

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

The Parliament was prorogued on the 1th December, 1931, to the 2nd June, 1932. It was further prorogued to the 30th June, then to the 28th July and again to the 11th August, when it met for the despatch of business.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 11th August, 1932.

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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at noon pursuant to Proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. A. R. Grant).

COMMISSIONER.

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

Members of the Assembly having arrived accordingly, His Honour requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in his name for the opening of Parliament. The Commission was read.

The Commissioner then made the following statement:—

Hon. members of the Legislative Council, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative Assembly.—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and Administrator to inform you that he will in person in this place

declare the reasons for his calling this session of Parliament, so soon as the members of the Legislative Council shall have notified him that they have elected their President.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

The members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, the Clerk of Parliaments read the Commission appointing Mr. Justice Draper to administer the oath of allegiance to newly-elected members.

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members, showing that the following had been duly elected:—Hon. C. F. Baxter (East), Hon. L. B. Bolton (Metropolitan), Hon. A. McA. Clydesdale (Metropolitan-Suburban), Hon. E. H. Gray (West), Hon. E. H. Harris (North-East), Hon. J. J. Holmes (North), Hon. Sir John Waters Kirwan (South), Hon. W. J. Mann (South-West), Hon. T. Moore (Central), Hon. J. Nicholson (Metropolitan), Hon. H. V. Piesse (South-East). These members, with the exception of the Hon. T. Moore, took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

The Commissioner then left the Chamber.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The Clerk of Parliaments reported that the office of President was vacant.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [12.29]: I propose to the Council that the Hon. Sir John Kirwan be elected as our President. I am afraid that if I were to say all that I could say in his favour, it would to a large extent embarrass him. Members appreciate the admirable way in

which he has carried out his duties as President, and I feel sure that, if re-elected, he will continue to do so as before. I have pleasure in proposing him as our President.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) [12.30]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion, and feel sure it will meet with the approval of members generally. There is no doubt that during the period the hon. gentleman occupied the important position of President he won the complete confidence of the House. He was first elected to the position in 1926. Even with those who were apt to be captious in connection with matters relating to Parliament Sir John Kirwan escaped criticism. He has merited his re-election; he has a right to it, and has won that right by the success which attended his period of office. He has been scrupulously fair and just, and, whilst he has insisted on the strict observance of the Standing Orders has at all times been considerate to members, especially to those who were new to the House. I trust that when he is re-elected to the position of President he will long continue to hold that office which he has so ably filled in the past.

HON. SIR JOHN KIRWAN (South) [12.32]: I thank members for the honour it has been proposed to confer on me, and submit myself to the will of the Council.

No other member having been proposed,

THE PRESIDENT ELECT said: I desire to thank members for the honour they have conferred upon me in re-electing me as President of this Chamber—a Chamber that, this year, celebrated the centenary of its first meeting. The Legislative Council began as a nominee legislative body, consisting of leading Government officials, presided over by the Governor. It gradually developed in accordance with the growth of our political institutions. It soon became partly elective, and then wholly elective. Through its efforts, the Legislative Assembly, forty-two years ago, came into existence. The bicameral system as we have it to-day was then established. The records of the hundred years' life of the Legislative Council show that its members endeavoured to maintain earnestly the best traditions of Parliament—that they had a high sense of responsibility and zeal for the public welfare. Their work should be—and indeed, I believe

it is—an inspiration to present-day members. It is no wonder that present-day members are jealous of the reputation of this Chamber. It is six years and a day since you first entrusted to me the office of President. Anything I may have done to warrant a renewal of your confidence is due not to myself: it is due to the kind consideration that one and all of the members extended to me, to their readiness to recognise the authority of the Chair, and to their willingness to assist me in every way. I know that I can always rely on their help, and this gives me confidence in taking up again the position of President. Once more, I thank honourable members.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [12.36]: May I congratulate you, Sir, upon your re-election to the high and honourable position of President of this Council, and say I think you have thoroughly deserved it.

Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 2.55 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT ELECT.

