

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT.

The Parliament was prorogued on the 21st January, 1916, until the 9th March, 1916. It was further prorogued to the 20th April; thence to the 25th May; thence to the 22nd June; thence to the 13th July; and finally to the 20th July, 1916, 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, 20th July, 1916.

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The Commissioner then read the following statement:—

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to let you know that he will in person in this place declare the reasons of his calling this session of Parliament so soon as the members of the Legislative Council have been sworn and have notified to him that they have elected their President.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 12 noon, pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. G. F. Hillman).

COMMISSIONER.

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir Robert Millan) having entered the Chamber, a Message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, His Honour requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in his name for the opening of Parliament. The Commission was read.

SWEARING-IN.

His Excellency's Commission to the Commissioner to swear in new members was read.

The following members, elected since the prorogation, took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll:—

Hon. Sir Henry Briggs (West), Hon. J. Cunningham (North-East), Hon. J. E. Dodd (South), Hon. J. Ewing (South-West), Hon. J. A. Greig (South-East), Hon. J. W. Hickey (Central), Hon. W. Kingsmill (Metropolitan), Hon. C. McKenzie (South-East), Hon. E. Rose (South-West), Hon. A. J. H. Saw (Metropolitan-Suburban), Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom (North).

The Commissioner left the Chamber.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North) [12.28]: With the departure of His Honour the Chief Justice and the completion of the swearing-in, the ordinary observer might think that this House was quite complete. On looking round the Chamber the public will, I think, congratulate themselves on a very good lot of representatives. I am sure we old members all welcome the new faces amongst us, though in that welcome there is a tinge of regret and a little sorrow at not seeing some who have been a good many years amongst us. But this House is not complete, and cannot be complete, without a President; and I am going to ask hon. members to support me in voting for Sir Henry Briggs. Sir Henry Briggs has already presided over us for about ten years now; and he has presided with conspicuous dignity and ability, and in such a manner as, I believe, has given satisfaction to every one of the members who have sat under him. Since we have met, Sir Henry Briggs's ability and his conscientious devotion to duty have not only been recognised by members, but I am pleased to say have also been recognised by His Majesty the King; and he has had a very well merited honour bestowed upon him. Sir Henry's connection with this House is almost ancient history. On looking up the point I found, to my surprise, that he has actually been a member of this Chamber for 20 years, which is a very long period; and out of that 20 years he has for over 10 years occupied the high, distinguished and dignified position of President. I now ask hon. members to join with me in re-electing him as President of this Council. I move—

That Sir Henry Briggs do take the Chair in the Council as President.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [12.31]: I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination. Sir Edward Wittenoom has said all that there is to say as to the qualifications of Sir Henry Briggs to occupy the position of President. Therefore I will conclude by expressing the hope that this House will again bestow the highest honour in its gift on Sir Henry Briggs. May he live long to fill the position.

Hon. Sir HENRY BRIGGS (West) [12.32]: I thank my mover and seconder, and beg leave to submit myself to the will of the Council.

There being no other nomination, the Hon. Sir Henry Briggs was thus duly elected, and was conducted to the Chair by his proposer and seconder.

The PRESIDENT-ELECT, standing on the upper step, said: I am deeply sensible of the honour conferred upon me by the renewal of your confidence, and trust that I may be sustained by a continuance of your goodwill.

Congratulations.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [12.34]: I beg to offer you my sincere and cordial congratulations on your re-election to the high office of President. The fact that you have been no fewer than three times elected to that office is proof of the confidence reposed in you. I think I am voicing the opinions and feelings of all members when, to repeat the words of the Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, I say you have fulfilled your functions with ability, dignity, and impartiality. I trust you will be given health and strength to continue for many years to perform your high responsibilities.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [12.36]: Allow me to say that it gives me the greatest possible pleasure to again address you as President. I hope that you may have a long tenure of the office which this Chamber has again, after many years of trial, bestowed upon you. I should like, too, to take the opportunity of congratulating you on the honour so fittingly bestowed on you after your many years of Parliamentary work—a fit honour and a fit subject. I beg to congratulate you heartily on your re-election as President.

Hon. R. J. LYNN (West) [12.38]: On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I desire to congratulate you on your re-appointment as President. We hope that you will be for long spared to carry the honour bestowed on you to-day, that your health in the years to come will continue good, and that you will prosper as you deserve.

