

others dug who went out with their water-bags to districts where there were then no streams of water running uphill." Talk about the Eastern Gold-field to-day! It is a paradise compared with what it was in the early days. And why should not those whom I may call the rising generation go out and imitate their predecessors by exploring new country? There is plenty of gold in the State: let them do as the pioneers have done. I must say a few words about the Transcontinental Railway; and I am sorry that little or nothing is said of it in the Speech. I shall not consider that I belong to the Commonwealth until we get the iron horse on the track from here to the East. What will it do for us? It will open up the mineral country. According to expert evidence, good pastoral lands are available along the route right through to South Australia; and the iron horse must make the journey before I shall be satisfied that we are a federated people. No mention is made of it in the Speech. I should like to encourage and to back up that old warrior now in Victoria, Sir John Forrest; and I would impress on every Government we may have that we must keep pegging away till we get that railway. Moreover, other railways are needed, such as the Esperance railway. The Government have made a survey which cost a lot of money; and I have been over the route surveyed from Coolgardie to Esperance. I do not say I shall recommend the immediate construction of a railway to Esperance; but I say without fear of contradiction that a railway from Coolgardie to Norseman is warranted. I am sure that it can be made a paying concern; and I say this from a mining standpoint, in view of the possibilities of the mines to be served. But I shall not say much more about that. In the end, Esperance will surely be united by rail with our existing lines; and we must face the problem of how the new line will affect the capital. I am not afraid of the Esperance railway. I am in business in Perth in a pretty large way, and I am not afraid of the Esperance railway. I shall start a business at Esperance if it suits me. A word or two must be said of the James Government, who have assisted to bring into existence our present democratic con-

ditions. Some people may not agree with that democracy, but I must say I am democratic. I do not believe in class legislation: we must not legislate for one particular class. I wish to do good for the country as a whole, to assist in elevating and building up Western Australia—government for the people, by the people. Some people do not agree with me on that point: they think I am a sort of dreamer in that direction. We must do what we can to elevate mankind. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4:20 o'clock until 4:30 afternoon of the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 28th July, 1904.

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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 (Mr. C. Lee Steere).

MESSAGE: OPENING BY COMMISSIONERS.

A message from the Commissioners 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.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour Justice Parker, having been commissioned by the Governor, appeared in the Assembly Chamber to administer to members the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The CLERK produced the election writs, showing the return of 50 members as representatives for the Legislative Assembly.

The members present took and subscribed the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James, K.C., Attorney General), addressing the Clerk, said: Mr. Lee Steere, I have pleasure in moving "That Mr. Foulkes do now take the Chair as Speaker." In the course of our Parliamentary experience it is necessary that members should discharge the duties pertaining to the Chairmanship of Committees, as otherwise we should not be able to carry on the ordinary procedure of Parliament. Both inside and outside Parliament, the rule recognised is that if a man has served faithfully and well in subordinate positions, he is entitled to earnest consideration when the more important positions become vacant. During the course of last session, Mr. Illingworth was acting as Chairman of Committees, and I think I shall be expressing the personal opinions of every member of this House, quite apart from party politics, in giving utterance to our regret that he is not here amongst us to-day. Mr. Quinlan and Mr. Foulkes were carrying on the duties of Assistant Chairman, and during the course of last session they were, on more than one occasion, called upon to discharge the duties of that office. Mr. Quinlan is not a candidate—I consulted him yesterday; and that being the case, Mr. Foulkes is the gentleman who, by his past experience and past practice, should I think commend himself to members of this House. I do ask the House, in dealing with this question, to bear in mind that if we want

men to serve us in the subordinate and humble position of Chairman of Committees or Assistant Chairman of Committees, we should remember their claim when the higher positions fall vacant. I move that Mr. Foulkes do take the Chair as Speaker.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. Gregory): I second the motion.

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont): I am conscious of the honour the Premier proposes that the House should confer on me, and I submit myself to the House.

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth): I give me great pleasure indeed to be able to have the honour of proposing for the position of Speaker of this new Parliament Mr. Jacoby; and in doing so I am conscious of the claim put forward by the Premier on behalf of Mr. Foulkes, who did fill a minor position for a short period in the old Parliament; but I ask the Premier to remember that there are no precedents of this kind governing the election of Speaker anywhere. It is almost the contrary. It is not often one sees an officer filling a junior position of government in the House elected to the office of Speaker.

THE PREMIER: You very often find it in an Australian Parliament. The present Speaker of New South Wales is an instance.

MR. MORAN: The first business of a new Parliament is the election of a Speaker, and Parliament is untrammelled in the appointment of the gentleman it considers best fit for the position. The Premier will thoroughly understand therefore, it is not in any spirit of opposition to his nomination I move. In fact it is only in the last few minutes we learnt the Premier had decided to nominate a Speaker. I have nothing farther to say, except this: Mr. Jacoby has been most courteous. I hope the Premier will admit that Mr. Jacoby in his position on various sub-committees of this House has shown that he studies the convenience of members in every way and is well versed in the forms of the House, thoroughly well versed, and thoroughly fitted for the position I have the honour to propose him for. I beg to move as an amendment,

That Mr. Jacoby be the Speaker of the Assembly for this Parliament.

MR. G. TAYLOR (Mount Margaret): I have much pleasure in seconding that.

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): Before the House proceeds to ballot on the question, I should simply like, in the interests of good government, to draw attention to the departure from constitutional procedure adopted to-day. It is uncommon, I believe unprecedented, for a Government to put forward, through the voice of its head, a nomination for the Speakership. In my humble opinion, the gentleman who is chosen for the high honour of Speaker should be one who is not nominated by the leader of any party in the House.

THE PREMIER: In the Imperial Parliament he is always nominated by a private member at the instance of the Prime Minister.