THE PRESIDENT: I desire to inform the House that I have waited upon, and have been presented to, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor as President elect of the Legislative Council, and His Excellency has been pleased to signify his approval of the choice of the Council.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Hon. T. MOORE (Central) took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.7 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 Second Session of the fourteenth Parliament of Western Australia open for the transaction of public business.

This year being the centenary of the first meeting of the Legislative Council, which took place on the 7th February, 1832, His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to transmit the following message to be read on this occasion:—

"I am greatly interested to learn that the present opening of Parliament marks the centenary of the first meeting of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. I desire to take this opportunity to congratulate the members on this important celebration and to express my confidence that their deliberations will ever tend to the happiness and prosperity of my loyal people of the State of Western Australia."

GEORGE, R.I.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1932, was £8,035,316 and the expenditure £9,593,212, leaving on the year's transactions a deficit of £1,557,896, which is almost wholly made up by exchange £620,058 and unemployment relief £643,996, these two alone amounting to £1,264,054.

In order to meet the grave financial crisis which existed, expenditure has been greatly reduced during the year in accordance with the Premiers' Plan. The falling off in revenue has necessitated economy in every possible direction, so that Government might continue along the path of financial reconstruction.

Although the price of Australian stocks has shown a very heartening increase during the past year, it is considered inadvisable to endeavour to raise loan money overseas. Loan expenditure has consequently been restricted, and only £1,380,225 was available last year on this account.

The persistence of the world-wide depression made it imperative for the Premiers to decide unanimously that the provisions of the Premiers' Plan should be continued for the ensuing year.

In response to an invitation from the Commonwealth Government, the Government of Western Australia submitted a case setting out the disabilities which the State suffers under Federation. The Commonwealth Government have decided to recommend to their Parliament that a grant of £500,000 be made to the State this year

as a set-off against those disabilities. This amount represents an increase of £200,000 over that received for each of the last six years.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

It is very satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding low prices prevailing in the world's markets, quantity production in Western Australia has increased over the last year. Interstate and overseas imports, which in 1929-30 amounted to £18,781,656, were reduced last year by almost eight million pounds, and this year the value of imports was still further reduced to £10,656,404. The value of the average overseas export of Australia for the past year was £16 per head of population. The overseas exports of Western Australia amounted to £37 per head, which was twice as much as that of the next highest State. The fall in commodity prices has constituted a grave setback to the State, seriously hampering development, trade, and employment. Exchange rates, however, played an important part in maintaining exports: but during the year exchange was reduced from 30 per cent. to 25 per cent. Although the high rate still maintained involves the Government in a considerable liability connected with the payment of overseas interest, my Ministers hope that, in view of its benefit to primary producers, there will be no further reduction in the rate until world prices improve.

During 1931 the production of wheat was the highest on record, with the exception of the 1930 crop, which yielded 53 million bushels. This year increased supplies of superphosphate have been despatched to farming districts, and, as the copious rains and other favourable conditions promise an excellent season, it is not improbable that the record yield of 53 million bushels may be exceeded.

Relief has been afforded to borrowers from the Agricultural Bank by a reduction in the rate of interest to 6 per cent. on ordinary mortgages, and to mortgagors under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act by a reduction of the interest rate to 4½ per cent.

The operations of the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act have proved a success for the purpose for which that Act was designed, and have enabled a very large number of farmers to secure protection and assistance.

Pastoral.

Last year the wool clip amounted to 71,614,145 lbs., and at the end of the year it was estimated that there were 10,096,614 sheep in the State. Considerable attention is now being given to the breeding of lambs for export. It is anticipated that trade in this direction will be greatly increased during the coming year.

Dairying.

The supplies provided by the dairying industry have at last almost overtaken local demand. Last year exporters sent 25,000 boxes of butter overseas. During the year 10¼ million pounds of butter were manufactured. This constitutes almost 2½ times the quantity produced in 1927. The number of dairy cattle has increased to 85,625. Two new factories commenced operations during the year, making a total of 14, with one condensed milk factory. A cheese factory has just been opened and another condensed milk factory is nearing completion.

Fruit.

