

the harmony of our proceedings, I can assure you, Sir, and I assure hon. members, that so far as I am concerned, and so far as my friends on this side of the House are concerned, the incident has left no feeling of ill-will, nor anything of that kind behind it. We have done, I think, satisfactory work during the session; and, if I might make a suggestion, it would be that during next session the Government should give us the Bills on their programme a little earlier in the session, so that the more deliberative members of the House may have more time to consider those measures and make needed amendments. I heartily approve of what the hon. gentleman (the Premier) has said in regard to yourself Sir, and also in regard to the Chairman of Committees and the officers of the House; and I think this Assembly is to be congratulated upon having so much ability to guide it in its deliberations.

THE SPEAKER: I am very sensible of the kindly remarks which have fallen from the Hon. the Premier and also from the leader of the Opposition. My great object in occupying the chair, so long as the rules of the House are observed, is to show all the consideration I can to the members of the House—in fact, to guide them with a silken thread. My anxious desire has always been to see that the Legislative Assembly shall gain the respect of the country, by the conduct of its members; and I may add that it is no exaggeration to say there is no Legislative Assembly or legislative body in Australia that is held in more respect than the Legislative Assembly of this colony.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House, at its rising, do adjourn till 12.30 o'clock, noon, next day.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 7.43 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council,

Saturday, October 12th, 1895.

Congratulations to the President—Prorogation.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 12 noon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): As the session is now drawing to a close, I feel it my duty, as well as my pleasure, to say a few words in recognition of the able manner in which you, Sir, have presided over us during the session. I am sure hon. members will join with me in thanking you for the impartiality and great care you have shown in your decisions, and for the assistance you have generally given to all who have required it; and they will also thank you for the trouble you have taken in seeing that the debates have been conducted with dignity and propriety. I have also to thank you, not only for acting as President, but for the extra trouble you have taken as Chairman of Committees, and we thank you for the able and impartial manner in which you have conducted the business from the chair. I have personally to thank you, Sir, for the assistance given me from time to time, and for the able and kind advice given me in the methods of Parliamentary procedure, on which you, Sir, have made yourself so eminently a master. And in thanking you, Sir, I hope you will be long spared to preside over the debates, and for a long time there will be no change in the occupation of the chair. Before I sit down I desire to take the opportunity of thanking hon. members for the assistance and support they have rendered throughout the session to the Government. I have always thought, and the conviction has been forced upon me, that whenever hon. members could consistently support the Government they have done so, but whenever they have had amendments to propose in the interests of the country they have never hesitated to bring them forward. I take the opportunity of thanking hon. members for their support to all important measures emanating from the Government. It is satisfactory also to reflect that the debates have been carried out very carefully and with dignity. I take it that the great object of the Legislative Council is to gain the confidence of the people by seeing

that the measures from the other House have careful consideration. One of the characteristics of this House is that there is no party feeling. There are no parties or combinations. This, I consider, is a proper state of affairs, and it has the result of measures being fairly reviewed and considered on their merits, apart from any party views. From that point of view I think the Council is almost perfect. One day we see members voting for the Government measures, and the next against the Bills introduced by the Government. I trust that next year there will be no gaps in the Council caused through sickness or death, or any other of those regrettable causes, and I hope that the proceedings of next session will pass off as pleasantly as they have done in the past.

