

have taken to extend the board to the teachers in the service of the State. In my opinion this reform is long overdue, and I think that when the board begins its operations, it will tend to greater efficiency throughout the service. The watchword of the civil service should be "efficiency." In our many departments there are doubtless numerous civil servants possessed of foresight and initiative such as would enable them to offer suggestions which would be useful to the Government in making for greater efficiency in administration. Such civil servants might readily offer suggestions of a practical nature if they were encouraged to do so. Suggestions should be invited, and if any suggestion offered, on being investigated by a board of say three experts, were considered worthy of adoption, the officer submitting it should be remunerated for it. This would stimulate members of the service to exercise their brains for the betterment of the service. It would be far better to pay them the value for ideas than that they should retain the ideas in their heads. The suggestion to appoint a commissioner to control the State trading concerns is a step in the right direction. The appointment of an independent Commissioner is certainly advisable, as such an officer would prove a safeguard against any attempt to interfere with the fair and impartial administration of these concerns. I welcome the proposal to extend the duration of the Prices Regulation Act. The Prices Regulation Commission really do not meet all the requirements of the public, but they have proved useful as a brake on the tendency to increase prices. Certainly it is most difficult to combat the baleful influences of profiteering and cornering which we know exist. The present and other Governments have tried to do so, and have failed. Therefore, I am pleased that the Prices Regulation Commission will continue their work. Last but not least among the many measures enumerated in the Governor's Speech is one to remove the disqualification of women as candidates for Parliament. Legislation of this description should be hailed with satisfaction by the fair sex. I have never yet met an elector who was prepared to admit that he favoured a monopoly; yet the male section of the community has had an undoubted monopoly in the legislative halls of the State. The subject of proportional representation is exercising the minds of many people at the present time. If this system were adopted, I should think the female section of the community would then be fairly well represented in the halls of the legislature. When this disqualification has been removed, the ladies will with some logic be able to urge the argument so frequently put forward, namely, equal pay for equal work. There are many other matters which might have been dealt with in the Governor's Speech, but I presume that opportunities to deal with them will be afforded me later on. There is one matter to which I

wish briefly to refer—the payment to jurors. Many years ago, the rate of payment to jurors was fixed by statute at 10s. a day. At that time the basic wage throughout Western Australia was somewhere in the vicinity of 7s. 6d. a day. Since that time, wages have increased considerably, but the payment to jurors has remained the same. So long as it is the duty and privilege of citizens to sit in judgment on their fellow men and women, they should be adequately remunerated. Frequent appeals have been made to coroners, magistrates and judges for an increased rate of pay. In my opinion, the chances of getting just verdicts recorded would be considerably enhanced if the jurymen were not smarting under a knowledge that they are not as adequately remunerated as are the witnesses who tender evidence before them.

Hon. E. ROSE (South-West) [8.55]: I have pleasure in seconding the motion.

On motion by Hon. R. G. Ardagh, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.56 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 5th August, 1920.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m., pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

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. The Speaker resumed the Chair.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Mr. SPEAKER: In compliance with Section 53 of the Audit Act 1904, I have received the Auditor General's report on the Public Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1919. I will lay the paper on the Table.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would draw the attention of hon. members to the inadvisableness of placing several notices of questions or motions on one sheet of paper. It is necessary to cut off each notice separately. In order to prevent notices from being lost, it is advisable to write each notice on a separate sheet.

BILL—BROOME RATES VALIDATION.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): 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 to validate rates struck by the Municipality of Broome.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

MOTION—VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [3.50]: I have a very pleasant duty to perform and that is to move, without notice, and ask hon. members to give their assent to, an Address to His Majesty the King testifying our loyalty and devotion to his throne and person and also conveying to His Majesty our sincere appreciation of the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. I will now read the Address, which I propose to submit for the approval of the House:—

To His Most Gracious Majesty the King. May it please Your Majesty, we your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly in Western Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to approach Your Majesty, and to express our sincere appreciation of the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, a visit which was the occasion of great joyfulness amongst all sections of this community. We assure Your Majesty of our continued loyalty to your throne and person, and we fervently hope that Your Majesty may long be spared to rule over the British Empire.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [3.52]: It gives me great pleasure to second the motion which has been submitted by the Premier.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [3.53]: I move—

That an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor requesting him to communicate by cable message to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for presentation to His Majesty the King, the address to His Majesty which has been agreed to by the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia.