MR. DAGLISH: I rose to call attention to this breach of constitutional practice, in the hope that it may not be repeated here in the future.

THE PREMIER: It is not a breach. That is what I want to point out.

MR. DAGLISH: The Premier has admitted that the course he has adopted is unusual.

THE PREMIER: I do not admit that.

MR. DAGLISH: That it is not justified by imperial practice—

THE PREMIER: I do not admit it—

MR. DAGLISH: That it is contrary to Parliamentary practice in various Australian States. I do not intend to speak to the nomination of either of those gentlemen whose names have been submitted to the House, but I do think there is great disadvantage likely to follow on this departure from practice.

THE PREMIER: What is the difference between your doing it, and Mr. Taylor (Labour member) supporting Mr. Jacoby? Don't talk rubbish!

MR. DAGLISH: I am very sorry the Premier should make such an early start in losing his temper. I hope he will recover it.

THE PREMIER: It is enough to make one lose his temper, to see such quibbling.

MR. M. H. JACOBY (Swan): I beg to thank the proposer and seconder for the nomination to the position of Speaker, and I have pleasure in submitting myself to the will of the House.

Ballot taken, and Mr. Jacoby declared by the Clerk to have been elected by a majority of votes.

THE SPEAKER-ELECT, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder, said: Hon. members, there is no need for me, I am sure, to claim the indulgence and toleration of the House until I have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the forms and procedure of the office to which you have been good enough to elect me. This proud position has not been one of my seeking, but I trust I shall have the support of all sides of this House in carrying on its work. My endeavour will be to carry out my duties with absolute impartiality; and I trust that whatever I do, my opinion will not become evident. I will endeavour to uphold the dignity and the character of the high office to which you have elected me.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): One always extends to a member elected to the high office you have, sir, one's heartiest congratulations. I desire to do that, and to assure you that on whichever side of the House I sit I shall in the future, as in the past, extend a loyal support to the Speaker, and insist on independence and fair play all round.

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): I have pleasure in offering you, sir, my congratulations on your elevation to this important position, and I join with the Premier in assuring you of my hearty support and of the support of those sitting on this side of the House, in carrying out your important functions.

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont): I should like to express my congratulations on the honour that has been bestowed upon you, sir. I am of course aware that there are some hon. members here who did consider that I perhaps was a fit and proper person to uphold the position; but still there is no one who offers you more sincere congratulations than I do, upon the fact that you have attained this position. I join with the Premier in assuring you that at all times, so far as I can, you will have from me every possible assistance in carrying out your important duties. I beg to tender to you, sir, my hearty congratulations.

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth): I desire, as an old colleague of yours, sir, to congratulate you on the position of eminence you have attained. It is one

of the highest honours which any citizen of Western Australia can achieve, to preside as the first Speaker in these new Parliament Houses, a historic event, the task of opening a new pile of buildings and ushering in a new condition of things in Western Australia. I can assure you you have sympathy from every side of the House in the task before you. You are likely to have as onerous duties in the future as any Speaker has had in Western Australia in carrying out those duties; but I feel perfectly satisfied that, not only those who put you there but others will extend to you every toleration in an earnest endeavour to keep up, as always since Western Australia has enjoyed new conditions, the noblest traditions of decorum and order to be found in a British House of Parliament.

THE SPEAKER-ELECT: I thank hon. members very much indeed for their congratulations from all sides of the House. I shall now leave the Chair until 10 minutes to 3 o'clock.

The Speaker-elect then left the Chair (10 minutes past 1 o'clock), and at 2:50 resumed the Chair.

The Speaker-elect and hon. members proceeded to the main corridor of the new buildings, and having joined in the reception of the Governor, the Speaker was afterwards presented to His Excellency.

At 3:10 the **SPEAKER** resumed the Chair, and announced that in submitting himself to His Excellency as the Speaker elected by the Legislative Assembly he had laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable construction might be put on all its proceedings. His Excellency had been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice made by the Assembly, in the following terms:—

It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable position of Speaker. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner, and I have the honour to confirm the constitutional rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly in this State.

BILL INTRODUCED, LOCAL COURTS.

The **ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. Walter James), on leave without notice, introduced a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Local Courts.

Bill read a first time.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

Annual Reports, various papers, returns, and by-laws, laid on the table by Ministers.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

The **SPEAKER** and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament; and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber the Speaker reported what had been done, and said that as copies of the Speech had been distributed to members it was not necessary for him to repeat the Speech in this House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND (South Fremantle) said: I rise to move the adoption of an Address in reply to the opening Speech of his Excellency, which Address I will read at the conclusion of my remarks. Before proceeding to the subjects which I will touch on, I wish to be allowed to congratulate you, sir, on the honourable position the House has placed you in. I had the honour, if you will remember, sir, about three years ago, of being associated with you in a political movement. You remained in one channel, I took another. I do not think we have ever fallen out. We have never differed unless we agreed to differ, and I assure you that my congratulations on your return have been very much enhanced by the fact that I was at that time associated with you. (**MEMBER:** Why did you not remain so?) At present I will not devote time to answering the hon. member's question. I would like to congratulate you upon being the first Speaker to preside over the deliberations of Parliament in these halls in which legislation has to be in future carried on. Apparently we are splendidly housed. I am sorry to say there is one rift in the lute. It appears to me we have just a little

