

Hon. G. FRASER: Then I hope the hon. member will not be averse to assisting to improve them.

Hon. Sir William Lathlain: You want to sink more money in them?

Hon. G. FRASER: No, I do not. Those works were established in about 1912 and at that time employed roughly 600 men.

Hon. E. H. Harris: What profit have they made?

Hon. G. FRASER: Notwithstanding the tremendous increase in agriculture with which increase the State Implement Works should have kept pace, their output has dwindled, and to-day only about 200 men are employed.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Has not the capital been written down?

Hon. G. FRASER: I know all about that.

Hon. J. Cornell: I think you are sowing seed on barren ground.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope not. I believe that the employees of the State Implement Works are as capable as any workers in Australia. Where the trouble lies, I do not know.

Hon. J. Nicholson: We do not question that part. It is the other part.

Hon. G. FRASER: It is the "other part" I wish to get at. I hope the Government will consider appointing a Royal Commission to inquire thoroughly into the operations of the State Implement Works. Such a body would be able to ascertain just where the trouble lies. Instead of members of this House decrying the State Implement Works and refusing to do anything to help them along, they should be ready to consider the recommendations of a Royal Commission in the direction of improving the works and assisting the State, so that our farmers would not continue to purchase their machinery from what Mr. Holmes has described as the opulent State of Victoria.

HON. J. R. BROWN (North-East) [3.45]: I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

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

House adjourned at 3.46 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 2nd August, 1928.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m. pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, the proclamation being read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The 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.

BILL—TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.25]: 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 for an Act to amend the Traffic Acts 1916 and 1926.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have had printed copies of the Speech distributed amongst hon. members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

MR. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [3.30]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—
 “May it please Your Excellency. We, the members of 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.”

Before dealing with the subject matter of the Speech, I think it is only right I should make some observations, consequent upon the many years of experience that I have had in the Parliament of Western Australia, upon the good feeling displayed by members one towards the other. To a great extent that is due to the excellent example set to members by the Leader of the House (Hon. P. Collier) and the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Sir James Mitchell).

Mr. E. B. Johnston: And to the Leader of the Country Party.

Mr. Marshall: You cannot encroach like that.

Mr. LAMBERT: In every army there is a remnant, so that I will include also the Leader of the Country Party. This happy state of affairs has had an influence not alone throughout Australia, but has also had a good influence on the name of the State in the Old Country. It has placed the tone of this Parliament very high, and indicates that in a small State and a comparatively small Parliament we can live up to the best and finest traditions of the Home Parliament. It is also pleasing to note, when going through the country, the quiet confidence that is displayed in the present Government.

Mr. Panton: Hear, hear!!

Mr. Teesdale: There is nothing about that in the Speech.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that the member for Roebourne would be able to inspire confidence anywhere, nor do I know that there has ever been a great deal of confidence exhibited in him. Perhaps the best idea of the confidence that the people in the Old Country have in the State is shown by the recent loan that has been raised for Western Australia. Overshadowing that—and I say this impartially without any political significance—is the desire of

the people of this country that there should be no change of Government under present conditions.

Mr. Teesdale: You are getting the wind up, are you?

Mr. LAMBERT: It is generally conceded that the work of opening up and developing this great State is brought about by team work. It is not the result of the effort of any single individual. Probably it would be beyond the effort of one man, unless he were a double Napoleon or something of that sort. It must be pleasing, even to those of our friends who at present enjoy the cool shades of opposition, to notice the strenuous co-operation that has been evidenced between members of Cabinet, and the splendid example of administrative work shown by the present Government as a whole.

Mr. J. H. Smith: By the position of the unemployed.

Mr. LAMBERT: I think members will concede that with a great deal of pleasure.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I would not put it on too thickly, if I were you.

Mr. Teesdale: There is no procession of unemployed to-day. You can put it on as thickly as you like.

Mr. LAMBERT: The sting is always in the tail. I think the Leader of the Opposition will admit that when a man does good work he is at least entitled to a little praise for it.

Mr. Teesdale: A little praise we do not mind.

Mr. Davy: But it is customary for someone else to do the praising.

Mr. LAMBERT: Someone else is doing it.

Mr. Davy: Self-praise is no commendation.

Mr. LAMBERT: It will be admitted that I have on other occasions gone out of my way to praise the work that other people have criticised, the work of Sir James Mitchell and other members sitting on the opposite side of the House. I feel that the people of this country are satisfied with the administration, from the head of the Government down to the individual officers of departments, and admit that it has been such as to establish a quiet confidence in the State that I believe has never before been displayed.

Hon. G. Taylor: There was not much evidence of it in Barrack street recently.

Mr. LAMBERT: Let me instance the task that lies before the Minister for Works. It calls for very hard thinking for work day and night, and the handling of such big problems as those associated with road construction, and the forward policy of the public works programme that is before us. The Minister for Works undoubtedly has done good work.

Mr. J. H. Smith: You are on dangerous ground now.

Mr. Thomson: You cannot throw too many bouquets on that question.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Minister for Works will return very shortly, and he will be able to answer for himself without any assistance from me.