Question put and passed.

THE 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, where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, copies of which Speech I have had distributed amongst hon. members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. DURACK (Kimberley) [3.55]: 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."

While it gives me pleasure to move this motion, I do so with certain feelings of diffidence, knowing that there are other members in this Chamber more qualified to deal with the subject matter of His Excellency's address. Since we last met in this House, this State has been honoured by a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This charming young man has endeared himself to the whole Commonwealth of Australia, and I venture to say that he has fully demonstrated in his own personality the triteness of that remark, which had application to the young Prince, when Mr. Lloyd George referred to him as "the greatest asset the British Empire possessed." The visit of the Prince to Australia has not only stimulated the bond which unites us to the throne and Empire, but it has left on the whole community throughout Australia a happy and lasting memory, which neither time nor distance can efface. In a general survey of the position of Australia to-day, it must be noticeable that there is turmoil and trouble.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We are in Heaven compared with other parts of the world.

Mr. DURACK: There is greater trouble in some places, it is true, but we know that all this forms one of the results of the after-

math of the great war. It would be well for me to refer to the position that we find in our own State, where the prospects are such that we have much to be thankful for. We have the promise of an abundant season, with a bumper harvest, and high prices prevailing. These should return something like seven or eight millions sterling, which in itself will be a record. With the high prices that are ruling regarding wool and other products, combined with those I have referred to regarding wheat, I think that the prospects for the farmers and producers never looked more hopeful. I notice that the subject of bulk handling has been introduced in the Governor's Speech, and with these prospects throughout the State, with increased development, I feel that the results to be secured will be very beneficial. Regarding the settlement of soldiers on the land, it is satisfactory to note from the Governor's Speech that much good work has been done. I have no doubt that there are individual cases that are not in complete harmony with the whole scheme, but that is a position which is bound to exist. Anyhow, we find that, out of 5,500 applicants, over 3,000 have been settled on the land and others are being placed at the rate of 50 per week. That in itself speaks well for the advantages that this State offers to men prepared to go on the land, and I think it is also excellent testimony to the treatment that is meted out to them by the Government. Respecting mining, it has been mentioned in the Governor's Speech that the prospects are not too promising. With respect to the hitherto larger gold producing mines of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, the aspect is said to be not too promising, for, with a decreasing value as the mines go down, and the ever increasing cost of working, the day may not be far distant when those larger mines may be obliged to close down. Again, they are confronted with the increases in wages.

Hon. P. Collier: The miners have not had an increase for 20 years!

Mr. Munsie: They are the worst paid men in the Commonwealth.

Mr. DURACK: In view of these difficulties it is quite possible that many of the mines will have to close down, a possibility accentuated by the shortages in coal and fuel. Whilst this is far from being cheery, it is satisfactory to know that a great deal of prospecting is going on in our goldfields areas, and that the Mines Department is co-operating with the Repatriation Department with a view to encouraging prospectors. Personally I believe that for hundreds of years to come we shall continue to prosecute mining in this State; indeed, having regard to our vast area of auriferous country, I am convinced that there are still in Western Australia many unrevealed Golden Miles. We have been a good deal encouraged by the reports coming forward from Payne's Find, Mount Monger, Hampton Plains, and the St. Ives fields. While possibly our secondary industries have not been developed to the full, or as fully

