

PROROGATION SPEECH.

His EXCELLENCY, in closing the session of Parliament, was pleased to speak as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

It gives me pleasure to be enabled to release you from your arduous duties, and in doing so I trust that the result of your deliberations will be productive of good to all sections of the community.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

I thank you in the name of His Majesty for the liberal Supplies which you have voted for the administration of Public affairs.

I also thank you for approving of the financial proposals of my advisers, and trust that the passage of the Loan Act, by which the necessary funds will be raised for important public works, will lead to the development and prosperity of the State.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

The Legislation which you have passed this Session—in particular the authorisation of the construction of Railways between Nannine and Meekatharra, Bridgetown and Wilgarrup, and along the Upper Chapman Valley—should materially assist the development of the Mining and Agricultural Industries of the State.

I note also, with pleasure, that you have passed an Act constituting Vermin Boards, to deal with the danger of a rabbit invasion; the Bunbury Harbour Board Act, constituting a local governing body for the Port of Bunbury; the Limited Partnerships Act, enabling those who are willing to support any co-partnership venture to limit their risk; and other measures of an urgent and useful character.

I now declare this First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Western Australia

prorogued until Wednesday, the 30th day of June, 1909.

The Session then closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Saturday, 6th February, 1909.

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The Speaker took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT (1906), AMENDMENT.

Introduced by *the Premier* and read a first time.

BILL—ROADS ACT (1902), AMENDMENT.

First Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. Price): The object of bringing down this Bill at this stage was in order that during the recess it might be circulated among the various roads boards of the State. The Bill contained several provisions which he thought to be an improvement on those in the existing Act. They were largely the result of the experiences of the department in dealing with these roads boards. For instance, the Bill gave the boards power to declare a special area inside their respective districts for the purpose of striking a special rate within

those areas. Under the Roads Act the boards had not the power to rate sufficiently high for the upkeep of streets, lighting, etcetera, but under this Bill such special areas could be declared and a special rate struck for that area only. Again, in some parts of the State—as, for instance, Bayswater—there was a large number of absentee owners in consequence of which it had been found impossible to get a loan. Under this Bill if a majority of the resident owners were favourable to the raising of a loan, the loan if duly approved could be granted. That provision would be more especially of use to suburban roads boards. Several other matters were dealt with in the Bill, and the difficulties that had cropped up during the last four or five years had been provided against as far as possible. He moved—

That the Bill be now read a first time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

BILL—WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and returned to the Legislative Council with an amendment.

(Sitting suspended from 10.43 a.m. to 12 noon.)

QUESTION—STATE BATTERY, MESSENGER'S PATCH.

Mr. TROY asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has the Minister decided upon the class of battery to be erected at Messenger's Patch. 2, When is it intended to begin the work of erecting the battery?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: I am unable to give a definite reply owing to a proposition having been made by the Superintendent of State Batteries. He is of opinion that we should dismantle the Lennonville battery, and put five head of the stamps at Boogardie, making 15 head in all there, and the other five at Messenger's Patch. This recommendation will receive further consideration next week, when I shall give the hon. member a definite reply.

QUESTION—SEWERAGE WORKS AT BURSWOOD.

Mr. SWAN asked the Minister for Works: 1, In view of the Minister's statement that the septic tanks at Burswood were examined before the work was paid for, how does it happen that repairs are now required, considering that the tanks have never been used? 2, How was it discovered that the works were faulty? 3, What is the extent of the repairs necessary and the estimated cost? 4, What is the name of the engineer in charge of the work and the name of the officer who passed the works?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Certain damage has occurred at the junction of the two classes of concrete in the outside walls since the tanks were completed. 2, The tanks were only recently completely filled, and when approaching top water level a leakage became apparent. 3, The joint will be cut out and refilled from the inside and covered from the outside with concrete, estimated cost £50. 4, The engineer in charge of the work was Mr. Hickson, and the engineer who passed the work, the executive engineer, Mr. Oldham.

QUESTION — BATTERY (PUBLIC) AT MENZIES.

Mr. GOURLEY asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to a statement appearing in to-day's *West Australian* as follows:—"A movement is on foot to form a local company to establish a 15-head battery at Menzies to crush for the public. The capital required will be about £5,000, of which two-thirds has been guaranteed, one of the principals putting in £2,000. It is proposed to instal a 50-h.p. gas-producer to operate a thoroughly up-to-date plant, including two filter presses. The promoters undertake to crush and cyanide at 15s. per ton on the basis of a crushing supply of 500 tons per month." 2, If so, will the Minister so adjust the charges and equipment as to avoid any injurious results from such threatened competition?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes. 2. The matter will receive consideration.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CARRIAGE DOORS. CLOSING.

Mr. COLLIER (for Mr. Scaddan) asked the Minister for Railways: Is it the intention of the Railway Department to put a stop to the dangerous practice of passengers in throwing open carriage doors before the train has been brought to a standstill: also the equally dangerous practice of permitting passenger trains to leave a platform before the carriage doors are shut?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: The subject has been referred to the Commissioner of Railways.

QUESTION—SCHOOL OF MINES, KALGOORLIE.

