

On motion by Hon. H. P. Colebatch debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 4.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 20th July, 1916.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk Assistant (Mr. F. G. Steere).

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### ELECTION RETURNS — WILLIAMS-NARROGIN—ROEBOURNE.

The Speaker announced the return to writs issued for the election of members for Williams-Narrogin and Roebourne, showing that Mr. Edward Bertram Johnston and Mr.

William James Butcher had been duly elected for the respective electorates.

Mr. E. B. Johnston and Mr. Butcher took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

### OBITUARY—MR. C. McDOWALL.

Mr. SPEAKER [12.10]: I desire to inform the House that owing to the death of Mr. Charles McDowall I have issued a writ for the election of a member to serve in this House for the Coolgardie district.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan)—Brownhill-Ivanhoe [12.11]: I desire to move without notice—

*That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Charles McDowall, M.L.A., and tenders to his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires that the terms of this resolution be communicated to the widow and family of the late gentleman by the Speaker.*

May I briefly say that all members were attached to Mr. McDowall, and that was evidenced by the fact that during successive Governments, while he was a member of this House, he occupied the position of deputy Chairman of Committees, and did a great deal of work while acting in that capacity, particularly during the last couple of years. That he was devoted to his duties as a member everyone will admit, and it will be conceded that he was always careful to attend to the interests of his constituency, without showing at any time a desire to gain any benefit over other constituencies on the gold-fields. His death came as a shock to most of us. I was not even aware that he was in ill health, and the shock must have been a great one to his widow and family, to whom I am sure the sympathy of this House goes. At a later stage another matter will be submitted for the consideration of hon. members in connection with the late member, but at this stage I desire to move the motion which I have read, which expresses our deep regret at Mr. McDowall's demise, and asks the Speaker to convey the terms of the resolution to the widow and family.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [12.14]: I desire to second the motion which has been moved by the Premier, and to say

at once that I regret from the bottom of my heart that death has once more claimed toll upon members of this House. Mr. McDowall had a lovable character, and we all respected and admired him. We recognised his able qualities as Deputy Chairman of Committees, and notwithstanding that he sat on a different side of the House and had different political opinions, we on this side respect his memory truly and deeply. When death steps in, all political differences cease. I have a melancholy pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the Premier that we extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and the members of his family.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER (Irwin) [12.16]: The leader of the Country party has asked me to support this motion of sympathy, and I do so with very great regret. Mr. McDowall was a personality in this House, and the chief characteristic of that personality was his inability to say an unkind thing. I think that when we pass over the border line it is always something for us to leave behind a recollection of the kindly feeling that existed with those with whom we were associated, even after political fights. I know of few men who could go out with greater confidence to meet their Pilot face to face than the late member for Coolgardie.

Mr. SPEAKER [12.18]: Before I ask hon. members to rise to carry the motion I desire to say a few words. I was absent from Perth when Mr. McDowall's regrettable death occurred, and it came to me as a great shock when I heard of it. I join with hon. members who have spoken on the motion to convey the condolence of the House to the widow and family of the late member. It is not necessary for me to say that Mr. McDowall had no enemy in this Chamber, but on the contrary he was held in the most affectionate regard by all. As Speaker of this Chamber I was under a great obligation to Mr. McDowall for his very loyal assistance on every occasion when he was called upon. I deeply regret his demise; he was one of my dear friends, and as hon. members have said, when death steps in all political differences end. All we can do is to express our very deep regret, and convey that regret to his widow and family. I ask hon. members to rise to carry the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

*Sitting suspended from 12.20 until 3 p.m.*

#### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report, *ante*), they returned to the Assembly Chamber. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Fourth Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Workers' Homes Board for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 2, Amendment of By-law No. 1 and new By-law No. 68 of the Western Australian Government Railways. 3, Reports in accordance with Sections 54 and 83 of "The Government Railways Act, 1904," for the quarters ended 31st December, 1915, and 31st March, 1916. 4, Return of Receipts and Expenditure for the Government Tramways for the quarters ended 31st December, 1915, and 31st March, 1916.

By the Minister for Mines and Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage: 1, Report of the Department of Mines for the year 1915. 2, Amendments to Regulations under "The Mining Act, 1904." 3, Amendment to Regulations under "The Mines Regulation Act, 1906," and "The Mines Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1915." 4, Timber Regulations. 5, Water Supply By-laws—(a) Collie Water Supply; (b) Harvey Irrigation, No. 1 District; (c) Amendments of By-laws—Wagin Water Supply; (d) Geraldton Water Supply; (e) Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department; (f) Albany Water Supply; (g) Derby Water Supply; (h) Leonora Water Supply; (i) Pingelly Water Supply; (j) Cue-Dawn Water Supply.