The fruit crop of the past year provided another record of 812,395 cases shipped overseas. Qualities were excellent and prices generally satisfactory.

Gold Mining.

One of the brightest features in the State's development is the condition of the gold mining industry. The exchange, the gold bonus, and the world's price of gold have afforded a welcome stimulus, and the present outlook is more promising than it has been for years.

Gratifying developments on the Golden Mile at depth have been reported, while several of the companies at that centre are engaged in the erection of modern plant which will conduce toward better results. The Wiluna mine is now a regular producer and is fulfilling its early promise.

The State's gold yield for the year 1931 eclipsed that of the previous year by 94,203

fine ounces, valued at approximately £650,000. The yield for the six months ended 30th June, 1932, was even greater than that of the similar period of 1931 by 63,481 ounces, valued at £444,365.

In order to cope with the increased activity, which is not confined to any one field, the Government have erected several new batteries in various districts.

Railways.

Although traffic on the Government railways and tramways has suffered a serious decline, it is gratifying to know that returns from these facilities show progress over the previous year. The railways recorded an improvement of £179,696 nett revenue and the tramways £5,796 nett revenue. The advent of normal times should still further improve the position.

Lands.

During the year 1,226 applications, involving 531,991 acres, were approved under conditional alienation, and 73 applications for pastoral leases, comprising 3,446,957 acres, were approved. 192 blocks were allocated by the Land Board, and the number of new settlers for the year was 571.

Wire netting of a length of over 406 miles has been supplied to 120 settlers at a cost of £19,486.

Forests.

The excellence of Western Australian hardwoods for a great range of uses is receiving wider recognition in many countries, and when these countries can afford their normal requirements, the timber industry will enter on a period of renewed prosperity.

During the year regeneration and improvement work has been carried out over 65,000 acres of cut-over jarrah forest. This it is proposed to continue. Similar work on a smaller scale is being undertaken in karri, tuart and mallet forest areas.

To meet the growing demand for softwood timber for local requirements, 960 acres, involving three-quarters of a million trees, will be planted this winter in a number of centres in the South-West Land Division.

Irrigation.

In order to develop more fully the high potential value of parts of our South-Western areas, several irrigation works have been undertaken, and considerable progress has been made with these during the year. The weir at Drakesbrook has been completed, and an improvement is already discernible in the many holdings affected. Large schemes proceeding at Harvey and Collie should effect a tremendous increase in production in those districts.

Progress and Development.

The record of progress illustrates that, despite the stringent financial depression through which the world has been passing, Western Australia has been able to maintain and increase her production from almost every avenue. The restriction of loan money has naturally curtailed necessary developmental work, but all moneys available have been devoted to works calculated to promote the greatest development.

Revival of Trade.

As a consequence of the depression many of our population have suffered loss of employment. With the loan money arranged at the last Premiers' Conference, it is anticipated that part-time work will be found for the majority, if not all, of those now in receipt of sustenance. This should result in considerable business activity, and a revival of trade generally.

Legislation.

You will be asked to give consideration to measures dealing with—

- Re-enactment of emergency legislation.
- Bulk handling.
- Transport.
- Control of lotteries.
- Modification of imprisonment for debt.
- Elections.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your labours in the interests of this State.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CENTENARY.*Address to His Majesty the King.*

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [3.28] I move—

That the following address be presented to His Majesty the King:—"We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to the Throne and Person of His Majesty the King and our thanks for the honour that has been conferred upon the Council by His Majesty's message of congratulation on the celebration of the centenary of the first meeting of the Council."

So far as I am aware, this is the first time that the Parliament of this State has been honoured by receiving a message direct from His Majesty the King. In fact, I do not know—though I cannot be sure on the point—of any occasion when such a signal honour has been conferred previously upon any House of Parliament in Australia. It is therefore needless for me to impress upon this honourable Chamber the exceptional nature of the event and, as an expression of our appreciation and gratitude and sense of loyalty, I submit the motion I have read.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) [3.30]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think it is necessary to put this motion in the ordinary way. I will ask hon. members to carry it by rising in their places.

Hon. members having risen in their places, the motion was accordingly passed.

