

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT :

The Parliament was prorogued on the 4th January, 1934, to the 11th January, 1934.

On the 11th January it met for the despatch of business.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 11th January, 1934.

	PAGE
Opening of Parliament	1
Proclamation	1
Election of Deputy President	1
Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech	1
Bill : Pearling Act Amendment, 1A.	1
Address-In-Reply, adopted	2
Ministerial Statement	3

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 3.0 p.m.

PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. A. R. Grant) read the proclamation summoning the second session of the Fifteenth Parliament.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The Clerk of Parliaments reported the absence of the President.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) : I move—

That the Hon. J. Cornell fill the office and perform the duties of President during the absence of the Hon. Sir John Kirwan.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) I second the motion.

Question put and passed.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT ELECT: I thank you for the favour conferred on me.

[*The Deputy President took the Chair.*]

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency, the Lieut.-Governor, entered the Council chamber at 3.10 p.m., and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

This special session of the Fifteenth Parliament of Western Australia has been rendered necessary by the expiration, on the 31st day of December last, of The Financial Emergency Act, 1931, and the serious position thereby created, more particularly in relation to the finances of the State. A Bill dealing with this matter will be presented for your consideration.

I now declare this session of Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your labours in the interests of this State.

BILL—PEARLING ACT AMENDMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.16]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Pearling Act, 1933."

Leave given: Bill introduced and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [3.20]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of 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 deliver to Parliament."

HON. A. M. CLYDESDALE (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.21]: I formally second the motion.

HON. J. J. HOLMES (North) [3.21]: I support the motion, and desire to take this early opportunity to clear up what appears to me a gross misrepresentation on the part of at least one responsible member of the community, as to what happened in this Chamber immediately prior to the taking of the ballot for the selection of managers from this House to attend the conference on the financial emergency Bill last month. The Premier, in a statement published in the "West Australian" on the 30th December last, is reported to have said—

The Bill was defeated because the managers from the Assembly could not agree at conference with the managers from the Council, two of whom had stated before they were elected, that as far as they were concerned, their attitude would definitely be one of "no surrender."

Hon. C. B. Williams: What is wrong with that? That is what you both said.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: If the hon. member will look at the matter from an unbiased point of view, he will realise that those words were never uttered in this Chamber.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You made it definitely known there would be no surrender.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I know how it is that confusion has arisen in the hon. member's mind. It was in connection with the Lotteries Bill I used the term "no surrender."

Hon. C. B. Williams: No.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: We can prove that at a later date. I here and now declare that I did not use the words "no surrender."

Hon. C. B. Williams: But you meant it.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: When the Premier made that statement, the matter had either been misrepresented by some irresponsible person, or he wilfully stated what was not true. Prior to the commencement of the conference the Premier referred to the so-called "no surrender" statement, and I there and then denied having used the words.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Where was that?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: In the conference, although the Honorary Minister was quite definite that I did use the words.

The Honorary Minister: And I am still definite, too.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I will show the House what I said by reference to "Hansard."

Hon. E. H. Gray: You may have altered that.

Hon. C. B. Williams: You have the right to do so.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I demand that that statement should be withdrawn.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I hope the statement will be withdrawn.

Hon. E. H. Gray: I withdraw.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: It is a reflection upon the "Hansard" staff, of whom we are rightly entitled to be proud. It is also a reflection upon members of the House. If the Premier doubted the statement, he should have called for "Hansard" at the time and set the matter at rest once and for all. He had the opportunity to do so, but did not avail himself of it. Apparently the truth was not desired. The opportunity for misrepresentation for political purposes was the objective, hence no attempt was made to prove that I did utter those words. The "Worker" on the 29th December last, under big headlines, referred to the matter, of course for propaganda purposes, on the first page. It said "No surrender Council. Plunges the State into absolute chaos." Did the "Worker" get that from "Hansard"? Where did the "Worker" get it from?

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: From the Honorary Minister.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: This was all distributed for political purposes. Mr. F. C. L. Smith, M.L.A., in dealing with the views of Labour in the "West Australian" on the 6th January of this year, repeated the statement, again for propaganda purposes, and referred to the two "no surrender" members who were selected by the Legislative Council. At the time when the conference managers were being appointed to represent this

Chamber, the following debate occurred, as shown on page 2712 of "Hansard":—

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I have been approached by a number of members of the House who have suggested that I should be one of the managers. For the last 15 years have I been dealing with the finances of the State, pointing out where the drift commenced and where it will end. During this session I was on a manager's conference on the Financial Emergency Tax Bill, and at that conference we were told that every available penny would be required to keep within the agreed upon deficit; and that if more money than was expected should be derived from that tax, it would go towards reducing expenditure.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Is the hon. member in order in discussing this?