as the resources of the State would indicate, still it is satisfactory to know that there has been a marked increase in the production of butter and cheese. I understand that a butter factory has been established at Albany. No doubt this will give a great impetus to the industry in that district. I should like to say how fully the people of the North appreciated the recent visit of His Excellency the Governor. It was very gratifying to those people to find that the Governor, in the midst of his duties, was prepared to go North and see for himself the conditions under which those pioneers live. I travelled with him as far as Derby, and I saw for myself that he took exhaustive notes of matters of interest which came under his notice. I should like to compliment Mr. Holmes on the satisfactory carrying out of the arrangements of the tour, and on behalf of northern members generally I wish to express appreciation of the facilities which the Government provided for the many members and others who visited the North. I am further pleased to note that since the return of Mr. Colebatch, the member of the Ministry who made the trip, the visit has borne some fruit. I notice in His Excellency's Speech that the refrigerating space of the Wyndham meat works is to be increased. It is regrettable that this was not done long ago. Last year a great number of stock was held over, and this year probably it will be the same. It is very unfortunate for the producers of Kimberley, because they are this year confronted with the lightest rainfall known in 30 years. I have noticed recently many references to the North. No doubt these references have stimulated the minds of the people and given them food for reflection in respect of the resources of the North. I have also read of the bold, vigorous energetic policy necessary for the development of the North, but what shape that policy is to take seems to be still a little obscure.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It has been on the tapis for years.

Mr. DURACK: I see that somebody has suggested that we might have recourse to immigrants from southern Europe, that the conditions of their climate closely approximate the climatic conditions of our North. I may say that this has been already tried under the Gilruth Administration and has not had much satisfactory result, for of the many southern European immigrants introduced into the Northern Territory, very few are now left. In dealing with the northern portion of this State, my remarks apply principally to my own electorate, to the area north of the 20th parallel of latitude, an area some 221,000 square miles in extent. Whilst the want of attention on the part of a Government may sometimes retard development, still, unless a district has within itself the essentials that make for progress, Governments, after all, cannot do very much. It is the people who go

out into those isolated areas, taking their lives in their hands, who make the country; they are the people whom the Government should support as far as possible. The stimulus of gain is the best incentive to people to scorn delights and live laborious days—for that is what going into the North means. Unfortunately in some sections of the community there appears to be a feeling against men who are successful, a desire to restrict the profitable activities of such men. That is a very narrow view to take. The South and South-West of the State have been in great measure developed by the men of the North, who have borne the heat and burden of the day. The prosperity of the State is largely due to those men, and in similar measure due to those other pioneers who have gone out into the North. Let us encourage those people still further to make money, and their success will be reflected in the prosperity of the State as a whole. The development of the North is a wonderfully fascinating and complex problem, which up to the present has in a measure puzzled and defied the white races. As time goes on we do not seem to be getting any closer to a satisfactory solution of the question. It is beset with difficulties. There is the difficulty represented by the high cost of getting about, and there is another great difficulty represented by the prevailing labour conditions. Many products can be grown in the North, cotton, rice, sugar and the like, but when it comes to a question of putting those products on the market as a commercial proposition, with wages at £5 and £6 per week it is found to be impracticable. Sugar can be grown on the banks of many of the rivers of the North, but we have to contend with a long period without rain, and with certain serious pests, as for instance white ants.

Mr. Maley: They are not confined to the North.

Mr. DURACK: I have frequently heard eulogistic references made to the development of northern Queensland, and the opinion expressed that similar development might be made in Kimberley. But it has to be remembered that in Kimberley we have a rainless period from March or April till October, or even November and December. If one comes south of the Kimberleys, one finds periods of 18 months and even two years without rain. Again, in northern Queensland they do not suffer to anything like the extent we do in the Kimberleys from the depredations of white ants and other pests. It is of no use closing our eyes to these facts when we talk of populating the North. In Queensland, also, the soil is particularly rich, having been generously fertilised with decayed vegetable matter for thousands of years past, an advantage lacking in the northern parts of our State. It seems to me we have hitched our wagon to an ascendant star high in Heaven, a star from which floats the banner of a White Australia. The ideal is a most admirable one, but as to its wisdom I do not wish

to prophesy. I am not going to say that white men cannot work in the North or that it is not a white man's country. White men can work in the North and enjoy the best of health, if only they take ordinary care of themselves and refrain from over indulgence in strong liquors. But whilst this may be said of the white men in the North, it does not apply to the other sex. Life in the North is particularly hard on white women. There are very few of them there, and those few have practically no opportunities for social exchanges but, instead, are faced with an appalling isolation. Another disability forbidding to the women of the North is the absence of proper medical attention. This is a very serious factor indeed. Then there is the difficulty in getting servants. In Broome the other day this was brought very vividly before me. There are in the North mothers of families who, notwithstanding the tropical heat, have to attend to all the household drudgery. The members of the party who recently went North found themselves there in winter time, notwithstanding which some at least of them suffered discomfort from the heat. Yet the women of the North have not only to tolerate that heat in summer as in winter, but have also to carry on their household duties day in and day out, including even the washing of the clothes and the chopping of the wood.