By the Minister for Lands and Agriculture: (1) Cull Mark prescribed under "The Brands Act, 1904." 2, Regulations under "The Abattoirs Act, 1909" (Midland Junction, North Fremantle, and South Fremantle). 3, Additional Regulations under "The

Vermin Boards Act, 1909." 4, Additional Regulation under "The Rabbit Act, 1902." 5, Registration of Orchards Regulation, 1915, under "The Plant Diseases Act, 1914" (Amendment of Regulations 2 and 3). 6, Regulations as to Potatoes under "The Plant Diseases Act, 1914." 7, Midland Junction Abattoirs and Saleyards brought under the operations of "The Government Trading Concerns Act, 1912." 8, Regulations and By-laws under "The Land Act, 1898," and amendments. 9, By-laws and Statements of Accounts under "The Cemeteries Act, 1897," and its amendments. 10, Report of the Zoological Gardens and Acclimatisation Committee for the year ended 30th June, 1916.

By the Attorney General: 1, Award between the Perth Plumbers' Industrial Union of Workers and the Perth and District Master Plumbers' Industrial Union of Employers, Master Builders and Contractors' Association of Western Australia Union of Employers. 2, Award delivered with reference to a dispute brought by the Coastal and Eastern Goldfields Government Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Employees' Industrial Union of Workers. 3, Report of the Education Department for the year 1915.

By the Minister for Works and Industries: 1, By-laws under "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1906":—(a) Cottesloe, (b) Narrogin, (c) Perth, (d) Midland Junction, (e) Perth, (f) Perth (2), (g) Cottesloe, (h) Midland Junction, (i) Albany, (j) Broome, (k) Busselton, and (l) Coolgardie. 2, Uniform by-laws under "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1906," adopted by the following municipalities relating to motor traffic:—(a) Carnarvon, (b) Claremont, (c) Kanowna, (d) Narrogin, (e) Wagin, (f) Bunbury, (g) Southern Cross, (h) Guildford, (i) North Fremantle, (j) Fremantle, (k) York, (l) Norseman, (m) Victoria Park, (n) Subiaco, (o) Leonora. 3, By-laws under "The Roads Act, 1911":—(a) Meekatharra, (b) Bunbury, (c) Cottesloe Beach, (e) East Avon, (f) Dumbleyung, (g) Claremont, (h) Melville, (i) Irwin, (j) Broad Arrow, (k) North-East Coolgardie, (l) Dowerin, (m) Upper Chapman, (n) Mount Margaret, (o) Kookynie, (p) Dowerin, (q) Queen's Park, (r) Cuballing, (s) Nelson. 4, Uni-

form general by-laws relating to registration tablets for motor cars, motor-cycles, and motor waggons, under "The Roads Act, 1911." 5, Report to Parliament under "The Roads Act, 1911," *re* exemption of Lawlers road district from the operation of division (4) of part VI.

By the Honorary Minister: 1, Regulations under "The Aborigines Act, 1905." 2, Annual report of the Aborigines Department for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 3, Report of the Inspector General of the Insane for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 4, Report of proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, (a) under "The Friendly Societies Act, 1894"; (b) "Benefit Building Societies Act, 1863"; (c) "Co-operative and Provident Societies Act, 1903"; (d) "Workers' Compensation Act, 1912"; and (e) "Truck Act, 1899," for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 5, Report of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board for the year ended 31st December, 1915. 6, Sixth annual report of the Bunbury Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 7, Annual report of the Immigration Department for the year ended 30th June, 1915. 8, Amendment of boundaries of the Fremantle Harbour. 9, Amendment of Regulations Nos. 118, 296, and 363 of the Fremantle Harbour Trust. 10, Amendment of Regulation No. 10, Midwives' Registration Board. 11, Resolutions adopting model by-laws made by the local health authorities for (a) Victoria Park, (b) Osborne Park, (c) Peppermint Grove, (d) Maylands, (e) Greenough, (f) Upper Chapman, (g) Donnybrook, (h) Wickiepin, (i) Queen's Park, (j) West Arthur, (k) Plantagenet, (l) Murrin Murrin, (m) Marble Bar, (n) Mount Morgans, (o) Cottesloe, (p) Northam, (q) West Guildford, (r) Midland Junction, (s) Esperance, (t) Nannine. 12, Regulations under Part IX. (a) of "The Health Act, 1911-15." 13, Amendment of by-laws made by the Commissioner of Public Health. 14, By-laws made by the local health authorities under "The Health Act, 1911-15," for (a) South Perth, (b) Armadale-Kelmscott, (c) Youanmi, (d) Fremantle, (e) Bridgetown. 15, Regulations under "The Health Act, 1911-15," prescribing forms to be used by

local authorities. 16, Regulations under Section 142 of "The Health Act, 1911-15," concerning public buildings. 17, Food and drug regulations—amendments. 18, Jetties Regulation Act—amendment of regulations 5 and 6. 19, Amendment of Carnarvon jetty regulations. 20, Schedule of wharfage dues and handling charges at the following jetties: (a) Wyndham, (b) Broome, (c) Derby, (d) Point Sampson, (e) Carnarvon, and (f) Esperance. 21, Amendment to Swan River regulations.

#### BILL—THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA DAY FUNDS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) by leave without notice, by way of asserting privilege, introduced a Bill to declare the purposes to which the funds raised by the movement known as the Western Australia Day for the Sick and Wounded may be lawfully applied.

