

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Assembly was dissolved by Proclamation on the 28th January, 1924.

The Twelfth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 24th July, 1924, and the First Session commenced on that day.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 24th July, 1924.

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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at noon pursuant to proclamation.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. Bernard Parker) read the proclamation.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members, elected since the prorogation, then took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll:—Hon. J. M. Drew, Central Province (Colonial Secretary); Hon. J. Ewing (South-West); Hon. G. W. Miles (North); Hon. J. Cornell (South); Hon. H. A. Stephenson (Metropolitan-Suburban); Hon. H. J. Yelland (East); Hon. W. H. Kitson (West); Hon. J. R. Brown (North-East); Hon. A. Lovekin (Metropolitan).

COMMISSIONER.

Mr. Justice Burnside (Commissioner for His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Robert Furse McMillan) having entered the Chamber, a message was sent to the Legis-

lative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

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

The Commissioner then read the following statement:—

Mr. President, Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency will inform you of the causes of the calling together of the present session of Parliament; and, it being necessary that a Speaker should be chosen for the Legislative Assembly, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, Members of the Legislative Assembly, should repair to the place where you are to sit, and, having been duly sworn by me, under the Commission issued to me by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that you then elect your Speaker, and notify His Excellency of your having done so.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, His Excellency's Commissioner left the Chamber.

Sitting suspended from 12.30 p.m. to 2.50 p.m.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and Administrator entered the Council Chamber at 3 p.m. and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

It is with pleasure that I open the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament of Western Australia for the transaction of public business.

During the past year, Sir Francis Alexander Newdegate, K.C.M.G., after filling the office of Governor of Western Australia for four and a-half years, resigned his position. His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint as his successor Sir William Robert Campion, K.C.M.G., who is expected to arrive in the State and assume the duties of his office on the 28th of October next.

My Ministers regard a policy of immigration and land settlement, combined with the development of our natural resources, as of paramount importance. To the extent rendered possible by financial assistance received, and by land made available for selection, our kinsmen from overseas will be warmly welcomed. In order to encourage a higher production from vacant lands adjacent to existing railways, and to permit of closer settlement, an amendment of the Land Tax and Income Tax Act, 1923, will be sought, and to the same end a Closer Settlement Bill will be introduced. The group system, of which there are now 124 units, with a population of approximately 8,776, will be continued; and a Royal Commission to investigate many phases of group settlement will be appointed at an early date.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1924, was £7,865,595, showing an increase over that of the previous year of £658,102, whilst the expenditure amounted to £8,094,753, being £481,897 more than that of the previous year. The shortage on the year's transactions was £229,158, making the accumulated deficiency at 30th June, 1924, £6,140,087. The deficit for the year showed a decrease, compared with the previous year's operations, of £176,193.

The interest and sinking fund payments under Loan Acts are a very heavy drain on revenue. The disbursements made last year were £50,924 more than the estimate, and £258,908 greater than for the previous financial year. The interest rate on bor-

rowed money continues high, without any indication of immediate relief.

The operations of the railways continue to show improvement. The gross surplus last year was £882,514, leaving, after provision by the Treasury of interest (£787,000) and sinking fund (£126,000), a shortage of £30,486.

A conference on financial matters has recently been held in Sydney, and a draft agreement for combined borrowing by the Commonwealth and State Governments, through the Federal Loan Council, has been prepared. This agreement will receive consideration by my advisers, and when approved by all the States, ratifying legislation will be introduced by the Federal Government.

You will be asked to grant temporary supplies, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure will be submitted to you at an early date.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

The condition of the mining industry is receiving special consideration. Although the value of the gold and mineral production in 1923 amounted to £2,657,950, the mining industry is suffering from a temporary depression due to various factors, two of which are taxation and the high tariff on many mining requisites. It is proposed to appoint a Royal Commission to consider conditions affecting the mining industry, and make recommendations with a view to improvement.

Other industries throughout the State are in a satisfactory condition. The wheat yield for the past year of 18,920,271 bushels constituted a record, the average per acre being 11.4 bushels. It is anticipated that the area cropped this year will be increased. With a normal rainfall in August and September there is every reason to expect a good harvest.

The development of dairying in Western Australia continues, and more rapid progress should follow the settlement of group members upon the land. Approximately 16,000 acres of permanent pasture for dairying were planted during the year. The herdstesting scheme inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture is becoming increasingly popular. The present condition and the prospects of this industry must undoubtedly result in increased butter production and in general benefit to the State.

