

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

*The Legislative Assembly was dissolved by Proclamation on the 31st January, 1930.  
The 14th Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 30th July, 1930,  
and the First Session was commenced on that day.*

### Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 30th July, 1930.

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### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 11.50 a.m.  
The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

### NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, elected since the prorogation, took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll:—Hon. Sir Charles S. Nathan, C.B.E. (Metropolitan-Suburban); Hon. C. F. Baxter (East); Hon. J. M. Drew (Central); Hon. H. J. Yelland, B.Sc. (East); Hon. A. Lovekin (Metropolitan); Hon. G. W. Miles (North); Hon. J. Cornell (South); Hon. H. Stewart, M.C.E. (South-East); Hon. J. Ewing (South-West); Hon. W. H. Kitson (West); Hon. F. W. Allsop (North-East).

### PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. Bernard Parker) read the Proclamation summoning the first session of the Fourteenth Parliament.

### COMMISSIONER.

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir Robert Furse McMillan) 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, His Honour the Chief Justice requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in his name for the opening of the First Session of the Fourteenth Parliament. The Commission was read.

The Commissioner then read the following statement:—

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

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that at three o'clock this afternoon His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should be first 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 by me, in accordance with the terms of a Commission granted to me by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and notify His Excellency of your having done so.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, His Excellency's Commissioner left the Chamber.

*Sitting suspended from 12.13 to 2.55 p.m.*

## GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the 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—*

I have pleasure in declaring the First Session of the Fourteenth Parliament of Western Australia open for the transaction of public business.

During the past month, His Majesty the King, in response to the expressed wish and recommendation of Ministers, has been graciously pleased to approve of my continuing in office as Governor of this State for a further period of approximately one year. In view of the great courtesy and kindness that I have received from Ministers and from the people throughout Western Australia, I am only too pleased to agree to this extension, and trust that it may prove to be in the best interests of the State.

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

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1930, was £9,277,083 and the expenditure £9,795,087, leaving a deficit of £518,004 on the year's transactions.

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

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

During the past year Australia has been called upon to face a grave economic crisis, and Western Australia is involved in its consequences. For a long time past Australia has purchased too heavily abroad, and expended too freely at home. Imports have consistently exceeded exports, and the position has recently been aggravated by a serious decline in the prices of wheat and wool. At the same time a world-wide depression has occurred in trade and finance, and the combination of circumstances has resulted in the closing of the money markets in London. The most serious result

has been a severe reaction against employment; and though Western Australia's condition has been sound internally, unemployment figures here have been swollen by a considerable influx of unemployed from the Eastern States.

Notwithstanding the fact that Western Australia is internally in a sound condition, loan funds are essential to her progress, to the carrying out of public undertakings, and to the rapid development of her primary resources.

The amount of loan money which has been available for development in this State has dwindled considerably since 1927, the date of joining the Loan Council, as the following figures will show:—

Loan Expenditure—				£
1927-28	..	..	..	4,680,260
1928-29	..	..	..	4,372,269
1929-30	..	..	..	3,693,052
1930-31	..	..	..	2,800,000

In addition to using all loan funds available, two million pounds more have been spent on loan works than the Federal authority has been able to borrow for the use of this State. In meeting this expenditure, it has been necessary to have recourse to overdrafts on the Westminster Bank in London, and to the use of other funds at the disposal of the State. Three years ago the amount of loan funds available was £1,800,000 more than this year, and this year the proportion to be secured will be £800,000 less than last year.

As the State's ability to borrow will be limited for some time to come by the Loan Council, because of the money markets being closed against Australian loans, this State, in common with others, will be severely rationed in loan expenditure from the reduced amount available through Commonwealth loans only. This means a very serious condition of affairs to Western Australia, which is accentuated by the fact that the State borrows all money necessary for the carrying out of such local undertakings as metropolitan water supplies, sewerage, and electricity supplies. From this source also advances to individuals are supplied through the Agricultural Bank, leaving a very restricted amount available for public works.

The strictest economy therefore becomes imperative. Services must be curtailed to absolute necessities. Avoidable expenditure,

and doubtful projects which may mean a drain upon public moneys, must be eliminated. The shortage of funds will be severely felt and serious inconvenience must follow. The State's ledger must be balanced. The people of the State can only enjoy what they can pay for. Imports for the year 1929-30 exceeded exports by over one million pounds. Buying from outside the State must be decreased, and production increased. The position can be corrected by the public reducing the amount they spend on goods imported from outside Western Australia.

Notwithstanding the general depression prevailing, the internal condition of the State is satisfactory. National income is derived chiefly from primary production, and it is satisfactory to note that the wheat output grows steadily year by year. Last year a record crop of 39,081,183 bushels was harvested. Copious rains have fallen throughout the wheat belt, and this year it is expected that this yield also will be eclipsed. Oat crops increased by half a million bushels. The wool produced during 1929 amounted to 67,150,718 lbs., and at the end of the year the number of sheep in the State was 9,556,823. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000,000 sheep in the State at present, and, as good rains have been general in the pastoral areas, an excellent season is anticipated. Western Australian apples retain pride of place among Australian fruit in the Home and foreign markets. The dairying industry is flourishing. Last year the State produced over six million lbs. of butter, an increase of one-sixth over the previous year. Clover fields have been established over wide spaces. An increase in quantity and an improvement in quality have been demonstrated by pastures in the South-West. Last year, one and a half million acres were alienated under Conditional Purchase to 2,114 applicants, and eight and a half million acres of pastoral land to 155 applicants.

Mining looks brighter than it has for some years past. Wiluna is nearing the production stage. Activities in the principal Kalgoorlie mines have increased, owing largely to the modernisation of the underground development and surface treatment. The past six months show a distinct improvement in gold production.

Reforestation is now keeping pace with the cutting out of timber areas.

It is gratifying to record an increase in the value of goods manufactured within the State.

The work of the Session will be devoted largely to finance, and to legislation affecting finance. It is regarded as of the utmost importance to increase the national income by production. To this end, Parliament will be asked to consider a Bill to authorise the trustees of the Agricultural Bank to raise money for the bank's requirements, in order to secure funds for development. Other necessary steps will be taken to adjust the difficulties which have arisen by reason of the sudden termination of the supply of loan funds.

