

the North Districts. He remained in this House until 1890, when, on the Council becoming wholly elective, he ceased to be a member. He was then elected to another place in the first Parliament as the member for De Grey, and eventually, on the 4th December, 1894, was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands, which office he resigned on the 13th March, 1897. The late Mr. Richardson was one of those hardy settlers who have done so much for the advancement of land settlement in Western Australia, and for the good of Western Australia as a whole. Most of us knew him well, and esteemed very highly his sterling qualities. By his own energy, and by the good grasp that he always obtained of everything he undertook, he raised himself to eminence in the Forrest Administration. In that able Government he revealed himself as a man of sound judgment, and one who ever did his duty courteously and comprehensively. Mr. Richardson's death removes from the State one of the best of its pioneers. His life was an example of what a man can accomplish. He was a fearless man in every sense of the word, and one of his most marked characteristics was his considerate attitude towards the feelings of others. In his early days he did noble work in venturing into the then unknown parts of Western Australia, and by his death a warm link with the sixties has been severed.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [4.56]: I desire the privilege of seconding this motion. I knew the late Mr. Richardson for a great many years, longer I think than anyone in this House. When we come to reflect upon the matter, it seems exceedingly sad that we should to-day be called upon to deal with the deaths of three of our friends. I suppose as long as we are in this world, such things are inevitable, and we must put up with them as best we can and become reconciled to them as soon as possible. The Leader of the House has said so much about Mr. Richardson that there is little left for me to add. I knew him well. He was a co-Minister of mine under responsible Government in the regime of the late Lord Forrest. He had the distinction of serving under two Constitutions. The first was the Constitution when the State was a Crown colony, and the next was when we were enjoying responsible Government. He left the Forrest Government, very much to our regret. He was a man

who gave all his time and ability to his work, and carried it out most conscientiously. Apart from his political work, he was a great pioneer and a great pastoralist. He spent a good deal of his time in developing the outblocks, and in an endeavour to turn what may be termed the wilderness into a flowering garden. He was very successful. Almost up to the time of his death he was taking active steps in looking after stock and such-like matters. I feel we have lost a most valuable citizen. We can only say how sorry we are. I am glad to have had the privilege of seconding the motion so ably moved by the Leader of the House.

Question passed; members standing.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.57]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 19th May.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th May, 1931.

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The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Mr. Teesdale (Roebourne) took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

MOTIONS (3)—CONDOLENCE.

Late Sir Robert Furse McMillan, K.C.M.G.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.35]: Since the House last met we have sustained a severe loss by the death of the Chief Justice, Sir Robert Furse McMillan, and I desire to submit a motion as follows.—

That this House desires to place on record its profound sense of the loss sustained in the passing of the late Hon. Sir Robert Furse McMillan, K.C.M.G., Lieut.-Governor and Chief Justice of the State of Western Australia; and that an expression of the sincerest sympathy of members be conveyed by the Hon. the Speaker to the widow and family.

Sir Robert lived amongst us for very many years as Chief Justice, and for the last nine years was Lieut.-Governor. He was known from one end of the State to the other, had seen a great deal of the State and its people, and everywhere he went he was welcomed and admired. He had thoroughly endeared himself to the people. I am sure that the House, as well as the whole country, deplores the passing of Sir Robert.

HON. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.37]: I second the motion and join with the Premier in expressing regret at the passing of Sir Robert McMillan. For more than a quarter of a century the late Chief Justice belonged to the public life of Western Australia, but one had to know him intimately or to come into close contact with him in order thoroughly to appreciate his very great qualities. I doubt whether any man in the history of the State rendered better service to the country than did the late Chief Justice, and I am sure his place will be very hard to fill. I feel, and those who knew him will feel, that if he had had any choice in the manner of his passing, it would have been to die as he did at the post of duty, serving the State in the same faithful and distinguished manner as he had done for such a long period. I join with the Premier in expressions of regret and condolence with members of the family in the very great loss sustained by his death.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. A. L. Davy—West Perth) [4.38]: As the Minister controlling the department with which the administration of justice is connected, I should like to add a remark regarding the very serious loss the community has suffered by the death of the Chief

Justice. If I may be pardoned for so doing, I should like to repeat some words uttered by a very close associate of the late Chief Justice. He said, "Many men gain a reputation for being humorous, and so great is the reputation that if they make the simplest remark, everybody bursts into laughter. The Chief Justice acquired a similar reputation for wisdom, so that when he made an utterance, it was accepted as right from the very fact that he had uttered it." That reputation was achieved in the quietest possible manner, for scarcely ever did the late Chief Justice raise his voice or use any gesture or emphasis. I join with my leader and with the Leader of the Opposition in placing on record the very serious loss we have suffered by his death.