The timber trade is in a buoyant state. The demand for Western Australian hardwoods from overseas continues at satisfactory prices. During the past year a record was established in the value of the timber exported, which amounted to £1,367,713 sterling. Re-afforestation measures are being extended with a view to making forest regeneration bear a reasonable relation to our timber consumption.

A detailed examination has just been completed of the country near Wyndham to locate land suitable for cotton growing and tropical agriculture. About 100,000 acres are being classified and surveyed for closer settlement, beginning with an area of 10,000 acres about 25 miles from Wyndham. The adviser in tropical culture is satisfied that extensive settlement is possible on these areas. Reports just received from Messrs. Smith, Rathbone & Co., Liverpool, who undertook the ginning and sampling of some three tons of cotton sent to them last year for the Empire Exhibition, indicate that Western Australian cotton is of a quality that will ensure recognition in the world's markets. Although cultural methods were of the crudest, the growers being comparatively inexperienced, the result shows that out of 25 bales sampled all but seven exceeded the current price, and some samples reached considerably higher. The results ranged from 17.15d. to 19.85d. per lb., the latter price being quoted in respect to cotton grown at Beagle Bay Mission, near Broome. Some ratoon cotton produced this season is likely to give even better results, which is of particular importance in view of the interest being taken in the ratoon controversy in Queensland at the present time.

Considerable activity is being manifested in operations connected with the pastoral industry. Pastoralists are pushing further inland, and feature surveys are being conducted to locate springs, soaks, and other points of necessity. Three hundred and forty-seven leases were selected during the past year, of an area of 20,361,723 acres. The value of the wool clip was higher than ever previously realised, amounting to approximately four and a-half million pounds sterling.

Expenditure upon education during the year amounted to £580,548.

The number of primary schools now open has risen to 760, with an enrolment of about 51,400. Thirty-four schools have been opened on group settlements, serving fifty-one groups. Seventeen more schools to serve twenty-three groups have been authorised, and five more to serve eight groups are now recommended.

A high school building at Albany is in course of erection, and will be opened at the beginning of 1925. This makes the fourth high school that has been provided outside the metropolitan area since the Perth modern school was opened in 1911.

The following railways are in course of construction:—

The Busselton-Margaret River railway, 41½ miles, which will be completed about the end of August.

The Esperance Northwards railway and extension, 66¼ miles, will be completed about the end of December.

The Margaret River-Flinders Bay railway, 21¾ miles, reconditioning of existing line, and 3¼ miles new deviation, will be completed about the end of September.

The Narembeen-Merredin railway, 53½ miles, will be completed in February, 1925.

The Jarnadup railway extension—total length, 28 miles. The length of five miles from Pemberton is under construction.

The Piawaning-Northwards railway, 23 miles, will be completed about April, 1925.

Authority will be sought for the construction of a railway from Salmon Gums to Norseman, which will have the effect of connecting two separate systems. Official reports disclose the existence of large areas of good wheat lands which will be served by the proposed line. Survey parties are now laying out the necessary feeder roads for this work.

The construction of a breakwater at Geraldton was authorised and commenced last year. It is the intention of the Government to push on with this work expeditiously and provide facilities necessary for the port of Geraldton. At Fremantle considerable progress has been made with the deepening of the entrance channel and inner harbour to 36 feet low water, and a substantial commencement has been made with the reconstruction of Victoria Quay. The accommodation provided in the Fremantle Harbour enabled the British Special Service Squadron to berth safely within its borders last year, and the numerous facilities provided won the highest praise from the officers of the visiting fleet.

Approval having been given for the construction of the Churchman's Brook section of the hills water supply scheme, at an estimated cost of £477,000, a commencement has been made with the reservoir. The preliminary works are practically completed, and a considerable portion of the plant has been delivered. A contract has been let to Messrs. Mephan Ferguson Proprietary, Limited, for the supply of locking-bar pipes for the line from Churchman's Brook and Canning River to Mount Eliza. The major portion of the pipes, the contract for which amounts to £252,459, will be manufactured locally. Every endeavour will be made to complete the necessary works as speedily as possible, and in the meantime to minimise the discomforts which the metropolitan area has suffered so long from a shortage of water.