So far as the internal condition of the State is concerned, the future is bright. The extent and quality of its wheat and dairying lands and pastoral areas have been proved. The seasons can be depended upon. There is latent wealth in abundance. Salvation lies in tapping this latent wealth by increased work and production; and as a means to that end Agricultural Bank activities must be stimulated under legislative authority. It is recognised that there can be no general prosperity until all are at work again. Work will beget production, and production, in turn, will spell progress and prosperity.

Among other measures, you will be asked to give consideration to—

- A Stipendiary Magistrates Bill.
- An Amendment of the Local Court Act.
- An Amendment of the Main Roads Act.
- A Consolidation and Amendment of the Supreme Court Act.
- An Amendment of the Agricultural Bank Act.
- An Amendment of the Traffic Act.

I, therefore, declare the Session open, and trust that Divine Providence will bless your labours.

#### QUESTION—GENERAL LOAN FUND.

Hon. H. SEDDON (without notice) asked the Minister for Country Water Supplies: 1, What was the position of the General Loan Fund at the 30th June, 1930? 2. What was the amount of overdraft on the General Loan Fund Account in London at the same date?

The **MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** replied: There is no Loan Account in London, but the position of the General Account is as follows: 1, Overdrawn, £3,315,597 12s. 9d., in addition there is Loan Suspense expenditure amounting to £200,542 19s. 4d. 2, The London overdraft amounted to £1,320,000.

**OBITUARY—HON. J. R. BROWN,  
M.L.C.**

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [3.22]: Since we last met in this Chamber death has claimed another victim, and we have sustained the loss of our fellow member, the late Hon. J. R. Brown. Mr. Brown had been a member of this House for six years. He was elected a supporter of the then Labour Government, and he will be remembered by us as a man who was in the habit of expressing his own personal views in quaint and humorous language. Unfortunately, during the last few years of his life, he suffered much from ill-health, and although he cheerfully bore his sufferings, his life on one occasion was prolonged only by a drastic remedy which he was enabled to undertake through the kindness of one of his fellow members. It is sad to think that in the end he died somewhat suddenly, when there appeared to be every prospect of his return to this House for a renewed term. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the public services rendered by the late Hon. J. R. Brown, a member for the North-East Province, and to express its deepest sympathy with his relatives in the irreparable loss sustained through his decease, and that the President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to his relatives.

**Hon. J. M. DREW** (Central) [3.25]: I rise to second the motion. I regret that the necessity should have arisen for such a motion being placed before hon. members. I deeply regret the death of the late Mr. Brown. When that hon. gentleman first entered this Chamber, he was almost a stranger to me. I soon became intimately acquainted with him, and was able to appreciate his many good qualities. He was a man who strove to carry out his duty in accordance with his principles, and never hesitated to express his views fearlessly on subjects respecting which he had formed opinions, based on his long

experience of men and affairs. He made no enemies. Even when engaged in attack, as he frequently was, he tried to convey his thoughts, as the Leader of the House has indicated, in a humorous vein that removed the sting. He passed through a very distressing illness, but bore his sufferings not only uncomplainingly, but patiently, although he must have known that the end was near. We all regret his end, and we sympathise deeply with his relatives and friends.

**HON. E. H. HARRIS** (North-East) [3.28]: The passing of the late Hon. J. R. Brown marked the removal of another gold-fields pioneer. It had been my privilege to be associated with him during the last six years, and as I had opportunities to work with him not only in the interests of public welfare, but of the North-East Province in particular, I probably had greater opportunities to appreciate his work and the value of it than those that fell to the lot of other hon. members. After his election he applied himself assiduously to the work before him. One of the features of his labours was the interest he displayed on behalf of old age and invalid pensioners as well as of others in distress, who were resident in his province. He earned for himself a reputation never before gained, I believe, by any other representative of the North-East Province. Although a keen party man, he advocated principles that he believed to be in the best interests of the State. On occasions he may have expressed views that did not meet with the approbation of the whole of his colleagues, but he was fearless in the expression of those views. He was certainly not afraid to give expression to them, and to record a vote accordingly. I regret the circumstances under which the necessity for the motion has arisen, and I support it.

**THE PRESIDENT** [3.31]: Before putting the motion I desire to join in the expression of regret respecting the death of our late colleague, the late Hon. J. R. Brown. When he first became a member of this House, he came in, as all of us did when newly elected, unfamiliar with his surroundings. The atmosphere was strange and there was much to learn of Parliamentary ways. At the end of his six years in this Chamber, he was much more at home. We knew more about him and he knew more about us, and the more we knew of him, the more we ap-

preciated and enjoyed his originality, his quaint sense of humour and his novel mode of expression. He certainly did not lack courage in giving voice to his ideas. His criticism was decidedly direct and we who were his colleagues knew how bravely he endured his last illness. During the last year or two, the end always seemed near. He knew it, and throughout he bore himself cheerily and hopefully. There was not one of us who did not hear of his death with profound regret. I will ask hon. members to carry the motion in the usual way.

Question passed, members standing.

### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon C. F. Baxter—East) [3.33]: The recent elections having been held, it is now possible for us to elect a Chairman of Committees, which is usually done in anticipation of the work of the session. I have much pleasure in doing so, and I move—

That the Hon. J. Cornell be re-elected to the position of Chairman of Committees.

Hon. J. M. DREW: I second the motion.

Question put and passed.

### BILL—WAGIN HOSPITAL VALIDATION.

The **MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter East) [3.35]: 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 validate a certain building contract in connection with structural additions to Wagin Hospital."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The **PRESIDENT**: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the 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. F. W. ALLSOP** (North-East) [3.36]: 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 Council 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."