too much ventilation, especially on this (Government) side of the House. (Laughter on the Opposition benches.) I am referring to "the open door" (laughter); to the policy affecting the destinies of the British Empire. My meaning is not that of hon. members opposite. While being a lover of ventilation for the sake of health, at the present time I must say that as far as the entrance and exits of this Chamber are concerned, we have rather too much, and I trust our lives will be protected very soon by our having something a little better than we have at the present time. Still, it is clear that the opening of these new buildings to-day is an epoch in the history of this State, and I think every member feels an adequate sense of the importance and privilege of the duties imposed upon him in the deliberations in these new Houses of Parliament. I do not intend to take His Excellency's Speech as a text, except generally. That is, I do not intend to turn each paragraph in the Speech into a text. In the first place, it would take too long. In the second place, I do not see occasion to deal with so many items. I think the House is pretty generally agreed on the bulk of the paragraphs in His Excellency's Speech, and therefore I will, with the permission of the House, touch more especially upon those items that strike me as being of very great interest not only to the House but to the people outside. We are congratulated in the Speech on the advances made in the mining, agricultural, and pastoral industries. I think we all of us here must know that we have made great advances, and it would be stupid and unnecessary for me to begin quoting a lot of figures which are sent to all members regularly, figures which are well known to all members of the House who take an interest in these things. But I would say I join in the congratulations on the advances in Western Australia, and long may those advances continue. I have every confidence in the welfare of the State and its progress. No doubt we are going ahead. At the same time I think there is need for great caution, and I will touch on that point later on. While recognising this necessity for caution I can see no dark cloud on our horizon. They

say there is a silver lining to every cloud. All the clouds we have had for some years have apparently been nearly all of silver, or gold. I would also like to say, with the paragraph in the Speech and from my personal observance and knowledge of trade in the State generally, it is a matter for great congratulation that things are progressing so well, so steadily, as they have been doing in regard to the extension of our trade. I hope no members will think I have a hobby and shall weary them by running that hobby to death, but I say that the trade generally of the State has increased and is increasing, and I see no reason for fear on that point. In fact I see every chance and every good prospect of a large increase in trade, and of export trade in our natural products. A State is eventually made rich by the production of a large amount of things for export, by the finding of suitable markets for them in the centres of the world's commerce, and by having the benefit of the successful operations connected therewith. I think we have every reason to be thankful for what we have experienced in the past, and every reason to hope. In connection with the extension of the agricultural and pastoral interests, I have always been delighted to see the splendid advance made in settlement. One of the most hopeful among the many signs I have hinted at is the genuine settlement of land which has been going on in the State. With the kind of men who are settling on our land I think nothing but good can result from the continued encouragement of that class of immigration. I happen to know some of the men personally, and I know they were valuable men in other States. I believe they have already proved themselves to be valuable men here, and I can only hope that the future policy of the Government of this State, whatever the Government may be, will be distinctly in the direction of encouraging an influx of similar population. Our revenue has maintained its increase, and we have no reason to fear in that particular. The only thing is that we must certainly look for a falling off caused by the gradual wiping out of the interstate duties. Our income from the Commonwealth shows signs of decreasing, and it must necessarily decrease as the duties are coming off year by year. But

I do not think that is a matter to cause any trepidation among the people of this State. Even if our revenue from customs does fall off, we have a countervailing prospect, that being the decrease in the cost of living which we heard so much about some time ago, when a strong effort was made to reduce or do away with those interstate duties. These are being gradually wiped out year after year, and I trust that those gentlemen who were so anxious to wipe out the interstate duties entirely some years ago will see a fresh era of prosperity on account of their prognostications being correct, the cost of living being decreased by the abolition of State duties. So far as food is concerned, a man must have food to live; yet to live cheaply we must have not only cheap food but cheap clothes, so I fancy that in that direction some reduction in the cost of keeping a household will be effected. With reference to the expected shortening of our revenue through the gradual abolition of interstate duties, I think a lesson is clearly defined. There is defined an absolute need for economy in expenditure and administration, and we should as far as possible refrain from borrowing farther, at any rate until the times are better, and then only for expenditure on reproductive works.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: In this big country you want plenty of money to carry out works.

MR. DIAMOND: At the present moment, apparently, no matter how much we desire to borrow this money for reproductive works or useful works, the lenders of that money do not think with us. I am trying to show this House that we should wait for better times, and borrow only for good purposes.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: Then many people will leave.

MR. DIAMOND: We should, I think, only borrow for absolutely necessary works. Although I congratulated the Speaker on the beautiful building we are in, I can see that we could have done very well without borrowing an immense sum of money to build it with. I am perfectly certain I am right, and that a vast majority of members in this House agree with me, while I am sure the people of the State agree with me that we could have very well done

without this, expenditure for twelve or fifteen years. This is the class of expenditure I want to keep back. Of course it is very easy to be wise after the event. We can all be wise after the event. At any rate, we have proof before us now of a large expenditure of money that could well have been avoided for some time to come. I would like to say a few words about the Coolgardie Water Scheme. I am not going back far, because everybody in this State knows very well the history of that scheme. I think that the scheme was to a very great extent in a parlous condition when it was taken up by the present Government and pushed to a completion. Apparently it is still in a parlous state in one particular, a want of customers. It appears to me we must do something, whatever Government is in possession, to expand and develop the consumption of that water. I have my own ideas. I believe that a larger number of customers can be secured.

MR. BURGESS: Send it to Perth.

MR. DIAMOND: It is a shame that an enormous quantity of water should be running to waste at Mundaring, as I believe it is running away there to-day. We are told that if we bring it to the metropolitan district, where it is wanted so badly, instead of letting it pour away, the goldfields people will have a great cause of complaint. I say that is nonsense. I say by doing so we take none of the water wanted by the goldfields people. The goldfields people are too sensible to make any such complaint. They are too sensible not to allow the useless water running away to waste to be utilised. We could save an immense amount of the expenditure of money that is going on now. It is a matter for congratulation to this House, and more especially to the member for Katanning (Hon. F. H. Piesse), to see the splendid improvement in the railway returns. I think that is a special matter for congratulation to the members of this House; and I, for one, sincerely hope it will be long continued. We are told that the railways have made £70,000 profit after paying throughout 4 per cent. interest, and I think that is a splendid result considering the great difficulties under which our railways labour. It is achieved in spite of the enormous extent of unproductive country

through which our railways run, and in spite of the very considerable increase in the wages of the men without a very material increase in the rates for the carriage of freight.

