

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

The Parliament was prorogued on 31st December, 1912, until 3rd April, 1913. It was further prorogued to 29th May, and finally to 26th June, when it met for the despatch of business; and the Third Session commenced on that day.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 26th June, 1913.

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Governor of the State of Western Australia, in succession to His Excellency Sir Gerald Strickland, G.C.M.G., who has now been transferred to the important post of Governor of the State of New South Wales.

I take this, my earliest, opportunity of publicly expressing the gratitude of myself and Lady Barron for the hearty welcome extended to us by all classes of the people upon our arrival in the State, and for the expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Throne and person of His Majesty King George V.

Shortly after the close of the last Session of Parliament my Ministers deemed it advisable that the Honourable the Premier should visit England, in order that he might personally place before her people a correct statement of the affairs of the State.

Subsequent events have shown that the Premier's visit was a most opportune one as during his journeyings on the continent of Europe, in England, and America, most important questions affecting the welfare of the State (including finance, railway facilities, the taking over and improvement of the Metropolitan Tramway Service, new accommodation for the staff of the London Agency, electrification of certain portions of our railway system, dockyard and harbour accommodation, immigration, the utilisation of oil

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 3 o'clock p.m., pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. G. F. Hillman).

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency Major-General Sir Harry Barron, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., entered the Council Chamber at 3.3 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 Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

Since the termination of last Session of Parliament, His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to appoint me

fuel, etc.) were brought under public notice, and information for the settlement thereof satisfactorily obtained.

Recognising the valuable services which have been rendered to the State by the present occupant of the office of Agent General in London, my advisers have offered the Hon. Sir Newton J. Moore, K.C.M.G., a renewal of his appointment for a further period of three years.

During the past year the harvest in the older settled districts was of a very satisfactory character, and resulted in a largely increased production of cereals.

In the newer wheat-growing areas, the earlier promise of the winter of 1912 was not fulfilled, and following on the adverse circumstances experienced in 1911, it became necessary to extend further consideration to the settlers in these areas by temporarily relieving them of the whole or portion of the payments due to Government departments.

The splendid rains experienced throughout the whole of the productive areas during the past few weeks encourage hope for a bountiful harvest.

Land settlement proceeds satisfactorily, but my advisers still deem it necessary to withhold from selection certain surveyed areas, amounting approximately to one million acres, situated within the eastern margin of the wheat belt, until the prospect of successful settlement is rendered more assured.

The areas under cereals, fruit, potatoes, and other staple crops continue steadily to increase, and the active work of the Agricultural Department demonstrates the productive capacity of these districts.

The striking increase in the export of wheat, flour, and fruit furnishes the best evidence of our opportunities for further expansion in agricultural production.

My advisers have completed, on favourable terms, the purchase of modern equipment for the manufacture of agricultural implements; and the erection of the necessary works is now being actively proceeded with.

The construction of abattoirs at North Fremantle and Midland Junction is now

in progress, and it is anticipated that these will be completed within a reasonable period.

The rapid extension of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme into additional agricultural areas is proving of incalculable assistance to our farmers.

The prospects of the great mineral industry of the State are highly encouraging. The figures of production for the first five months of 1913 give much reason for hope that the decline in annual value of the mineral returns which had prevailed since 1903 has been stayed.

During the current year (to the end of May) the value of gold produced was £2,229,567, while that of the same period in 1912 was £2,207,569; coal has been raised to the value of £48,159 in four months, as against £40,144 for the same period of last year; and other minerals are valued at £76,384 compared with £42,684, being a total increase of £63,713 over the corresponding period of last year.

My advisers view with satisfaction the great advance in mining enterprise in the newer centres of Meekatharra, Black Range, Youanmi, South Yilgarn, and Ora Banda.

Recent developments in the lower levels of the Great Fingall and Sons of Gwalia mines, and in most of the large mines at Kalgoorlie, have done much to show the permanence of the gold mining industry.

