, and of men and women in the factories and in the production of food-stuffs and similar necessities, but I think we would be foolish if we were to overlook the fact that the nations ranged on one side were fighting in a righteous cause, whereas the nations—such as Germany and Japan—on the other side were waging a cause that was entirely unrighteous and completely cruel and tyrannical in the purpose for which they were carrying on that struggle. Therefore it seems to me that there is always operating a supernatural influence which plays a tremendously important part in deciding, sooner or later, that righteousness and justice shall prevail over all the forces which oppose those principles, no matter how powerful the opposing forces might be in the early stages of the struggle, and no matter how spectacular and devastating the progress of those forces might be before the other nations have time to prepare themselves for the struggle and to meet, with equal and indeed superior strength, the strength which the aggressor nations were using.

I think it is most appropriate, too, that we should, as a Parliament, express our loyalty to His Majesty the King, because by doing that we are expressing our loyalty to the people he represents and to everything associated with the life and work of the people of Great Britain and the other British Dominions. We know that during this war the people of Great Britain—especially the people of England

—suffered very great ordeals that came to them frequently, and the coming of which gave them at times little warning, and at other times no warning at all, so we feel extremely appreciative today of the great work the people of that country did during the most dreadful days of the war in which they were particularly engaged, namely, the war against Fascist Germany. It is not easy to particularise regarding the leaders of the United Nations because when one starts to mention the name of one, one feels bound to mention the names of all, but I think every member will agree that it is appropriate that we should, when dealing with a resolution of this kind, express our great appreciation and admiration of the tremendously inspiring leadership given to Great Britain during the war by Mr. Churchill.

It is fitting, too, that we should refer briefly to the great service given to the United States by the late Mr. Roosevelt, by the leader of Russia—Marshal Stalin; by the leader of China—Chiang Kai Shek; by the leader of Australia during the war years—the late Mr. Curtin, and also by the leaders of other nations and countries that were part of the United Nations of the world. It is difficult to find words that are adequate to express our admiration for the fighting men of all the United Nations. Those men, by becoming part of the Fighting Services, indicated that they were prepared to sacrifice everything, even life itself, in order that their people and their countries might be saved from the dreadful fate which would come upon them in the event of the aggressor nations being successful in the war.

I do not propose to say anything in particular at this stage about our Australian fighting men because there will be a separate resolution dealing with them. To the men and women who, although they were not in the Fighting Services of the United Nations, played a vital part in many ways in the fields of production and in other fields of service, enabling the war effort to be developed to the maximum and carried on without let-up of any kind, we must feel and express our admiration. This, indeed, was a total war in every sense of the term. It was a war that came almost to everybody in some shape or form, and there was in this war, therefore, a greater opportunity for service on the part of the ordinary men

and women in the communities of the United Nations. Thus, in a more direct way than ever before, they were enabled to play an important part in assisting the war effort. Especially was this so in Australia where, during this war, we produced ever so much greater a quantity of war materials in the form of munitions than was done in the previous world war. So, for the reasons I have explained and for many others that could be explained, I now move the motion.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [4.43]: It gives me very great pleasure to second the motion and to say that I entirely subscribe to all that has been said by the Acting Premier. I, too, consider that we must include in our feelings of gratitude a great measure of gratitude to that power which the Acting Premier referred to as supernatural and which is referred to in the motion as Almighty God, because I am perfectly convinced there has been ample evidence during this war that such a power has been at work. Otherwise, it is extremely difficult to understand why it was, in the worst days of 1940, when the Axis nations were at the zenith of their power and when the Ally upon whom we then relied—the Republic of France—had completely collapsed, no invasion of Great Britain in its then state of unpreparedness took place.

If it is not true that those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad, why was it that Japan should have struck at the United States of America at the same moment as it struck at the British Commonwealth of Nations, because undoubtedly its action at that time precipitated, with great speed, into the war the whole of the Forces of the United States, which undoubtedly had a very great deal to do with the recent sudden collapse of the Japanese? One might go on and ask why was it that the German leader turned eastward to Russia in 1941 when he need not have done so. What was it that drove him to that action when the promise of conquest might, had all gone as he anticipated, have led him westward to the victory which he then believed was within his reach? So I have no doubt whatever, and I am sure most of us here, on reflection, will be of the same opinion as the Acting Premier, that that supernatural power was at work in the interests of what we believe were justice and truth.