**BILL—CATTLE TRESPASS, FENCING,
AND IMPOUNDING ACT AMEND-
MENT.**

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [3.32]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend Sections 30 and 34 of the Cattle Trespass, Fencing and Impounding Act, 1882."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

MOTION—CONDOLENCE.

Hon. A. Lovekin, M.L.C.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [3.34]: It is with a poignant feeling of personal, as well as public, loss, a feeling which I believe to be fully shared by every hon. member, that I rise to make a reference to the passing of the Hon. Arthur Lovekin, an eminent citizen and noted philanthropist of this State, and a Western Australian patriot. From first to last during his residence of some forty years in Western Australia, Mr. Lovekin, in every sense of the expression, gave of his best to the people and to the legislature of his adopted land. A leading journalist, our departed friend cherished the interests of this country and unremittingly maintained and advanced them. The columns of the newspapers that he edited and owned were consistently marked by a vigilant and even jealous regard for the welfare of the State and its people. It is not too much to say of Mr. Lovekin, that from the day of his election to this Chamber, twelve years ago, he created for himself something in the nature of a unique position. His intellectual powers, his long and wide experience of men and affairs, combined with an almost uncannily close study of proposed legislation, secured to him the ear of the House whenever he rose in the place which will know him no more, and he has left his enduring mark on the Statute-book. May not it be said that he touched no Bill which he did not improve? Of perhaps equal or even greater importance and public benefit, were the late gentleman's activities in the Children's Court, where his heart guided him as much as did his brain. Mr. Lovekin was an ideal magistrate in juvenile cases, combining, as he did, kindly persuasion with firmness. Of his other activities for the public good, one might speak at considerable length. The King's Park Board especially afforded him opportunities for generous contributions from his head and his purse. Intellectual and pecuniary generosity, exercised simultaneously, were Mr. Lovekin's outstanding characteristics. His mind and his wealth alike were freely devoted to the public welfare and unostentatious private benevolence. May I conclude this brief and necessarily inadequate tribute to the memory of a notable citizen, legislator and patriot by saying that we deplore his death and profoundly sympathise with his daughter in her bereavement.

I confidently ask the indulgence of hon. members while I make reference to the loss Western Australia has sustained by the death, during the recess, of our old fellow-member and esteemed friend, Mr. J. W. Hickey. The deceased gentleman's service in this Chamber was lengthy, extending from 1916 to 1928, and included a period of six years as Honorary Minister in the Collier Government. Politically Mr. Hickey combined loyalty to his Party with consideration for the welfare of the State as a whole, and his personal qualities were such as to ensure him the regard of political opponents. The recollection of Mr. Hickey's name is further assured by the system of volunteer fire brigades, for the development of which he laboured so energetically and successfully. May I also avail myself of this opportunity to allude to the decease of a former Clerk of Parliaments, Mr. Bernard Parker, the mere mention of whose name calls up a host of pleasant and interesting recollections. Mr. Parker's association with the Legislative Council, first as Usber of the Black Rod and later as Clerk, extended over more than a quarter of a century; and his legal qualifications and wide knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and practice enabled him to render to members services which were as valuable as they were ungrudging. Unfortunately this is not the only Chamber where Death has taken its toll. I know it is not quite usual, still I feel I would like to refer to the serious losses sustained by another place. First there was the death of the Hon. Thomas Walker who, for very many years graced Parliament with his presence and for a long period occupied the high and honourable position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, a position in which he did great credit to himself and to the Chamber. For a long period he gave good service to the constituency he represented and in every sense of the word was an acquisition to the State as a legislator and as a public man. His career was an extremely varied one and made him very versatile, and his loss will be felt greatly in the legislative halls of the State. Again there was another loss by the death of the member for Roebourne, Mr. F. W. Teesdale, a man who was always prepared to fill any role that required accurate brain and clever tongue. Certainly he imparted great life to any proceedings. He was a very useful member, and a strong advocate of the northern portion of the State,