A vigorous public works policy has been consistently maintained. During the present financial year 256 additional miles of railway have been opened for traffic, making a total of 2,854 miles now under operation by the Working Railways Department.

Unprecedented activity is being displayed in the construction of a number of additional agricultural railways. Five separate lines are, at the present time, in hand, totalling 476 miles.

A consumptive sanatorium on modern lines is in course of erection near Woorelloo, in the Darling Ranges, and increased hospital accommodation is being provided throughout the State.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the State sawmills in the

karri forest to supply railway sleepers for State use, and to fulfil the contract entered into with the Federal Government for the supply of sleepers for the Trans-Australian Railway.

Under the new organisation for carrying out the numerous works required in the North and North-Western portion of the State, a substantial advance has been made in the construction and maintenance of jetties, tramways, and public buildings.

During the year the administrations connected with all water supplies have been amalgamated and housed in one building. This has materially assisted in expediting water supplies in our agricultural and gold mining areas.

The Metropolitan Water Supply has been increased and improved by the provision of a 10,000,000-gallon reservoir at Mt. Eliza, while at Albany, Geraldton, Wagin, Narrogin, and other country towns new water schemes have been undertaken.

I am also glad to announce that the pearling, timber, wool, and whaling industries continue to receive ever-increasing attention, and my advisers are doing everything in their power to foster the development of these sources of national wealth.

The Workers' Homes Act, which was assented to in the early part of last year, has proved a great boon to the people of the State, and the transactions of the board have exceeded the most sanguine expectations of my advisers.

As evidencing the value of the Act, the number of new buildings which have been erected is 335, representing £127,470, and the homes extended or improved 48, equal to £11,555, or a total of £139,025 which has been advanced for almost entirely new homes. In addition 56 mortgages have been discharged, representing £14,950, and 150 homes have been purchased, involving £56,270; the total expenditure approved amounting to £362,000.

The all important subject of Education continues to receive very special attention from my advisers.

The professors of the University have been appointed, and the Institution is well under way in its temporary quarters.

Eighty-one new schools have been opened during the last seventeen (17) months, and it is recognised that as settlement expands and population increases the cost of this important department of the State must of necessity expand.

In view of the marked attention which is being given to the building of oversea steamers of greatly increased dimensions the work of deepening the Fremantle harbour is in progress. In consequence of the expansion of trade at Albany, Bunbury, and Geraldton the harbour facilities at those ports are to be extended.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the next financial year are now under preparation, and will be submitted to Parliament at an early date.

A Supply Bill to meet the requirements of the Public Service will be submitted without delay, so that the business of the State may be carried on in a constitutional manner pending the passing of the Estimates by Parliament.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

Among other measures that will be submitted for your consideration will be Bills dealing with:—

Constitutional and electoral reforms;

The liquor traffic, providing for the granting of complete local option, and the suppression of sly grog selling;

Rights in natural waters, and the irrigation and drainage of land;

Amendments of the Land Tax and Income Tax Act, 1907;

Amendments of the Factories Act;

A compilation of the Criminal Code Act and its amendments;

Initiative and referendum;

Local government;

Regulation of traffic;

The valuation of land, to provide uniformity in valuation;

Amendment of the Mines Regulation Act; and

The establishment of a public works committee.

You will further be asked to give authority for the construction of railway lines to open up the Esperance agricultural area.

Surveys have been authorised during the year to connect Busselton with the recently purchased Margaret River-Flinders Bay railway; also for the extension of the Wagin-Kukerin railway to serve the Lake Grace agricultural area, and of the Katanning-Nampup railway to Lake Pingrup.

I now leave you to your labours, trusting that, by the blessing of Divine Providence, they will prove of material advantage to the people of Western Australia.

The Governor then retired, and the President (Hon. H. Briggs) took the Chair.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. E. Dodd) laid on the table reports and papers similar to those presented by Ministers in the Legislative Assembly.

BILL—FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT.

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. E. Dodd): 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 Fisheries Act 1905."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

CONDOLENCE—THE LATE MRS. MARY DREW.

The HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. J. E. Dodd) in moving the Privilege Bill said: I desire to acquaint hon. members that the absence of the leader of this House this afternoon is due to the fact that he has recently sustained a sad bereavement in the death of his mother, and I am sure I am voicing the senti-

ments of you Sir, and of every member of this House when I say we deplore the fact that Mr. Drew is not with us to-day owing to that reason.

ADDRESS-IN REPLY.

First day.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs): His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to deliver a Speech, and for the sake of accuracy a copy of the Speech will be placed before each member.

Hon. F. DAVIS (Metropolitan-Suburban): I desire to move that the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver 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 deliver to Parliament.

It is not my intention to rehearse that part of the Speech relating to agricultural and mining development. That has been dealt with already, but I desire to confine my remarks almost entirely to the measures which are to be submitted to this Parliament during this session. It will be seen by reference to the list of measures that they are few in number and that fact will give members an opportunity of giving that close and careful consideration to them which is in the best interests of the State. It will also be noticed that the measures proposed are not of a highly controversial character. The majority of them, or some of them at any rate, are measures which we have had before us in this Chamber previously and with which we are more or less familiar. In view of this fact it seems reasonable to anticipate that the session will not be a prolonged one, because the measures are not of a very controversial character, and because they are few in number. The first one to which I wish to refer is the Rights in Water and Irrigation Bill. It is possible

that if this measure had been introduced at an earlier stage of the proceedings last session it might have become an Act, because if that had been done there would have been time to deal with the measure fully, and perhaps to have obtained some result from the conference which took place in the closing hours of last session. Unfortunately, that was not the case, but it is to be hoped that on this occasion it will be introduced early in the session, and that we shall have proper opportunities for dealing with it. I would like to point out that the evidence gained by the select committee which sat during last session should enable members to acquaint themselves more definitely and clearly with the features of the Bill, and to my mind it should enable them to give the Bill their approval, so that it may pass and become an Act.

Hon. C. A. Piesse: Some clauses of it.

Hon. F. DAVIS: There are just one or two modifications in the Bill which will be introduced as compared with that which was before the Chamber last session. It is possible that provision will be made for the division of the State into water or irrigation districts. I think it will be admitted that the evidence given before the select committee tended to show that the wishes of the Government in connection with artesian bores will be met if a general supervision is exercised instead of absolute control, because if the necessary data is supplied by the owners of bores, all that the Government desire will be met in that direction. One of the Bills which was received last session was the Traffic Bill, and this, as will be seen by a reference to the list of measures, is to be introduced again this session. It will be remembered that during the passage of the measure through this House last year some drastic alterations were made, which led to the Bill being withdrawn before it had been finally dealt with. In the light of experience gained since that time, it is possible that the measure to be introduced this session will be more acceptable to

members, especially in the drafting of some of the clauses, and for that reason it is to be hoped that the Bill will receive the approval of members. It is some three years, I believe, since the Licensing Act was dealt with, and it seems a peculiar thing that it is a most difficult matter, when reviewing an Act of that character, to satisfy both of the parties interested in the question. One side are anxious to obtain all that they believe, and probably sincerely believe, is necessary, while on the other hand those who are opposed to them are not willing to concede anything like what they are asked to concede. It is not intended to review at length the Licensing Act, but the intention is particularly to call attention to the principle of local option, and to deal with that phase of it almost exclusively. Under the present Act a three-fifths majority is required to enable a local option vote in the affirmative to become operative in a certain district, but I venture to say that that provision is not democratic in its character. In fact, it is inequitable and undemocratic, because I contend that a simple majority, a bare majority, should decide a local option poll in any district where a poll may be taken. In connection with the election of legislators, which is a matter of some concern and importance to the State, we find that the principle of a bare majority obtains, and if in that connection the principle obtains surely in a lesser and less important connection, such as local option, the same principle should also hold good. For that reason the Bill will be introduced to give members an opportunity of considering it, and deciding what shall be done in this direction. I think the old maxim "Those who pay the piper should have the right to call the tune" should apply in connection with local option and the Licensing Act. I am very pleased to notice that it is proposed to bring before us the Roads Act, and to bring in a Bill to amend that Act. I am quite aware that the Act has been amended on several occasions during the last few years, and in almost every instance has been liberalised, but I

