

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

### FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT :

*The Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the 31st January, 1939.*

*The Seventeenth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 3rd August, 1939, and the First Session was commenced on that day.*

## Legislative Council.

*Thursday, 3rd August, 1939.*

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### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at noon.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

### PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. L. L. Leake) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor summoning the first session of the Seventeenth Parliament.

### COMMISSIONER.

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Wolff) having entered the Chamber at noon, a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things

necessary in the name and on the part of His Majesty the King or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the first session of the Seventeenth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

The Commissioner read the following statement:—

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

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor to inform you that, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of his calling together of this Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should first be chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn in by me in accordance with the terms of the Commission granted me by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker and notify the same to His Excellency.

The Commissioner and members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

*Sitting suspended from 12.12 to 2.55 p.m.*

### LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.5 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 Seventeenth Parliament of Western Australia for the transaction of public business.

I refer with profound sorrow to the passing of the Right Honourable J. A. Lyons, P.C., Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and the Honourable A. G. Ogilvie, K.C., Premier of Tasmania. Both stood high in the public life of Australia and were respected and admired for their personal qualities and the long and honourable service they had rendered. The Parliament and the State of Western Australia have also suffered by the untimely loss, as a result of an accident, of Miss May Holman, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Forrest. Miss Holman was held in the highest esteem by all sections of the community which she had served so faithfully and so well.

#### *Defence.*

Recognising the supreme importance of the matter of the defence of Australia, Ministers have extended an offer of ready assistance to and active co-operation with the Federal Government in all measures necessary for the adequate defence of our land. This spirit of co-operation will be fully maintained.

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

#### *Finance.*

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1939, was £10,949,660, and the expenditure £11,170,102, leaving a deficit of £220,442. Although the State has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to withstand the effects of low prices for wool and wheat, it is fervently hoped that an improvement will soon be manifest, thus enabling full advantage to be taken of the high production indicated by the excellent seasonal prospects. In the meantime, as revenue this year will inevitably be affected by low incomes earned last year by farmers and

pastoralists, it is imperative that the closest supervision be maintained over the financial position. My Government intends to submit to Parliament legislation to combine the Financial Emergency and Income Taxes. Greater effect will thus be given to the principle of taxation according to ability to pay, after making allowance for the usual statutory deductions, while retaining the advantage to the taxpayer of collection by regular instalments at the source.

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

#### *Employment.*

The number of men depending on the Government for relief work or sustenance has risen slightly during the last twelve months, and at present provision is made for 7,000 men, of whom 90 per cent. are employed. Improvements previously effected in the conditions of relief workers have been maintained, and, in addition, men and their families have benefited from the increases in the basic wage. A comprehensive survey of Government relief workers is being conducted to furnish useful information regarding social conditions and to determine to what extent the men are capable of being transferred to industry.

#### *Secondary Industry.*

My Ministers have determined to concentrate upon the task of promoting industrial development, which it is hoped will bring in its train the investment of capital, a larger market for raw materials, increased employment, greater population, and a larger measure of economic stability. It is now generally agreed that the extension of Australia's secondary industries should be decentralised, to strengthen the smaller States from both the industrial and defence aspects. The Minister for Industries will devote most of his time to this task. A Council for the Development of Industries is being set up, and two committees are shortly to be established—one to deal with production problems associated with industry and the other to promote the sale of locally produced goods. An officer is to be appointed to assist the council and the committees in their work, and to co-operate with manufacturers generally in the

endeavour to expand industrial activity. My Ministers desire to express their appreciation of those earnest, capable and representative persons who have signified their willingness to assist with this problem. It is felt that every section of the community and every individual can and should help to achieve the best possible results.