Bill read a first time.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### *First Day.*

Mr. HUDSON (Yilgarn) [3.55]: The privilege has been afforded me of moving the following motion—

*May it please Your Excellency, We, the Legislative Assembly 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.*

No doubt hon. members who heard the Speech delivered will recognise that it is a comprehensive one. Whilst it deals with a great number of subjects, it does not deal with them perhaps as exhaustively as we would wish, but at any rate I think it deals succinctly and clearly with the different phases of affairs which have arisen, and the proposals that the Government have to make for the future are placed before us so clearly that very little is left for the mover of an address of this nature to say. There is apparently in the Chamber an atmosphere of cheerfulness. Everybody seems to be de-

lighted with the position, whatever it may be. Even the Speech itself has a tone of cheerful optimism, not only as regards the condition of affairs in the State but with regard to that all important subject, the present war. I do not think it is necessary to enlarge upon the sentiments expressed in the Speech so eloquently with regard to the war. Those sentiments are expressed, I think, in language sufficiently clear and sufficiently forcible to appeal to every hon. member in this Chamber. We are all anxious for the conclusion of the war and the Speech presented to us by His Excellency is one which evidently gives us cause for considerable hope that that conclusion will be a speedy one. We also are satisfied that it will be a satisfactory one, that the settlement will be such that the people of Australia and the British Empire, in company with our Allies will be satisfied that the German heel will not again trample upon the civilised race. The first note struck in the Speech is one that appeals to every member, namely, that provision should be made for the repatriation of the soldiers who are fighting for us on the battle-fields of Europe. It is perhaps more or less a Commonwealth matter, but it should appeal also to State Governments. Indeed, an appeal should be made to the individual to use his best influence in assisting to bring about a satisfactory state of affairs so that when our soldiers return they may be properly looked after.

Mr. Foley: It ought to be done by direct taxation.

Mr. HUDSON: Perhaps that would be the more sensible way, but the Commonwealth authorities have set aside a quarter of a million sterling for this purpose and the Western Australian Government have agreed to subscribe out of the public funds their portion according to population. It is agreeable to find in the circular issued by the Federal Government containing this information, that the fund is to be vested in a board of trustees representative of all the States, and that its administration shall be conducted on lines determined by an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament, as broad and flexible as possible, and framed on principles which, it is assumed, will accord closely with the natural wishes and intentions of subscribers.

This is a condition of affairs devoutly to be wished. In the past we have had criticism of the methods adopted in the collection and distribution of patriotic funds. Indeed already to-night we have had before us a Bill to declare the purpose to which funds raised by the movement known as Western Australia Day may be lawfully applied. Under the Commonwealth Act provision will be made for the proper control of the funds to be subscribed for the purpose of providing for our soldiers. That ought to commend itself to the House. I have referred to the circular, in respect to the duties and obligations of the citizens of Australia regarding the material assistance of returned soldiers; but there is a further duty, namely, to preserve the civil rights of those soldiers. As stated in His Excellency's Speech, provision is to be made for keeping on the rolls of the State the names of soldiers at the Front, and we will be asked also to retain upon the local rolls the names of soldiers who have come from far distant electorates, and who are now in camp. It is further proposed that the soldiers shall have extended franchise in regard to the Legislative Council. I think we should not only make provision for the material welfare of the soldiers in the manner suggested by the Commonwealth Government, but should also preserve their civil rights, and reward them in some measure for the effort they are putting forward in the defence, not only of those left behind, but of their property and of the ideals of democracy. A cursory glance at His Excellency's Speech will show that the Western Australian Government, indeed all the Governments of Australia, have had a difficult task in keeping affairs in order, in preserving industries, and generally looking after the welfare of the people during a very trying time. When one looks around, even in this Chamber, one feels satisfied that the present Government have done all that has been possible to that end. There is little or no unemployment. Men and women are well provided for. There is no distress in our community; indeed the reverse obtains. Every effort has been made. Moneys have been loaned to keep industries going. The Government have guaranteed accounts at the banks in order that businesses may not be stopped. Thus the capitalist, as well as the

worker, has had the assistance of the Government in his undertakings. Judging by His Excellency's Speech, and indeed from the general tone of our newspapers, the principal efforts put forward have been in regard to the agricultural industry. The present Government have come in for a good deal of criticism in this connection, but I venture the opinion that the bulk of the farmers are perfectly satisfied with the efforts put forward by the Government on their behalf, and that the few who are complaining of ill-treatment are the few disturbed by political agitators representing the agricultural districts and who are working up the agitation for their own purposes and not for the benefit of the farmers. Soon after this Government took office the condition of affairs was such as to make it incumbent on them to provide liberally for the farmer. The Industries Assistance Board was established, and the amount of money expended through that channel is shown in the Speech, as follows—

Previous to last financial year £629,511 was advanced to settlers by the Industries Assistance Board, and £747,295 during 1915-1916. Of these sumus no less than £1,089,931 was outstanding on 30th June last. During the year, through the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board, £900,000 was made available for the use of the agriculturists to enable them to maintain their holdings.