MR. THOMAS: What were the increased rates?

MR. DIAMOND: I am not a universal provider of figures. I maintain that the rates have not been so materially increased, certainly not materially in comparison with the increase in wages. I am not finding fault with this increase in wages—increases that have been settled amicably between the men and the Commissioner. I hope that with the same good feeling these difficulties will always be settled. With reference to the increase of population, I cannot express congratulation on this point, but must express regret that one branch of our population is not increasing as it should. I think we could do with a much larger increase in producers—men who would produce wealth from the land. We have never yet approached the subject seriously. We have never yet gone to the young people of Europe with a clearly-defined statement of the advantages offered to them. We have never done anything to advertise the possibilities of the State. When I was in England in 1887-1888, and again in the Jubilee year 1897, I was very much surprised to see that Western Australia was almost an unknown quantity, except among the mining speculators on the Stock Exchange. This thing must be altered. We must do something to show the people of the old country the advantages offered by this State. We cannot expect the people to run out to find the good things we have to offer them. We must take them to the door and show our samples there and what we can do for the people. I trust before very long the Government that is in power will do something to bring forward in this House a workable measure for advertising the products of Western Australia. With reference to education, I am proud of our primary system of education. I think it is one of the best, if not the best, in Australia.

THE PREMIER: It is the best.

MR. DIAMOND: It appears to me it possesses all the good points of the systems of the various States in the East, while the framers of the regulations have

not been at all above taking some ideas from the old country.

MR. CONNOR: Why don't they establish more schools in the North?

THE PREMIER: You would not have been returned if they had.

MR. DIAMOND: We have taken the best that we could get from the Eastern States, and we have borrowed from the mother country, and I am pleased to notice that, in the last year or two, the mother country has not been above learning something from us. The system in Western Australia is one of which to be proud. The establishment of technical education also is a step in the right direction, but not nearly enough in the matter I propose. This points to the establishment of a university. I say at once I am opposed to anything in the shape of a large expenditure for the establishment of a university on the lines of Oxford and Cambridge, which lines, I am sorry to say, have been followed in the Eastern States, in some respects with disastrous results. It is a system which tends to bring out a large number of unnecessary lawyers, doctors, and professional men generally.

MR. MORAN: We want a lawyer on this side of the House.

MR. DIAMOND: Now I come to one step in my ideas. Let us spend this money in technical schools throughout the State. Let us teach our rising generation; let us not encourage them to become professional men or clerks; but let us teach them to give us the natural products of the country. [Interjection by Mr. CONNOR.] The hon. member for Kimberley has "party" on the brain. [Several interjections.] Now "party" is a thing that never troubles me. On the hustings and in my career in Parliament, I have gone for measures, not for party; and I am the same to-day. I have gone for measures and not for party. I do not care a fig for party. To a very great extent the extreme length to which parties go in the old country is disastrous; and I hope it will not be the same here in Western Australia. I will talk all night to discuss measures, but will not be one to discuss parties. I think this is not the time nor the place to endeavour to get me into a discussion or argument. As to my past actions since I was elected

in 1901, I should be very happy on some proper opportunity on the floor of this House to back my career against that of the hon. member for Kimberley, or of any other member.

MR. CONNOR: He never changes.

MR. DIAMOND: When I was unfairly and improperly interrupted by the hon. member, I was touching on the question of technical colleges. In the United States, through the individual States they have scattered a complete system of technical colleges. They are very economical, costing about £40,000 or £50,000 a year. It is a pleasure to read any of the works describing these colleges. For instance, you see in the illustrations a yardful of boys judging sheep, another yardful judging the quality of bullocks, others judging fruit, and others engaged in the cultivation of fruit and vegetables and other things. My powers of eloquence are not great enough to allow me to lay before the House the immense advantages that must accrue to this State if we teach our boys to do something practical in life. We cannot all be mechanics or professional men, and there are far too few who are learning to be fruit-growers and wheat-growers.

THE PREMIER: Too many desiring to be members of Parliament.

MEMBER: You have not too many on that side.

MR. DIAMOND: With reference to the question of land taxation, I agree with the principle of taxing —

MR. BURGESS: New settlers?

MR. DIAMOND: If the member for York will give me a minute he will find he will be in entire agreement with me. I advocate or support taxation on unimproved land. That is, I object to the holding of large blocks of unimproved land for the purpose of earning money on it afterwards, not by cultivation, working it, or occupying it, but by selling it to someone else. As far as the new settlers or the old settlers are concerned, there should be practically no tax on the amount of land necessary for them to carry on the needful occupations. To tax would be simply suicidal. These men are the backbone of our country, and we want to encourage them. We do not want to tax them, and although I am a strong advocate of land taxation, progressive land taxation if you

will, I am equally a strong advocate of letting off the small man or leaseholder — and I am not limiting to 100, 200, or 300 acres —

MR. DAGLISH: Are you referring to the member for York now?

MR. DIAMOND: I am talking to the House, and I say the small holders should be let off practically free. The man who works on his land, uses the work of his children, employs other labour, and spends money in building and agricultural improvements on his land, is deserving of every encouragement by this House and this State, and ought not to be hampered by any improper taxation. At the same time this does not interfere at all with the grand principle of forcing the owner of these unimproved lands to cut them up into small blocks or make use of them, or else be subject to a progressive land tax. With reference to the work of the late Parliament, I am sure members would not be pleased if I were to occupy their time too much with details; but coming to the latest possible stage, that is the advent of the James Government, I say the record of legislation can only be classed as a splendid one; a splendid record of liberal, democratic, and progressive legislation.