To our Royal Family, we must, as loyal citizens of the Commonwealth and the British Commonwealth of Nations, extend our congratulations and our feelings of loyalty and gratitude for their behaviour during the struggle through which we have just passed. From the highest to the lowest in the British Commonwealth of Nations, there have been bereavements. The Royal Family have suffered just as have many families in our midst and so many families in the other nations which have comprised the United Nations in this war. To all the people who have suffered in that way, we are willing and anxious to extend our sincerest sympathy. To those whose sons and daughters, perhaps, have been spared by the end of the war coming quickly as it has done, we must extend our feelings of pleasure because of the great number that have undoubtedly been saved from a similar fate that must have overtaken them had the war lasted longer and had it been necessary to carry it on to overthrow the enemy's armed forces as was done in the European theatre of war. All our people of all classes and all sections of the British Commonwealth have striven to their utmost and done their duty nobly in the interests of the war effort. Starting from scratch, indeed from behind scratch, they managed to reach a stage where they were able to overcome the armed might of their enemies, and this could not have been done without the greatest measure of unanimity, I believe, that has ever been achieved. It is a measure of unanimity which I hope and have reason to believe will be carried into the period after the war in an effort to reconstruct that which has been damaged or destroyed, and to improve the other conditions that exist in the British Commonwealth of Nations and elsewhere.

It is true, I think, that every great occasion in the British Empire has found us a great leader. When things are at their worst, it seems that someone turns up who is able and willing to undertake the great tasks that are waiting to be done and to carry them out successfully. During the 1914-18 war we had Mr. Lloyd George, and on other occasions we have had other great citizens, and during this war we have had Winston Churchill, who boldly told the people of Great Britain and the British Commonwealth in 1940, when he took over the helm of office at a time when ruin and disaster stared

us in the face, that although he could promise nothing but blood, sweat and tears, he yet looked forward to final and complete victory. His belief was justified, and the job that he did will go down in history as unquestionably one that probably could not have been done in similar circumstances by any other man who did not possess the peculiar qualities that are possessed by the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill—tenacity and courage.

In our country, too, we have had men who have faced the issues and done their utmost, with a considerable measure of success, to co-ordinate and bring into full effect the efforts of our people. In every part of the British Commonwealth, we have had similar men—such as Marshal Smuts in South Africa—who have led the way in doing what was required to hold their people together, and to bring the greatest and strongest war effort to bear so that the cause of justice, to which the Acting Premier referred, might triumph. It seems to me that we are justly entitled today firstly to express our delight at the successful termination of this very terrible war at a period long before most of us expected it to end; and secondly to offer our congratulations to all of those who in any way have contributed to bringing hostilities to a successful conclusion.

In the Pacific area, we were blessed by divine providence in being provided with a man in charge such as the General of the American Army, General MacArthur, who has displayed all the qualities that are associated with great leadership. In the British field, we have had a man like Admiral Mountbatten who has, in his own section of the combat area, provided us with the same leadership and the same success. Throughout the whole of the period, I believe there has been no one in this House at least who was of the opinion that we would not ultimately emerge triumphant from this struggle. Admittedly, in 1940 it was hard to maintain our belief in that point of view, but I do think it was maintained and—thank God!—the end has justified that belief. It now only remains for us all, in our several spheres and to the utmost of our endeavour, to promote a state of affairs in the post-war period that will result in a reasonable measure of human contentment and no more wars.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth) [4.52]: I know that I express the deepest feelings of those associated with me on these benches when I ask that we should be associated with the motion moved by the Acting Premier, and with the sentiments expressed by him and by the Leader of the Opposition.

Question put and passed; the motion agreed to.

(b) *Tribute to the Services.*

THE ACTING PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [4.54]: I move—

That the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled desires to convey the deepest thanks of the people of Western Australia to the fighting men of Australia for the magnificent service given by them in the cause of freedom, justice and righteousness. The deep appreciation of our people is also expressed to all those men and women who assisted the fighting men by work and service in the various theatres of war, on the seas, in the air, or on the home front. This resolution to be forwarded to the appropriate Ministers of the Commonwealth.

In support of this motion, not very much requires to be said. We know very clearly the history of our own fighting men in this war as in the previous war. The fact that during the recent conflict the Japanese almost invaded Australia and that we were saved only in the nick of time by the aid which came to us from America, does not in any way detract from the heroism and the willingness to sacrifice of our own Australian fighting men. During the war, they fought in many parts of the world—in the Middle East, in Greece, in Crete, in Europe, in New Guinea and elsewhere. Wherever they fought—whether they were sailors, soldiers or airmen—they brought great credit to themselves and won for themselves, in the estimation of the Australian people in particular and of the people of the world in general, a very high place. I think it can be said without any attempt at exaggeration that they proved themselves to be thoroughly entitled to be given the name "worthy sons of the Anzacs." They played as conspicuous a part in this war as our fighting men played in the last war.