The PRESIDENT [12.39]: I thank you, Mr. Colonial Secretary, Mr. Kingsmill, the Chairman of Committees, and my staunch colleague Mr. Lynn, for the kind words spoken, and I thank all members for the kindness displayed in again placing me in my old Chair. Much that has been spoken I must regard as having been said more as an incentive to the future than as a tribute to the past. Congratulatory reference has been made to my knighthood, and, while recognising the wide distinction between honour and honours, I still bear in mind that it becomes a man neither to court nor to despise honours, and I am pleased because my friends are pleased. In some of its aspects Parliament has been likened to school. Our present session may extend the simile, as each school term brings fresh faces, while others are missed. Our late member, Mr. R. D. McKenzie, who is serving the Empire on the ambulance line at the Front, sends his regards to members. His successor, the Hon. J. D. Griffiths, passed away before taking his seat in this Chamber. Such melancholy disappointments we know to be incident to humanity, but friends do not feel them the less. It is a pleasure to believe that our new members will observe the best traditions of the past, and, as in the lamp-bearing race of olden time, will carry forward the burning lamp of public duty and service with sure and even steps; for the chief merit of Parliament lies, not in any peculiar excellence of its procedure, but in the spirit that pervades its members. The finest qualities of any people are the love of liberty and the love of justice, and the self-reliance and mutual tolerance which these engender. Courtesy and patience will do much to narrow all controversy, with its diversity of opinions, to the plain issue of Aye or No, and on the wisdom of these decisions our work will be proved. As a guide to our new members in debate, a Standing Order of 1626 will bear repetition—

Whosoever answereth another man's speech shall apply his answer to the matter, without wrong to the person, and, as nothing offensive is to be spoken, so nothing is to be ill-taken.

The careful observance of this principle will sweeten public life here and elsewhere.

Sitting suspended from 12.44 to 2.55.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT. ELECT.

The PRESIDENT: I have been presented to His Excellency the Governor and he has expressed his approval of your choice.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the 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 Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

It is with pleasure that I open the third session of the Ninth Parliament of this State, at a time when the omens of approaching peace and the close of the present terrific struggle are more promising and cheering. At last Great Britain and her Allies have overcome the initial difficulties of unpreparedness to meet the foe who had been preparing for aggression for the past half-century. Reposing in the security of peace so loved by her people, and devoted to the prosecution of industry, science, and art, our Empire despised the barbarities of slaughter and ruthless national destructiveness, and was, therefore, when the war commenced, taken at a disadvantage.

Happily the Empire's navy was ever in readiness, and to its alertness, courage, efficiency, and timely victories, the whole Empire owes an everlasting debt of gratitude.

It is the marvel of the age to have witnessed how rapidly our Empire organised and utilised all its great and varied resources for the raising and equipment of its armies, and for providing all the necessaries of war. The spectacle of the Empire's sons in every portion of the Dominions responding so readily to the call of loyalty and duty is one of the grandest ever presented, and in this spectacle Australia's

sons have valiantly performed their unselfish share of heroic duty. It is to be hoped that now the end is not far off, and that the termination of the war will be an untarnished triumph for the cause of human liberty, justice, and humanity.

2. It now becomes the duty of those citizens living in charge of domestic affairs to see that our brave men at the front shall, on their return, not only be received back after the performance of valiant deeds and noble duty, with cheers and gratitude, but that ample provision be made for their reinstatement amongst us in such a way that their sacrifices and sufferings in war shall not be followed by penury or neglect. My advisers, acting in co-operation with the War Council, the Federal Government, and other States, are alive to the necessity of speedy action on behalf of the returned soldiers; but even when all is done that Government can do, it will be necessary to receive the hearty co-operation of our loyal citizens. My Advisers propose to utilise existing legislation to resume areas of suitable land, and steps are now being taken to have such land cleared and rendered fit for occupation by our brave comrades on their return.

The Yandanooka estate, it is proposed, shall be cut up into workable areas. There will be extensions of areas for settlement blocks at Harvey, Bridgetown, Mount Barker, and in the fertile gullies of the Darling Ranges. Attention is also being given to provision for training returned soldiers as poultry farmers, vigneron, and orchardists. For those unsuited to this class of work, special provision is being made to give technical education, commercial training, and industrial proficiency through the agency of our public schools.