Question passed; members standing.

Late Mr. A. R. Richardson.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.40]: I move—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Mr. A. R. Richardson, a member of the first Parliament under responsible Government and Minister for Lands in Sir John Forrest's Ministry; and desires that its sincerest sympathy be conveyed to the family by the Hon. the Speaker.

Mr. Richardson came to this country, as so many people did, from Victoria very many years ago and was one of the pioneers of the North-West. He lived there at a time when life was rough and hard, and not at all what it is to-day. After spending some years in the North-West, he came to the southern portion of the State and devoted the rest of his life to the development of the country. He owned a great deal of farming land and gave his services to the country. He became Minister for Lands—I believe the first Minister for Lands under responsible Government—and subsequently, as members know, he was a trustee of the Agricultural Bank for many years. He devoted his life entirely to the work of helping forward the development of the agricultural industry.

HON. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.42]: In seconding the motion I desire to endorse all that has been said by the Premier. Mr. Richardson was not so well known to me, as he had been associated with the Parliamentary life of the State in its pioneering stages many years before I became a member. He rendered great service to the State as a

trustee of the Agricultural Bank, together with the late Mr. Paterson. Those two gentlemen had much to do with placing the bank on the sound footing it occupies to-day and in rendering great service to the agricultural settlement and development of the State.

Question passed; members standing.

Late Hon. W. J. George, C.M.G.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.44]: I move—

That this House desires to place on record its profound sense of the loss sustained in the passing of the late Hon. W. J. George, C.M.G., and that an expression of the sincerest sympathy of members be conveyed by the Hon. the Speaker to the widow and family.

All members knew Mr. George very well indeed. He served in this Parliament before any of the present members came here, and though there was a break of six years in his service, I believe he had occupied a seat for a greater number of years than any other member. In whatever capacity he found himself, whether as member of Parliament, Commissioner of Railways, or Minister for Works, he served the country to the best of his ability, and never hesitated to sacrifice himself or his own interests for the good of the country.

HON. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.45]: I feel that we are not making a very auspicious beginning in the submission of motions relative to the deaths of three of our distinguished citizens, who have passed away since the House adjourned. However, those of us who had the privilege of being associated with the late Mr. George for many years cannot but regard his passing as a matter of very great regret indeed. My recollection is that Mr. George was a Minister of the Crown for eight years, from 1916 to 1924; and, as the Premier has said, in whatever position the deceased gentleman was called upon to fill he gave of his very best. Mr. George's services to Western Australia were of great duration and of much value. We all regret the passing of one with whom, though at time we differed from him keenly, there was nevertheless a warm bond of friendship, irrespective of party affiliations.

Question passed; members standing.

QUESTION—MINING, ASSISTANCE TO PROSPECTORS.

Mr. MARSHALL (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: Is any money available at the moment for the purpose of providing sustenance to prospectors; and, if not, is there any likelihood in the immediate future of such money being provided?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: At the moment there is no money available other than that which is being provided by way of sustenance to unemployed prospectors. There is no immediate prospect of any further money being made available.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LOAN COUNCIL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.58]: By permission of the House, I wish to make the usual statement after attending a meeting of the Loan Council.

HON. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.59]: Naturally I have no objection to offer to the Premier's making a statement, but I should like to have an assurance from the hon. gentleman that opportunity will be provided to discuss the statement. After all, most of our troubles and most of our possibilities for the future seem to hinge upon the Loan Council and its meetings. The business conducted at recent meetings of that body must be of the utmost importance, and I consider it only fair that the House should be afforded the opportunity of a general discussion on the statement which will be made by the Premier. I should be glad of an assurance to that effect.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.2]: It has never been done. It is most unusual to have a discussion after a statement. There is never a possibility of debating a statement.

Hon. P. Collier: The circumstances are quite unusual.

The PREMIER: Yes, they are.

Hon. A. McCallum: We never adopted the practice you adopt of coming here and making such statements.

The PREMIER: Oh yes!

Hon. A. McCallum: We did not do it once during the six years we were in office.

The PREMIER: The hon. member is quite wrong if he says that. He himself has made very long statements.

Hon. A. McCallum: The hon. gentleman is quite wrong.

The PREMIER: I have no objection to offer if the hon. member will keep quiet and listen.