The PRESIDENT: Actually there is nothing before the Chair, but I take it the hon. member is making a personal explanation.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: That is so.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Well, I want to see some progress made; I am not going to stay here all night.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: What I am doing is being done to facilitate business. If elected one of the managers for this House, I will go to the conference determined to adhere to the policy I have advocated for the last 15 years. That is what I mean to say.

That is the correct interpretation of what occurred.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Why do you not finish reading?

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: The Premier's authority for making the statement he did was the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Sleeman). That hon. member brought the matter up in another place. He had been in the gallery in this Chamber, heard the debate, and went straight back to the Assembly. On page 2733 I find the following:—

Mr. SLEEMAN: I should like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether this conference can be considered to be in the nature of a conference, implying the deliberations of a subject, when I understand that two of the managers appointed by another place have already announced their determination not to alter their viewpoint concerning the amendments that have been made to this Bill by their Chamber, and that there would be no surrender on their part.

Mr. Thomson followed me, and indicated that he would adopt the same stand as I had if he were elected one of the managers. Again "Hansard" does not disclose that he used the words "no surrender." We know the Chief Secretary is a man of integrity and honour, and, having brought this matter

under his notice, I am certain he will bring it under the notice of the Premier. If the Premier refuses to withdraw his statement about the "no surrender," it will confirm the impression that the whole business has been misrepresented for political purposes. Whilst the business of the conference is supposed to be confidential, I find that the Premier, on the 30th December, made the following statement:—

It was admitted at the conference by the managers from the Council that the Council were not free to compromise, and their hands were tied no matter what arguments might be brought forward.

In view of that statement of the Premier, I am bound in justice to myself to answer it. He knows I stated at the conference that if he could justify the Bill, I was man enough to return to the Council and say I had taken the responsibility of agreeing to an amendment; and that no facts had been put up to justify any alteration in the attitude we had taken up in the Council. I even proposed that the existing legislation should be extended for six months. I added further that we would have a secession sitting in March, and an amending Bill could if necessary be put up during that session. The proposal was rudely turned down by members representing the Assembly. It will thus be seen that the Assembly members themselves were responsible for the so-called "no surrender" episode. I support the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-reply adopted.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [3.33]: I desire to make a statement for the information of members. We had hoped that copies of the Financial Emergency Bill would have been available for distribution before the House rose. Unfortunately there has been some little delay in the matter. I am now advised that copies are not likely to be available until about 4 o'clock. In view of the fact that we propose to distribute copies of the new Bill, copies of the defeated Bill, and copies of the expired Financial Emergency Act, I would greatly appreciate it if members would make arrangements to secure copies of these measures before leaving the House. If they do that they will then have

the week-end in which to examine the measures, and become well informed regarding them before the House meets again on Tuesday next.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Will one week-end be enough?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I suppose so.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The copies of the measures will be made available by the Clerk Assistant.

House adjourned at 3.37 p.m.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to announce that, accompanied by hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

BILL—CATTLE TRESPASS, FENCING AND IMPOUNDING AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.19]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend Section 34 of the Cattle Trespass, Fencing and Impounding Act, 1882-1932.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 11th January, 1934.

	PAGE
Meeting of Assembly	4
Summons from the Lieutenant-Governor	4
Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech	4
Bill: Cattle Trespass, Fencing and Impounding Act	
Amendment, 1R.	4
Financial Emergency all stages	4
Address-in-Reply, adoption	39
Adjournment: Special	39

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Adoption.

MR. WITHERS (Bunbury) [3.20]: I wish formally to move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please your Excellency. We, the members of the Legislative Assembly 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 that you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

MR. WANSBROUGH (Albany) [3.21]: I desire formally to second the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-reply adopted.

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m., pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. G. Steere).

SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening speech (vide Council report ante), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

BILL—FINANCIAL EMERGENCY.

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.22]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to permit of the introduction and passing through all its stages of the Financial Emergency Bill at this sitting.