In addition to the Bills already mentioned, you will be asked to give consideration to measures dealing with:—State Insurance, Main Roads, Fair Rents, Scaffolding, and Drainage, and amendments to the following enactments:—The Workers' Compensation Act, The Industrial Arbitration Act, The Mining Act, The Municipalities Act, The Road Districts Act, The Explosives Substances Act, The Pearling Act, The Jury Act.

I now leave you to your labours, and trust that by the blessing of Divine Provi-

dence they may promote the permanent welfare of the State and the social betterment of its people.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor copies of the Speech which he has been pleased to deliver. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

BILL—TRADE UNIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.16]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1902."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Hon. W. H. KITSON (West) [3.17]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:— May it please Your Excellency. We the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

It will be generally agreed that the Speech of His Excellency discloses that the Government are fully alive to the many pressing problems confronting this great State of ours at the present time. I desire to refer to two or three of those problems that appear to me to be of the greatest importance at this juncture. First and foremost I would refer to the questions of immigration and land settlement. It will be agreed by all sections of the community that if this State is to make the progress we are justly entitled to expect it to make, it can only be achieved by an increase in our population, particularly in that of the rural and agricultural areas. The policy of past Governments regarding immigration has certainly had a beneficial effect on the State, and I am pleased to know that the present Government intend to carry on the same policy, particularly regarding the group settlement scheme. As one who has had a little experience in endeavouring to carve out a home in a heavily timbered district, I firmly be-

lieve the group settlement system to be the only one by which our heavily timbered areas will be settled for agricultural purposes. At the same time, while to date the system has been successful up to a certain point, there are several things that will tend to make it more successful in future. No doubt the decision of the present Government to appoint a Royal Commission for the purpose of inquiring into the whole question of group settlement will prove beneficial to the State generally, and in particular to those people who have been brought here to make new homes for themselves in this wonderful land of ours. With a group settlement scheme must go necessarily a scheme for closer settlement. I am particularly pleased to note that the present Government have determined that it is necessary to introduce legislation during the first session of Parliament in order to achieve closer settlement in those areas that are adjacent to existing railways and have the advantage of other facilities. One of the reasons why we have not made more progress in Western Australia during recent years has been the fact that there is far too much land adjacent to existing railways that has not gone into production to the extent those lands are capable of. Therefore I welcome legislation in the form of an amendment of the Land Tax and Income Tax Act, as well as legislation for closer settlement purposes. This will mean that it will not be necessary for new arrivals in Western Australia, nor yet for those at present resident within the State to go out into the back blocks many miles away from existing railway facilities. Wherever a community is settled far from existing railways it is only natural for that community to expect, and those people have the right to expect it too, to be provided with facilities enabling them to make a living. In the past it has been necessary to supply people with these facilities, and we know that the expense has been so great that for many years it is not to be expected that we shall secure any adequate return for the expenditure incurred. It will be generally conceded that our problems to-day are chiefly connected with our primary industries. I regret very much that one of our primary industries that in years gone by has been one of the main assets of Western Australia—I refer to the mining industry—is in what has been termed a state of decline. The decision of the Government that a Royal Commission shall be appointed, as a result of which it is hoped that means will be devised by which the mining industry will be revived, is indeed pleasing. A large number of families have been dependent upon the mining industry for a livelihood, and, as we know from experience during the last few years, many have found it necessary to leave the

mining districts, and, in many cases, the State, in order to make a living elsewhere. Consequently anything that may be done to introduce migrants to Western Australia will be nullified if we find that, on the other hand, residents of many years standing are compelled to leave Western Australia simply because the industry in which they have been engaged is passing through a period of decline. I hope that as the result of the legislation it is intended to introduce, and of the Royal Commission that is to be appointed, there will be a period of greater prosperity for the mining industry and the people engaged in it. It must be pleasing to all sections of the community when they remember the bounteous rains we have had during the past few days. Up to a little while ago there was a feeling that all would not be well with that other great primary industry of ours, agriculture, particularly as it affected the growing of wheat. The latest reports to hand show that the position is particularly encouraging, and the farming community can look forward to a better harvest and brighter prospects for the forthcoming season than was possible a week ago. There is one other point regarding our primary industries that particularly affects the development of our great North-West. It is encouraging to know that optimistic reports have been received regarding the possibilities of developing our far North-West by means of cotton growing. In the growing of cotton we will have an asset that will prove in years to come of inestimable benefit to us. With proper encouragement it will be possible for large areas in the North-West to be opened up for the production of cotton, and we shall be able to produce cotton which will enable us to compete in the markets of the world. I trust that as the result of the deliberations of this Parliament, every encouragement will be given to our people to open up the North-West, especially that area respecting which such good results have been obtained so recently. I trust that by this means we shall have a white population in the North-West able to prosper and produce those goods that are so essential for people in other parts of the world. In addition to our primary industries the establishment of secondary industries in Western Australia is a matter of great moment. It will not be of much use to this State if by immigration and other means we increase our population and find that our young men have no outlet for their energies in skilled trades or callings. I hope the Government will give serious consideration to the fostering of secondary industries within our own borders, so that our youths will have an opportunity of becoming tradesmen instead of merely ordinary or common labourers, as so many