Hon. P. Collier: What are the men of the North doing while the women of the North chop wood?

Mr. DURACK: It is a very serious position. Since it appears that we are bound to accept this dictum of a White Australia, that policy being dear to the hearts of most Australians, it seems to me that one of the best ways of assisting the development of the North is to work from the interior rather than from the coastal districts. Hitherto Australia has been almost exclusively developed from the coastal districts. This system may be quite applicable in the Eastern States and in the more temperate zone of our own State, but in the North it is an entirely different question. If one goes inland four or five degrees, one gets a much better climate, a better elevation and a soil more adaptable to wool-growing. The conditions are favourable to wool-growing, and mixed farming might be carried on to some extent. And, after wool, agriculture will follow. As a means of developing the large areas up there, the proposed northern railway from Meekatharra under the scheme suggested by the North Australian Railway Development League offers one of the best solutions. I would like here to pay a tribute of praise to the Hon. G. J. G. W. Miles for the work he has done towards bringing this area prominently before the public. To that task he has given much of his own time and his own money. In the same connection I would like also to offer a tribute to Mr. Shalleross, who has identified himself closely with this movement, for the excellent plans and maps he has prepared showing how sparsely popu-

lated our country is, how our population merely fringes the coast. Reference was made to these maps of Mr. Shallcross by the Prime Minister recently.

Mr. Griffiths: Were not those maps copied from a Japanese magazine showing how the Japanese observe this empty continent?

Mr. DURACK: From inland the spur lines would run into the coastal areas, thus affording means of bringing our wool and our other products to market. As regards the large area of country north of the Leopold Range, a Commission was appointed by the Premier some little time ago to suggest means of developing this area. Certain suggestions have been offered, and I hope the Government will take some note of them. I am sure that the adoption of those suggestions would prove a valuable factor towards the development of this large area of fine country.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is the body you refer to a Royal Commission?

The Premier: No; it is a committee. It has given some very good advice, if only that advice is acted upon.

Mr. DURACK: One of the suggestions of the committee was that a port should be established somewhere between Derby and Wyndham, and one of the localities proposed was Prince Frederick Harbour. That locality is within about 160 or 180 miles of the Wyndham meat works. According to all the evidence the committee could get, this harbour suggested itself as being one of the best. I may say that this State has many most excellent harbours which are practically unknown to the people of Western Australia. In reference to the Prince Frederick Harbour, the Chief Harbour Master at Fremantle stated that he was prepared to take any ship drawing 30 feet of water into it, and also to take that ship four miles up the Hunter River, which I may mention runs into Prince Frederick Harbour. Close by this harbour there are the wonderful Yampi Sound deposits of iron, of which we have heard a good deal. From reports recently received I understand there are various other mineral deposits in that district. Indeed, there is a very persistent rumour that oil is to be found there. Only the other day a man told me that he had actually found oil there. As regards pearling in the North, the position, as indicated in His Excellency's Speech, is not at present an encouraging one, owing to the immense fall in the price of shell. This has induced a good deal of stagnation in the industry. In this connection I am glad to learn that the Government are prepared to make provision for a further advance against pearl shell, if called upon to do so. Whether the depression is due to the machinations of dealers on the continent of Europe or to the stringency of the money market I do not know, but it seems to me that it is time we did something to stabilise the industry. The question of converting the shell locally, by establishing the manufacture of buttons and other things in Western Aus-

