



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

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/1949
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:
Speech at the Renmark Irrigation Trust Main Pumping Station Opening

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/1949

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

1949
56

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST MAIN PUMPING STATION OPENING.

1.12.72

MR. HERITAGE, MY MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, SIR THOMAS PLAYFORD, MR. SIMS, OUR INTERSTATE VISITORS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY TO OPEN THE TRUST'S NEW MAIN PUMPING STATION.

THIS IS A DAY OF VERY GREAT PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENMARK AND THE WHOLE IRRIGATION AREA.

IT IS ALSO AN OCCASION OF GREAT SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE.

RIGHT FROM THE DAYS OF THE CHAFFEY BROTHERS' INVESTIGATION OF IRRIGATION-GROWING PROSPECTS ALONG THE MURRAY, THIS HAS BEEN AN AREA RICH IN A TRADITION OF BATTLING, PERSEVERANCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

2.

THIS NEW PUMPING STATION AND THE TRUST'S PLANS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT SHOWS THAT THESE QUALITIES OF TENACITY AND RESOURCEFULNESS ARE STILL ABUNDANT HERE.

I AM DELIGHTED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLAY ITS PART IN MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT'S AN INTEREST AND AN INVOLVEMENT WHICH WE SHALL CONTINUE.

FRUIT GROWING BY IRRIGATION ON THIS LAND IS, AS EVERYONE HERE TODAY WELL KNOWS, A HARD AND SOMETIMES A HEARTBREAKING BUSINESS.

BUT THE STORY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AND THE STRUGGLES OF THE PIONEERS IS ALSO A TRUE AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE.

THE VISION OF THE CHAFFEY BROTHERS, THE EARLY FAILURES, THE FIRST SUCCESSES, THE SHEER FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL FROM DROUGHT TO FLOOD AND BACK TO DROUGHT IS PART OF OUR HISTORY AND AN ARDUOUS PROCESS WHICH HAS PRODUCED A COMMUNITY REMARKABLE IN ITS WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER TO TRIUMPH OVER HARD TIMES.

IT'S A SPIRIT WHICH IS STILL NEEDED TODAY.

THE COMPLETION OF THIS PUMPING STATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED IRRIGATION WORKS IS AN IMPRESSIVE ENGINEERING FEAT.

IT ALSO COMES AT A TIME WHEN FRUIT GROWERS ARE FACING NEW DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING MARKETS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO EUROPE PROVIDES NEW PROBLEMS. THE WINE EXCISE WAS A NEW SETBACK - ALTHOUGH THE WAY IN WHICH THE RENMAND CO-OPERATIVE FACED THAT CHALLENGE IS A MODEL FOR OTHERS.

FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS IS GOING TO BE A JOB FOR THE TRUST, FOR THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE WHOLE RIVERLAND COMMUNITY - AND NOT AN EASY JOB.

I AM CONFIDENT, THOUGH, THAT SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND. I THINK WE HAVE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING PROFITABLE NEW MARKETS IN ASIA AND ELSEWHERE FOR OUR FRUITS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO A TOTAL REPEAL OF THE WINE EXCISE - I DON'T THINK I NEED SPELL OUT THE PRECISE MANNER IN WHICH I THINK THIS WILL VERY SHORTLY BE ACHIEVED.

I THINK ALSO THAT OUR WINES - PROPERLY MARKETED - WILL FIND GREATLY INCREASED ACCEPTANCE OVERSEAS.

I WAS INTERESTED THE OTHER DAY, IN READING THROUGH AN OLD SHIPPING GUIDE, TO FIND AN ADVERTISEMENT INSERTED BY THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

IT SAID THEN - JUST BEFORE FEDERATION - THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WINES HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF THE BRITISH PUBLIC UNDER AN "ORION" LABEL AND ADDED:

5.

"AUSTRALIAN WINE IS RAPIDLY FINDING FAVOUR IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC AND IS ESPECIALLY VALUED BY PHYSICIANS ON ACCOUNT OF ITS PURITY".

IT'S STILL PURE, NOT TO MENTION EXCELLENT AND, IF WE COULD SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTE IT MORE THAN SEVENTY YEARS AGO, WE CAN BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL TODAY.

THE SAME EXCELLENCE APPLIES TO THE OTHER PRODUCE - THE DRIED FRUITS AND THE CITRUS. AGAIN IT'S A FIERCELY COMPETITIVE MARKET BUT I'M SURE - THAT GIVEN AGGRESSIVE AND CO-OPERATIVE PROMOTION - WE CAN GET MUCH GREATER PENETRATION.

IF WE CAN APPLY TO THOSE PROBLEMS THE SAME ORDER OF IMAGINATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT THAT DISTINGUISHES THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST THEN THE FUTURE WILL LOOK GOOD INDEED.

6.

AS I SAID EARLIER THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PLEASED TO HAVE SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT.

BUT THE GREATEST SHARE OF THE CREDIT MUST GO TO THE TRUST FOR ITS CONCEPTION, PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION.

THERE HAVE BEEN TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, AND ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEMS.

THE TRUST HAS TACKLED EACH OF THEM IN TURN IN A WAY THAT MADE SUCCESS INEVITABLE. IN DOING SO, IT HAS BUILT UP A BODY OF EXPERTISE THAT WILL BE OF CONTINUING BENEFIT TO OTHERS.

THIS PUMPING STATION AND IRRIGATION SCHEME WILL ENSURE THAT AN ALREADY NOTABLY EFFICIENT FORM OF PRODUCTION WILL BECOME STILL MORE EFFICIENT AND WILL BENEFIT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA.

I HAVE VERY MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING THE STATION OPEN.

THANK YOU.