Hon. A. McCallum: The Premier has been taking a most unusual course by making statements and not leaving them open to discussion.

The PREMIER: I am afraid that the usual practice is that unless a motion be moved by the Minister making the statement, there can be no discussion. However, I propose to move a motion when I have finished making my statement, and that will permit of a discussion by hon. members. I doubt if discussions have often followed, as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, although statements have been made.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: You are wrong; there have been no statements made as you suggest, and objection must be raised when you make a statement that is incorrect!

Hon. M. F. Troy: Of course, the statement was incorrect. The Premier has been electioneering all through recess, and has not met Parliament.

The PREMIER: We enjoy freedom of speech in this country, and perhaps I have some right in that respect. Most hon. members have availed themselves of that right; I have exercised my right, too. I wish to inform hon. members of what has happened at the meetings of the Federal Loan Council and then I shall move the necessary motion that will admit of the fullest possible discussion.

Loan Council.

Under the Financial Agreement, it is provided that every State should be represented at meetings of the Loan Council. All the States are effectively bound together by the agreement, and in the present difficult times, frequent meetings have been necessary to deal with the problems of finance, as well as with other questions that affect Governments generally. Since the 23rd April, 1930, seven meetings of the Loan Council have been held, and I, as Treasurer of the State, have attended six of them. Three meetings have been held since Parliament last met. The

discussions covered a very wide field, much of which I do not propose to refer to now, as I have no doubt that those matters are still fresh in the minds of hon. members.

Loan Raising.

When the Financial Agreement was entered upon, the intention was that the Loan Council should deal with the raising of money for expenditure on loan works. Loans in the ordinary way have not been obtainable from the public in London since 1929, but £36,000,000 has been borrowed in London either by way of bank overdraft or by short-term debentures. This money was raised largely during the year 1929-30, and all of it is practically payable on demand. Since September, 1930, it has not been possible to increase the London indebtedness of Australian Governments. During the current year, the money borrowed in Australia for loan works will probably be only £15,000,000. A sum of £12,000,000 was raised in June and July of 1930 and divided amongst all the Governments of Australia. Part of that sum was on this year's account. It was raised, hon. members will remember, towards the end of 1930 and part of the money was taken into the accounts for that year.

Government Deficits.

Recently the Loan Council has been engaged in arranging to finance the deficits of various Governments. When the Financial Agreement was signed, it was not contemplated that the Loan Council would have to devote attention to this phase of Government finance. However, the Commonwealth Bank has intimated that even such loans should be authorised by the Loan Council and that Commonwealth Treasury bills should be given to secure overdrafts. It was anticipated that at the 30th June next the deficits of the seven Governments would total £28,525,000, made up as follows:—

Commonwealth	..	£14,500,000
New South Wales	..	8,000,000
Victoria	..	2,300,000
Queensland	..	600,000
South Australia	..	2,000,000
Western Australia	..	1,000,000
Tasmania	..	125,000
		<hr/>
		£28,525,000

Commonwealth Bank Letter.

Consideration was given to the letter of the Commonwealth Bank notifying that the total overdraft limit to all Governments must not exceed £25,000,000. The Federal Treasurer was deputed to confer with the Bank and arrange for the necessary accommodation until at least the end of June.

The London Position.

The London and Westminster Bank has arranged to continue its advances to various Governments, totalling £5,000,000, until the end of September next. The £5,000,000 of Treasury bills due on the 30th June, we were advised by the Federal Treasurer, could not be renewed. Therefore steps will have to be taken to meet the amount. The Federal Government propose to ship £5,000,000 of the £15,000,000 gold reserve to London for this purpose. This, of course, is a matter for the Federal Parliament to decide and is in no way the concern of the Loan Council.

Budgetary Difficulty.

The budgetary difficulty has been accentuated by two factors—

- (a) The increase in the London exchange rate to 30 per cent., which will cost Governments £10,000,000 for 12 months; and
- (b) Sustenance paid to men out of work, which means, I think, a debit of something like £10,000,000 against revenue, or, as in some States, against special taxation.

It is now recognised that if deficits are to be reduced considerably and if unemployed are to be put back at work, money must be borrowed in London. Owing to the low values for wheat and wool, and notwithstanding the enormous reduction of imports, and because of the cessation of borrowing in London, interest to the amount of £36,000,000 a year must be remitted to London. The exchange rate for some months past has been £30 per cent., and this rate, it is thought, is likely to continue for some time to come. If £30,000,000 could be borrowed in London, there would be a saving of £10,000,000 in exchange, while £6,000,000 of the cost of unemployment would probably disappear also.