MR. TAYLOR: Forced from this (Labour side).

MR. DIAMOND: I will come to that in a moment — legislation which is democratic enough for me, and if it is democratic enough for me, heaven knows it must be democratic enough for anyone. And now with reference to the "forcing." If those words are serious, it is only another evidence of ingratitude shown towards the men in the House who helped the Labour members with legislation introduced by the Premier in the late Parliament. I say distinctly, if this interruption is really meant, it is clear evidence of ingratitude. We had a House of fifty members; we had seven members directly representing Labour.

THE PREMIER: And two of them opposing the Government.

MR. DIAMOND: Yes, for a considerable time. We do not need to go to a great arithmetician, but ask any reasonable man whether seven members, even thoroughly united on one side of the House, could have initiated and carried this legislation without the help of

majority of the House. I know perfectly well that the Bills I am speaking of were not introduced by the Labour members themselves, but I will do them the credit of saying that if they had not been introduced by the Government they probably would have been introduced by somebody. As far as I am concerned, I gave a general support to those democratic measures. Had those Bills or any of them been introduced by the leader of the Labour party, they would have received my support just the same. Whilst on this subject I will say that though I am an unswerving supporter of the James Government and the Ministerial policy, that will not prevent me from voting for any legislation introduced to this House by any section of the House as long as it accords with the political principles which govern my actions. I was speaking before about this ingratitude. I say that the opposition to the Premier in East Perth was not gratitude, and I assert that the opposition to myself in South Fremantle was a stupid blunder or at least a mistake.

MR. BOLTON: You will not say that next time.

MR. DIAMOND: I think I proved that. During the campaign of the Premier the Government or the Premier was continually taunted with the statement that he had stolen the Labour policy. Eighteen years ago the Premier happened to belong to an organisation which I was principally instrumental in founding in Fremantle. Eighteen years ago the Fremantle Liberal Association made what was absolutely the first attempt in Western Australia to form an association of any description whatever to advocate liberal and democratic principles. I have a book of the rules of that association. I can show them to any member of the House, and he will find there are principles in that volume which have since become law in the direction of progressive democracy and progressive liberalism; and one of our principal speakers 18 years ago, who came from Perth at my invitation more than once, was the present Premier, another was the present Minister for Works (Mr. Nanson); so that even 18 years ago we had some inkling of what was necessary for the progress of the State; and we should not have it cast in our teeth that we—when I say “we” I say the party to which I belong—

copied measures and principles from the Labour party. I have never been a party to copying anything, but if the Labour party indoors or out of doors introduce measures which are in accordance with my published views, I will support them.

MR. ANGWIN: Surely you do not belong to a party which says the harbour works at Fremantle are complete without a dock!

MR. DIAMOND: At any rate, if there were any truth whatever in the statement that the Premier had deliberately gone to work to copy the Labour programme, that was but writing down again, from a copy provided by the Labour party, the principles which he had been advocating. I believe I am correct in saying, before any of those gentlemen came into Western Australia. I say it shows a very unfair state of things; it shows a very great amount of ingratitude; but if there were any truth in the statement, we have an old saying that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Apparently all that these gentlemen can do is to prove that the Premier was guilty of the sincerest form of flattery. But whatever the truth is on that subject, the fact remains that the policy put before the people of this State at the Queen's Hall is to a very large extent, if not entirely, in accord with the Labour policy. If my Labour friends are going to oppose the policy initiated at the Queen's Hall, if they are going to refuse to carry my resolution for the Address-in-reply to His Excellency, apparently it is not measures but office.

THE PREMIER: Six thousand reasons.

MR. DIAMOND: Apparently it is not legislation, but office. I should be sorry to think that. I should be sorry to make such an accusation. I cannot believe that such is the truth, but I can only be convinced by the Labour members voting for my motion.

MR. ANGWIN: I am surprised the member for South Fremantle is moving such a motion.

MR. DIAMOND: I will not attempt to enter into detail about the liberal legislation which was passed through, because it would be simply endeavouring to give information to those who probably know as much or more about it than I do; but I say that the Arbitration Bill alone is a record of which any

Ministry or any Parliament should be proud.

MR. DAGLISH: That was the Leake Ministry.

MR. DIAMOND: It may not be perfection, but it certainly was a step in the right direction, and I am proud to say I was one of those who helped to pass the Bill into law. The Redistribution of Seats Bill must, I am sure, commend itself to my friends opposite.

MR. DAGLISH: Oh, no! we fought against it; we fought for improvements, and you helped us.

MR. DIAMOND: If it had been improved very much more, a number of gentlemen in another place would, I think, have seen that it never became the law of the country at all. The reasonable men in the House who believed in these principles carried them as far as they could. They see the advisability of giving an inch to gain another inch, and of not asking for a foot and gaining nothing at all. All legislation in the British dominions is the result of compromise, unless one side is in an overwhelming majority, which never lasts very long.

MR. HOLMAN: You were one of the "cave" dwellers.

MR. DIAMOND: It is impossible for me to go on if I am interrupted in this manner. These gentlemen are so pungent in their interjections. I think the Redistribution of Seats Bill may be responsible for so many of these gentlemen being present. If they are strong enough to command the votes of the people, I am not one who would help to take away the right they have. I am only too glad to see them have an opportunity of proving their stamina and strength, and I shall be glad to see that prudence I hope they will display in the deliberations of this House. Another thing I congratulate the Government upon is their purity of administration. If you go through the streets and meet "the man in the street," that is the evil-minded man in the street, who thinks evil of everybody else and hardly ever thinks good of anyone, but only sees good in himself, you will see a shaking of the head and mysterious noddings. One will say, "What sort of a game is that they are carrying on in the Lands Department?" "What sort of a game are they carrying on in the Treasury?"