THE HON. E. W. DAVIES: I coincide with all the remarks of the Minister for Mines concerning you, Sir. We are well pleased that you should preside over us, as you have a large knowledge of Parliamentary rules. It has frequently been my desire to speak, but from ignorance of the rules of debate, I have frequently hesitated. I think the Government have reason to be thankful for the kindly way in which their Bills have been received in the House, although the Council has not, perhaps, received all the consideration it is entitled to expect. The way in which many of the Bills have come down at the end of the session has caused the House to deal with them rather hurriedly, and it is possible that the public may be inclined to smile at our conduct in regard to the affairs of the country. It is not, however, the fault of this House. It is quite likely that the Government has something to do with it, and I hope that next session they will deal in a different manner with the business. I have not wasted much of the time of the House, but like a good boy, when I have been told to sit down, as being out of order, I have done so. I have not quite mastered the rules which govern the procedure of the House, and I have some difficulty in understanding the questions as put from the Chair. However, in such cases I have followed those who were of my way of thinking, and in that way have escaped making many mistakes. I join in thanking you, Sir, for the manner in which you have conducted the debates, and it is well that you should see that the rules are observed, otherwise, if the House were to conduct the business as some of the Municipal Councils do, we would never get through.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: It has been my pleasure and privilege to occupy a seat in this House for the past eight or ten years, and most of that time under your Presidency, and I am now glad of the opportunity of thanking you for the efficient and able manner in which you have presided over our deliberations. It is a source of congratulation to many members that your decisions have been marked with impartiality, and you have done justice to all sides. I have very much pleasure in endorsing the remarks of the Hon. the Minister for Mines.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I thank hon. members for the kind expressions used towards me, and I feel deeply thankful to all the members of the Council for the support they have given me. I have, of course, to follow the rules of debate in order that the business may be expeditiously conducted, and I have to submit the questions to the House in accordance with Parliamentary practice. It is a great pleasure to me to preside over the Council. It is three years since I was appointed to my present position, and I hope to be spared to preside over it for many years to come. I have also to thank the Minister for Mines, as leader of the House, for the courtesy he has always extended to me.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) then left the chair until 12:30 o'clock, p.m.

On resuming,

His Excellency the Administrator (Sir A. C. Onslow) entered the Chamber, and commanded the attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly, who having arrived with their Speaker,

HIS EXCELLENCY delivered the following speech:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

1. The work of the session having been concluded, I have pleasure in releasing you from your arduous labors.

3. The many useful and necessary measures you have dealt with will be of advantage in promoting the development and progress of the colony.

3. Your approval of the construction of the railway to Bridgetown will give to the producers of that part of the colony the facilities of transit they so much require, while the extension of the railway to the Collyer coalfield will

enable the extensive coal deposits in that locality to be vigorously worked.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

4. I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the Public Service, which includes a large expenditure for Public Works usually constructed by loan moneys. The financial condition of the colony is thoroughly satisfactory. The Revenue continues to increase, and the prospects for the future are bright and promising.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

3. The goldfields of the colony continue to command great attention. Foreign capital is being largely invested in them, and an immense development may be reasonably anticipated. The railway to Coolgardie will soon be open for traffic, and its extension to Kalgoorlie, which you have approved, has already become a pressing necessity.

6. The agricultural and pastoral interest have been stimulated by a good season, as well as by the prospect of better prices.

7. I now prorogue this Parliament till Tuesday, the 21st day of April.

The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly.

Saturday, 12th October, 1895.

Alleged Delay in forwarding Bills to Legislative Council—Prorogation and Assent to Bills.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 12.30 o'clock, noon.

PRAYERS.

ALLEGED DELAY IN FORWARDING BILLS TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Mr. Speaker—Sir,—I should like to refer to a statement that has been made in the Legislative Council to the effect that this House has desired to hurry them in completing the public business. I altogether repudiate

the idea that we in this House desire to hurry the other branch of the Legislature through their work. As soon as Bills are passed in this House, they are sent to the Legislative Council, and it is for hon. members in that House to deal with them as they consider best; and, whatever time they may take in doing so, I do not know that we in this House have any right, or have in any way attempted, to interfere with them. An idea seems to have gone forth, and has been expressed by some members in the Legislative Council, that the Government are to blame, or this House is 'in some way blameable, for hurrying the members of the other House through their work. On the contrary, it seems to me that those hon. members have the matter in their own hands, and can take as long as they like in dealing with Bills that are sent up from this House. Having made these remarks, I need not say more on that point; but I would like to make an observation in regard to what was said last evening, in this House, by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition, which was to the effect that, notwithstanding any differences that may have arisen during the session, we part good friends. I am sure I am speaking not only for myself and other members of the Government, but for other members of the House, when I say we are too much men of the world to carry outside of this Chamber any observations that may have annoyed us during a debate; and, if we feel annoyed for a few hours even, certainly the annoyance will not continue for long after the debate is over. I can assure the hon. member, and other hon. members on that side, that anything of an unpleasant nature which may have been said during the session, by them or by us, we have already put aside and forgotten, and we shall part now the best of friends. If, in the next coming session, we happen to have some little troubles and some personal sparring occasionally, as I dare say we may, I can assure hon. members that such incidents, as far as we are concerned, will not interfere with our personal friendship.

PROROGATION.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

The following message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—"His Excellency the Administrator desires the immediate attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, in the Chamber of the Legislative Council."