With a view to avoiding failure through lack of co-operation, my Advisers solicit the sympathy and assistance in this important work of all the local governing bodies and public institutions.

The Federal Government has started a fund with a contribution of £250,000 for the repatriation of soldiers, and it is proposed that the States shall add a like amount contributed proportionately to each State's population, and my Advisers have

agreed that this State shall contribute its share.

It is further intended by my Advisers to introduce legislation to give the right to vote to soldiers kept in camp for a period of three months or longer, for the district in which they were enrolled at the time of enlistment, and to extend to returned soldiers the privilege of voting at elections for members of the Legislative Council.

3. During the course of the war, the attention of my Advisers has been taxed to the utmost to keep the trade and industry of the State as near to normal as possible.

4. Our citizens have been greatly helped in their trials by the last beneficent harvest. Unfortunately, the exigencies of the war have intervened to prevent the farming community reaping the full benefit of nature's bounty. The lack of ships to convey our wheat to the foreign markets has rendered it necessary to stack enormous quantities, not only at the seaports, but throughout the wheat areas.

In the meantime there is the loss of freight on our railways and the inconvenience to industry in consequence of lack of carriage and handling of the millions of bushels of wheat yet awaiting transport. But the Federal and State Governments, acting in co-operation, have come to the rescue of the farmers in this trying situation. Advances have been made upon the wheat, and therefore, money released to circulate in the ordinary channels of trade. Had it not been for these advances very great distress would have been experienced throughout the State.

The total production of wheat last harvest amounted to over 18,000,000 bushels. Of this amount over 15 million bushels have been acquired by the Wheat Marketing Committee, of which 5,639,000 bushels have been shipped or sold to millers, leaving a balance stacked in the State, remaining in the pool, of 9,432,947 bushels.

An amount of £1,606,157 has been advanced to farmers and £190,073 paid for freight, making a total advance by the Pool of £1,796,230.

A further advance is early contemplated.

5. In every direction the Government has sought to keep industries afoot during

the currency of the war. Guarantees for overdraft accommodation have enabled mining and timber operations to continue that otherwise would have succumbed to the abnormal conditions prevailing.

My Advisers, recognising the value of the agricultural industry to the community, have come to the assistance of the farmers depressed by the double misfortune of drought and the war. Previous to last financial year £629,511 was advanced to settlers by the Industries Assistance Board, and £747,295 during 1915/16. Of these sums no less than £1,089,931 was outstanding on June 30 last. During the last year, through the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board, £900,000 was made available for the use of the agriculturists to enable them to maintain their holdings.

My Advisers have under consideration a scheme for the bulk handling of wheat, which it is intended to bring into operation as speedily as possible.

The work of repricing land in the wheat areas has been completed. There is still in hand the repricing of land affected with poison plant. It is felt that a measure of relief should be afforded to the holders of selections on repurchased estates. Legislation with this object in view will be submitted for your consideration.

6. Side by side with the agricultural development of the State, the pastoral industry is receiving every encouragement. Communication with the North-West by means of State steamers has resulted in an extension of pastoral settlement. Facilities have been given to bring the meat grown in these areas to the Perth markets. At Wyndham freezing works are in course of construction, and already practically the whole of the plant and material for the completion of these works are on the site, and the major portion of the machinery necessary for the operation thereof is under order. It is anticipated that the canning portion of the works will be in operation by March, 1917.

7. By the establishment of the State Shipping Service, my Advisers have had in view the further purpose of regulating the meat supplies throughout the populous districts of the State. The service has not only

been successful, but it has been necessary. Since its inauguration, privately owned steamers, previously engaged in the transport of cattle to the southern markets, have been withdrawn, and the Government has met this circumstance by obtaining on charter another steamer, thus preventing a shortage of supplies. The State Shipping Service, notwithstanding the abnormal conditions, has maintained freight at the rates existing prior to the war. The motor ship "Kangaroo," purchased as part of the scheme for the full utilisation of the freezing works at Wyndham, has already proved a complete success and an important asset of the State. My Advisers believe that the service is now established on a permanent basis, and it is with confidence that they propose to ask Parliament for authority to procure two new specially designed motor-driven vessels for service on the North-West coast.