Mr. Richardson: He has done well for the last six months, at any rate.

Mr. LAMBERT: The ever-increasing difficulties of transport call for the close attention of the Minister for Railways, who has well carried out the task allotted to him. Perhaps the Minister who gets most of the kicks, and has perhaps the most unenviable position in Cabinet, is the Minister for Lands. It is characteristic of him that he has stuck to his guns. It is to be hoped that in envisioning the land settlement policy of this State he can go on as he has done, and stick to his job. I am sure the result will be a further contribution to the progress and prosperity of the State. The same thing applies to other Ministers. The Minister for Mines, for instance, in administering his office, has met with a considerable amount of success. The indications at present are that more capital is coming into Western Australia for the development of the mining industry and our mineral wealth generally than has been in evidence at any time for the past 20 years.

Mr. Thomson: You are not singing the swan song of the Ministry, are you?

Mr. Teesdale: Tell us something about the Speech.

Mr. Corboy: We will never sing any swan song of yours.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Mann: What about the Chief Secretary?

Mr. LAMBERT: That interjection gives me the opportunity to refer to the Chief Secretary, and to say that he is deserving of the best thanks of this House and another place. Practically single-handed he has dealt with the whole of the

legislation that has come from this Chamber, and has led another place in an admirable manner.

Hon. G. Taylor: You ought to mention Mr. Shapcott, too.

Mr. Davy: I notice the Whip has been left out.

Mr. Panton: He is away sick.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is clear that on opening day some members are in a jocular mood. I thought the Governor's Speech would have had a sobering influence upon them.

Mr. Teesdale: The mention of the redistribution of seats has given it a lift up.

Mr. LAMBERT: Have members noticed the noise that wise old cockatoo from Roebourne is making? He has not given much information to the House, or done much to add to its dignity.

Mr. Teesdale: You are not talking much about the Speech. Certainly there is not much to talk about.

Mr. LAMBERT: Members will have noticed that the Government intend to bring in legislation for the establishment of a rural bank. It is to be hoped that, in introducing legislation to give effect to this, they will be able to combine the functions of the State Savings Bank and the proposed rural bank with the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board.

Hon. W. J. George: What about the Primary Producers' Bank?

Mr. LAMBERT: I will refer the hon. member to the member for Gascoyne.

Mr. Angelo: There is plenty of room for all.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, and when the legislation is passed this bank will be contemporary, and not in any way in opposition, to the present established institutions. After all is said and done, the banking institutions operating Western Australia show by their returns that they have quite sufficient to handle, and I believe there is a big change of public opinion regarding institutions such as banks. It was perhaps rather regrettable that the only local bank we had here—the Western Australian bank—should have passed out of the control of Western Australia. However, I think that many members even on the other side of the House and in another place will agree that if we are to have stable finance in Western Australia, stable in the assistance we give to many of the industries that are so essen-

tial to development, we must take a tighter grip of the financial control of an institution such as this. The rather limited activities of the State Savings Bank and the rather promiscuous, shall I say, activities of the Industries Assistance Board make it all the more essential at this juncture that Parliament should face the position and establish an institution that will meet our present and future requirements and prove of great value in the opening up of the undeveloped parts of the State. The next item to which I would like to make reference, and it is one that I know is very close to the hearts of most hon. members, is the question of the redistribution of seats.

Mr. Teesdale: Hear, hear!

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member seems to be lulled into a state of temporary insensibility when this subject is mentioned.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Do you know what the proposals are?

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, reasonably, and I know they are not the hon. member's proposals.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: How do you know what they are?

Mr. LAMBERT: If I do know, I am not going to tell the hon. member. All the same, I think we are likely to approach the question in quite an impartial way.

Mr. Teesdale: Certainly, certainly, and most decidedly.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not suppose there will be the slightest party feeling exhibited, nor will there be any selfishness displayed when we are dealing with the question. There are many other matters of minor importance referred to in the Governor's speech.

Hon. W. J. George: There are only about three items in the whole lot.

Mr. Pantou: You growled last time because the Speech was too long.

Hon. W. J. George: I have never heard such a speech.

Mr. LAMBERT: My juvenile friend would like to see it overloaded with intended legislation.

Hon. W. J. George: I should like to see something in it.

Mr. LAMBERT: Before the session closes no doubt the hon. member will have his wish gratified. May I be permitted to say in conclusion that all hon. members realise that in this big State of ours we have a wonderfully rich territory and I am confident that if there is exhibited the same

spirit that has been displayed in years gone by, a spirit of unselfishness and helpfulness in the interchange of views, so pronounced between the Government and the Opposition --if that continues and we stand shoulder to shoulder in our effort to bring about the development every one desires to see, we shall attain the goal that all are anxious to achieve.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [3.46]: I formally second the motion so ably moved by the member for Coolgardie.

On motion by Hon. Sir James Mitchell, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.47]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.47 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 7th August, 1928.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Financial Agreement.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I notice that a question standing on the Notice Paper in my name is not that of which I gave notice and I understand that you, Mr. President, have exercised your authority under Standing Order 88 to alter my wording. I had intended to put the question as I gave