of them have to do to-day. From my own experience I know that large numbers of our youths have to leave Western Australia after having been provided by the State with a fairly good education, simply because there is no opportunity for them here. If we are to make a success of Western Australia we must see that that position is rectified and that our youths have opportunities to become artisans rather than mere labourers. If that be achieved the results will prove beneficial to our people and to the State. I note from His Excellency's Speech that the expenditure on education during the past year was particularly large, when we compare it with the population of the State, and I also note with pleasure that, with the establishment of another high school four of these institutions have been opened since the Perth Modern School was started. To my way of thinking education is of the greatest importance, and the question of expense should not stand in the way. In view of the congested state of many of our schools, the Government should consider the advisableness of establishing further high schools in various districts, but particularly in my district, where a majority of the schools are so congested that it is impossible for the children to receive the attention, and therefore, the education to which they are certainly entitled. Children from the Fremantle district desirous of attending a high school have to travel to Perth. The establishment of a high school in the Fremantle district would also make things easier for the other schools in the district, because at present many of the younger children have to travel from the outskirts to the centre of the town in order to receive primary education. I trust this matter will receive the consideration of the Government, because I am sure that any expenditure incurred for education will be amply repaid in future. I was pleased to note that amongst the Bills to be introduced during the session are several dealing with the industrial laws. Several years ago this State led the world in industrial legislation, but unfortunately during recent years various countries have forged ahead of us in this respect. Consequently, the intention to introduce measures of an industrial character during this session meets with my especial approval. A young State such as ours cannot do better than to insist upon the conditions under which the workers have to earn a living being made as good as possible, in order to secure from the workers the benefit of their best efforts. Mention is made in the Speech of amending the Arbitration Act. While we have not experienced many serious disputes during the last year or so, this has been due, not to the existing legislation, but in spite of it. Our legisla-

tion should have been amended years ago and brought into line with modern requirements. Reference is made to the fact that the greater part of the Fremantle harbour has been dredged to a depth of 36 feet, and that the Special Service Squadron of the British Navy, which recently visited our shores, was berthed in the harbour with very little difficulty. The facilities provided, too, were spoken of by the visitors in the highest terms. Though Fremantle is the principal port of the State, the first Commonwealth port of call for vessels coming from the Old Country and the last port of call for vessels proceeding thither. It is not complete in the facilities provided. Any harbour, no matter how well situated, cannot be considered complete unless it has facilities for the docking and repairing of any vessel calling there. I trust that the Government, when considering the question of harbour facilities, will recognise the urgent necessity for establishing at Fremantle a dock capable of accommodating the largest vessel trading to our shores. During the last few weeks I have visited several hospitals, both in the metropolitan area and in country districts, and in most instances those hospitals were nothing like what they should be. The conditions under which the nurses and the staffs have to work are so bad that no one should be expected to work under them, and if they are so bad for the nurses and staffs, what shall we say of the conditions under which the inmates have to be treated? It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that better facilities are provided. Where necessary, new buildings should be erected, and where there are no hospitals at present, steps should be taken to supply the want without delay. Some parts of the State are crying out for hospital accommodation, parts of the State in which there reside men engaged in industry peculiarly subject to accidents. I have already referred to the necessity for the Government fostering and encouraging secondary industries. Any country that has made great industrial progress during the last decade or so has done so only by reason of having made cheap power available. If steps were taken here to produce cheap electrical power, it would lead to an expansion of our industries and give them better opportunities to compete with similar industries in other parts of the Commonwealth and of the world. The Government should give early and serious consideration to some scheme for providing cheap electrical power. The problems of Western Australia at present can be reduced to one thing, and that is finance. The deficit on last year's operations was somewhat smaller than that of the previous year, but whether the deficit be increased or de-

creased, there are some things—a few of which I have outlined—which the Government must take into consideration, irrespective of their cost, and I trust that funds will be made available in order that some of these urgent needs may be supplied. There appears to be a commendable desire on the part of the Government to give effect to their policy, which was endorsed by the people at the recent elections, and which I think will, if given effect to, promote, in the words of the Speech, the permanent welfare of the State, and the social benefit of the people.