8. Provision for the renewal of pastoral leases is one calling for early attention.

A classification of pastoral lands to precede such legislation is essential, and this will be put in hand at once. A Bill to provide for the repricing of such leases and to prevent large holdings will early follow such classification.

9. At the outset of the war, among the industries seriously menaced, was that of mining. The miners on our goldfields were among the first to volunteer in great numbers for service at the front. The ranks of the skilled miners have been exceedingly depleted, and the places of those who have enlisted cannot be adequately filled. The cost of mining stores and requisites has increased enormously. Moreover, available capital for new mining ventures has been diverted in a large measure owing to the restriction on the formation of new Companies which the Federal authorities have deemed it necessary to impose. Nevertheless, this industry has given evidence of its stability, and there are signs of progress for the future.

In the first half of the year 1916 gold to the value of £2,230,211 has been produced. Dividends paid by gold mining companies for the first five months of 1916 amount to £195,750, bringing the total dividends paid to the end of May last to £25,690,136.

In the same period of six months coal to the value of £86,925, and other minerals to the value of £58,770, have been produced.

Among our many goldfields that have shown special promise is the Yilgarn goldfield, one of the oldest in the State, in which the district of Westonia may be specially mentioned as having produced, for the first five months of the year 1916, gold to the value of £85,416.

In the Murchison goldfield the "Pinnacles" promises to become a regular producing centre, while the Great Fingal, at Day Dawn, has resumed work at the deeper levels.

Signs of revival in mining have been apparent in the goldfields of Mt. Margaret, Yalgoo, and East Murchison (especially at Wiluna and Lawlers); while at Phillips River the operations of the State smelter have been successful in enabling mine owners to realise their ore to the best advantage. This smelter has been practically run as a co-operative concern and managed by the Government in the interests of the field.

Since the beginning of operations in January, 1914, ore, producing copper, gold, and silver, to the value of £171,000 has been smelted, while for the twelve months ending June, 1916, the value of the product has been £93,000. Unfortunately, the price of all supplies and scarcity of freight have made smelting costs particularly high.

The State batteries continue to afford considerable assistance to prospectors.

For the first five months of 1916, 16,470 tons have been treated at these batteries for a return of £31,490.

10. The war has had a disastrous effect on our great timber industry. Owing principally to the difficulty of securing freight, the export of our hardwoods has been reduced to a minimum, and though mill owners have made every effort to keep their saw-mills running, a great many have been compelled to close down.

It is recognised that the State has a great asset in its hardwoods, and it is proposed to use every means, not only to conserve the present growth, but to take such measures as will ensure the production of future supplies, both for home consumption and for export. The planting of softwoods is still

proceeding, and the older plantations show most satisfactory progress.

11. With the double purpose of keeping all citizens of the State in employment and the development of the State for agriculture, pastoral, and mining purpose as far as possible the Government has prosecuted the further construction of railways and other public works. There are in progress the Toodyay-Bolgart extension line, the Wagin-Bowelling line, the Wyalcatchem-Mt. Marshall line, the Kukerin-Lake Grace line, and the Esperance-Northward line, totalling in extent 235 miles. Some delay has been caused by the difficulty in obtaining material. My advisers are pleased to state, however, that a few months ago a contract was let to the Broken Hill Proprietary, Limited, New South Wales, for the delivery of 60 miles of steel rails and fish-plates in February next, and the question of placing further orders is under consideration.

You will be asked to give further authority to connect the Esperance-Northward line with the existing system of government railways.

Plans have been under consideration for the deviation of the Perth-Fremantle railway from Cottesloe to Fremantle, crossing the Swan River a short distance above Rocky Bay. Tests are now in progress preparatory to the construction of a new rail and road bridge.

Of equal importance with our internal lines of communication for trade purposes is the maintenance and improvements of our harbours and rivers and our gateways for our over-ocean trade. My advisers have given care to the efficient maintenance of our jetties and harbours upon all our coast line. A scheme for improving shipping facilities at Geraldton has been adopted. A timber viaduct to permit of the building of an island breakwater has been commenced. In addition to this breakwater the scheme embraces the widening of the existing jetty and the construction of a spur jetty. It also includes the dredging of an approach channel and a basin to a depth of 30 feet below low water.