It is very pleasing to me, and I think to the people of Western Australia generally, to know that His Excellency's term of office has been extended for one year. I should like to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon the honour His Majesty the King has bestowed upon you. It was a well-deserved honour, and we feel it is only just and right that you should have received it. I am sure the great bulk of the people of Western Australia approve of the honour you have received. I should like to congratulate Sir James Mitchell on his again assuming the reins of government. I remember about 24 or 25 years ago listening in Kalgoorlie to Sir James Mitchell advocating that more of the male population should go on the land and undertake the cultivation of the soil. Sir James Mitchell's voice at that time was as one crying in the wilderness. His advice was derided by many and accepted by some. Since then great numbers of people have Sir James Mitchell to thank for having opened up to them employment which has placed them in a most comfortable position and proved beneficial to the State. It would not be in keeping with my thoughts if I did not also tender my congratulations to the Hon. Mr. Baxter on his assumption of the position of Leader of this House. It is satisfactory to know that he has again been elevated to Ministerial rank. Most of the Speech delivered by His Excellency was very doleful. Although Western Australia has retrogressed financially, it is only in keeping with the experience of other States of Australia and most of the countries of the world. At the same time we Britishers are not inclined to make a tremendous fuss when misfortunes overtake us. We put our shoulders to the wheel and try to rectify the wrong. It is pleasing to learn that the butter industry is making such marked progress, and that be-

fore long Western Australia will be able not only to supply its own requirements, but to export considerable quantities of that commodity to other countries. I remember when the Victorian land boom collapsed in 1892-93, increased attention was given to the butter industry in that State and that, in conjunction with Western Australian's gold discoveries and her orders for machinery and for produce, proved an important factor in restoring prosperity once more to the State of Victoria. If we cannot obtain payable prices for our wheat and wool, I am wondering what we shall do. It seems to me impossible that we shall be able to meet the interest on our loan commitments. I am a representative of the North-East Province, and have taken the seat formerly held by the late Mr. J. R. Brown. My constituency has produced more gold than all other parts of Western Australia put together. What does Australia's gold yield mean? In 1903 we reached our peak year, producing over £8,000,000 worth of gold. The latest recorded monthly statement of our yield in Western Australia was 41,000 ounces, which quantity was increased a little later as out-back returns came to hand, making the total 49,000 ounces. That is the best monthly yield we have had in Western Australia for a long time. But what is it compared with South Africa? I was in Johannesburg in 1894, when the people there were celebrating the achievement of an output of 200,000 ounces a month. Except during the time of the South African war, yields of that country have progressively increased, and the latest monthly output has reached 917,000 ounces. Beside that huge quantity, our last month's output of 49,000 ounces seems insignificant. Johannesburg is at present producing 53 per cent. of the world's production of gold. We in Western Australia are producing only 3 per cent. Away back in the early days of gold discoveries in Victoria and New South Wales, Australia was turning out 34 per cent. of the world's production, while California was producing 36 per cent. Now we want to know what can be done to increase the gold production of Western Australia. Generally, when everything else is bad and depressed, gold mining comes to the rescue. It came to the rescue in 1892-3. It made this State and gave it a tremendous impetus, while the benefit derived by Victoria and New South Wales was incalculable. Lately we sent a delegation to the Eastern States to strive to get a gold bonus of £1 an ounce.

Some members of that delegation have returned looking moderately happy; others do not look quite so pleased, but we are hoping that good will result from the mission. If we can get only half of what was asked, namely, 10s. per ounce, it will prove a wonderful stimulus to the industry in this State. I have been chairman of the Mining Board in Kalgoorlie for several years. Men come before us with requests for assistance to go prospecting. We inquire into their qualifications and, if they are favourable, we give them for work around Kalgoorlie £1 a week, for work further north 22s. 6d. a week, and for work further north still, 25s. a week. A fair percentage of the gold now being crushed at Government batteries is being produced by men sent out by the Mining Board. New South Wales seems to have gripped the situation better than we have done. That State has sent out 800 prospectors. The men who accept £1 a week to go out prospecting would not think of undertaking woodchopping, farm work, or other laborious work. They are lured and fascinated by the chance of making a wonderful find. There is also the spirit of emulation spurring them on. They want to emulate the feats of the early prospectors who did so much to bring about the prosperity of Western Australia. If these prospectors could find only one golden mile or a couple of golden miles, it would do more to bring prosperity to us than anything else I know of. We possess the largest auriferous belt in the world. Incalculable riches are hidden in it, and before long I feel convinced we shall discover another golden mile. It should be our aim to produce more gold from one end of the State to the other. The goldmining industry at present is benefiting a little from the adverse rate of exchange. It is receiving 5s. 5d. on every 100s. worth of gold. While goldmining is benefiting in this way, the adverse exchange is a nightmare to merchants and others engaged in the importation of goods from abroad. However, we want more help than the exchange is giving us. We want the gold bonus, and we want the Government to continue to send out prospectors who will seek to unearth additional riches. If we can only make a lucky find, it will give our State a tremendous impetus. I have, over a period of years, dabbled in science and have devoted some considerable time to research work. It is due to scientific research that our mines in Kalgoorlie are working to-day. If we had not applied chemistry to gold mining, there

would not be many mines working on the Golden Mile at the present time. It can safely be said that 90 per cent. of the gold that is extracted from ore is dissolved by means of cyanide solution, and in connection with the mining operations that are being carried on at Wiluna, success will first of all depend on the gold in the ore and then the extraction that is obtained. By means of the research work that is being carried on, we are hoping that that mine, on which so much money has already been expended, will be a wonderful success. We know also that without scientific research our wheat lands would not be producing within 40 per cent. of our present yields. A short time ago I read an article criticising the work that was done in some of our scientific institutions, such as the School of Mines and the Technical School. When a man starts to talk on scientific matters he enters another world, and he should know something about the subject. Very often it is the man working unobtrusively that brings fortune to a country and, sometimes, benefits himself, and he is the individual who should receive every encouragement. I ask hon. members, when debating questions around which are involved the subject of scientific research, to bear in mind the valuable work that has been done, and is still being done, by institutions such as the School of Mines, and not to hesitate to give their support to such establishments. Whatever money is spent in support of research work will be repaid a hundredfold. I submit the motion.