hold it is still possible to effect an improvement in connection with that measure. It is true that they have now very extensive powers, akin to those of a municipality in the sense that they are able to raise loans and construct works of an extensive character. But there is one flaw in the Act, even at the present time, and that is the method by which members of a roads board are elected. The Act provides for some ratepayers having more votes than others. We believe in the principle of one vote one value, and we hold that this principle should be applied to roads boards' as well as any other form of election. That will be one of the principal features of the Bill to be introduced. In connection with the Municipal Act, an amending Bill is to be introduced which has provisions of a very far-reaching nature, in the sense that it provides for rating on the unimproved values of land.

Hon. J. Cornell: A wide permission.

Hon. F. DAVIS: It is a wide permission, I agree, because the present system of rating operates very harshly. I would like to give a concrete case, and if I make it a personal one it will, perhaps, be the more effective. A few years ago I had occasion to buy a block of land in a municipality, which was valued at about £55, and on that block a rate of 10s. 6d. per annum was paid. Subsequently, a building was erected on the block and the municipal authorities straightway imposed a rate of £2 15s. 6d., or a little more than five times the original rating.

Hon. C. A. Piesse: The Government do that in the Lands office.

Hon. F. DAVIS: That was a very serious impost. I did not blame the municipal authorities, because they had no option, but I blamed those who framed the Act in the first place. It seems to me that to penalise those who create the values by imposing a very much higher rate is, to say the least of it, unwise in the extreme, and for that reason we hope the Chamber will give effect to the principle of rating on the unimproved values. I may point out that the principle is already in operation in the Roads Act, and if it applies

beneficially in connection with roads board areas it surely will have the same good effect in connection with municipalities. I notice in the list of measures to be introduced that two are joined in one paragraph, namely, Local Option and the Suppression of Sly Grog Selling, although I believe it is the intention to bring in two separate measures. It is indeed regrettable that there should be any necessity to deal with the suppression of sly grog selling, because that trade is even more pernicious than the ordinary legitimate trade of the sale of liquor; it has more objectionable features, but it seems we are unable to cope with it as effectively as is desired, and therefore it is necessary to alter the conditions and bring down a measure which will enable us to deal more particularly with that evil. One of the Bills which I think will appeal to all members is the Land Valuation Bill. At the present time, dealing with lands owned or controlled by the Government, there are very considerable variations in the amount of valuation placed on the same block of land; because different departments have their own valuer and it is very rare that four men valuing the same block arrive at the same conclusion as to its value. In this connection the departments concerned are those connected with land settlement, local rating, irrigation and sewerage, and land resumptions. It is proposed to bring in a comprehensive Bill making it possible for the one valuation to be effected to apply to all these different departments, thus effecting economy and obviating a good deal of that annoyance and friction which has occurred in the past in connection with the valuation of land. One of the industrial matters more particularly affecting the metropolitan area is the Factories Act. It is proposed to bring in a Bill amending the Factories Act in the direction of bringing it more into line with similar measures in the Eastern States. While it is true that in some particulars Western Australia is ahead of the Eastern States so far as legislation is concerned, there are still one or two items in respect to which we lag behind those in the East, and it is hoped the Bill will be given effect to as