Mr. COLLIER (for Mr. Scaddan) asked the Minister for Mines: Has he made inquiries as promised into the correctness or otherwise of the complaint made with regard to the lecturer on electricity and engine-driving at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines filling other positions?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: The matter has been inquired into and full information was posted to the hon. member for Ivanhoe yesterday.

(Sitting suspended from 12.10 to 2.15 p.m.)

ASSENT TO BILLS (3).

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

Bridgetown-Wilgarrup Railway.
Midland Junction Municipal
Boundaries.
Fines and Penalties Appropriation.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Premier: By-laws Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

BILL—LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS.

Council's Amendment.

Amendment made by the Legislative Council now considered.

In Committee.

Clause 2: Strike out the word "shall" in line 1 and insert "may" in lieu.

The PREMIER: The Bill as originally introduced provided that the Act should come into force on the first day of January of this year, and if it were carried in this form it would mean that the two provisions would be made retrospective. This was not desired and the Council had accordingly altered the clause to make it optional whether the Bill should come in on that date or not. He moved—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question passed; the amendment agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Council.

PRIVATE BUSINESS, A REQUEST.

Mr. HARDWICK (East Perth): I crave the indulgence of the House to make a request to the Premier, and that is to allow me to bring forward a motion which has appeared in my name on the Notice Paper for a considerable time. If this can be done I desire to divide the House on the question so that the person to whom the motion refers will have an opportunity of knowing exactly the position with regard to her affairs.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is not in order in bringing this matter up at the present stage.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): Before prorogation takes place I would like, on behalf of members, to express our appreciation of the way in which you, Mr. Speaker, have carried out the duties of the position you occupy, and to thank you for the courtesy you have always extended to members. At the same time I will take the opportunity, on be-

half of members, of expressing the same sentiments towards the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Daglish, and to the Deputy Chairmen, Messrs. Taylor and Foulkes, who have so well carried out the duties deputed to them during a very strenuous session. The session now concluding has been one of the most strenuous we have ever had, but at the same time it must be acknowledged that although we have worked very hard, still, it cannot be contended that there was any unnecessary discussion over the matters brought forward. Questions of great importance were thoroughly discussed, and I feel sure the interests of the country generally have been well safeguarded. I would like at the same time to express the hope that during recess members will be able to have some of that relaxation to which they are justly entitled, and that they will return for the new session—I will not say with renewed vigour, their vigour has been quite sufficient—well, let me hope that they will enjoy the recess. I would like also to take this opportunity of thanking the Leader of the Opposition and members generally for the courtesy that has always been extended to me during this last session.

Mr. BATH (Brown Hill): I desire to join with the Premier in the good wishes expressed towards you, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees and the officers of the House. I hope that the Premier and his colleagues will enjoy a well earned rest during the recess, and that it will be productive of schemes which will be advantageous to the interests of Western Australia. I hope also that the recess will not be too long and that we will meet again at a reasonably early date, so that our business may be transacted before Christmas and under better and not quite so trying climatic conditions, which make it impossible to work with the zest that we should devote to our duties. I wish to extend my thanks to hon. members on this side of the House who, while rejoicing in their strength have always tempered the wind to the shorn lamb of the other side of the House. When the hon. member and his colleagues again

face the House the spell they will have had during recess will give them that courage and fortitude to meet the fate that may possibly then await them. I desire also to reciprocate the thanks of the Premier, and express my gratitude to him for the consideration and courtesy he has extended to me in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition. I hope members generally will have relaxation during recess, and that all will come back prepared to face the numerous problems that will very likely await them.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to express my appreciation of the kind words spoken by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in regard to myself. It has always been a pleasure to me to endeavour to make the position in this Assembly as pleasing as possible while carrying out the duties of my office. I think I may say that I have never known the close of a Parliament where the relations between members have been so cordial as they are at the present time. I have to acknowledge my gratitude to the chief officials and other officers of the House for the assistance they have rendered and the information they have always been ready and willing to give to members of the House.

Mr. DAGLISH (Subiaco): I have pleasure in thanking hon. members for the kind way in which they have treated me during the time we have been sitting in Committee. I have likewise to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the advice you have been willing to give me whenever I have had occasion to seek it, and I thank the Clerks for the assistance they have always been ready to render; also the deputies who have been willing and glad to afford any assistance that I have had occasion to seek from them. While thanking hon. members for what they have done in the past, I would like to express the hope that they will devote more attention to the principle of measures, and discuss those principles on second and on third readings, and in this way reduce, to some extent, the work in Committee. I may say the State will not suffer if there is less discussion on the details. There is too much importance attached to detail, but,

after all, in regard to legislation, and in regard to the Estimates and other questions that come before Parliament, I think that the debates can reach a higher level. There are more opportunities for the displaying of that eloquence which all of us seek to attain if we deal with those matters in a broader spirit before the Committee stage is reached. I beg to thank hon. members for the kindness they have displayed towards me during the session.

(Sitting suspended from 2.40 to 2.55 p.m.)

PROROGATION.

Black Rod appeared at the Bar at three minutes past 3 o'clock and summoned members of the Legislative Assembly to attend His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber. Mr. Speaker and hon. members proceeded accordingly to the Council Chamber where His Excellency was pleased to give assent to Bills of the Session. His Excellency also delivered an address, proroguing Parliament to Wednesday, 30th June, 1909 [*vide* Council proceedings, *ante*].

The Session then closed.