tralia, is one that should commend itself to the attention of the Government and the people interested. There are some 170 soldiers associated with or engaged in the pearling industry, and the present state of affairs is hitting them very hard. For this reason I am especially pleased to learn that the Government do intend making an extra advance on the lines of last year if necessary. From His Excellency's Speech I learn that steamer communication for the North is receiving the attention of the Government. I for my part would have preferred that an effort had been made to induce private enterprise to take on this shipping. The results of many of our State enterprises have not been altogether satisfactory; costs have been high, and very often there has been want of efficiency. As regards shipping, we have to bear in mind that the Government are entering into competition with the whole of the private shipping world, and are pitting themselves against the best brains and the most complete organisation to be found in the world. Moreover, private enterprise in shipping has the advantage of continuity of policy.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You ought to be thankful that there was not private shipping on the north-west coast during the war; or you would have no ships at all now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DURACK: Possibly that may be so. However, private shipping has a great advantage in its continuous policy, whereas when the State takes on an enterprise of that kind there is always the factor of changing Governments and successive Ministries. I presume the Government may have been influenced to some extent by the fact that the Commonwealth has entered into the shipping business. It seems to me, however, from recent reports, that the Commonwealth finds itself up against a pretty tough proposition. At all events I hope the new Government steamers will soon be available for the north-west trade, and that they will prove satisfactory on that coast. I observe that the legislative programme contains some important Bills. I do not intend to refer to them at any length, but I may specially mention the Shops and Factories Bill. That measure was introduced last session. Covering as it does the many industrial aspects of our State, it is a very important Bill, and I have no doubt that it will receive at the hands of hon. members that full discussion which it merits. Another Bill promised by the Governor's Speech is one dealing with the public service. The intention is to amend the existing Public Service Act and to constitute a board to deal with public service questions, including classification and salaries. This I think is very necessary. Whilst touching on the public service I cannot help referring to the recent unfortunate incident, when the members of the public service were obliged to have recourse to the drastic measure of direct action.

Hon. P. Collier: That has made direct action respectable for the future.

Mr. Pilkington: If it was respectable then.

Mr. DURACK: A most regrettable feature of the incident is the fact that the school teachers were drawn into, or participated in, this direct action. They might have considered the baneful effect which the course they took would have, on the minds of the younger generation, before they allowed themselves to go so far. I do not know of anything that can be more detrimental to the prosperity of the State. An early introduction of the junior minds into the ranks of disorder and lawlessness should certainly have been avoided. I am prepared to admit that school teaching is the most important function of the State, and I am also prepared to admit that the school teachers in many cases are not sufficiently paid. But I think that if they had appealed to the reasonableness of the Government they would have had the endorsement of the public.

Mr. Jones: They have been making that appeal for years.

Mr. DURACK: I understand that the price fixing measure is to be re-enacted.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes; in order to stop direct action.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DURACK: To me it seems that the proposed re-enactment of that measure springs merely from a wish to meet the popular clamour of the day. The crying need of to-day is production, and anything that will stimulate production is the best means of meeting profiteering.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not know that. There are enormous quantities of surplus food in Australia, but that fact does not bring down prices.

Mr. DURACK: It seems to me that the effect of high profits is to stimulate production, with the result that supplies increase and that prices accordingly tend to come down.

Hon. P. Collier: Not a bit of it.

Mr. DURACK: That is my impression. Another thing: I cannot for the life of me see why a man should not be allowed to exercise his skill and ingenuity in buying in the cheapest market available and selling in the best available, of course so long as his dealings are fair and honourable.

Hon. P. Collier: That is what the workers do when they resort to direct action. They want to sell their labour in the best market. You condemn them for that.

Mr. DURACK: Where there is free and open competition, I fail to see that any question of profiteering applies. As regards their immigration policy, the Government are suffering from the scarcity of shipping tonnage. I hope this disability will very soon be removed. Then the devoutly hoped for immigrants will come into this State. Having dealt with a few of the matters mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, I have much pleasure in commending to the

House my motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

Mr. PIESE (Toodyay) [4.26]: In seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, I wish to congratulate the Government on the modesty of the legislative programme that is outlined in His Excellency's Speech.

Hon. P. Collier: It is very modest except as regards its length.

Mr. PIESE: I am sure hon. members will appreciate the modesty of that programme before the session closes. Without intending flattery, I may say that the present Government, to judge from outward and visible signs, enjoy the confidence of the people.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Evidently you do not mix with the people.