Knowing these men as we do, I think we can say with a considerable degree of certainty that they will, when they return to Australia, play a prominent part as citizens of the Commonwealth in establishing within

this country goodwill, comradeship, and a system of social security which will be beneficial to the people of Australia today and to all those people who may live here in the future. We must also feel considerable gratitude to the ordinary men and women, many of whom, for various reasons, could not enter the Fighting Services or the auxiliary services. Those men and women played their part wherever they were—on the farms, in the mines, in the workshops, and in the many other places in which activities were carried on which, although their effect upon the war was indirect, were nevertheless tremendously important. To all of these we express our appreciation and thanks. We know that the greatest reward that they would wish to have for the efforts they made during the war, would be the ending of the war and the return to them of loved ones from the various theatres of war spread throughout the world.

MR. McDONALD (West Perth) [4.57]: I have the honour to second the motion. This time marks the end of an epoch—of a period of great suffering and great heroism and a period during which so many people have laboured incessantly to bring about the victory we celebrate today. It is very proper that this Parliament should recognise what has been done for the nation by its Fighting Services. They have honoured Australia, and it is fitting that Australia should honour them. It is appropriate, too, that we should express to all of those who have lost their sons or husbands or fathers in the course of the war our deepest sympathy in the bereavement they have sustained. Then, too, we know that the exertions of our Fighting Services would have been of no avail if it were not for the devotion and labour of so many men and women in industry and in the economic life of our country. On the whole I think we can say that the Australian nation has risen to its responsibilities and rendered a faithful discharge of its duties. Very often it has been done under very great difficulties because of the anxiety that has been felt by so many people whose relatives have gone oversea, and the difficulties that the housewife in the home has had to face. People on farms have had to meet difficulties day by day, and so have others in the outback districts.

The meeting of our obligations has been made not less easy by long hours, and by working under difficult circumstances. To all those people there should also be given their just reward of praise. It is almost impossible to realise, after six years of war, that the strain has come to an end. I do not know whether we really appreciate that we are, possibly, entering on a new era altogether in human history. We are too near to events to be able to appraise them at their real significance, but I am prepared to believe that the end of this war will be a new date in the story of mankind. If it is to be a golden date in the history of mankind we must see that the exertions and sacrifices of the last six years become the foundation of better conditions for all the people throughout the world. The best tribute we can pay to our fighting men will be to ensure that when they return they receive justice and a proper place in the civil community. That will be the best expression of our obligation that we can make to them.

Also, the opportunity is now presented to the world, and to us in Australia, of seeing that as many as possible of past evils are eliminated. We know that we were plunged into a most terrible conflict because the spiritual and moral values of the world had not kept pace with its scientific attainments. That is only a platitude today, but it is none the less a lesson to us, and an obligation to see that in the days to come these spiritual and moral values take their proper place. There is much to be done. There is a sense of community responsibility, and of responsibility for each other's welfare that needs to be built into the community, and which we hope to see following the sufferings of the last six years. On behalf of those associated with me I have, therefore, the privilege of supporting and seconding the motion moved by the Acting Premier. I hope, with him, that today will usher in a better and happier era for all mankind.

MR. THORN (Toodyay) [5.5]: On behalf of myself and those associated with me I wish to express pleasure in supporting the motion so ably moved by the Acting Premier and supported by the leader of the Liberal Party. We can all agree with the views expressed by them, and I can assure

members that we on these benches are most gratified that this terrible turmoil has been brought to a successful conclusion.

Question put and passed; the motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS.

LANDS.

As to Settlement West of Mt. Barker.

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister for Lands:

1, Have any proposals been prepared for the use of the lands to the westward of Mt. Barker, including the area known as Rocky Gully, which were inspected by the then Minister for Lands and a party of departmental officers toward the end of 1941?

2, If so, what are the proposals?

3, If not, what conclusions were arrived at in regard to these lands as areas suitable for closer settlement, or other settlement, as a result of the inspection referred to, and what are the intentions of the Government in regard to their use?

4, If the use of these lands has not received such consideration as to enable a decision to be made, will a review of the information gained as a consequence of the inspection and from other sources be conducted in the near future with a view to coming to a decision as to the best methods to be adopted for making use of this fertile country?

5, If the lands in question are available for settlement, are there any special terms connected with their availability or any limitation on the persons who can apply, and what are the prices and terms of payment applicable?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Yes.

2, The proposals include a complete investigation as to the suitability of the land for settlement purposes within the area mentioned, and if such investigations prove satisfactory, then the establishment of the necessary development both in regard to roads, general facilities, and on particular areas to be included in farming units to be made available under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

3 and 4, Answered by (2).

5, The blocks in the subdivision held by the Crown were made available at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per acre on conditional purchase conditions, subject to