"How is it that so-and-so has a barouche and pair lately?" "How is it that so-and-so has built a new house?" How did he get that money? How did he do it?" Such man never tells one how that person got the money, but throws out innuendoes. I have listened to those innuendoes ever since I have been in the House, and have tried to get at the root of some, but have never been able to do so. Probably some men cleverer than myself have got at the root of them, and, if so, I should like to hear their definition. I will not enlarge farther on that subject, more than to say I am absolutely satisfied in my own mind that the administration of the Leake Government has been absolutely pure. There have been mistakes made. Lord help us if we had a world where no mistakes were made! It would not be worth living in—a world of absolutely perfect beings, who never made a mistake, never even told a lie, never took a drink, never walked in the wrong direction or on the wrong side of the street. Let us be saved from a world of that description. The James Government have made their mistakes. I may mention a few things in which the Government made mistakes. I mention them on my own responsibility. There is the Hopkins-White affair. I listened to the whole of the debate, and read the whole of the papers; and I am perfectly satisfied that the Minister for Lands acted, from my point of view, in the same way as I would have acted.

MR. THOMAS: Then you did no go very carefully through the papers.

MR. DIAMOND: I will also mention the Gregory-Hicks matter. I followed everything that has been said or written on the subject, and I say unfearingly and unflinchingly that the Minister for Mines behaved then in a manner in which he was justified from his position, and in a manner in which I would have acted myself. If the mistakes of the Government, the whole of the indictment that can be brought against them, cannot be represented by more mistakes than these, their opponents had better save themselves trouble. So far as hard work is concerned, I do not think any member of this House will say anything against it. The work done by the Ministers has been far and away beyond what was expected from them, or beyond that of any other

Ministers. They have been unfailing in their attendance at their offices; and so far as I know, they have never refused or shuffled out of giving attention to the complaints of any man. I also say that, in my belief, Ministers have always acted with firmness where necessary. They deserve the greatest credit for the way in which they managed the Upper House in getting these imperfect measures through it. I cannot refer to the Upper House, so I will say "another place." It is a record which is simply marvellous. It marks them as gems of the first water. The administration of the Minister for Lands is superior to anything else in Australia. The administration of the Minister for Mines is certainly superior to anything else in Australia. The Mining Bill passed through this House stands far and away above any other legislation in Australia. It has done good to the owners and done justice to the workers, and altogether stands as a record of the ability and determination of the Minister for Mines.

MR. CONNOR: You said Lands, just now.

MR. DIAMOND: The hon. member for Kimberley is evidently following my remarks with the greatest interest. I will give him a little more. With reference to land administration, I do not think it is necessary to say very much. I have not heard a word said against that administration. If I hear anybody say anything about the administration of the Lands Department, I will do my best to say what I know; but I say now it is an object-lesson for the rest of Australia. With reference to the Department of Public Works, of course the present occupant of that portfolio has not had an opportunity of showing his calibre; but his predecessor certainly has. He surprised not only a great many of his enemies, but also a number of his friends. I am sure his administration has been for the welfare of the State. I trust he will be able to carry on a similar policy for some time to come. I do not think I will take up farther the time of this House; but I will finish by saying, before reading the motion, that if this House is going to make a change—members are already aware that the Governor's Speech con-

tains a direct challenge—I think it is a very proper thing in the present state of politics in this State that, instead of keeping people hanging on in an attitude of suspense from day to day and week to week, the Government by taking that course have taken a course which will bring things to an issue at the earliest possible moment. If we will try to restrain our natural impetuosity and rhetorical powers we shall get the thing over next week. I have not made the slightest hint as to what the result will be. I will leave that to the House. But there are members on the other side of the House who know the result. If a referendum of the people of this State could be taken to-day, and if everybody voted, I believe there would be a vast majority in support of the Ministerial policy. [Opposition laughter.] I have said what I believe. I maintain it, and I believe I am speaking the truth. The strongest possible objection the people of Western Australia must have, do have, and will show before many years are over (not only in Western Australia but all over Australia), is that Labour must get rid of the trammels of the caucus.

MR. CONNOR: You belonged to it at one time.

MR. DIAMOND: I have never belonged to a caucus in my life. I have never been asked by my political leader to sign a pledge, or to bind myself to any item in his programme. I have always held a free hand. I could not exist in a caucus. As soon as it is necessary for me to enter a caucus I will go out of the front door.

MR. TAYLOR: Was there not a caucus on Tuesday?

MR. DIAMOND: I have never been bound down. I have never joined any body that would bind me down, fetter my mind, obliterate my conscience, bind me hand or foot to a policy that I might not approve of. Certainly not! But I say in all seriousness that, until Labour frees itself from these trammels of caucus, attempted government of the people by a secret body who virtually issue commands for the guidance of their officers, Labour will never effect its proper position in Australia. I say it in all kindness. I know there are gentlemen sitting on those benches who know I am correct. I am fairly old now, get-

ting on in years. I have lived to see a lot in Australia. I saw the first 8-hours procession in Australia; and I believe now I will live to see the date when Labour will free itself from these trammels. I am afraid I have trespassed too much on the time of this House. I will content myself with moving the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

MR. TAYLOR: What about the dock?

MR. DIAMOND: Wait until the Estimates. I beg to move that the following Address-in-reply be presented to his Excellency:—

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign. We thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament, and beg to assure your Excellency of our continued confidence in your advisers.