Mr. PIESE: Apparently that confidence is echoed in London, where the financiers have recently offered the Government of this State a loan of two millions.

Hon. P. Collier: If I were you, I should wait until after next week's conference.

Mr. PIESE: The farmers' and settlers' parliament will no doubt express its views. One regret I have is that the Government's legislative programme does not foreshadow any important public work. I fear this fact will cause much disappointment to settlers in the outlying area, who will have looked forward to some new railway proposals. However, money is hard to obtain, notwithstanding the fact that the Government were offered two millions recently; and so the railway programme has necessarily been curtailed. I also desire to congratulate the Government on the excellent arrangements made for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Hon. P. Collier: Except as regards the railway accident. There was nothing excellent about that. Besides, we nearly lost the Minister for Works.

Mr. PIESE: That accident was not on the programme. However, the whole of the arrangements for the Prince's visit do reflect the greatest credit upon the officers concerned. I am sure that the manifestations of loyalty on the part of our people were such as to give the greatest pleasure to the most ardent loyalist.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: All the people of this country are loyalists.

Mr. PIESE: The behaviour of the people in Perth was certainly of the most creditable character. I never saw such a large crowd in my life before, and I have never seen a more orderly crowd. Everyone seemed to be imbued with the desire to do the greatest honour possible to our royal visitor.

The Honorary Minister: There were very few Cornishmen there.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. PIESE: Quite right. The most prominent feature of the Speech delivered

by His Excellency to-day is the financial question.

Hon. P. Collier: It is not in the Speech; there is nothing about it.

Mr. PIESSE: I beg the hon. member's pardon, but it is there in very clear figures, that we have exceeded the four millions deficit, and that this year's deficit is £668,000.

Hon. P. Collier: And no pennies.

Mr. PIESSE: That is undoubtedly a serious position, and it is one that should command the deepest thought on the part of those who have at heart the welfare of the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It only wanted ability and business acumen, we were told, to put it right. That was four years ago.

Hon. P. Collier: I am going to bring the matter before the conference next week.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. PIESSE: I have always felt that it is a most thankless and difficult task to second a motion of this description, especially when the House is becoming empty. I excuse hon. members for their levity as you do, Sir. In reviewing the position the State is in, one cannot but be alarmed at the large sum now represented by the deficit. We are told that so much rests upon increased production and the rapid development of the latent resources of the State, and I believe everything possible is being done to hasten the development of those resources. There is, however, one feature of the financial statement, as published in the Press to-day, which certainly commands the closest attention, and that is in regard to the State trading concerns. On the year's operations of the State trading concerns there is a loss in round figures of £163,621.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No. There is £56,000 paid to Consolidated Revenue.

Mr. PIESSE: There is scarcely one of the ventures mentioned in the report on the State trading concerns that does not show either a couple of thousand pounds profit or else a heavy loss.

Hon. P. Collier: If the Government had got rid of them they would not have been up against that trouble.

Mr. PIESSE: That is what should have been done. The loss should be cut at once, and all the State trading concerns disposed of. We should then have a better staff of civil servants. At present many of them are overworked by having to attend to these trading concerns. I am not aware whether the Honorary Minister is laughing at me or not.

The Honorary Minister: I am, at your statement.

Mr. PIESSE: I will give the Honorary Minister a proof of what I say in one statement, and that is, that the late Under Secretary for Public Works (Mr. Munt) had his hands full, and more than full, with his work in connection with the State trading

concerns. I defy the Honorary Minister to deny that.

The Minister for Works: I should like your authority for that.

Mr. PIESSE: I have been in that office and found Mr. Munt loaded with work.

Hon. P. Collier: Carrying the Minister on his back, too.

Mr. PIESSE: I believe that.

The Minister for Works: I should like your authority for that statement, as it is not correct.

Mr. PIESSE: The Minister can deny it or not as he likes. I know from my own short experience of the work of that office that the Under Secretary had that amount of work to do. So much so, that the Government thought him fit for a higher office, or promotion and increased pay, and moved him to another position.