At Fremantle the wharf construction previously authorised has been completed. The wharf has been extended westward of the

north wharf during the year to a length of upwards of 1,000 feet. The old "mail" jetty has been removed and what was known as the "knuckle" has been dredged to a depth of 36 feet below low water. A commencement has been made with the drilling and blasting of rock in the entrance channel to make provision for the accommodation of deep draft vessels.

At Bunbury the breakwater has been extended to a length of 360 feet.

At Albany a new deep-sea jetty has been constructed and is now in use.

In view of the probable inauguration at an early date after the declaration of peace of a line of deep draft ships trading with Australia, my advisers have decided to push on without delay all necessary preparations, and are contemplating securing suitable plant to deepen the approach to one or more of our harbours to a depth of 40 feet at low water.

Considerable repairs to the Flinders Bay jetty are now in progress.

During the past year much work has been done in the Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department. The Metropolitan system has been improved by additional water and sewerage reticulation and by continued progress in house connections. There are now 12,500 houses enjoying the advantages afforded by the department's services.

A report has been received from the engineer and estimates given for a proposed new Canning Reservoir, but my advisers have decided that, owing to the increased cost of material and the difficulty of raising loans and the high rate of interest now obtaining, it is impracticable to proceed with this work at present. Consideration, however, is being given to the steps necessary to make a commencement as early as possible, and in the meantime the maintenance of an adequate supply of water for the metropolis is receiving careful attention.

Water supplies for prospectors throughout Western Australia have been provided, and will be continued, while special attention has been given for the supply of water along stock routes, having in view the facilities for transporting overland stock to the goldfields and the metropolis. Agricultural water supplies are being provided as required. At Brookton and Katanning water

supplies are in process of completion, and similar works are projected for Moora and Bridgetown. My Advisers have under consideration a scheme for connecting Geraldton with the Buller River for water supply purposes.

The Harvey irrigation works were formally opened in June, and are now available for the supply of water to the settlers. The reservoir at Harvey is full and overflowing.

As aids to national development the trading concerns entered upon by my Advisers have been more than satisfactory. The State saw mills made a fair profit as the result of last year's transactions.

The State implement and engineering works, despite the depression and the increased cost of raw material, will show a considerable financial improvement on the previous year. In these works improvements and re-organisation have been effected for the purpose of securing economical production.

Public institutions of a humanitarian character have been extensively established. The Woorloo sanatorium for consumptives has been in occupation since May, 1915. Open-air pavilions in three divisions have been provided for 200 males and 100 females. The maternity hospital, near Subiaco railway station, was opened at the end of June. Inebriates' homes for both men and women have been opened during the past year. At Whitby, used by the men, a fully equipped farm is in operation. The Cottesloe home is occupied by women patients, and was made available in June. It is contemplated to start another home for women convicted of drunkenness by our courts.

The administration of the Aborigines department has received considerable attention during the past year. The establishment of a native station at Carrolup has proved a success in every way, enabling the department to remove the natives from the immediate vicinity of towns, and to give better attention to them at a less cost.

The establishment of other stations is contemplated—one in the vicinity of Moora, on the Midland Railway, and one in the North-West, between Broome and Derby.

New regulations have been framed providing for better control of permits to em-

ploy aborigines, and for prohibiting the sale of alcoholic liquors on aborigines reserves.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

You will be asked, at an early stage, to grant temporary supplies pending the early introduction of the Annual Estimates.

Mr. President and Hon. Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

My Advisers, if assured that they enjoy your confidence, are prepared to submit the following Legislative Measures for your consideration:—

The Initiative and referendum Bill with the object of creating the machinery to enable the people to introduce measures of reform into Parliament, and to veto Measures deemed to be to the public detriment.

A Bill to provide common rolls for the Commonwealth and State and to provide for compulsory registration of electors.

A Bill to regulate the Price of Commodities.

A Bill to remove the doubts existing as to the liabilities of State Public Servants to pay the Commonwealth Income Tax.

A Bill to amend the Trade Union Act to bring it into line with existing English legislation and to provide for the incorporation of trade unions.

A Bill to amend the Municipal and Roads Acts, for the purpose (*inter alia*) of making provision for women to sit as members, to abolish plurality of voting, and for the rating on unimproved values.

A Bill to provide for the Surveys of Railways to connect the Bridgetown and intermediate district with the Port of Albany, to provide essential railway facilities to the settlers in the Dale Valley, and the settlers of North Baandee and Yorkrakine areas.