In some circles it is thought that too much has been done for the farmer, and it has been suggested that that idea emanates from goldfields members. I repudiate any such suggestion. No hon. member can say truthfully that anything suggested in the interests of the farming community has in any manner been retarded by any action of a goldfields member. We desire to work the two industries as intimately together as possible. Indeed, they approach each other very closely in the electorate of Avon, where there exist both gold mining and agriculture. In the electorate of Yilgarn we have copper mining, gold mining, and agriculture.

Mr. A. A. Wilson: You have no coal mines.

Mr. HUDSON: Unfortunately we have not any coal mines in that electorate, or I might have been on the coal commission. The pre-

sent Government have been accused of being a goldfields Administration; yet all this effort on behalf of agriculture has been put forward and supported by those directly representing the mining industry. We, however, expect some sympathy also from those who are not directly representing the mining community. We have had no cause for complaint. Every assistance that was in the power of the Treasurer has been cheerfully afforded. The mining industry is one of stability. It is improving in its condition every year, and when certain disadvantages are removed it will leave every expectation of a further growth in the industry. The figures quoted in the Speech are sufficient to justify hon. members in taking the view that the mining industry is deserving of encouragement—

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

We are, however, suffering under a difficulty in regard to a regulation made by the Federal Treasurer. Efforts are being put forward, with the assistance of the Minister for Mines, to secure from the Federal Treasurer a more liberal and sympathetic treatment in regard to the registration of companies as they affect mining and other industries. I observe that the Federal Treasurer states that no special instance of the hardship of his action, or its arbitrary nature, has been shown or proved. We are able to supply that information. At a deputation which waited on the Minister for Mines last Saturday, concrete instances of the divergence into other channels of capital that might well be allowed to be invested in mining and other ventures in Western Australia were quoted to the Minister, and it was shown that the divergence was due to the action of officers of the department controlled by the Federal Treasurer. It would be, perhaps, unwise to go too far in this connection on this occasion, but I wish to bring it forward because it seems to me that an injustice is being done to the State from a want of knowledge of the subject on the part of those who have to control the department. I had intended to

mention the subject of coal mining, but in that I have been forestalled by the interjection of the member for Collie (Mr. A. A. Wilson). It might not be fair to anticipate the report of the Royal Commission that has been inquiring into the merits of Collie coal, so I will pass over that industry; but I do not want my friend to think that it was out of my mind when I was considering the wonderful resources of Western Australia. We have before us in the Speech many references to the North-West of Western Australia, and I venture the opinion that whatever Ministry be in power hon. members should have more frequent opportunities of visiting the outlying parts of the State, so that they may become acquainted with the requirements of those remote districts. Very few of us have had an opportunity of going to the North-West, and fewer still have visited the South-East. While it may be admitted that it would be costly to convey members around these places, I think the money would be well spent, for members would be able to do their duty in Parliament much better if they had an intimate personal knowledge of the outlying parts of the State. I think, too, that the proposal recently made for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of affairs in the North-West, with the object of discovering means of developing that great country, is entirely commendable. During the time that the Scaddan Government have been in power a good deal has been done for the North-West. First of all, the subject was taken in hand by Mr. Johnson as Minister for Works. The hon. gentleman visited the North-West and ascertained on the spot what the requirements were; and as the result of his investigations he appointed a professional man to take charge of North-Western engineering requirements and generally to advise and report on the development of that great asset of Western Australia. The consequence is that there have been very few complaints indeed regarding the condition of North-Western harbours and ports. I think, though, that a great deal more needs to be done for the development of that part of the State. In my opinion, it is necessary to appoint a Royal Commission to go thoroughly into the question, so that the matter may be comprehen-

sively handled at an early date. In this sense, too, I have to point out that the pastoral industry is the primary industry of the North-West, at present. It is true that there are minerals in the North-West—gold, copper, and base metals—which could be profitably worked if the proper facilities were available; and now that efforts are being made to treat base metals in Australia it is, I think, the duty of the Government of this State to inquire closely into the possibilities of the deposits of base metals in our North and into the possibilities of their recovery. North-Western pastoral leases, as hon. members are aware, expire in 1928. There is not a very long time to go now, and it is necessary—and I see this is proposed by the Government—to reclassify the land and grant extension of leases of a certain character. I would urge upon the Government the necessity for doing this speedily. Men are desirous of investing capital in the North-West; but they will not do it, naturally, if the term of lease is not fixed with some degree of certainty. My next subjects represents a pet subject of the member for Northam (Hon. J. Hitchell)—State steamers. I ask, what would have become of the North-West at the present juncture but for the establishment by the Scaddan Government of the State Steamship Service? I find it is proposed to extend that service, and the sooner the service is extended the better. The development of the North-West demands a fortnightly service at least to Derby; and I understand that it is the intention of the Government to secure two new vessels to supply that service. In my opinion, the Government are to be commended for their intention in that direction; and I hope it will not be long before effect is given to that intention. It is proposed also to extend the Esperance-Northwards railway. The subject is one with which I have been acquainted for 11 or 12 years; and I can congratulate the Government upon that item of their programme. Isolated railways can hardly be payable propositions until connected up with the general railway system. It must be borne in mind that the distance intervening between the present terminus of the Esperance-Northwards railway and Norse-

man is comparatively short, and that the extension would traverse gold-bearing country for at least 40 miles. I hope therefore that efforts will be made to secure the passage of the necessary legislation, and that the extension of the line will be proceeded with at the earliest possible opportunity. One feature of the Speech to which exception might be taken—if I may do so with respect—is that which reads—

My advisers, if assured that they enjoy your confidence . . .