The Minister for Works: I do not dispute his work, but I say it was not on State trading concerns.

Mr. PIESSE: It is news to me that the Minister should receive any papers in connection with his department without their first passing through the hands of the Under Secretary.

The Minister for Works: This Minister manages his own department.

Hon. P. Collier: Especially the paymaster's side of it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Many things go through the Under Secretary.

Mr. PIESSE: We have had this loss on trading concerns, and it will proceed and probably increase. Then we also have a heavy loss on our railways.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We should raise the rates, as is the case in England, eight per cent.

Mr. PIESSE: After deducting the net earnings on the railways the losses are given at £934,000, that is if we allow interest and sinking fund which comes out of the consolidated revenue. This money has to be found somehow. The position of the State is financially sound, and I believe that at no distant date it will adjust itself.

Hon. P. Collier: It was not sound when we were in office, and we had not a quarter of the deficit that we have now. It is, however, sound to-day with a deficit three times as large.

Mr. PIESSE: It was during the hon. member's term of office that the rot set in. The deficit started at a million, and then went to two millions.

Hon. P. Collier: And now it is over four millions.

Mr. PIESSE: The time has come when we should stop the small leaks. It is the small leaks that sink the ship. Of what earthly use are the State trading concerns?

Hon. P. Collier: You should sell them.

Mr. PIESSE: Notwithstanding the vigorous policy of the Government I feel sure that we could do even more by making public in the Old Country, and other parts of the

world, the facts regarding the fertility of our South-West lands. We have an Agent General at Home. I am glad to see that the Commonwealth Government are to work in with this Government. I hope that in the near future we shall have thousands of people coming to this State to settle our rich South-West.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where will you get your thousands of people?

Mr. PIESSE: I am glad to see that it is the intention of the Government to continue the wheat pool, by introducing a Bill for the compulsory pooling of wheat.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not believe in freedom of trade.

Mr. PIESSE: I do not understand the interjection. The wheat pool has rendered valuable service both to the producer and the consumer.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They had to pay through the nose for their wheat.

Mr. PIESSE: Had it not been for the pool the hon. member and his constituents would have paid a very much higher figure. The producer and consumer would have been fleeced to the tune of many thousands of pounds had it not been for the pool control. I am glad the Government intend to carry on that particular pool. Although we see from time to time, through the Press, that it is the intention of the Federal Government to do away with the pool, I am pleased to be informed that such is not the case. We find that the Price Fixing Bill is to be re-enacted. That also has rendered valuable service to the community.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Not for the wheat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. PIESSE: The hon. member is endeavouring to put me off the track as far as possible, and evidently the Honorary Minister, too, finds some amusement in my remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot discuss Ministers and hon. members on this motion.

Mr. PIESSE: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.39]: I move—

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

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.40]: I would suggest to the Premier that he should amend the motion to provide for the adjournment until Tuesday week. We know that an important conference takes place in the City next week, and that it will be attended by a large number of members of this Chamber. I am sure it would be asking too much of those hon. members to expect them to

attend this conference during the day, and to their legislative duties during the evening.

Mr. Maley: You hardly know whether to attack the Government now or next week.

Hon. P. COLLIER: In order that hon. members may be afforded an opportunity of devoting their full time and talent to this conference, I suggest that the Premier make the adjournment until Tuesday week.

Mr. Johnston: The importance of the occasion merits an adjournment.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam—in reply) [4.41]: I suggest to the leader of the Opposition that we might meet on Tuesday next as proposed by the motion, but that he might be able to find pairs for those hon. members who may be away. I hope hon. members will agree to the adjournment to Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.42 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 10th August, 1920.

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

VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The PRESIDENT [4.32]: I have to report to hon. members that according to the resolution of the House at its last meeting, I waited to-day on His Excellency the Governor and presented to him the Address which this House was pleased to pass. His Excellency has been pleased to hand me the following reply for transmission to this House:—

The Governor has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of an Address passed by the Hon. the President and members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia on the 5th August, 1920, and to intimate that it will afford him pleasure to transmit this Address by telegram to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to His Majesty the King. Government House, Perth, 10th August, 1920.