Hon. J. R. BROWN (North-East [3.40]): It affords me great pleasure to second the motion so ably moved by my colleague. I intended to touch on several items, but Mr. Kitson has traversed practically the whole of the Speech, and it is therefore not necessary for me to dwell upon the same matters. One of the subjects on which I intended to speak was immigration, but he has put the case so clearly that it is unnecessary to add more. The mining industry, however, will bear further reference. I believe the new Government will manifest greater interest in the gold-mining industry that has been displayed in the past. But for the gold produced in Western Australia, we would have a very small Perth to-day. Something like 190 million pounds' worth of gold has been produced, and some 38 million pounds has been distributed in dividends. Where would Western Australia have been but for this industry? I welcome the proposal of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to ascertain what is necessary to revive gold-mining, which has been in a decadent state for many years. Kalgoorlie, the centre of the great gold producing area, is going down day by day. People are leaving the town; they have to get out, though gold is still to be obtained. Now that we have a sympathetic Government we should consider the details of what is necessary to revive the industry. I was pleased to hear the reference to State insurance. Twelve or 15 months ago I was one of a deputation that waited on the previous Government and requested the introduction of State insurance. The Government of the day, however, considered it was impracticable, that it was a matter for the Federal Government and not for the State. Queensland did not wait for the Federal Government to undertake the insurance business. It went on its own, and the Queensland Government, by conducting their own insurance, have reduced fire premiums from 9s. to 6s., and other premiums have been proportionately reduced. The Government of that State, too, have derived considerable profit from the venture, something in the vicinity of £50,000 a year. Therefore our Government should do something in the same direction. In Queensland workmen's compensation goes hand in hand with State insurance, and great results have been achieved. Another thing I am pleased

to see mentioned in the Governor's Speech is the Esperance railway, 66½ miles of which, we are told, will be completed towards December. That distance, however, is not far enough; and I am glad that it is the policy of the present Government to complete the Esperance line to Norseman, thus linking up our railway system, through the two large sections across the Continent, with Rockhampton in Queensland. Another point I wish to touch upon is the matter of a fair rents Bill. As long as people are paying exorbitant rents for their premises, there must be industrial unrest. A scheme should be inaugurated whereby the landlord will be prevented from bleeding the people through the medium of excessive rent. Walking around the metropolitan area one sees premises worth 7s. or 8s. a week rented at about £2. I am glad the Government have this question on their list for the present session. Another gratifying feature is that the cotton industry in the North now promises so well. A few months ago experts told us that cotton could not be grown here, as the crops would be killed by frosts. But countries in which cotton is grown have not more than two or three months' frost, and as cotton can be grown in a space of three or four months the frosts can be avoided. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 24th July, 1924.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Lieutenant-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 members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

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

The Clerk produced election writs showing the return of 50 members; also writs for by-elections for Boulder, North-East Fremantle, Geraldton, Mt. Magnet, and South Fremantle.

With the following exceptions all the members elected were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll:—Messrs. G. Taylor (Mt. Margaret), A. Thomson (Katanning), and F. W. Teesdale (Roebourne).

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.45]: The House being duly constituted, I now move—

That Mr. Walker do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. MILLINGTON (Leederville): I second the motion.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanoona): I submit myself to the will of the House.

There being no other nomination,

The SPEAKER-ELECT, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, said: I have to express to the House my sense of the great honour it has done me in elevating me to the dignified position of Speaker of the Assembly. I shall not say more at the present time except that I am grateful for the confidence shown in me and the honour bestowed upon me. I feel that I am scarcely competent to fulfil either my own high ideals of the office or the ideals of members.

The PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.47]: May I offer you my congratulations, Sir, on your election to the high and honourable office of Speaker of this Assembly. I am sure, Sir, that you will guide our deliberations in a manner entirely satisfactory to every member of the House. You bring to the discharge of the duties of