A Bill to authorise agreements relating to the construction of Elevators, and providing the Legislative machinery necessary for the bulk handling of wheat.

A Bill to put upon a legal footing the Wheat Marketing Scheme.

A Bill to facilitate the execution of instruments and Powers of Attorney by soldiers at the front.

A Bill to authorise special leases for the development of lime deposits at Lake Clifton and Capel.

A Bill to make provision for State Insurance of Workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

A Bill to amend the Early Closing Act, to meet the objections to the existing Act made manifest by the decisions of our Full Court.

A Bill to amend the Shearers' Accommodation Act.

A Bill to provide for the Construction of Adequate Scaffolding during the Erection of Buildings.

A Bill to provide for Uniform Company Law.

A Bill to provide for the Validation of Acts and Proceedings under repealed Enactments relating to Land Drainage, and giving powers to constitute Drainage Districts and Boards; and to facilitate the undertaking of works for the development and utilisation of land which might otherwise be kept useless.

The Electoral Districts Bill of 1913, with the Valuation of Land Bill of 1913, will also be reintroduced.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the Table reports and papers similar to those presented by Ministers in the Assembly.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

The PRESIDENT: His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to declare the

reasons for the opening of this Parliament and, for the sake of accuracy, a copy of the Speech will be delivered to each member.

BILL—EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central): 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 facilitate the Execution of Instruments and Powers of Attorney during the present War."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

OBITUARY: HON. SIR J. W. HACKETT—HON. G. M. SEWELL—HON. J. GRIFFITHS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.46]: Since we last met, death has been busy in our ranks. Two of our members, and one who had been elected to the Legislative Council but had not been sworn in, have passed away—I allude to Sir Winthrop Hackett, Mr. George Malakoff Sewell, and Mr. James Griffiths. Sir Winthrop Hackett had been ailing for some time and the end came, somewhat suddenly, on the 20th February. The loss, I need hardly say, was a national one. Sir Winthrop Hackett had been a member of this House since the granting of responsible Government, but long before that important epoch in our history he had with his powerful pen and influential newspaper largely assisted in moulding the destinies of Western Australia. His period of service in the Legislative Council extended over 24 years, and during that long time his adopted country had the benefit of his trained intellect and of his clear and far-seeing judgment. As a legislator he was broad-minded and, above all things, fair, and his worst critic never raised a doubt as to the purity of motive which governed his public and private actions. To recount all Sir Winthrop's eminent services to the State is quite unnecessary; they are known to all present, and they are known to the people of Western Aus-

tralia. But there is one great movement which must serve to perpetuate his name, and that is the University of Western Australia. It is doubtful whether we should have now such an institution in our midst but for the able, forceful, and tireless advocacy of Sir Winthrop Hackett. In all the other important undertakings which won his support, as in this, Sir Winthrop Hackett was directed by only one thought—the good of the country which he had made his adopted home. Mr. Sewell, who died on the 8th March, was for only a short period a member of this House, having been elected in August, 1914, but he was long enough with us to enable us to appreciate his genial disposition and his uprightness of character. Mr. Griffiths was personally known to few in this House, but no better testimony could be offered of the respect in which he was held by those who knew him best than the splendid majority he secured last May at his election. It is especially sad that he was called away before having an opportunity of taking the seat which he had so brilliantly won. The bereaved wives and families of the three departed members have our deepest sympathy. I beg to move—

That a message of condolence be sent by the Hon. the President to the widow and the family of the Hon. Sir John Winthrop Hackett, and that a similar message be sent to the widow and family of the late Hon. George Malakoff Sewell, and to the widow and family of the late Hon. James Griffiths.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [3.51]: I cannot say that I have much pleasure in seconding the motion which has been moved by the Colonial Secretary, but I feel that it is a duty which I am privileged to carry out. Speaking more particularly of the late Sir Winthrop Hackett, and speaking as one who shared, in a minor degree, some of the many public activities in which that gentleman was engaged, and as one upon whose, I fear, unworthy shoulders have fallen some of the burdens, only some of the many burdens, which the late Sir Winthrop Hackett bore so creditably to himself and with so much profit to the State, I must say that he always impressed me from one point of view more than from any other; and that is, the immense public spirit which he pos-

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-pricing 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