Where is the necessity for this innovation? Why introduce those words into His Excellency's Speech? Of course Ministers enjoy the confidence of His Excellency the Governor. Do the words which I have quoted suggest that Ministers have taken notice of caucus meetings reported to have been held by the Labour party, caucus meetings reported to have been held by the Liberal party, caucus meetings of the Country party, and caucus meetings of that other party wandering about at midnight looking for the rest of itself? Evidently, the framer of the Speech has induced His Excellency to use those words—

My advisers, if assured that they enjoy your confidence . . .

That is to say, the confidence of the Legislative Assembly. Anyone might have seen this afternoon, from the cheerful appearance of hon. members generally, that the Government do enjoy the confidence of this Chamber. I did see a report of a meeting—perhaps I may be allowed to take the House into my confidence on this point—stating that the member for Northam (Hon. J. Hitchell) had been elected leader of the conglomerate party which has been formed of the Liberal party, the Country party, the Independent party, and various other parties. The measures which the Government propose to bring forward are of a democratic character, and must commend themselves to hon. members; so that their passage through this House must of necessity be an easy one. The general purview of His Excellency's Speech will afford sufficient matter for the efforts of the Government and of members generally during the present session, and are such as our earnest consideration may be applied to; and I trust

that the motion which I have submitted will be carried with unanimity.

Mr. MULLANY (Menzies) [4.26]: It is with somewhat mingled feelings I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, because I feel that whilst the British Empire, of which we as Australians feel proud to form an important part, is engaged in so terrible and stupendous a war as that being waged in Europe and other continents to-day, it is almost petty to think of disenssing local politics. More particularly does this consideration apply when we come to discuss party politics. But, even while holding this opinion, I still recognise that a duty devolves upon us who are left in Australia, to carry on the affairs of the Commonwealth and of the State in such a manner as to assure those who to-day are fighting for us in other parts of the world, those whom we have sent away to defend us, that they will upon their return find an Australia as happily circumstanced as that which they left; that they will find Australian conditions as good upon their return as conditions were when they answered their country's call. It is the bounden duty of every Government, and of every individual citizen, to do the utmost possible to bring about the consummation of legislative measures which will conduce to that end. I am pleased to learn from the Speech that the Government have been alive and are alive to the necessity for taking steps in this direction. It may be contended that this is a Federal matter. Very largely it is, I admit; for the reason that the Federal Government have what the State Governments have not, namely unlimited powers of taxation. It is only by means of taxation, by taxing the people conducting businesses and earning their living in Australia, that the men returning can be treated as they should be on their return. It is the duty of the States to co-operate with the Federal Government towards that end, to offer suggestions and assistance as far as possible. I am pleased that the State Government of Western Australia have made provision for this purpose, to a certain extent at any rate. As will be seen on reference to the Speech, provision has been made for cutting up the Yandanooka estate so that returned soldiers may be settled there;

and no doubt other estates will be subdivided with the same end. I think, however, that we should go a little further. Briefly, I may state the position in this way: Whilst this war continues, provision must be made and will be made to finance the war. If, unhappily, the struggle continues for another five years, it will be financed; if, happily, it finishes to-morrow, the necessity for financing bloodshed would be over. But, in the latter eventuality, could not the money which is being raised to-day for the purpose of expenditure on means of destruction, for the purpose of helping our Australian boys and our British cousins and our allies throughout the world, expended on munitions and in maintaining our own and our allies' soldiers at the front, could not that money be used in, say, opening up the south-western lands of this State, or perhaps towards securing a better water supply for the city of Perth? Could not the same engineering skill, the same brains, the same brawn and muscle which are now devoted to the purposes of war, be devoted to the purposes of peace? Is not that feasible? I do not say that I know exactly how it could be done; but I submit to hon. members that if money can be raised and is raised for the purposes of war, money can be raised and should be raised, after the war is over, to make provision for the returning soldiers, so that they will not be dumped on the Australian labour market and thrown upon their own resources. I contend that the money could be raised and could be expended in works of utility, which will stand for practically all time. Thus, in a few years, the problem of the returned soldier will have worked itself out. I believe there is sufficient patriotism and a sufficiently lively sense of gratitude amongst the Australian people to ensure that something of the kind will be done on the return of the boys who have done so much for us. Although I certainly agree that everything possible should be done for our returned soldiers in the way of making provision for their livelihood, I am not altogether in accord with one provision which I find in the Governor's speech—that is the provision relating to electoral matters. It is there provided that men living in the different camps may be enrolled upon the electoral rolls of the State. I quite



agree with that. It goes further, however, and provides for making it lawful that returned soldiers shall be given a vote for the Legislative Council of this State. I entirely disagree with such a proposition. I believe it would be absolutely unfair to set up what we might term a military caste. True democracy always fights against anything of that sort. It would be distinctly unfair to say to a young man of the State, "Because you have fought for Australia"—giving him every credit for doing this—"we are going to give you the full franchise in Western Australia," and at the same time propose that such a man's father or mother who have no property of sufficient value to entitle them to get this full franchise shall be debarred from something which their children are to be given. I would not differentiate in this way. Whilst I want to give every adult in the State a full franchise, I would not support a proposal which will, to a certain extent, set up a military caste in Western Australia. Whilst I appreciate what the soldiers have done, I would not support a proposition such as this.