**HON. C. H. WITTENOOM** (South-East) [3.54]: I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. C. B. Williams, debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 3.55 to 4.45 p.m.*

#### **BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £1,730,000.**

*All Stages.*

Received from the Assembly, and read a first time.

*Standing Orders Suspension.*

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.48]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Bill to be passed through all its stages at this sitting.

It is considered necessary by the Government that the Supply Bill should be passed to-day. Hence the motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders.

Question put and passed.

*Second Reading.*

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter East) [4.50] in moving the second reading said: It is usual for a Supply Bill to be passed at this stage of the session. The amount asked for is £1,730,000, being £850,000 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £550,000 from General Loan Fund, £30,000 from Government Property Sales Fund, and £300,000 from the Treasurer's Advance Account. The amount is slightly less than that of the corresponding Bill of last session, which was £1,900,000. The difference is due to a smaller amount being asked for from General Loan Fund, £550,000 as compared with last year's £720,000. The Estimates for the current financial year are almost complete, and will be presented at an early date. The financial position has rendered their preparation a difficult task. Last year's results on revenue account were most unsatisfactory. When the 1929-30 Budget was presented, a surplus of £105,415 was anticipated. The actual result of the year's operations, however, was a deficit of £518,004, representing a difference of £623,419. The Railway Department showed a heavy falling-off as compared with the forecast, the actual result being that receipts fell £583,124 below expectations. Expenditure, on the other hand, showed a saving of only £167,352, the net result being £415,772 worse than the estimate. Taxation, however, has exceeded the estimate by £39,293. It is the cash position which causes most anxiety. At the 30th June last our overdraft in London stood at £1,320,000. In Australia there was a credit balance of £93,034. At the same date the General Loan Fund was overdrawn to the extent of £3,516,140. The Federal Government have been unable to borrow sufficient to cover our total authorisations by the Loan Council, and the shortage has been made up by the overdraft and by temporary advances granted by the Commonwealth, and also from trust funds. Hon. members will real-

ise that the position is becoming more acute. I do not wish to discuss the subject at length; and I trust that the Bill will be passed at this sitting, as the Government consider necessary. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

**HON. A. LOVEKIN** (Metropolitan) [4.55]: I should like to offer a few words on the Bill. I would be the last to seek to embarrass the Government at a period of difficulty such as that confronting us. But although I offer no opposition to the passing of the Bill, I reserve the right at a future date to take such steps in this House as will enable us to probe the finances of this country more than we have been in the habit of probing them in the past. The present position is so serious that we shall not be doing our duty to the country as a House of Review unless we review finance as well as everything else. What is in my mind is that we should get a select committee to go into the Estimates and see if there is any possibility of effecting some economy. Taking the Governor's Speech, which we have just heard, there is no suggestion of economies anywhere. The policy set out in the Speech is, if we cannot borrow any further on the merry-go-round, let us try to borrow on the swings. The Minister said we are already to the debit of over £3,000,000 on loan money. It seems to me those moneys were borrowed for the specific purpose of constructing railways and other things, and we have used them to make good the leeway in ordinary revenue. I think we must look into these matters, and I say now that at a later date I will move for a select committee so that we may see exactly where we are. It is very difficult for a member to take the Estimates and find out from them the true position. I make these remarks without any desire to embarrass the Government in a period of difficulty. My action will be in the direction of helping the Government. For, looking at the Estimates as they stood last year, I cannot conceive that Ministers themselves ever have had any supervision whatever over these Estimates. I think they have simply taken the figures presented to them by the various departments and rubber-stamped them. We have got beyond the stage when that ought to be done, and we must insist that Ministers shall look into their departments and see how far they can economise. For instance, we have Estimates, which mean

charging the salaries of officials to loan expenditure, and on the other side we see very little loan moneys expended. We cannot continue on those lines without getting into difficulty. It is on grounds such as these that I am going to move for the appointment of a select committee, although it may be objected by another place that in so doing we are presuming to interfere with finance. I say it is our duty in a time of difficulty to do what is right and point out where any savings can be made, for we cannot live for ever on borrowed money.

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [5.0]: Financial measures such as this are of a nature that renders it very difficult to offer that criticism which is possible when ordinary Bills are presented to us. Here we are asked to give to the Government of the day supply which they deem essential for carrying on the affairs of the country. It would ill become us as a House to unduly embarrass the Government either by criticism or by withholding our assent to the measure. At the same time, as I have claimed on previous occasions, we are entitled to some fuller details regarding the items referred to, and some explanation as to how this money is to be applied and for what it is actually needed. The Leader of the House has informed us of the position of certain Government departments and the difficulties experienced owing to Estimates not having been realised, and those other problems which confront the Government in carrying on the affairs of the State. Still we, as members of the House of review, should have fuller information supplied to us so that we can better understand the position and, if need be, offer helpful criticism to the Government in a time of great stress. Every member of the Chamber realises the difficulties confronting the Government—any Government, Liberal or Labour—in power at such a time. The difficulties of the Federal Government are very great, and equally so are the difficulties of each State Government no matter which party may be in power. All the Governments are faced with grave problems, and their position is such that every section of the community should extend to them the fullest help so as to enable them to right the ship of state. That should be our chief aim, and I desire to extend that help to whichever Government may be in power. There is a great deal in what has been said by Mr. Lovekin as to the appointing of a

select committee to make a thorough investigation of the Estimates and financial measures. Such a committee will be very helpful, and I hope it will be welcomed by the Government; for as the result of its investigations it might be able to devise ways and means to meet the present situation, a situation which is confronting also every Government in the Commonwealth as well as many in other parts of the world. The Government have come forward and asked for Supply. I am not going to say I would refuse my assent to granting that Supply at this stage, but I regret that a little fuller information was not furnished by the Leader of the House, and details given us to help us to a better understanding of the present difficulty. I had expected to hear a little more in the course of the Governor's Speech regarding economy. I have no doubt that something more will be said by the Government, because I believe they are seized with the serious necessity to practice every possible economy. The greater the economies that are practised, the more likely are we, as a State, to ride into a safe harbour.

