

COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS GOLDEN JUBILEE

We celebrate today a most important anniversary. Half a century ago with a combination of vision, born of a spirited nationalism, and the labour of some three and a half thousand men, there began in Port Augusta the construction of the Trans-Australian Railway.

The decision to undertake this great task was an indication of the capacity of our forefathers to see beyond their immediate present, and a demonstration of the energy and zeal of our young country. Hard manual labour built this line and under the most arduous and exacting conditions.

Today, by contrast, we have great mechanical and technological advancements associated with vast Commonwealth projects which are contributing so remarkably to the progress and prosperity of Australia.

If we continue to weld the foresight and determination of the pioneers with the facilities at our command today then we will help to build a nation capable of meeting any challenge.

I offer my best wishes for a memorable re-enactment of a notable event in our history.

R. G. MENZIES

CANBERRA,

30th August, 1962.