the residents of which will miss him greatly. Again, a strong party man in the person of Mr. J. T. Lutey, member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe for a considerable number of years, passed away. He, unfortunately, suffered greatly previous to his demise. He was an able representative of his constituents. The loss of those three members will be keenly felt. I conclude by moving—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the public service rendered to Western Australia by the late Hon. Arthur Lovekin, a member for the Metropolitan Province, and expresses its deep sympathy to his daughter in the irreparable loss she has suffered by his decease; and that the President be requested to transmit this resolution to Miss Lovekin.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) [3.42]: I second the motion, and in doing so endorse the whole of the remarks of the Chief Secretary regarding the late Mr. Walker, Mr. Lutey, Mr. Teesdale, Mr. Hickey and Mr. Parker. Addressing myself specifically to the motion, there are few men amongst those who have gone before who, in my opinion, have left such a record of public service as has Mr. Lovekin. Much of that record was built up before he entered this House. He came to Western Australia in 1886 and joined the local Press. He became a member of the staff of one of the daily newspapers and maintained his connection with it, first as an employee, and later as proprietor, which connection was continued until a few years ago. Very often brilliant journalists are unknown outside literary circles, but from the outset Mr. Lovekin's forceful personality brought him into public prominence, and almost every member of the community knew him either personally or by repute.

The **PRESIDENT**: Order! I must request guests in the gallery not to leave until the close of the proceedings, which will not last long. The least they might do is not to interrupt the proceedings by leaving beforehand.

HON. J. M. DREW: Mr. Lovekin associated himself with every progressive movement, and did much to mould public opinion with reference to enterprise and industrial development. Rather late in life he entered Parliament, but he had very little to learn in his new undertaking. His journalistic duties, extending over many years, had given him a grasp of Parliamentary practice and usage, as well as of constitutional questions, that few, probably, in Australia could equal.

He was a keen critic, as I had every reason to know and realise. He examined every clause and every line of a Bill, and gave members the full benefit of his investigations. Though very controversial, he was always gentlemanly. Never a rude word escaped his lips. He will be missed in the House and outside the House. In private life he benefited many people by his benevolence. His charitable deeds were generally unknown to the public; they were known only to a few through official connection with the movements he assisted. He contributed very largely to the relief of distress, and did so whenever occasion arose. Substantial sums of money were paid by him for the relief of the poor, but almost always his contributions were made through a safe channel and with the expressed stipulation that the name of the donor should not be disclosed. Those who knew Mr. Lovekin best appreciated his fine qualities and were in a position to place a fair and just estimate on his character. Those of us who studied his career and were personally associated with him during a period of 45 years are able to judge of the value of his services in the interests of the State.

THE PRESIDENT [3.47]: Before putting the motion I wish to say a few words to express regret at the very heavy toll indeed that death has taken of members since our last meeting. Of those who have passed away, I was brought into contact with two, one of them, the Hon. Thomas Walker, who was for three years Speaker during my term of office as President. I found him ever desirous of avoiding unnecessary friction between the two Houses, and our relationship was always most cordial. His electorate formed part of the province I represent, and I know that his death brought deep sorrow to the hearts of his constituents, as well as to all who knew him really well. Mr. Lovekin, too, will be much missed in public life. Of him I can speak with a knowledge of his work in this House. Mr. Lovekin was far-seeing and capable; possessed of an alert brain and tireless industry; a careful student of all Bills; a vigilant watcher of the work of administration; an experienced business man, and a shrewd financier. Though a merciless critic in the interests of the public, yet Mr. Lovekin had a kindly heart. I knew him as one who did good by stealth; and his sympathy was ever extended, and his purse was ever open, to those in trouble and

distress. I ask hon. members to carry this motion in the usual way.

Question passed: members standing.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

DISTRIBUTION.

The PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieutenant-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. L. B. BOLTON (Metropolitan)
[3.53]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver 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.”