### *Mining.*

The gold-mining industry continues to progress, and constitutes a wonderful asset to the State at a time when our income from wool and wheat is so reduced. A record tonnage was reported for 1938—3,759,720 tons yielding 1,172,950 fine ozs. valued at £10,363,023. The production exceeded that of the previous year by 165,661 fine ozs., and the value considerably eclipsed the previous State record. The Government prospecting scheme was continued, and now supports in the field 725 men. From present indications it is anticipated that the gold-mining industry will this year produce much better results than in 1938.

### *Wheat.*

The wheat crop last year amounted to 36,711,000 bushels, averaging 11.2 bushels per acre. Although the total yield showed an increase over that of the previous year, the yield per acre was less. Splendid rains over the whole agricultural area have given the present season an excellent opening. Due to various circumstances it is anticipated that there will be a reduction in the area sown. One of the principal problems facing the people of this State is the marketing of wheat, which has such a tremendous effect upon our national economy. It is hoped that before the next harvest is garnered an arrangement will be made to place this industry upon a satisfactory basis. The Government has supported the proposals made for an international agreement to stabilise the export price of wheat in the future, and will be prepared to co-operate with the Commonwealth and other Governments regarding arrangements for the present season.

### *Pastoral.*

Pastoral areas generally, except in isolated localities, have enjoyed beneficial rains. The reduced wool production from pastoral areas has been counterbalanced to some extent by

an increase from the farming districts. Further rapid progress has been made in the production of fat lambs, an export of 363,000 carcasses last year being an increase of approximately 100,000 over the figure of the previous year. Additional financial assistance and every possible encouragement are being afforded to this industry, and it is expected that the export of carcasses this year will exceed half-a-million.

### *Dairying.*

The dairying industry has experienced a reasonably successful year as regards both climatic conditions and prices. The production of factory butter was approximately 14,480,000 lbs., and of cheese, approximately 924,000 lbs., each being 11 per cent. more than the production of the previous year. It is hoped that the continued extension of irrigated areas will largely remove the necessity for importing dairy products.

### *Fruit.*

The season in fruit-growing districts has been most favourable, and it is estimated that the record apple crop will approximate 1,800,000 cases. Up to 30th June, 1,287,000 cases had been exported overseas, which is over 50,000 more than the total production in any previous year. New records were also established in the export of pears, grapes and currants.

### *Tobacco.*

Rapid progress has made this State one of the most important in the Commonwealth in the production of tobacco. The value of the 1937-38 crop of cured leaf was approximately £50,000, a figure which it is anticipated will be exceeded this season.

### *Potatoes.*

The export of 14,000 tons of potatoes last year constituted a record, the cash value to the growers being about £120,000.

### *Lands.*

Further applications were approved during the year for a considerable area of land under conditional alienation and pastoral lease. Assistance rendered through the Agricultural Bank to enable settlers to con-

tinue their farming operations, was as follows:—

	£
Industries Assistance Board ..	152,404
Refunds of interest .. ..	22,279
Exemptions enabling settlers to obtain advances against stock accounts .. ..	30,381
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>£205,064</b>

At 30th June, 1939, Trustees of the Rural Relief Fund had completed 3,109 applications giving relief to farmers amounting to £2,826,292, which included the sum of £980,794 written off by the Agricultural Bank. The total amount distributed from the fund was £1,064,000, and the total number of applications received was 3,955. The revaluation of conditional purchase holdings in the drought-affected portions of the Northern agricultural districts is nearing completion, and attention will shortly be given to reviewing the prices of holdings in the outer North-Eastern and Eastern agricultural districts.

#### *Forests.*

It is anticipated that owing principally to lack of overseas sleeper orders, the value of timber exported last year will be approximately 20 per cent. below that of the previous year. As a result of a further visit by the Conservator of Forests to Ceylon, orders have been secured for the supply of 150,000 sleepers this year for the Ceylon Railways.