**HON. H. SEDDON (North-East) [5.6]:**

In the past the consideration of a Supply Bill in this House has been more or less a matter of formality. We have had to realise that the only possible way this House could deal with the financial position would be to take the responsibility of setting aside such a measure and withholding supply. Such a step would be taken only on a rare occasion and for grave considerations. In the circumstances we have nearly always allowed a Supply Bill to go through without much opposition. At the present time we are justified in asking that the financial position be made clear. There has been a change of Government, and it is essential that we should have the sharpest possible line between the financial position at the end of the previous Government's administration and that with which the present Government were confronted. For that reason I was indeed pleased to hear Mr. Lovekin's suggestion for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the finances of the State. I assure him that such an action is long overdue. In my opinion such a step is absolutely necessary. In this House hon. members should always adopt a critical attitude respecting the finances, and in view of the statements that have been embodied annually in the reports of the Auditor

General, I am surprised that some such action has not been taken prior to this session. We must realise that the system of financing adopted by Governments has really been the result of development. Certain practices were adopted largely because of expedience and those practices became customs. They have served the purpose so long as our financial position has continued satisfactorily. When the State is confronted with a crisis and the money market becomes stringent, then the system of finance that was successful formerly, too frequently becomes not only a source of danger but is liable to trap a Government who may be confronted with an acute situation. For that reason I desire to endorse the attitude adopted by Mr. Lovekin regarding the appointment of a select committee. I urge that the matter be proceeded with as soon as possible in order that we may have a plain statement of our finances placed before hon. members. Reference has been made to the practice of charging salaries up against loan funds. Hon. members will have noticed at the beginning of the statement relating to the Loan Account each year that a certain sum of money is charged to administration. Naturally, we were inclined to wonder exactly why such a course was adopted. Surely it would be more sound finance if administration costs were borne by the Consolidated Revenue. On inquiry, however, we find that there are certain works that come within the scope of Treasury officials in connection with loan funds and their administration, and amounts have been charged up against loans in respect of that work. Again, it might be proposed that public works should be undertaken, works such as the construction of the Canning reservoir. It would be necessary for plans to be prepared, surveys to be undertaken, and much other preliminary work carried out. The usual course adopted is to charge up against the loan affected the salaries of the officials engaged in work of that description and, as time progresses and the undertakings proceeded with, the amounts so charged up are transferred to the actual works concerned. Regarding the present financial position, it is rather interesting to see just exactly how funds operate one upon another. The Leader of the House informed hon. members that the cash position at the end of the 30th June would be that we would have £93,000 in hand. When I remind hon. members that the cash position at the end of June of last year was that we

had £1,000,000 in hand, that at the end of March, 1930, we had £740,000 in hand, and now that cash position is reduced to £93,000, they will realise how exceedingly serious the financial position has become. It is evident that the conditions under which the present Government are operating are severe in the extreme, and will require more than ordinary care. In a statement in the Press the other day the Premier stressed that point when he stated that it was necessary for us to finance from day to day. He further emphasised the severity of the position when he pointed out that the accountants of the various departments were in constant consultation with the Treasury officials in order that they might watch the state of the funds and know exactly how expenditure was being controlled. As a matter of fact, the financial position is such that if, through some unforeseen circumstances, the State were involved in heavy expenditure, we might find that the Government had not the cash with which to meet that expenditure. If we had a serious washaway in connection with the railways, the financial position might be so stringent that the Government could not meet the necessary expenditure involved. The Government have to see to it that no undue expenditure is incurred and we should look to every Government department and every official and employee, however humble they may be, to all do their part in keeping public expenditure down to a minimum. The welfare and employment of a thousand workers may be intimately concerned in the application of such a policy, particularly in view of the fact that so little cash is available. Another factor to be taken into consideration is that, under the system of financing that has been in operation for many years past, instead of the books of the Treasury being closed on the 30th June sharp, so as to have a correct statement of receipts and expenditure up to that day, accounts are kept open for collections until the 10th July. Consequently, we find that one-third of the revenue for July is taken into account in the June figures, and thus in July we invariably find the financial position has resulted in a large deficit. In order to allow hon. members to appreciate the position, I shall read some figures that will show how this practice has operated during the last five years. In 1925 the deficit at the end of July was £218,955, and at the end of August the same year the

deficit was £132,854; in 1926 it was £232,735 in July and £108,817 in August; in 1927, £170,216 in July and £127,703 in August; in 1928, £238,179 in July and £187,721 in August; in 1929, £242,258 in July and £173,635 in August. Taking those figures as a guide, we have every reason to believe there will be a serious deficit at the end of the present month and a still larger one at the end of August.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Wipe out the cash balance.

Hon. H. SEDDON: That is the point I am coming to. We have been told there is such a small cash balance in hand that hon. members must realise the seriousness of the position and the difficulty confronting the Government in the task of balancing the ledger. In the circumstances the need is clearly shown for monthly balancing. That sounds all right, but a monthly balancing would involve us in a campaign of retrenchment and of cutting down our expenditure that would embarrass the whole of the Public Service. To avoid finishing up with a deficit of a quarter of a million at the end of the month and to do so in the 20 days that remain, would constitute a task that would be acknowledged to be beyond the powers of any Treasurer, no matter how capable he might be.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The position will not improve by its being postponed.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Not only will it not improve, but the inauguration of a policy of drift would make the position worse than it is now. I feel sure that the Government are fully impressed with the seriousness of the position, and are doing all they can to meet it. Our financing is done from two funds. There is the General Loan Fund which is the fund controlling our capital expenditure, and the Consolidated Revenue Fund which is the fund upon which we work from day to day and which controls the operations of all departments. The system in operation so far as the Loan Fund is concerned has been this, that the opportunity has been watched for going on the London or the Australian market with loan flotations. Loans have been floated at times that were thought to be convenient. On the other hand expenditure from Loan Account has gone on from month to month. Consequently there have been periods when our Loan Account has been considerably over-