The Minister for Works: Militarism should not endure much longer.

Mr. MULLANY: This will be perpetuated for all time if we are going to give returned soldiers differential treatment, or give differential treatment to any one in the State.

Mr. Gardiner: Is there not a differential service?

Mr. MULLANY: Not when the mothers and fathers of our soldiers are not eligible to go on the roll. In my opinion it would be quite wrong. I know quite well that it is not the time in which to discuss such a question, but I could not allow the opportunity to go by without expressing my sentiments upon it. It is a proposition that I would never support. Following the usual custom, the Government have, I see, made provision for the future development and expansion of the different industries of the State. The pastoral industry is well attended to in this way. According to a paragraph in the Speech, the much discussed meat works at Wyndham will in March, 1917, be in a position to begin operations. I know that any one who has gone

into the subject appreciates the fact that this undertaking will give a great relief to the people of the metropolitan area and to those in other parts of Western Australia through the bringing down of the meat which is being grown in the Kimberley areas. We know, too, that it would not only be of immediate benefit to the pastoral industry, but be a huge impetus to the development of that industry and, as well, be an appreciable and great benefit to the people in every district throughout the State of Western Australia. I trust that the anticipations concerning the works will be realised, and that they will be in full swing during the year 1917. It appears from the Speech that the timber industry is unfortunately languishing to a certain extent, through no fault of the citizens or the Government of this State, but simply because it is impossible to-day to get ships in which to take away the products of the industry. Upon the return of peace there is no doubt that there will be a great demand for our Western Australian hard woods throughout Europe, because the people will then be endeavouring to rebuild what to-day is being destroyed. I believe that upon the declaration of peace there will be a great impetus given to the timber industry in Western Australia. I trust that will be the case, at any rate. There is no country in the world which possesses such a valuable supply of hard woods as does Western Australia. The agricultural industry is also being attended to. We hear our farmer friends asking that the system of bulk handling of wheat be brought into operation. If it were brought in I would support it in the interests of the farmers, who are battling on the land in Western Australia. With regard to the gold mining industry, I say that this is undoubtedly still the backbone of this State. Some of the agricultural members of this House may be inclined to dispute that statement, but I repeat, at all events, that the gold mining industry is the paramount industry in Western Australia, and I am pleased to see that adequate provision is being made for its development. It is pointed out in the Governor's Speech that the mining industry to-day is being carried on under rather disadvantageous circumstances owing to the fact that a large percentage of the young mine workers have en-

listed and gone to the front. The Speech also comments on the fact that mining requisites, stores, machinery, and tools of all description have gone up to such an extent since the declaration of war that the increased price of these commodities has placed a severe handicap upon the industry. There is no doubt that this is the case. I would point out that whilst the mining companies themselves are feeling the stress of the increase in the price of these commodities, the mine workers, who are living on the goldfields, are feeling the stress also to just as great an extent, and possibly to a greater extent, consequent upon the increase in the price of food commodities on the goldfields. I am pleased, indeed, to see that provision is being made in the Speech for legislation to come on during the session for the re-introduction of the Commission to control the prices of foodstuffs and commodities in the State. I trust that this will receive the hearty commendation of members on both sides of the House, knowing, as they do now, the benefit which that Commission was to the people of the State when in existence some 18 months ago. To turn to other items in the Speech, we find that it is proposed to re-introduce a Bill to provide for the Initiative and Referendum. Seeing that both sides of the House, and indeed all parties in the House, have already agreed to this principle, inasmuch as during last session a Bill was passed through both Houses of Parliament providing for the taking of a referendum in a portion of the State on the closing hours of hotels, I believe and trust that members will, when the Bill comes along, go further and accept the whole thing, and give to the people of Western Australia the right to say, not only upon the closing of hotels, early or otherwise, but upon any subject in which they take sufficient interest, and in which they can show their desire to have alterations made, that such and such a thing is what they are asking for. There is also provision for reform in electoral matters, and for the making of one roll serve the purpose both for the Federal and State Electoral Departments. This reform, if carried out as it should be, and as I believe it will be, would undoubtedly result in a saving of many thousands of pounds to the people of Australia in each year, and would also

give more satisfaction and be conducive to better rolls being prepared, both for the Federal and State Electoral Departments. I trust that this matter will be gone on with and that all sides of the House will agree upon it later on. This measure does not provide for any system of redistribution of seats, but further on in the Speech there is a provision made for a redistribution of seats upon which I will have something to say later on. There is also a Bill provided for, authorising the development of lime deposits at Lake Clifton and Capel, in the South-West portion of this State. If I still have the honour of representing a constituency, or being a member of this Chamber when that Bill comes along, I am going to carefully scrutinise its provisions, and I trust that other members of the Chamber will do the same, in order to see that the rights of the people are not being bartered away and that no monopoly is being given to any one company.