#### *North-West.*

The m.v. "Koolama" has completed twelve months in the coastal trade, and has proved highly successful with both passengers and cargo. A regular fortnightly coastal service has been provided, and a more frequent service to Darwin has been of considerable benefit to Western Australian trade generally. The work of repairing the damage caused by the cyclone which struck Port Hedland in January is nearly completed. Extensive work on roads and bridges has greatly improved communications throughout the North-West. A stock route from the Fitzroy River to Wyndham has been located, which, when the required improvements have been made, will enable large numbers of cattle to be driven to Wyndham. The work of improvement will be commenced at an

early date. Assistance has been rendered to prospecting and development of oil, gold and other minerals throughout the North-West.

#### *Native Affairs.*

The Carrolup native settlement has been repurchased, and will in due course be established to improve conditions in the Great Southern district.

#### *Public Health.*

Work has commenced on the first section of the comprehensive programme for the rebuilding of the Perth Hospital. Many improvements and extensions have been made to hospitals throughout the State, notably at Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Busselton and the King Edward Memorial Hospital. Buildings estimated to cost £41,000 are in course of erection to relieve overcrowding and facilitate the treatment of patients at the Claremont Mental Hospital and the Heathcote Reception Home.

#### *Education.*

The expenditure on school buildings last year showed a marked increase. A new high school has been completed at Geraldton, and a site has been secured for a new post-primary school south of the Swan River. Extensive improvements are being made to existing accommodation and facilities for technical training. Considerable progress has been effected on the new building at the Perth Technical College for trade and industrial classes, and the new training building for domestic science will shortly be commenced. Provision is being made for young people at Fremantle to secure training in industrial occupations, and a metalwork centre is being established at Collie. A new school of mines has been opened at Wiluna, and improvements have been made to the school at Kalgoorlie. The great interest displayed in technical training is reflected in increased enrolments.

#### *Railways.*

Owing to reduced revenue and increased expenditure the balance of revenue over working expenses of the railways last year declined by £293,000. A falling-off in traffic, particularly in wheat, and higher working costs through wage increases were largely responsible. Heavy patronage of trolley buses indicates their popularity. The five additional buses ordered last year have

been placed in commission, and have eased the strain during busy periods. The new unit of the East Perth Power Station has been opened, and the department is now in a position to meet all demands for electric energy in the metropolitan area for some years to come.

#### *Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supplies.*

The reconstruction of the Mundaring-Kalgoorlie main conduit has been continued throughout the year. Considerable extensions and improvements have been made to both mining and agricultural water supplies in many parts of the State.

#### *Irrigation.*

A commencement has been made with the construction of a dam to augment supplies for the Waroona area, and survey and investigation work has been carried out in connection with the proposed Stirling Dam at the Harvey River.

#### *Metropolitan Water Supply.*

Excellent progress has been made with the construction of the Canning Dam, and, by the end of the winter, storage capacity will amount to approximately 10,000 million gallons.

#### *Metropolitan Sewerage.*

The work of the main comprehensive scheme, which included the closing-down of the Burswood Island filter beds, has been completed at a total cost of somewhat less than the estimate of £1,000,000, and several new extensions are now in course of construction.

#### *Local Government.*

The consolidation and printing of the Municipal Corporations Act has given considerable satisfaction, and will improve the administration in this important phase of our Local Government activities.

#### *Housing.*

Financial arrangements have been made to enable the Workers Homes Board to take advantage of the borrowing powers conferred on it last session, and an expanded programme will be put in hand this year, particularly to meet the needs of people on lower incomes.

#### *Superannuation.*

The Superannuation Act passed last session has been proclaimed, and contributions commenced on 1st July. The number of employees who have elected to join the fund already exceeds 8,000, and applications will be received up to 31st August.

#### *Roads.*

During the year over £1,000,000 was expended on improving the roadway system of the State. The building of a new bridge over the Swan River at North Fremantle is nearing completion. Considerable extensions have been made in the bituminous surfacing of the main roads in country districts.