an honest effort to bring our legislation into line with that in the Eastern States. Prior to the last election members of the party with which I am associated, when speaking on the public platform, gave a pledge to the people that if elected or put into office they would bring in a Redistribution of Seats Bill to readjust some of the anomalies existing in the present distribution of seats. It is proposed to bring in a Bill to give effect to that pledge. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that this Bill will very largely consist of the same principle we desire to obtain in connection with the Roads and Municipal Bills, and that is the principle of one vote one value. It is certainly necessary in connection with such a measure to also take other factors into account, but I trust only in a very subsidiary manner, because one vote one value, or the approximate population basis certainly appeals to those who love democracy. On the same basis as that obtaining in the Federal arena I have no doubt a full margin will be allowed between the maximum and minimum numbers on the roll. Such a measure is necessary in the interests of fair play and honesty. The concluding item in the list mentioned by His Excellency is a Bill with which we are all more or less familiar, and possibly for that reason it will be welcomed by members: I refer to the Public Works Committee Bill. It is an old friend; one that has been with us on more than one occasion.

Hon. R. G. Ardagh: Like the Esperance Railway.

Hon. F. DAVIS: It certainly has some good features to recommend it, and I trust when the matter is being considered members will recognise those good features. There is one point, however, which I would like to impress upon members of the House, and it is this: that during the recent Federal elections an advertisement appeared in the Press setting forth the policy of the Liberal party, and amongst the items appeared a Public Works Committee. I think it is reasonable to expect that if the principle holds good in the Federal arena it certainly ought to hold good in State politics. If it is good for the Federal Legislature it

certainly cannot be out of place in a State. Since consistency is a virtue, and the members of a party, whether concerned in Federal or State politics, should have the same ideals, we hold that the Federal Liberal party in proclaiming their belief in a public works committee should influence the members of this House in their decisions when dealing with that Bill. It does not follow that because the Bill has been before the House previously and been rejected that, with additional experience, and information which will be supplied, members may not see their way clear to reconsider their decision and to approve of that of which previously they may not have been altogether enamoured. In Switzerland, the home of the initiative and referendum, Bills have been three times voted upon by the people before being accepted by them, and it is reasonable to suppose that in the third stage they have reached wisdom by the fact of their accepting those measures which at first they refused. It is not my intention to detain the House at any further length, because my colleague also wishes to address hon. members.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN (Central): Mr. President, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion moved by Mr. Davis. In doing so I would just like to say with him that the programme submitted to us to-day in His Excellency's Speech is certainly of a very brief nature and does not convey very much information to the House. The reason why the programme submitted to us on this occasion is of so brief a nature is owing to the fact that last session a lot of work was crowded into the programme, and consequently several very important measures were left undealt with at the last. It does not necessarily follow that because the programme looks short we are to have a short session, because when we come to take items contained in this Speech we will find there are some very important matters to be dealt with.

Hon. R. J. Lynn: Highly controversial.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN: Yes, I have to disagree with Mr. Davis when he says there is nothing controversial in the programme; because, after all, it would be

a very poor programme that contained nothing controversial. Now, in the absence of what is termed the pre-sessional speech, we have not very much detail to work upon with regard to the measures contained in the Speech, and it is not for me to anticipate the details of the Bills which will be submitted. In due time they will come before us and be dealt with; and in the meantime I would like to confine my remarks to a few items in the Speech. Before doing that I suppose there would be no harm in reviewing the few months which have elapsed since the House last met. After all, it is only a short period since we last met here and dealt with some important measures. I am sorry to say this House rejected some very important Bills, but as I have pointed out, that was due to the fact that many first-class measures were crowded in at the end of a long session. Now, reviewing the past, we hear complaints that the country is not too good, and that things generally are going to the bad. I think if members read a few of the paragraphs in the Governor's Speech delivered to us to-day, it must be admitted that things are not at all going to the bad. True, it may be that the country, from a farmer's standpoint and a squatter's standpoint, is not quite as bright and prosperous as we would like to see it, but that is due of course to the unfortunate circumstances of past seasons. We have had another bad year, and it is only to be expected that matters will be bad for the farmer, and bad in the pastoral areas, and that a tightness in the money market must naturally follow. However, there is every reason for hope. Land settlement has been going on increasing steadily, the population is steadily increasing, and we are very proud to acknowledge that splendid rains have come along and almost assured us of a magnificent harvest during the present season. The pastoral areas will also benefit as a result of the rain, and the depression which a lot of people say is hanging over the State will, I hope, very soon disappear. I can quite understand that a great cry will be raised in the immediate future with regard to the position of the State's