The Minister for Works: There are two companies concerned, I understand.

Mr. MULLANY: I have no knowledge as to the provisions of the Bill, but I trust that it will be carefully scrutinised upon its introduction, and that before any final assent is given to it the members of this House and the people of the State will know exactly what is being done. It is, at all events, a matter which will require careful scrutiny if the best interests of the people of the State are to be considered. There is a Bill to make provision for special insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act. This appears to be a natural corollary to the passing of the Workers' Compensation Act, and this is borne out more fully when we realise that some private companies in the State conduct their own insurance under the Workers' Compensation Act, and that in many of the departments the Government also to-day conduct their own insurance. I believe it would be far better for the State to launch out and absorb all the business of that nature, because I believe that with the machinery which the Government have at their command it could be carried out better by them than in any other way.

The Minister for Works: It has been a good paying proposition for the State service.

Mr. MULLANY: I believe that is so. There is provision also made for the reintroduction of the Electoral Districts Bill, 1913, which provided certain restrictions for the redistribution of seats in the electorates for the House of Assembly in Western Australia. This may be interesting to the Hon. H. P. Colebatch in another Chamber. From the manner in which that gentleman has been speaking lately one would never think that the present Government had brought in a Bill providing for the appointment of a commission, free of all political influence whatever, to go into the matter of the redistribution of seats in the electorates of Western Australia to clean up the mess which had been left after the famous, or infamous, Redistribution of Seats Bill of 1911. For fear, therefore, that the Hon. H. P. Colebatch might never have heard of this I would like to inform him that this is a fact. I think, however, it is unnecessary to inform him of that, when we recollect that Mr. Colebatch was the most determined opponent of the Bill in the Legislative Council, and particularly do I say this because it was that gentleman's influence which was mainly responsible for the rejection of the Bill.

Mr. Bolton: He denies the right of a man who is a miner to have a vote at all.

Mr. MULLANY: It seems, and I believe it is, futile, owing to the present political atmosphere in this Chamber, to discuss the items in the Governor's Speech dealing with proposed legislation for the coming session, because it appears, owing to this political atmosphere that no one knows quite where he is.

The Minister for Works: We would know where we were if we went to the electors.

Mr. MULLANY: Quite so. There are rumours that there is going to be a change of Government, and there are direct statements in the *West Australian* and other newspapers of this State that undoubtedly there is going to be a change of Government.

Mr. Thomson: No.

Mr. MULLANY: But there is rather a doubt as to whether there is going to be a lingering death for the present Government, or whether the death is going to be a sudden one. It is said in some quarters that the moving and seconding of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply is really

the swan song of the present Government, and that there is going to be a motion moved later on which will take the control of the House out of the hands of the present Government. I do not know whether this is a fact or not. I would like to say, however, that I believe no such course has ever been adopted previously in the Parliament of Western Australia. I am open to contradiction, however, on the point. If this is the intention of members opposite, more particularly of the Country party—for the members of the other party, I believe, are beyond all hope of redemption—I would like to place this view before them. After the attacks which have been made by the Press of this State on the present Government since last session, bitter and unfair attacks, and without the Government having an opportunity of replying, I am going to ask if their conscience will allow them to support a motion to stifle discussion upon the political situation, if such a motion should be moved. Will their conscience allow them to support such a motion when they know that the Press, subsidised as it is by the Liberal party, have, during the recess taken every possible opportunity, and almost, I might say, every impossible opportunity, of attacking the Government, knowing that the Government had no chance of replying. Will they help to stifle discussion when they know that the Government have done so much for the farmers? I am going to say that the majority, or at least all the members on this side of the House, care not whether there is to be a sudden or a lingering death. We are prepared to go to the country.

Mr. Green: We defy them; I do not think they are game to chance it.

Mr. MULLANY: I think, in all seriousness, that I am putting a fair proposition before those hon. members when I suggest that they should not lend support to any proposal to stifle discussion in this Chamber. Having dealt with that aspect of the question, I come to another. The only reason for a change of Government, and it seems to be imminent to-day, is that since last recess the Labour party, of which I am proud to be a member, have lost one supporter. Again, I want to say I do not think there will be many tears shed on this side of the House through the loss of that supporter. I am, however,

interested, and I believe other members are likewise interested, in seeing what attitude that hon. member will take up now, which party he intends to join.

Mr. Allen: That is his business.