At the outset I desire to offer to you, Mr. President, my sincere congratulations upon your having been re-elected as President of this Chamber. The very able, conscientious, impartial and dignified manner in which you have guided the deliberations of the House is appreciated by all members, and I am voicing their feelings in tendering congratulations to you. May you be spared, Sir, for many years to preside over our deliberations. Having been returned for the seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Arthur Lovekin, and having personally known the deceased gentleman for 35 years, I feel that I should pay a brief tribute to his memory. He was, as already has been expressed, an outstanding personality in this State for many years, and did a vast amount of public good during that period. May I add that as King's Park will for ever constitute a memorial of the foresight of the late Lord Forrest, so the development of King's Park will remain a memory and a tribute to the wonderful work performed by Mr. Lovekin. I appreciate that in following him I have set myself a hard task: but I shall use every endeavour to prove a worthy successor, and shall try

to take the broad view that, although I represent the Metropolitan Province, the prosperity of the city can only reflect that of the whole State. There never was a time when the problems to be faced were so difficult of solution. I believe that every hon. member will agree with me that no previous Government had greater difficulties to overcome. We are informed that the deficit for the financial year just closed amounts to £1,557,896. Bearing in mind that exchange and unemployment relief absorbed no less than £1,200,000 of that amount, we realise that the Government did extremely well to keep within the amount of the deficit laid down by the Premiers' Conference. Without the two items I have mentioned, the deficit would have amounted to only £357,896. Owing to the grave financial crisis still existing, expenditure must, wherever possible, be still further reduced and economy practised in every direction. I must own that the Government are entitled to all the sympathy we can extend to them in that respect. There are, however, directions in which the Government can and should further reduce the public expenditure. I am a little disappointed to find that there is no suggestion of this in the Governor's Speech by way of reducing the numbers of members in both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Abolish this House altogether!

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is very unusual to interrupt an hon. member who is making his first speech in this Chamber.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I have advocated this reduction for many years, and I am still of the opinion that two representatives, instead of three, for each province, making a total of 20 members in lieu of 30 for this Chamber, and a reduction from 50 members to 35 in the Legislative Assembly, would yet give the people ample representation in our legislative halls. Indeed, I would go even further and support the suspension of Parliament for a term of five or seven years, as I am convinced that better results would be obtained if a commission of, say, six members were appointed to control the affairs of the State in the interests of the State, and the State only, and not of any political party. It would, naturally, be necessary for us to secure the very best brains available, men who have made a success of their own affairs and who would be

paid salaries in keeping with the high and honourable positions of trust which they would hold. This step would also have the effect of removing our public utilities from political control or interference, thus giving the management a much freer hand in the conduct of those utilities. In return the State could demand and expect more efficient management. We are also told in the Speech that loan expenditure and borrowing powers have been restricted during the past year. Personally I am not sorry that this is so, for I believe that our present troubles have been brought about mainly by over-borrowing and reckless expenditure. I wish to express my personal view that the policy of borrowing in order to create work, unless of a reproductive character, is entirely wrong and highly dangerous. The solution, to my mind, of the unemployment problem lies in the encouragement of private enterprise, which should have the assurance that it will be safe from socialistic interference and competition. The Government should continue to do all in their power to assist private enterprise in absorbing labour. I certainly do not believe that wages can be much further reduced in the interests of the community, as I am of the opinion that the continued reduction of the spending power of the people will not bring back the days of prosperity. I am gratified to know that our interstate and oversea imports, which in 1929-30 amounted to some £19,000,000, have been reduced to just over £10,000,000 for the past year, showing an improvement of about £8,000,000. Much of this improvement is due to the Government and public institutions which have used strenuous efforts to foster and develop both our primary and our secondary industries. It is also pleasing to note that Western Australia's exports per head of the population are still more than double those of the next highest State of the Commonwealth. The relief afforded borrowers from the Agricultural Bank and to discharged soldier-settlers was a very wise move, and the Government are to be commended for the action they have taken. We have been told that the gold-mining industry is in a more promising condition than it has been for many years, and with the assistance of the exchange, the gold bonus and the world's price of gold, the industry has been given a welcome stimulus. It is sincerely to be hoped that no interference will take place with regard to the bonus