Sub-Committee Appointed.

With the object of satisfying London investors that Governments are endeavouring to balance Budgets within a reasonable number of years, the Loan Council appointed a sub-committee, consisting of the Acting Treasurer of Victoria and the Treasurers of South Australia and Western Australia, to report. The sub-committee has sat and determined upon the information that it requires from each State, while business men have been called in to advise and economists have been consulted to aid in the solving of this difficult problem. At the February conference, the report of experts appointed by the previous Loan Council was submitted. This report will be exceedingly useful to the sub-committee in preparing its report. The experts' report has been laid upon the Table of this House. The sub-committee's report is to be submitted to a meeting of the Loan Council to be held in Melbourne shortly.

No Decrease in Borrowing.

When the Financial Agreement was signed, it was hoped that borrowing by Governments would be limited. That hope has not been realised. Deficits have to be funded and treated as debt and, bearing this in mind, there never was a time when Australia as a whole was borrowing more than it is at present. I mention that point because it is the difficulty of raising money for ordinary loan work that represents the trouble now. In 1928-29, of the £41,000,000 borrowed, public works absorbed £37,500,000 and deficits £3,500,000. This year deficits are absorbing £28,000,000, and public works about £15,000,000. Consequently we are at present spending more borrowed money than before and without creating any asset for £28,000,000 of it.

Division of Borrowed Money.

It is instructive to review the division of borrowed money. Under the Financial Agreement, the Commonwealth was to receive a maximum of 20 per cent., and Western Australia's share, if it so desired, was to be 10 per cent. In 1928-29 the Commonwealth got its 20 per cent. and we got our 10 per cent., but now that we are also borrowing to cover revenue deficits, the Commonwealth will this year get 39 per cent., which will be a debt against the Common-

wealth and not against the State, while our amount will be a shade over 6 per cent., which will be a debt against the State. The Commonwealth is getting twice the amount it is entitled to; we are getting a little more than one-half! This matter was discussed at the last Loan Council meeting.

Deficits Increase National Debt.

I wish hon. members to appreciate the fact that security has been issued for Government overdrafts, and that the £43,000,000 (including £28,000,000 of deficits) is as much an addition to the national debt as was the £41,000,000 borrowed in 1928-29. In the one instance, bonds were issued for the loans; to-day we are giving short-dated Treasury bills as security. That is not a very desirable way to borrow money, but it is the only way. The same amount is being added to our indebtedness by deficits as was added when we were raising loans; the same amount of added interest has to be met, while the money, as it is now being spent, is neither providing work for the people nor stimulating trade as it should be doing. Instead of Parliament's appropriating loan money to pay for definite works, the money has been borrowed and used to finance revenue shortages, and, generally speaking, there is little to show for the expenditure.

Federal Aid Roads Agreement.

The States have been asked to relieve the Federal Government of their guarantee of £2,000,000 a year under the Federal Aid Roads Agreement. In lieu thereof, the Commonwealth propose to substitute a tax of 2½d. per gallon on petrol, which would yield, they thought, a little more than half of the present £2,000,000. And in the bad times through which we are passing, the raising of even the one-half would be problematical. The Roads Agreement is embodied in Acts of Parliament, Commonwealth and State, and cannot be varied except with the consent of the several Parliaments. It was explained by the Prime Minister, Mr. Scullin, that that was a very large amount to spend on roads in these bad times, particularly when the Commonwealth revenue was considerably short of the amount requisite to meet commitments.

Hon. A. McCallum: They get their return out of a special tax.

The PREMIER: Of course that is so. They impose a tax of 7d. per gallon and pay us 2½d., thus taking a considerable sum of money from the users of the roads.

Assistance to Wheatgrowers.

At the February meeting of the Loan Council, a motion was passed authorising the Federal Treasurer to raise £6,000,000 to assist wheatgrowers. Of that sum, £3,500,000 was to have been made available by the Commonwealth to pay a bounty of 6d. per bushel on the wheat of the 1930-31 season exported, and £2,500,000 was to have been made available as a loan to the States to assist necessitous wheatgrowers. The payment of the bounty is entirely a Commonwealth matter, and I regret to say that the Federal Government now propose to pay a bounty of 4½d. per bushel on the wheat produced last season. This will mean that the farmers of Western Australia will receive about £1,000,000 by way of the 4½d. bounty. That is a very considerable sum.

Hon. P. Collier: Will that be dependent upon the success of the local loan?