drawn owing to the fact that the occasion has not been favourable for the flotation of a loan either in London or in Australia. When we examine the figures connected with the Loan Account and loan expenditure we cannot help being impressed by the fact that our loan expenditure has increased considerably during the last few years. It was only when the circumstances which brought the Financial Agreement into force began to operate that any control of our loan expenditure was attempted. Up to that time we were prepared to drift along. The more money we had, the more merrily we were likely to spend it. Only when adverse circumstances arose in London were we forced into the position that willy-nilly we were obliged to reduce our loan expenditure. The figures contained in the Speech indicate the way in which these forces have been operating. The fact that the figures have been falling from year to year should have been a warning to the party then in power, and should have been the means of bringing that party to a full sense of its responsibilities and inducing it to face the position while there was time. Instead of doing so the Government allowed matters to drift until the position became most acute, as it did at the end of last March. The system of financing by which loan accounts have been overdrawn is by the making of arrangements for an overdraft in London or by an overdraft against trust funds in the Treasury. Reference has been made to that in the Auditor General's report. The report of that officer for 1929 stresses the fact that the Loan Account was overdrawn and that the overdraft was being carried by the trust funds at the Treasury. That was an indication to the Government in power that it was time they took very serious control of affairs generally and controlled both their loan expenditure and their operations. The position as I have indicated became most acute. It was shown that not only was there an unfavourable position in London because funds were no longer available, but that in Australia the outlook was most uncertain. I remember the Premier referring to the fact that a warning had been given by Professor Brigidon in which he showed that the income of Australia was reduced, and that this must affect the whole of the finances of the country, especially Government finance. I should like to refer to the figures for March last. The Government

credits, so far as cash statements are concerned, show that they had something like  $5\frac{1}{2}$  millions in hand, apart from Savings Bank funds. The debits as they existed show that the General Loan Fund had a debit balance of £489,021 and the Consolidated Revenue Fund was in debit to the extent of £577,054. We were also carrying stores to the amount of £739,700. If a select committee, as is suggested, is appointed, here is a matter to which great attention could well be paid. The Government were carrying stores to the extent of £739,000. This indicates that they had either been overbuying very considerably or they must have been accumulating stores over a period of years. I suggest that the matter should be investigated and placed fairly before members. We also have the financial position at the 30th June last. The Consolidated Revenue account was then in debit to the extent of £518,000. The figures given by the Minister show that the General Loan Fund was in debit to the extent of £3,315,000, and in addition there was loan expenditure in suspense amounting to £200,000. The total of debits on General Loan Fund account at the end of June last was, therefore,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds. It is interesting to note that at that time the overdraft in London was  $1\frac{1}{3}$ rd millions. These are figures that must cause any community to stagger. We are more than ever in need of the services of financial geniuses, irrespective of the side of the House on which they sit, in order that the State's finances may be carried through the serious time ahead, and trouble to the whole community minimised to the utmost possible extent. With regard to the replacement of general loan funds, I would say that there is every reason for congratulation that the Federal loan has been floated so successfully. We can now count upon our General Loan Fund being reimbursed from that loan to the extent of £2,000,000. To that extent, therefore, we shall be in a much better position than we are now. On the other hand when we realise that Australia in London floated a paltry loan of £3,000,000 at a price of £95, and that the loan carries interest at the rate of seven per cent., I do not think any more condemning expression can be offered of the way in which Australian finance is regarded overseas. The Consolidated Revenue Fund is in debt at the moment. In the circumstances the request of the Premier for economy has been

stressed more by the figures than by his own statements. The Government which has just gone out of office cannot escape responsibility for the seriousness of the present position. In support of that statement I wish to quote certain figures. In 1927 the General Loan Account was in debit to the extent of £192,000; in 1928 it was in debit to the extent of £947,000, and in 1929 we had a debit on the General Loan Account of £1,218,000, together with an overdraft in London of £1,295,000. In December, 1929, six months later, the debit balance on our Loan Account was £889,000, and the overdraft in London was £1,100,000. In March, as I have said, the loan account showed a debit balance in Australia of £489,000 with an overdraft of £1,475,000. The figures for June were given by the Minister. When the ex-Premier, Mr. Collier, was speaking on the Budget on the 17th September, 1929, he used the following expressions:—

There were no loan flotations of any consequence last year.

He was referring to the year ended 30th June, 1929.

Our principal source of loan funds was the Commonwealth on account of migration loans. . . . Our last London loan of £3,000,000 was floated in April, 1928. . . . It has not been possible to float a loan on the London market since then, and it was necessary to obtain an overdraft to carry on.

With these statements before us, let us see exactly how the Government carried on their finances. The position at that time was most threatening. The Premier himself referred to the reports of economic experts on the national income and to the unsatisfactory position in London. Yet from July, 1929, to the 1st January, 1930, receipts from various sources totalled £2,238,000 and the expenditure incurred was £1,900,000. From January to March the receipts totalled £805,000, and the expenditure £514,000, so that although the position was so acute, the Government persisted in undertaking this very heavy loan expenditure, amounting, to the end of March, to £2,500,000, when, as they themselves admitted, the position was most obscure, and there was every indication that they should shorten sail and prepare to meet the coming storm. The position outlined by the Premier not only did not clear during that period but became intensified. We have had placed before us by the Press recently accounts of authorities who have

studied the position, and they say that bad as is the position at the present time, there is every indication that it will be worse in the future. It has to be recognised that the prices being obtained for our national products overseas—the products that pay the interest on our loans and pay for our imports—have not only fallen but are likely to remain down. Wool, timber and wheat are the products which we send overseas, and from the proceeds of which we have to meet our commitments abroad. On the other hand, internal expenditure has to be maintained in certain directions if we are going to do our duty to our own men. We have to realise that we shall be involved in expenditure for relief beyond the worst expectations of the past. There is every prospect of our being faced with a crisis as severe and widespread as that which existed in 1893. With these indications clearly visible to the late Government, I consider they should be called upon to explain why they did not act cautiously, why they did not reduce their loan expenditure, why they did not embark on a policy that at any rate would have left the State in a stronger financial position to meet the present situation. I maintain it is necessary for representatives of the late Government to explain exactly why they took the course they adopted and advance justification for pursuing it.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: How does the hon. member think an explanation from the late Government will help the position?