Mr. MULLANY: Certainly. I think the member for West Perth is also slightly interested in this aspect of the question. We all have the right of free discussion and I am just querying a little. I am within my rights in doing that, I think. I am interested to find out whether the present member for Williams-Narrogin will join the Country party, whom he termed, only 12 months ago, the Bulgarians of politics, or whether he is going to join the Liberal party. The member for Yilgarn said it was more than possible that the member for Northam would be the leader of that party. If the member for Williams-Narrogin joins the Liberal party, I trust that the mutual admiration which we know exists between those two hon. members will, upon closer contact, ripen into something warmer, and I believe it will if given sufficient opportunity. Then again, will the member for Williams-Narrogin isolate himself? Will he occupy a position of splendid isolation, a position which will show that every individual is wrong except Bertie.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member must not discuss the member for Williams-Narrogin in that way.

Mr. MULLANY: He is hardly worth discussing at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! That is not the way to accept my remark.

Mr. MULLANY: I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I had no intention to be offensive, but the exigencies of the position so appealed to me that I thought I was not doing any harm in referring to the hon. member as I did. I take it that Parliament makes for the free ventilation of public matters, and this, I think, is a matter of extreme public interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I did not raise any objection to the discussion. The objection I raised was to the hon. member's reference to the member for Williams-Narrogin as "Bertie." That is a familiarity not permitted in this Chamber. The hon. member is the member for Williams-Narrogin.

Mr. MULLANY: I shall not transgress again; I shall refer to him as the member for Williams-Narrogin, and I trust the member for West Perth will not take any further exception.

Mr. Bolton: It does not matter if he does.

Mr. MULLANY: I quite agree with the hon. member. Even though the member for Williams-Narrogin occupied a position of splendid isolation, he would have advantages, inasmuch as he would be absolutely solid. At least one would think so, but the position may arise very easily in which the hon. member would think his own interests would be best conserved—or his interests as proprietor of hotel properties in the State—by continuing, as in the past, to toady to the temperance alliance. He will be on the horns of a dilemma there. To conclude with the hon. member, to whichever party he may attach himself I wish him the best of fortune in the future, and I hope he may progress as he is going. We will leave it to hon. members to think for themselves where he will eventually land himself. I notice the hon. member has just entered the Chamber. I am sorry he was not here to listen to my remarks, but I do not intend to repeat what I have said, more than to add that our experience of that gentleman is such that we whole-heartedly recommend him to whichever party claims him.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: You would have kept me if I had stayed and I would have stayed if I had been satisfied.

Mr. MULLANY: Just in conclusion I would like to say that I trust this will be a lesson to the Labour organisations in Western Australia, and when they select candidates in the future I hope they will see that their choice is a Labourite, and not one who merely wants to use the party in order to get into Parliament.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: I brought you a seat that you would not have won.

Mr. MULLANY: I will not say anything further about the hon. member, but seeing that the position taken by him has caused this crisis, I thought he was deserving of a little recognition on the occasion of perhaps the only two speeches which this side of the House may be permitted to make. With regard to the Country party, what is politi-

cal life coming to when a number of men are going to accept what an outside organisation orders them to do, without a definite motion coming before this House. So far as the Labour party are concerned, a definite policy is submitted to us and we sign that for three years and there is no organisation or individual which has the power to alter that during the course of the three years. There is no Mr. Monger or any such individual who can come in. Our platform cannot be altered during the life of a Parliament. There is no essential difference between the Labour party and their policy and the way they conduct their business. What can we think of men who accept a mandate from a body outside of Parliament altogether—

The Premier: And their constituents.

Mr. MULLANY: And outside of their constituents, which tells them how they shall act when a matter comes up for discussion in this Chamber? Can they say that their souls are their own? They cannot. But, to go further, we find that a conference was held and a working agreement was come to to put out one Government and put in another. Very good. We find again the famous speech by Mr. Monger at York, where he and others stated publicly—and it was published throughout the length and breadth of the State—that amongst all the members of the Country party in Parliament there was only one who was fit to hold office, or fit to be a member of Parliament, and that they could not trust that one. They said it, there is no doubt about that, and here now are the members of that party, who, we are told, are going to support a motion which is going to turn out the Government which has done so much for them. I hold the honest conviction that I am right when I say that if these men cross the floor of the House to put out the present Government, they will bite the hand which has fed them and their constituents.

Mr. Allen: Who fed them before?

Mr. MULLANY: They starved. I repeat, if they have any sense of political honesty, they will not support the motion if it is moved to stifle discussion on this debate, but that they will allow the Government, which has done so much for them, to have an opportunity of replying to the attacks and unfair statements which have been

circulated throughout the State during the last recess. If they are so bound to this conference, which has been held, and which has nothing to do with Parliament at all, if they are so tied up to people who have no right to express opinions in this Chamber, if they have to do as their masters tell them, then I say God help them. I feel there is no more to say, except to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, which was so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Yilgarn (Mr. Hudson).

On motion by Hon. Frank Wilson, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.2 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 25th July, 1916.*

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, (a) Workers' Homes Act, 1911 and 1912—Financial Statement and Report for Year ended 30th June, 1915. (b) Amendment to Form No. 2, Schedule A. 2, Audit Act, 1904—Amendment to Regulation 44. 3, Roads Act, 1911—By-laws of Collie, Melville, and Roebourne Roads Boards.