MR. N. J. MOORE (Bunbury): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to add my congratulations to those that have already fallen from the speakers who have preceded me, on your elevation to that high and distinguished office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. I feel sure that the Parliamentary experience which you have already had will constrain you to extend to those of us who are newly entering Parliamentary life, that consideration which is usually extended to novices, while at the same time upholding that dignity which has always been associated with the Speaker's Chair in the Legislative Assembly. I should like to say that, as a new member, while having my own views I come here prepared to hear both sides of a question before coming to a decision. I appreciate the fact, as every new member I feel sure does, that we have much to learn; and I can assure hon. members that my main desire is to loyally serve the country of which I am proud to say I am a native. Unlike some other members, before the elections came on I stated which party it was I would support; and my electors have sent me here to support that party whose records are so clearly set forth in the Speech read by His Excellency to-day. That Speech refers to very many matters; but I propose to simply confine myself to those subjects with which, perhaps, I am most closely in touch. At the opening of last Parliament, Mr. Gardiner, I think it was, said, "We recognise—in

fact we must insist—that our finances shall be put upon a sound business basis." It was appropriate that he should afterwards be called to the position of Treasurer, and that he brought that desired result about. I hope that whether the present Administration continues in power or not, or whether our friends opposite are in power, whoever is Treasurer will be a man with plenty of backbone in him, who will be able to say "no" when demands are made upon the public purse for works which are not of urgent necessity, whether those demands come from either the centres of population or from the outlying districts. I feel sure it is a matter of regret to all sections of the House that the late Treasurer is not with us here to assist with his advice and experience. Broadly speaking, I consider that the first duty of a member of Parliament is to the State, and, recognising that, I think it will be well this session if we put the question of land settlement in the van of legislation. At the present time, although it is stated in the Address-in-reply that our population has increased, and I believe it has increased in a greater ratio than in any other State in Australia except New South Wales—[MEMBER: More than that too]—I regret to say that increase is at the expense, to a very large extent, of our neighbours. We do not want to live on the misfortune of the other States, and I quite agree with that paragraph in the Speech which says it is necessary that the attention of Parliament should be turned to the question with a view of inducing population. There is no doubt this State is suffering from a dearth of population, and although every endeavour has been made by the present Government to induce settlement, yet much remains to be done. We have an immense estate very sparsely populated. We have a splendid area of coastal land fertile in the extreme, with a regular rainfall, with the absence of droughts, and yet over the whole of this area of 624,000,000 acres we have but a mere handful of people engaged in tilling the soil, while the whole population of Western Australia does not amount to as much as half that of the city of Melbourne. There is something wrong, and whichever Government is in power I hope its attention will be turned to remedying

this matter. I favour the breaking up of large estates, holding the principle that the man who has good land and does not use it for the benefit not only of himself but of the State should have that land taken from him, or at least he should be made to pay for the privilege of its remaining idle. Of course I do not favour repudiation, but it is opposed to all political economics that the land should be in the hands of the few to the detriment of the many. If a man has a large estate in the vicinity of our railway lines, I should be in favour of purchasing that estate, but certainly I would not be in favour of giving more than the ordinary market value for the land. I am therefore pleased to note that "a measure of taxation upon the unimproved value of such holdings, but containing liberal exemption in favour of the genuine settler, should be passed." I am glad to see this inserted in the programme. I should also be farther in favour of the policy of clearing before selection, because I recognise that what to a large extent keeps many people off the land in Western Australia, and more especially in the South-West, is the fact that they have to pay such a heavy initial cost in clearing. When we recognise that a man has to face a cost of from £5 to £20 per acre for clearing, we see that he not only wants a large heart, but also a fairly large pocket, and something in it; and I think the Government may very well introduce a system of clearing before settlement, and extend payments over a considerable period. The money perhaps might be collected somewhat on the same lines as those on which we collect rent under the conditional purchase system. Everything should be done to attract people on the soil, and when we get them there we should endeavour to keep them. As a member representing agricultural and shipping interests I am indeed pleased to notice from the Speech which is laid before us that the mineral output has increased during the life of the last Parliament from £6,179,802 in 1901 to £8,971,937 in 1904. We must admit that during the last decade the great progress that has been made in agricultural development has been largely due to the fact that the goldfields industry has advanced by leaps and bounds, and I can see no cause for any enmity between the

miner and the farmer. The farmer in the past assisted the miner to a very large extent when the Coolgardie Water Supply was introduced. Who gave support to Sir John Forrest to secure a water supply there? It was the agricultural people; and I am very proud to know that those who preceded us in representing agricultural interests had enough foresight to recognise that they were bringing in a measure which would improve the conditions of life on the goldfields, while at the same time we who are interested in agricultural industries are under a favour to those on the goldfields, owing to their providing a market for our produce within our own boundaries. It is only a few years since gold was first discovered in Western Australia. Since that period no less than £15,000,000 worth of gold has been won. From every acre held under a gold-mining lease last year gold to the value of £236 was produced, and for every man employed both above and under ground gold of the value of £486 was won. I think this is a marvellous record, and one which cannot be reached by any other country in the world. The Government batteries have produced over £900,000 worth of gold, and at the same time they have given encouragement to the small man and have enabled him to prospect and develop his own property, while his stone has been treated at a minimum cost. It is pleasing to notice it is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation dealing with the timber industry. When we recognise that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 men employed in the timber industry, exclusive of those engaged in handling the timber on the wharves and on the tramways and railways, and that there is a capital of over £1,500,000 invested in works, we must realise that it is incumbent upon Parliament to give every encouragement to that industry, while at the same time conserving as far as possible the future of our forests. In my opinion the present system under which timber leases are held is against the best interests of this State and should be abolished, and the timber should be disposed of on the royalty principle, only the royalty principle should be based upon measurement in the round. I feel sure that if this recommendation of the Forestry Commission is adopted, a lot of

the great waste which is going on at the present time will be considerably minimised. Every encouragement also should be given to the small man to enable him to enter into competition, and I would be in favour of the Government assisting him by constructing light lines to connect the timber forest with the railway system, the cost to be paid by the various mills which will reap a benefit from them. If such a policy were adopted, I am confident that it would prevent any one company from having practically a monopoly of the local trade. The Government have shown in the Governor's Speech that they recognise the need there is to give greater facilities for developing the three great industries—mining, agricultural, and timber, to which I have already briefly referred: and particularly does this apply to the early necessity for providing proper harbour accommodation. The Fremantle Harbour Works are now complete, and the management of those harbour works has been handed over to a Harbour Trust which, I understand, has given great satisfaction.

