

sessed and by which this State has so much benefited. Amongst our wealthy men—not very many in number unfortunately—the name of Sir Winthrop Hackett will go down to posterity as one of the few who recognised the claims that literature, science, and art have upon wealth. He did all that he could to encourage the higher life of the people of this State, and he has raised amongst us memorials which will be lasting, to his memory—memorials such as the University of which the leader of the House has spoken, the King's Park, the Zoological Gardens, the Art Gallery, and the Museum, all of which provide an eloquent testimony to a life of usefulness in the service of the State. And not alone during his life; but that the hon. gentleman was mindful of these institutions is attested by his last will and testament, under which provision has been made which shows the good-will he bore to all those institutions, which proves that he was determined that even beyond his life the good which he had begun should be carried to a successful issue. With regard to Mr. Sewell, he was a gentleman, and a member of a party of much promise. Unfortunately he was with us all too short a time. Those of us who possessed the acquaintance and friendship of the late Mr. Sewell know that he represented to the fullest possible degree that community in Western Australia which is of so vital importance to us and the importance of which is growing every day—the agricultural and pastoral community, of which he was so successful and so efficient a member. With regard to Mr. Griffiths, perhaps the saddest fate of all overtook him, because, having won to a height which might be the creditable ambition of any man in the State, death robbed him of the opportunity of partaking of the honours which he had, as Mr. Drew has said, so creditably and so brilliantly won. I have very much pleasure in seconding the vote of condolence moved by the Colonial Secretary.

The PRESIDENT [3.56]: I may be permitted to add a wreath of respect to the memory of our oldest member, and if, on account of the circumstances which control our meeting, our condolence may seem belated, I can assure Lady Hackett and her children that it is none the less sincere. In many respects the death of Sir Winthrop

was hardly a matter for mourning. Full of years, full of honours, with faculties bright and affections warm to the last, lamented by the public and by many private friends, his passing to God's mercy was an euthanasia. Through the thoughtfulness of the Hon. J. F. Cullen, I was prompted to write an encouraging and sympathetic letter to Mrs. Sewell in the midst of her nursing cares and anxieties; but it did not reach the home before our friend had passed away. I had the melancholy satisfaction of being present at the funeral. Our friend Mr. Sewell did not push himself forward. His demeanour as a member was marked by quiet attention, regular attendance, and performance of duty. He was a good man, and had the ornament of a meek and gentle spirit, and in quietness and confidence found his strength. He had the respect of us all. The hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom is our only member who was present when I entered the Council in 1896, and to me these obituary reminders are very impressive, and they leave the solemn warning for each of us to serve his day and generation. I support the motion.

Question passed, members standing.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Hon. J. W. HICKEY (Central) [3.58]: I beg to move the adoption of the following Address-in-reply to His Excellency the Governor to the Speech he has just delivered to us—

May it please your Excellency, we, the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

In moving this motion I wish to add my expressions of sympathy to the bereaved relatives of the deceased gentlemen mentioned in the motion of condolence moved by the Colonial Secretary. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the widows and relatives; and as regards the deceased gentlemen themselves, I feel sure that I voice the opinion of all

when I say, "Peace to their ashes." It is not my intention to take up much time in moving this motion, for I have been given to understand that the present is one of the many occasions when brevity on the part of a speaker is most appreciated.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member has perfect liberty of speech. He can continue as long as he likes.

Hon. J. W. HICKEY: Again I say, Mr. President, on an occasion like this, it is rather hard for one to give the whole of one's time and attention to local politics. The war cloud in Europe overshadows everything and is responsible for grave anxiety, and anguish too, in many an Australian home. We, as a portion of the British Empire, have thrown our mantle of protection over the weaker nations who are fighting, not only for that autonomy which we so highly prize, but for their very existence, for their hearths and homes. That is the reason why to-day there are millions of money going up in smoke and the flower of the human race is going under. And amongst those heroes, and heroines, too, are many Australian fairest sons and daughters, who to-day are receiving their baptism of blood. It is a matter for congratulation that the war cloud is showing a silver lining, and it is to be hoped that even before this session of Parliament is at an end the curtain will have been rung down on the greatest war ever known in the history of the nations. It is clear to my mind that the Government is desirous of a successful prosecution of the war; His Excellency's Speech goes to show that, although many matters have been mentioned which are possibly more or less of a controversial nature. Still we readily admit the importance of them all, and the Government may naturally on that account look forward to many of those measures being passed by this Chamber without a great amount of opposition. For instance, we have such a measure as the initiative and referendum, a most democratic measure adopted by many progressive nations. Again, I am pleased to note that mention has been made of reform in the direction of making a common roll to include State and Commonwealth. As one who has had a little experience in electoral matters, it has always seemed to

me ridiculous, to say the least of it, that two sets of rolls should be required for the same people, and I sincerely trust that the Government will be successful in securing a measure of reform in this direction, thereby bringing these rolls into uniformity and giving satisfaction to all parties concerned. I am pleased, too, to note that the Government has made mention of its intention to bring legislation to give returned soldiers the opportunity of securing a vote for the Legislative Council. At the present time, unless a soldier has certain specific qualifications, he is denied the privilege or the right of having a vote for a member of this Chamber. That is not as it should be. We are prepared to allow those men to enlist and fight for the country, but are not prepared to allow them a voice in the management of the country for which they are prepared to make the supreme sacrifice. I notice the Government have made provision for the introduction of elevators and the bulk handling of wheat, and also for working the lime deposits on Lake Clifton and Capel. I think the Government is to be commended. It is a well known fact that the soils of Western Australia are wanting in certain chemicals, and those deposits will help to supply those chemicals. Whilst not wishing to discourage or to depreciate the merits of the lime deposits at Lake Clifton and Capel. I wish to remind the Government that there are also deposits in other portions of the State of equal, or perhaps higher, value, waiting to be worked and placed at the disposal of the people. I refer to the Dongara deposits, which have been proved to be the richest in the State; and what is more to their advantage it is only necessary to provide railway facilities in order to place those deposits on the land, where they would be of so much advantage to the farmer and the community generally. Another matter I am pleased to see mentioned is the Re-ricing of Land Bill, particularly the provision made for exemption to those farmers who have selected within repurchased estates. I have in my mind many repurchased estates on which the farmers at the present time find it impossible to pull through on account of the very high rate paid for their land.