#### *Legislation.*

You will be asked to give consideration to measures dealing, among other things, with—

- Collection of Taxation.
- Arbitration.
- Shops and Factories.
- Insurance Act Amendment.
- Apprentices.
- Fair Rents.
- Wheat Marketing.
- Machinery Act Amendment.
- Dental Act.
- Water Rights.
- Third-party Insurance.
- Qualifications of Legislative Council Electors.
- Traffic Act Amendment.

I now declare this session of Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency then withdrew from the Chamber.

[*The President took the Chair.*]

### **BILL—GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [3.26]: 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 Government Railways Act."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

## LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

**THE PRESIDENT:** For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor copies of the Speech that he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*First Day.*

**HON. G. FRASER** (West) [3.28]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver:—"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council 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."

The Speech delivered to us by His Excellency to-day follows the lines of Speeches we have heard for a good many years. However, whilst these Speeches may be marked by a certain amount of repetition, they serve to bring home to us more forcibly the activities of Governments and the potentialities of the State. In the present Speech I observe what may be termed a note of warning, to the effect that although there are many bright spots in the various industries of Western Australia, there are also what may be described as two or three very dark spots. Because of that fact, I presume, the Speech intends to convey to members that during the forthcoming session, at all events, they should put the soft pedal on demands for their particular constituencies. We metropolitan members never offend seriously in the direction hinted at, but no doubt our friends from the country will be wanting many things for their electorates. Therefore I suggest to them that they peruse His Excellency's Speech carefully, and then water down the proposals which at present they intend to put forward.

**Hon. C. B. Williams:** Spend all the money in Fremantle!

**Hon. G. FRASER:** Fremantle is mild in its requests. My friend no doubt thinks that because Fremantle has a bridge almost completed and its main roadway all but fin-

ished, its requirements have been fully met. Those two works, however, are largely of a national aspect, and not designed purely for Fremantle requirements. My district has many demands to make, but I shall not enter into that phase to-day.

At this stage I may perhaps be permitted to mention that the present is the sixth occasion on which I have had the privilege of moving the adoption of the Address-in-reply. That circumstance marks, I believe, a record as regards moving such adoption. A search of the reports, I understand, reveals that it is indeed a record. In view of the fact of my being comparatively a young man, and having, bar political accidents, a lengthy Parliamentary career ahead of me, with the prospect of being privileged to move many more similar motions, it appears almost certain that I shall establish in this respect a record which will take quite a long time to equal. In discussing Governors' Speeches it is usual, especially on opening day, to deal with subjects of political interest, especially after a general election. Most of my remarks this afternoon will be such as might be grouped under the heading of two B's. By that phrase—I hasten to assure you, Mr. President—I mean nothing unparliamentary. In other words, I intend to distribute one or two bouquets and also to throw one or two bricks. The first bouquet I wish to bestow is for the electors of the State, in appreciation of the excellent judgment they recently showed in again returning to power a Labour Administration.

**Member:** Wait!

**Hon. G. FRASER:** Some of our friends are always saying "Wait." We have waited for about 15 years, during which there have been six elections. Five of them have resulted in favour of Labour, and one of them did not; and that is the only occasion when the people got off the right track. Let me add that they could not get back to the right track quickly enough. I present a bouquet to the electors of Western Australia for again returning to power a Government which in the past has given, and in the future will give, consideration to all sections of the community. We Labourites may say we are not perfectly satisfied that everything needful has been done. In fact, we acknowledge that all that is required to satisfy the workers has not yet been accomplished.

However, we do give the Government credit for having made an honest attempt in that direction. Let me add that were it not for this Chamber, a great deal more might have been achieved on behalf of the workers. The present Government can justly be labelled a good Labour Government. By the number of works that have been put in hand in the country districts it can be said the Government is a good country Government. The Government has treated all sections of the community in the right way, so it can also be termed a good national Government. I point out that I do not use the word "party" after either "country" or "national."