MR. ANGWIN: The mover of the motion does not think so.

THE PREMIER: Do you agree with him?

MR. ANGWIN: No; I do not.

THE PREMIER: Then don't worry about the mover.

MR. MOORE: If this local control is satisfactory I shall be pleased to see local control extended to the other ports. The increase of trade that has followed the development of the timber industry in the South-West has been simply astounding, when it is recollected that in 1896, when the first load of stone was tipped in the harbour at Bunbury to build a breakwater, the exports at Bunbury were £16,000, and in 1902 were £240,000, while last year they came within a few thousands of half a million sterling. That is a record which I do not think any other port in Australia can show; and I hope, when the gentlemen opposite are over on this side, they will recollect that it is absolutely necessary to assist, as far as possible, the timber industry by giving increased harbour facilities. I do not propose to weary hon. members very long; but I should like to say, previous to sitting down, that I would like to see

a Bill introduced amending the present Municipalities Act. I was in hope I would see reference to it in the Speech. There are several gentlemen in the House who have had considerable municipal experience, and I feel sure that if such a Bill be introduced one will be passed that will meet with the satisfaction of all the various municipalities of this State. The majority of members, I think, will also agree with me that, although the present Electoral Act gives every facility for men to register their claims, it is open to very great abuse, more especially in regard to postal votes. I have referred to only a few matters in this very interesting Speech, although, if time had allowed, I should have preferred to have dealt a little farther with them; but I have not the least doubt that before this debate is finished I will have an opportunity of saying a few words from the other side of this House. When I remember what has been done in the last three years, and after reading the record of the James party as set forth in the Speech—a record which I know all men acknowledge to be true, having been content in the past to give my support to a body of men who have shown that they have the highest and best interests of the State at heart, I mean to stick to them if they are going downhill. I consider they have been faithful servants, not only of one section but of all classes of the community. I feel sure that hon. members here present will join in the wish expressed in the first paragraph of the Speech:—

That the people will at all times find members devoted to the loyal and unselfish service of the State, advancing in legislative and administrative reforms with due deliberation, and fully conscious of the duties and responsibilities no less than the rights and privileges of Parliament.

I have pleasure in seconding the Address-in-reply. (General applause.)

On motion by MR. DAGLISH, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT, REMARKS BY THE PREMIER.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James) moved: "That at its rising the House do adjourn till 4.30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon."

Question passed.

THE PREMIER: In moving the adjournment of the House, one cannot help being conscious of the fact that we meet to-day in new premises and new surroundings; and the thoughts of members naturally are somewhat mixed. We look with sympathy towards the past and also with confidence towards the future; and these two dominant features are more present than the thoughts that are immediate to-day. It is perhaps inevitable that new surroundings feel for the moment strange: the old atmosphere of the old home is gone, and we have yet to acquire for our new premises those associations which for thirty odd years were gradually growing and accumulating around the premises which we have left. It is a consolation and comfort we have that the future rests with us. If we can but gather experience from the teachings of the past, if we can but learn those lessons with which the past always rewards its students, we then can have no fear for the future. I believe then, under these circumstances, not lightly disregarding the past, though we can cut ourselves entirely apart from it, if we have regard for the lessons which that past teaches us, we can move forward in resolute confidence in the State and its people. Disaster is only possible in Western Australia if, being narrow-minded and self-sufficient, we think that within our own individual lives the world has taught all the lessons worth learning, that the history of the past is a barren study, its experience and lessons of no value, and its teachings of no present-day application. Throughout all our experience we know there is a constant struggle towards improvement, towards advancement. Our privileges to-day depend upon past efforts, and if I may say so with respect, if we be wise we should realise that advance must be continuous, must spring from the past while striving for the future, and that no progress is real which attempts to entirely sever the roots of the past from the growth of to-day. Now there is one custom, as we pass from this House, we can never forget. I do not believe we ever shall. Under no circumstances should the motion I now move mean any more or less in our new premises than it meant in our old home. It was always welcome, always accepted. It was the motion that commanded us to

cease political strife and renew personal friendships, a motion that divided the political struggles and political turmoil of this Chamber from the good fellowship of personal intercourse that followed directly we passed through its door. May I, on behalf of every member of this House, express the hope that it always may be so? May I repeat the hope? I am certain that every individual member of this House will look forward to the future, and feel, whenever this motion is moved, that we shall know, however bitter our contests and our struggles have been in this Chamber, that directly we pass from it we can renew our personal friendships, the retention of which is worth more than any position Parliament can give us. It is because I believe and feel that very strongly, in moving this motion I want to make these few remarks, hoping that we may never allow our political battles, however strong, to temper our political friendships; and may we always take to heart the good old lesson, that while we strive mightily, there is no reason why we should not eat and drink as friends. (General applause.)

Question passed.

The House adjourned at six minutes past five o'clock, until the next Tuesday afternoon.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 2nd of August, 1904.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: I, Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the