



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/0498
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:
Development of Mid-North - (for T.M. Casey)

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/0498

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

The development of the mid north and the far north of South Australia at the moment must depend upon the known resources of the area. Given the known resources the development of industry in the area must relate entirely to the known economic potential of the area. It would be quite wrong to suggest that industry could be artificially placed in the northern areas of the State - industry not related to the resources which are now known to be there.

What are the industrial possibilities? There will be an extension of standard gauge lines in South Australia and of the line from Port Augusta to Whyalla so that one can anticipate a build-up of work by the Commonwealth Railways. This will mean some expansion of Commonwealth Railways activities in Port Augusta. There will also be an extension of industry at Whyalla with the development of high labour use industries and consumer durable industries in an area which can provide industrial know-how and a stable work force as well as easy transport.

The major development in Whyalla, of course, will come with an expansion of the shipyards and continued processing of iron ore. Otherwise the development of the North, except in mining is likely to come in agriculture, horticulture, and the pastoral industry. The developments in agriculture

and the pastoral industry have already gone pretty well to the extent which we can expect in development, and given present resources we are not likely to see more development of this kind. On the other hand, there is likely to be a marked expansion in wine grape growing and this, of course, can affect the area around Clare. At the moment, wineries in Australia cannot supply the market for home consumption in Australia and there is a growing export market. A breakthrough in further development could come in one of two ways:- Firstly with discovery of additional minerals. The mineral potential of South Australia is very great and it may well be that valuable additional mineral finds can be found in the mid and far north. This might well transform the scene quite markedly. Secondly, if there is a market decline in the cost of desalinating water, or the consultants to the South Australian Government on water resources can recommend new and novel ways of storing the floodwaters of the area for subsequent economic use, or of precipitating rain by the use of Thermal mountains or the like, then, with water of course, again a real breakthrough in additional land use could occur. At the moment, of course, this is merely a matter for continued exploration and investigation.