Another bouquet I desire to throw is one for the Workers' Homes Board. In my opinion that board at the present time is functioning better than it has done since its establishment. Notwithstanding the fact that this Chamber read the burial service over some legislation which was introduced a couple of years ago and which had for its object the empowering of the board to build homes that could be let at a cheap rental, the Government was not dismayed by that action. In conjunction with the Workers' Homes Board, it set about to repair the damage and to provide homes at a cheap rental for those people who were compelled to pay rent. The passage of a measure last session which amended the Workers' Homes Act gave the Government authority to build a cheaper class of home and that has helped further to solve the problem of cheap homes for the people. By so doing the Government has rendered a wonderful service to the people of the State.

Hon. J. Cornell: So does the Legislative Council when it passes Bills.

Hon. G. FRASER: I regret I did not hear that interjection. However, the Workers' Homes Board is attempting to provide a long-felt want. Notwithstanding that this Chamber defeated the measure to which I have referred, during the past few years many cheaper types of homes have been erected in this State. Many of the houses that were built years ago had fallen into a state of disrepair, so much so that various local governing authorities found it necessary to condemn them. Private enterprise did not step into the breach and replace the condemned premises. The result was a demand for the particular type of house erected by the board, a demand which far exceeded the supply. A serious problem had

therefore arisen. Unless persons with limited incomes were prepared to pay high rentals, much higher than they could really afford to pay, they were unable to secure housing accommodation. We were therefore faced with a serious problem. However, as I have said, the board is tackling this problem and I hope that within the next 12 months the board will redouble its efforts with the object of overtaking the demand for this class of house.

I desire also to throw bouquets at the Government departments. In the course of their Parliamentary duties members have frequent dealings with Government departments. So far as I personally am concerned, I have always received the greatest courtesy and attention; everything possible has been done for me. I cannot say I always got everything I asked for; but when I did meet with a refusal, it was made in a very gracious manner.

Hon. W. J. Mann: Are you standing for election next time?

Hon. G. FRASER: Obviously. One of the bricks I wish to throw is directed at the authority controlling the University. Throughout the metropolitan district, numerous areas of land were given to the University as endowment lands. Those lands to-day in many instances are in the same state as when they were given to the University. Because of that fact progress in many districts is being arrested. Now that the University has its own home, the necessity no longer exists for the retention of the endowment lands. I hope that in the very near future the University authorities will take the step necessary to have the land subdivided and made available to those people who might desire to purchase it. We have in my Province some of this endowment land. Admittedly, portion of it would not prove to be very useful, but still a large area of it could be put to suitable use.

Another brick I desire to throw is directed at those responsible for the catering arrangements on our railways. A pleasing item in the Press recently was a paragraph to the effect that tourist traffic in this State had increased both as regards numbers and value during the past twelve months. However, if there is one thing that every tourist desires it is that the inner man should be well catered for. I am not making the complaint that those responsible for the pre-

sent arrangements are not doing their utmost to carry out the work to the best of their ability. My complaint is against the system, a system which gives to private enterprise the right to cater for the travelling public. Ours is the only State of the Commonwealth in which that system prevails and we find this State is the worst off so far as railway catering is concerned. In all the other States of the Commonwealth, the Railway Department does the catering and the service is cheaper and better than ours. It may be claimed that that is because in many of the other States the broad gauge gives them an advantage over us.

Member: Why should the broad gauge do that?

Hon. G. FRASER: Because more room is available for the preparation of the food. One has only to go to Queensland, however, with its 3ft. 6in. gauge railway, and compare the catering arrangements there with our own. As I have said, I do not blame the catering contractors in this State; they are not in the business for the good of their health; they have to tender and pay a price for the right to render this service and they naturally cannot be expected to do the job as well as the Railway Departments of the other States do it. If we are to derive the advantage which we should from our tourist traffic, then the first thing we must do is to make an alteration in our system of railway catering.

Member: So your party favours the socialisation of industry.