Hon. H. SEDDON: Perhaps I might ask, in reply to the hon. member, why members in another place last session did not take steps to investigate the report of the Auditor-General, the state of the finances, and the Estimates, and ensure that the then Government adopted a sounder policy.

Hon. E. H. H. Hall: What good do you think that would do?

Hon. H. SEDDON: Members in this House at any rate have a sense of their responsibility. In opening my remarks, I mentioned that this House had power, if necessary, to stop Supply. Why did not the hon. member do it?

Hon. J. M. Drew: Did the hon. member question anything I proposed last session?

Hon. H. SEDDON: Yes; last session I questioned the Estimates when they were placed before the House, and indicated that there was every possibility of their not being realised. I pointed out that, so far from the Government obtaining a surplus of

£105,000 for the year, there was a serious probability that they would end the year with a deficit. I refer the hon. member to "Hansard," which will show that I said it would be desirable not to decrease taxation but to increase it. When one refers to the results of the year's operations and considers the items of revenue and expenditure, one cannot but conclude that the late Government were woefully astray in their Estimates, and failed to take into serious consideration an obvious fact—the depression through which the Commonwealth was then passing. I should like briefly to refer to the Estimates because they were supposed to be based by the Government on the previous year's operations and on the prospects of the future. The Estimates regarding taxation have been referred to by previous speakers. It has been pointed out that the Government received from taxation a considerably larger amount than was estimated. Taking the items of taxation individually, we shall see exactly how they operated during the existence of the depression. Land tax in 1929 produced £196,000. The estimate for 1930—the year which I said was a year of depression—was £210,000. In that year the State actually received from land tax £219,000.

Hon. A. Lovekin: That was due to the increased assessments.

Hon. H. SEDDON: Yes, the assessments had been increased, and there was also the fact that the tax collected during 1930 was based on the income for 1929, which was a comparatively good year and had not been affected by the depression which became pronounced in 1930. The amount of income tax received in 1929 was £329,000 and the estimate was £320,000. In that respect the Government did exercise a certain amount of conservatism in their Estimates. The amount received this year was £340,000, so that again the Government experienced a more successful year than they estimated. Coming to such taxes as stamp duty, there is quite a different story to tell. For the year 1928-29 the State received by way of stamp duty £298,244. For the following year the estimate was £318,000, and the amount actually received £262,011, or £55,989 less than the estimate. From probate duty the receipts for 1928-29 were £82,169, and the estimate for 1929-30 was £85,500, the actual receipts being £75,707, or £9,793 less than the estimate. I do not suggest for a moment that any Government would be

capable of controlling the number of persons who should die and leave estates coming in for probate duty during the currency of a financial year. There, however, is the important fact that the values of estates coming in for probate are affected by the conditions obtaining at the time. Consequently it is highly probable that the depression prevailing in Australia had an effect in reducing the amount received from probate duty. Now I come to the revenue under the heading "Territorial." Here again the effects of the depression made themselves felt. The receipts from land revenue were £45,339 less than the estimate; and in the case of timber there was a shortage of £11,679. The total amount received under the heading of "Territorial" was £59,521 less than the estimate. Departmental fees, again, were £47,808 below anticipation. In this instance, it is interesting to note, the estimates were slightly below the receipts for the previous year. The total Territorial, etc., receipts for the previous year totalled £1,655,782, and the estimate was £1,614,724. The actual receipts for 1929-30 were £1,566,916. With regard to public utilities, the Leader of the House has stressed the fact that the Railway Department shows a most serious diminution in revenue, which was some £583,000 below expectations. It is quite evident that the late Government, in framing their Estimates, utterly failed to appreciate the nature of the depression under which the country is suffering. It is to be hoped that the present Government will not fall into the same serious error, but that they will give full weight to the obvious effect which the reduction in the national income will have on the revenues of our public departments and also on taxation results. It is plain that during the current year we shall have to face a position as regards income which will be infinitely worse than the position of last year. From the statements which have been made here to-day it is evident that determined efforts, and in most cases successful efforts, have been made to reduce departmental expenditure. This is different from the estimating of the late Government, which, anticipating a surplus of £518,000, resulted in a deficit of something like £600,000.

Hon. A. Lovekin: They were optimists.

Hon. H. SEDDON: I understand that the prevailing depression has resulted in a different definition of the term "optimist" from that which we have been accustomed to. It has been stated by a leading newspaper that

the community consists of three classes—pessimists, optimists, and ostriches. A pessimist is one who always looks on the black side of things, always forecasts the worst, can never see any advantage in initiative, enterprise, and facing the position. An optimist, on the other hand, is a man who fully appreciates the obstacles confronting him and makes up his mind to use his best endeavours to overcome them, who calls for the best talent existing in the community to face the position, but who is determined that the position shall be faced. The ostrich simply loses himself in lazy dreams of future prosperity, and does nothing to meet the position. I ask hon. members to apply one of these three definitions to describe the attitude adopted by the previous Administration, having regard to the serious dangers which confronted them during the last three years of their term of office. We have before us a Supply Bill. That measure is intended to provide authority for the expenditure during the forthcoming two months. In that period the Government have a most serious task ahead of them. On the other hand during that time hon. members will have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the position of the finances. Indeed, I suggest that every hon. member constitute himself a select committee to examine the finances. The finances could not have got into their present position if hon. members had taken the trouble to read the reports of the Auditor General and investigate matters for themselves. For instance, what is one to think of a State carrying an interest bill of approximately 3 millions annually when assets established from loan pay only about 1½ millions annually, the remainder having to be met out of Consolidated Revenue? Such a position should have caused every member of the community to think seriously. At any rate, the matter has been brought thoroughly home to us by the fact that the London financial authorities have asked us to live within our income. We shall have to achieve that under the handicap of a large annual interest bill in respect of money of which a large proportion has been lost. That loss will oppress the State for two generations.

Hon. H. Stewart: Your optimism with regard to what the members of this Council could have achieved in relation to expenditure is open to one of the definitions you have quoted.