finances. Well, I for one am not in the least alarmed at the finances. We know that the present Government, since assuming office, have been called upon to pay vast sums in directions which, when they took office, were entirely unexpected. The deficit, unfortunately, has steadily mounted up, but it is not in such a position as to cause serious alarm. It is only to be expected that vast amounts should have to be paid away in the farming areas, especially when we realise that bad seasons have come upon the people. Unfortunately, in a country like this, where there are very many new settlers just starting and struggling on, the fact of bad seasons being experienced must necessitate their falling back upon the Government for support. That support they cheerfully received, and mainly to that is due the fact that the financial position is somewhat more strained to-day than it was a few years ago. There are a few other causes, but they are nothing to speak of, and in my humble opinion they will very soon be overcome. Reference has been made in the Speech, amongst other items, to the fact that harbour improvements are to be continued and extended at Fremantle, Bunbury, Geraldton and Albany. I think it is time the Government, whatever Government is in power, awoke to the fact that harbour improvements are very necessary. Particularly is that the case on the north-west coast. At the present time the facilities for carrying merchandise and stock are entirely inadequate to cope with the trade on the north-west coast. If harbour improvements are effected they will certainly meet the case for the time being, but the Government should immediately improve the shipping arrangements and put on a fast up-to-date boat in order that they might be able to compete with the other companies which are at present unable to properly cater for the trade with the North-West. With regard to the mining industry, a very cheerful note was sounded in His Excellency's Speech. This industry certainly has improved very much during the last few months, and we all hope that

that improvement will continue. I am pleased that the present administrators have done their utmost to assist the prospectors, and that it is intended to introduce another Bill which in their opinion should further assist the small mining companies and small mining men. A very great deal can be done in that direction, and I trust that when the Bill comes before this House it will get better consideration than a similar measure received in this Chamber last session. I am proud to see that the Government thought fit to mention in their programme the fact that they again intend to introduce a Bill to provide railway facilities to the Esperance district. We have had that subject before us for a number of years. It is a matter on which I am not afraid to express my opinion. I have always been absolutely in favour of it, and I hope that when the measure comes before us again it will receive the consideration which it richly deserves. We are opening up railways in other parts of the country, and we have had absolute proof before us that this railway is warranted; therefore we hope that it will get better consideration on the next occasion than it has received in the past. I consider that it is unnecessary for me to weary the House further. I realise that the matter of moving and seconding the adoption of the Address-in-Reply is somewhat of a formal nature, and I am treating it as such. I realise that this being a party House, there are in it members holding views opposed to mine, and that my friends on the opposite side have treasured up a good deal of matter of which we will hear more from them at no distant time. I have pleasure in seconding the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. M. L. Moss debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 4 o'clock to 5.10 p.m.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,324,130.

All Stages.

Received from the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister): I have to move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended so far as is necessary to enable the Bill transmitted by Message No. 1 to be taken into consideration and passed through all its stages at one sitting.

Question passed.

Bill read a first time.

Second Reading.

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister): I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I do not know that it is necessary to make any explanation of the Bill. Members will realise that it is the ordinary Supply Bill sent from the Assembly. The £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account is to be used for the purpose of the Workers' Homes, and there will be appropriations afterwards to cover the expenditure. I have the detailed information if members wish it, but I do not think it is necessary for me to give it.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

Hon. J. E. DODD (Honorary Minister): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 29th July, at 4.30 p.m.

I may mention that Parliament has been called together at this date to enable a Supply Bill to be passed before the expiration of the financial year. The Government are confident of finishing the session somewhat earlier than the last; and we are of opinion that if we met earlier the session would still be prolonged.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 5.20 p.m.