Hon. G. FRASER: If my suggestion is adopted, I feel the tourist traffic of the State will increase by leaps and bounds. I fully realise the Government is doing much to cope with the traffic. The Caves House is a particular instance. The Government has in this most popular resort—one of the most popular in the State—endeavoured to meet the demands of the tourists. Although Rottnest Island is not a Government department, nevertheless certain alterations are being made there which, when completed, should make Rottnest Island compare favourably with any other holiday resort in Australia. One or two isolated instances such as these, however, are not sufficient. There must be reform throughout the State. Unless our catering arrangements are brought up to date, we cannot

expect to increase, or even to maintain, the tourist traffic which we now have.

There are one or two requests I desire to make. As I said earlier, we shall no doubt have many requests. The requests I have to make concern my own Province. The first is that the Government will, during the coming session, give consideration to the introduction of legislation dealing with market gardens and their produce. If there is one section of the community in this State that should be given encouragement it is the market gardeners. Because of poor marketing facilities, not only have the market gardeners themselves to work extremely hard, but they are compelled to obtain the assistance of their wives and children to enable them to earn a livelihood. The difficulty arises not because of the quality of the produce, but because of the poor prices the gardeners receive for their produce owing to the bad marketing facilities. On this question, a deputation waited on the Minister last year and his reply was very sympathetic. But nearly 12 months have elapsed and there is not any sign of legislation being introduced. I trust that the Minister's work in this direction will be speeded up so that that section of the community may receive its just reward. I should like to prefer a request with regard to the Administration Act. Some two years ago we deleted the payment of probate duty on estates up to £200 in value. That afforded relief, but it did not go far enough. Really it meant a saving to the individual concerned of about £1 only. I suggest that the Government give consideration to the advisableness of eliminating the court fees on estates of the value I mentioned because that is the bigger problem, and the saving to those interested would amount to £2 or £3. The revenue would not be seriously affected and whatever slight shortage there was could be made up by an increase in the duty on the higher amounts. Generally speaking, if one scanned the scale of fees he would find that they could easily be improved. Therefore I suggest that some attention be paid by the Government to the phase to which I have referred and that legislation be introduced during the session embodying the proposal I have outlined. My last request is associated with the Government's building programme. In recent years the Government has been



called upon to provide schools, hospitals and many other buildings, but there is one of outstanding importance to which the Government might direct its attention. I refer to the Old Women's Home at Fremantle, a building that has outlived its usefulness and should be replaced.

Hon. J. Cornell: We want a new gaol for Norseman.

Hon. G. FRASER: The Government's legislative programme is fairly heavy, and I do not think it covers all the measures that are likely to be introduced. Last year we also had an appetising menu including eggs and onions.

Hon. G. B. Wood: We will have it again.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope they will not be last year's eggs. The Government's legislative proposals include amendments to the Arbitration Act and the Factories and Shops Act. Both those measures should be received by this Chamber with open arms.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: We have had them every year for the past six years.

Hon. G. FRASER: Another measure will deal with the qualification of electors of this House. The Government has been returned with an increased majority, and should have no difficulty in carrying out its legislative programme. If I remember rightly, the Bills that were rejected by this House last year were not very far-reaching, and could very well have been passed by this Chamber. Some years ago the Legislative Council became a little more democratic than it had been, but recently it seems to have crawled into its former conservative shell. I am hoping, in view of the liberal endorsement received by the Government at the elections held at the beginning of the year, it will be possible to carry into effect the programme that has been outlined. The demand is there for the amended legislation to which reference is made. In recent years the Council has been inclined to extend its latitude in respect of the legislation submitted, though when our friend Mr. Holmes mentions the bell-wether, members do not feel disposed to pass the amending Bills. Quite a good deal of interesting legislation will be introduced, and we can look forward to an interesting time.

**HON. W. R. HALL** (North-East) [3.50] I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.51 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 3rd August, 1939.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

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

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. 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 Wolff, having been commissioned by the Lieut.-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 Kanowna and Kimberley (Ministerial) and for Forrest.