which has had so much to do with the position that obtains to-day. The fact that it is intended to plant nearly 1,000 acres of soft-wood timbers in the South-West is very pleasing, as the industries of the State that require soft woods are at a distinct disadvantage in that direction. This work is to be further commended for the reason that it will absorb many of our unemployed. The suggested legislation to control gambling is long overdue, and I hope that the Government will be fearless in the attitude to be adopted. Any benefit that may be the outcome of this legislation should be devoted to assisting our own charities, and the considerable sums of money being continually sent out of the State should be kept within our own borders. Bulk handling of wheat is one of the burning questions of the day, and the Government are evidently alive to that fact. As a wheat grower on a large scale, I am naturally a supporter of anything that will reduce the cost of production, but I am emphatically opposed to State control of the scheme. I consider the Government would have been better advised, when it set out to get the required information, to have secured the benefit of the world's best brains, instead of relying solely upon their own engineers who have had little or no experience in connection with bulk handling. As there is such a diversity of opinion regarding the whole question, I would counsel the most minute inquiry before the adoption of any scheme. The removal of the State Implement Works from the provisions of the State Trading Concerns Act, I view with great suspicion. The past actions of the Government in respect of State trading generally have not met with my approval, and at a later stage I may have quite a lot to say on the subject. I am disappointed to note that there is no suggestion of amending the Workers' Compensation Act. The provisions of the existing Act, as they apply to both our primary and secondary industries, are most iniquitous. The Government are fully aware of the serious position by their action during the previous session of Parliament, and I sincerely hope the existing law will not be allowed to remain in its present unsatisfactory state. Referring to the position of our primary products, it is pleasing to note the wonderful progress that is still being made, and it is gratifying to know that other than the price, over which we have no control, the position is so satisfactory. I trust that in the interests of the primary producers the outcome of the deliberations

at Ottawa will result in some relief being granted to those industries. I submit the motion.

HON. H. V. PIESSE (South-East) [4.6]: I formally second the motion.

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

House adjourned at 4.6 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 11th August, 1932.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. G. Steere).

SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard the Commission for the opening of Parliament read, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

The Speaker announced returns to writs for the election of members for the districts of Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, Kanowna and Roebourne, showing that Messrs. F. C. L. Smith, E. Nulsen and J. H. Church respectively had been elected.

The three new members took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

MOTIONS (3)—CONDOLENCE.

The late Hon. T. Walker, M.L.A., J. T. Lutey, M.L.A., and F. W. Teesdale, M.L.A.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [12.17]: Since we last sat the Angel of Death has been abroad, and we have lost three of our members—all well-known men. One was Mr. Thomas Walker, who served in this House for many years, part of the time as a Minister of the Crown and for six years as Speaker of this House. We shall long remember Mr. Walker, who was a most capable member. He was a friendly soul, and will be missed by all of us. Mr. Walker had an extremely varied career. He sat in the New South Wales Parliament for three years, and afterwards took up journalism in this State. He was elected for the district of Kanowna in October, 1905, and held the seat until his death. He became Minister for Justice on the formation of the Scaddan Government in 1911, and was called to the Bar a little time afterwards. He was also a member of the University Senate. He played many parts during his life in Western Australia, and urged reform in several directions. He suffered a prolonged illness, and died at the ripe age of 74. In Mr. Lutey we lost a former Chairman of Committees. He was the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, for which district he was returned in 1916. Mr. Lutey possessed a charming personality and endeared himself to everybody. I doubt whether he had an enemy in the world. It would not have been possible for Mr. Lutey to offend anybody so seriously as to cause resentment to be long entertained. During the whole of his service in the House he worked conscientiously and wholeheartedly in the interests of the State. We missed him during the long illness he suffered, and shall continue to miss him. He died at a comparatively early age. We have also lost Mr. F. W. Teesdale, member for Roebourne. He came to this State as a young man, and went to the North-West in the early eighties. His, also, was a varied career. He was elected by the people of Roebourne in 1917 and held the seat until his death. He had many outside interests, but whatever he undertook was done for the advancement of the State and in the interests of the people. He was a most picturesque and most lovable man. Like Mr. Lutey, he had not an enemy in the world. Sometimes he offended people, but to make up a difference with Mr. Tees-