Hon. H. SEDDON: I would not undertake to apply that definition to members of this Chamber. However, upon us as leaders of the people, as men occupying responsible positions, a most serious obligation rests. We have to set an example to the community. Many of our people are at present being asked to exist on miserable amounts of money.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You are asking the workers to carry the burden.

Hon. H. SEDDON: No. The burden has come upon the workers largely as the result of past maladministration and ignorance. The time is now ripe for a lead to be given by the Government and by members of this Chamber and of the other Chamber. We should be prepared to subscribe regularly from our salaries to an unemployment fund. Having set that example we can ask every member of the community to do likewise. The man who is in a job should help the man who is out of a job, instead of the difficulty being left to be handled as it is at present, by voluntary effort throughout the community, by each little local authority trying to grapple with the problem in its own boundaries, the money being spent in ways which after all cannot be classed as revenue-producing. We have the right to ask the Government to introduce a measure of taxation that will spread the burden equally over the whole community. We should, however, first set an example, in order that we may be able to say to the people, "We are not asking you to do something that we are not prepared to do ourselves." Furthermore, the money to be raised should be devoted to the purpose of revenue-producing work. On that aspect I shall have more to say during the Address-in-reply debate. However, there are many figures in connection with State finance which I considered should be brought before the public at the earliest possible moment, in order that the community may appreciate the seriousness of the position and in order that we may consider what steps we can take to overcome the crisis by which we are confronted and which we shall have to pass through during the next few years.

**HON. E. H. H. HALL** (Central) [5.45]: I would not have taken part in this discussion were it not that a member of the standing of Mr. Lovekin gave it as his considered opinion that the Ministers of the

present Government have simply acted in rubber-stamp manner on the Estimates put before them by the heads of the departments.

Hon. A. Lovekin: On a point of order. I did not suggest anything of the sort in regard to present Ministers; for I knew quite well that they have not yet gone through their Estimates.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order; it is a personal explanation.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I definitely thought the hon. member said he was of opinion that Ministers had acted as rubber stamps. I resented that because I knew—I have had it, not from the present Ministers, but from heads of departments—that the Estimates have been subjected to very severe consideration on the part of the present Ministers, and so I wanted to make that point clear. We have listened to a long speech from Mr. Seddon, who has had a lot to say about pessimists and optimists and ostriches. I wonder which Mr. Seddon himself is.

Hon. G. Fraser: He is a pessimistic optimist.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: I think that is about right. Mr. Seddon has taken up considerable time in telling us all about the state of affairs, which I think every man and woman in the State knows only too well. He has said we are faced with a crisis. How many hundreds of times during the last couple of months have we been told that? Mr. Seddon urged members to realise the seriousness of the position. That kind of thing is being heard everywhere. This afternoon three members of the Chamber have expressed surprise that this Chamber has not taken up a stronger stand regarding the finances of the State. As a new member, I say this Chamber can honestly claim to have taken a stand repeatedly. But of what avail is it when we have in charge of the Treasury men who ignore parliamentary direction? I hope we now have in charge of the Treasury and other departments men who appreciate the position stated by Mr. Seddon. If that is so, there is no need for members to urge them to realise the seriousness of the position, for our monetary supplies are cut short and so we shall have to cut the coat according to the cloth. I ask that each of us apply himself to the position as he finds it and

not sit down and indulge in a lot of woe-begone postmortem examination, but rather consider something constructive.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Well, why not set a good example?

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Then we shall be helping the Administration to find a way out of this crisis which, we know only too well, we are in.

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East—in reply) [5.49]: I appreciate the kindly consideration given to the Bill by members. I do not think the House, nor even Mr. Seddon, would like me to reply to his financial statement this afternoon. To do so would involve a lot of time; but on a later occasion I will gladly give any necessary replies. Mr. Lovekin said there were no suggestions of economies. What could there be in this Bill suggesting economies, beyond the fact, which I stated in moving the second reading, that the amount is lower than that in the corresponding Bill of last year. That, of course, suggests that some economy is being exercised. The hon. member went on to say that Ministers should look into the departments and see where economies could be carried out. One would think the hon. member had some knowledge of what Ministers are actually doing or not doing. As a matter of fact, each and every Minister from the very commencement has practised economies, and in the near future Mr. Lovekin and other hon. members will know where those economies are being effected. It has also been said that in moving the second reading I should have given further details. But it is not usual to go into details on a Supply Bill. It would involve a very long statement. When moving the second reading I said the Estimates were almost complete and would be brought down at an earlier date than were last year's Estimates, which to a large extent have caused the expenditure for which we are asking for money to-day. The present Government had to carry on the expenditure; they could not stop everything.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The reasons for the Supply must have been indicated by your needs; those are the reasons that I suggested you should have given to us.

**THE MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES**: It is unusual for a detailed ex-

planation to be given on a Supply Bill. All the details will be furnished on the Estimates, which will be brought forward much earlier than they were last year.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Is not this Bill on the basis of that of last year?

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: Yes.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Then, this is no economy.

The MINISTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES: The amount is below that of last year. There is nothing further for me to say. I hope the second reading will be agreed to.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time

*In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Read a third time and passed.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES** (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [5.54]: I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, the 12th August.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 30th July, 1930.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

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

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A message from the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. 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 the Chief Justice (Sir Robert Furze McMillan) having been commissioned by the 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 Irwin-Moore, Maylands, Mt. Marshall, Nedlands, Northam, West Perth, and York.

With the following exceptions, all the members elected were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute and signed the roll: Miss Holman (Forrest), Mr. Lamond (Pilbara), Mr. H. W. Mann (Perth), Mr. Teesdale (Roebourne).

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [12.34], addressing the Clerk, said: The House being duly constituted, I now move—

That Mr. Stubbs do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. G. Latham—York): I second the motion.

Mr. STUBBS (Wagin): I submit myself to the will of the House.

There being no other nominations,

The SPEAKER-ELECT, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, said: It is indeed extremely difficult to express in adequate language the thanks and gratitude that is in my heart for the great honour which my fellow members have conferred upon me this day. Truly I realise the responsibility attached to the office of Speaker. My predecessors have filled the Chair so ably and