Those estates, it is generally understood, were repurchased at a rather high figure, and, naturally, the farmer has had to pay a correspondingly high price. If some measure of assistance can be given to those people—and there are amongst them some of the best farmers in the State—they will be enabled to make good. Another matter mentioned is State insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act. This is a necessary measure. We know that every employee is now entitled to some consideration in the event of accident, but it has been found very often that workers have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining that compensation to which their employment entitles them. If we insist on employers securing employees, which we do by virtue of the Workers' Compensation Act, it is necessary to give that assistance to the employer which would be possible under a system of State insurance. Under existing arrangements it has been found that the money paid out in administrative costs in insurance cases is very high. I understand that 50 per cent. of the money paid out to-day is eaten up in the costs of administration, instead of being retained in the pockets of the employer, as it would be under a system of State insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act. The Shearers' Hut Accommodation Act is also mentioned. An amendment of this measure is very necessary. Those who have had experience in the administration of the Act will admit undoubtedly that it is inoperative and that some amendment is necessary; and I am pleased to note that it has been included in the Speech. I am pleased also to learn that a start has been made with the Geraldton jetty. This is a very necessary work and one which will facilitate the export of production from that very important district. Mention has also been made of additional shipping facilities for the North-West. Whilst it is very necessary that we should do all possible for the successful development of the farming districts, it is also necessary to give other portions of the State a fair deal. As the representative of a province containing a large percentage of farmers, I am not unmindful of the necessities of other portions of the State, and I

am pleased indeed to see that the Government have thought fit to introduce this matter. I sincerely trust that when it comes before the House the North-West portion of the State, which contains one of the richest assets of Western Australia, will get a fair deal. Possibly no proposition which has so far come before the public has received more criticism than the Agricultural Bank and Industries Assistance Board. At the same time no greater tribute could be paid to the work of the Government than was supplied by the electors in the Northampton district, comprising one of the finest agricultural centres in Western Australia, who, in no uncertain voice gave their opinion during the last Central Province election. I am pleased to know that the Government intend to bring forward a Re-Pricing of Commodities Bill. That is a very necessary piece of legislation, which appeals to every section of the community, and which I may say is rather a personal matter with me because I attribute my presence in this Chamber to-day to a very great extent, at any rate, to the fact that my opponent, during the last election, was opposed to any measure of this description. I said at the outset, Mr. President, that it was not my intention to speak at great length, but there is one matter which appeals to me and which is mentioned in the Speech, and that is the humane legislation which has been brought forward by the Government. I refer to the maternity home, the inebriate retreat, and the Wooroloo Sanatorium. Unfortunately, we have to recognise the necessity for institutions of this description, and if we claim, at any rate, to be reformers we should take care that every consideration and praise is given to the Government for bringing in a measure of this description. So far as the other institutions are concerned they are certainly beneficial; but Wooroloo stands out as a monument to the credit of the Government and as such will always remain. I do not wish to speak at greater length. I fully appreciate the honour conferred on me and the privilege in being allowed to move this motion.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM (North-East)
[4.13]: I second the motion *pro forma*.

On motion by Hon. H. P. Colebatch debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.14 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th July, 1916.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk Assistant (Mr. F. G. Steere).

MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

ELECTION RETURNS — WILLIAMS-NARROGIN—ROEBOURNE.

The Speaker announced the return to writs issued for the election of members for Williams-Narrogin and Roebourne, showing that Mr. Edward Bertram Johnston and Mr.

William James Butcher had been duly elected for the respective electorates.

Mr. E. B. Johnston and Mr. Butcher took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

OBITUARY—MR. C. McDOWALL.

Mr. SPEAKER [12.10]: I desire to inform the House that owing to the death of Mr. Charles McDowall I have issued a writ for the election of a member to serve in this House for the Coolgardie district.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan)—Brownhill-Ivanhoe [12.11]: I desire to move without notice—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Charles McDowall, M.L.A., and tenders to his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires that the terms of this resolution be communicated to the widow and family of the late gentleman by the Speaker.

May I briefly say that all members were attached to Mr. McDowall, and that was evidenced by the fact that during successive Governments, while he was a member of this House, he occupied the position of deputy Chairman of Committees, and did a great deal of work while acting in that capacity, particularly during the last couple of years. That he was devoted to his duties as a member everyone will admit, and it will be conceded that he was always careful to attend to the interests of his constituency, without showing at any time a desire to gain any benefit over other constituencies on the gold-fields. His death came as a shock to most of us. I was not even aware that he was in ill health, and the shock must have been a great one to his widow and family, to whom I am sure the sympathy of this House goes. At a later stage another matter will be submitted for the consideration of hon. members in connection with the late member, but at this stage I desire to move the motion which I have read, which expresses our deep regret at Mr. McDowall's demise, and asks the Speaker to convey the terms of the resolution to the widow and family.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [12.14]: I desire to second the motion which has been moved by the Premier, and to say