The PREMIER: I am afraid it will be; the money will have to be raised somehow. This will mean, too, £200,000 less than the farmers of Western Australia would have received under the original proposal to pay 6d. per bushel on wheat exported. As hon. members know, we consume little of our wheat and export by far the larger proportion of our yield, whereas Victoria and New South Wales have large consuming populations, and those States export much less per cent. of the wheat they produce.

Hon. J. C. Willecock: The payments will be made on the Australian basis.

The PREMIER: Yes, but the export basis suits us better. The bounty on wheat produced will suit Australia as a whole; the other type of payment would suit Western Australia better because of our small population and big production. The £2,500,000 loan to assist necessitous wheatgrowers—I mention this to indicate the value of the step to Western Australia from the standpoint of money distributed—is to be allo-

eated amongst the States on the basis of production as follows:—

	£
New South Wales	818,000
Victoria	547,000
Queensland	54,000
South Australia	432,000
Western Australia	642,000
Tasmania	7,000
	<hr/>
	£2,500,000
	<hr/>

The two sums—the bounty of £3,500,000 and the loan to the States of £2,500,000—will now form part of the proposed loan of £12,000,000, to which I shall refer again presently.

Decline of Trade.

The volume of trade in Australia, it is estimated, has decreased by about one-third, due in part to the fall in national income. This fall in national income, the Federal Treasurer told us, had been computed by economists at £125,000,000 for this year. The decline of trade has had a disastrous effect on the earnings of public utilities such as railways, harbours, etc., throughout Australia. This has increased the difficulties of Governments, for the reduced surplus earnings over operating costs has necessitated the taxpayers providing a far greater proportion than formerly of the interest bill due on the money invested in these concerns. I think members know there has been a tremendous falling off in trade, and that the loss on the railway system throughout Australia this year will be enormous.

Unemployment.

The problem of unemployment figured largely in the Loan Council discussions. Everybody recognises that the reduced expenditure on public works from an average of £42,000,000 a year for six years to £15,000,000 this year is accountable for much of the unemployment now existing. It would be not only inadvisable but impossible to borrow again on anything like the scale of past years, and consequently many of the men previously employed on public works will have to be absorbed in industry. Herein lies the difficulty, because those men were not employed in industry during prosperous times. To tide over the period pending the recovery of trade and the absorp-

tion of the unemployed in industry, it is proposed to apply £6,000,000 of the £12,000,000 loan to relief work for men who are unemployed. Western Australia's share of the £6,000,000 for unemployment will be £575,000. This sum, together with the £1,000,000 for wheat bounty, and £642,000 to aid necessitous wheatgrowers, will make available some £2,200,000 of funds to this State, and the successful flotation of the loan is therefore of the greatest importance to us. Financial people in Melbourne were not at first favourably disposed towards any Government loan, nor did it seem that we could expect much support from the Press. In the little time at my disposal, I was able to discuss the matter with a number of prominent people, business people and others, and the hostility of the business people to a loan to Governments seemed to be weakening a little. Owing to the early meeting of Parliament, I could not delay my return to Perth, and I therefore asked the Hon. the Attorney General to stay a few days longer in Melbourne and do whatever was possible to help change the views of financiers to something more favourable. [I do not know what the result will be. The Federal Treasurer has undertaken to introduce legislation to permit of the loan being issued at 4 per cent. interest free of tax. That will be done before the loan is submitted to the market.]

Mr. McCallum: At par?

The PREMIER: I suppose it would be. The Federal Treasurer was left to discuss the raising of the loan with Sir Robert Gibson, of the Commonwealth Bank. Some financial advisers expressed the belief that there were untapped sources that would respond to a loan under those conditions. When subscriptions are invited, it is to be hoped that every citizen who is in a position to contribute will regard it as a patriotic duty to do so in order that this period of depression may be spanned.

Unemployment Relief.

Previous to the conference, I had written to the Federal Government suggesting that it should share equally with us in the cost of sustenance for the unemployed. This was not agreed to. The matter was mentioned at the Loan Council, but the Federal Government have not yet agreed to accept any definite part of this burden. It was sug-

gested, but the idea was not considered, that the relief given in each State should be fixed on a uniform basis. Men, we were told, were moving from one State to another because the relief paid by some States exceeded that paid by other States. This matter is worthy of further consideration.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not know how men on relief are able to get about from one State to another.

The PREMIER: Of course they can cross the border between New South Wales and Queensland quite easily. The settled parts of those two States are very close together. The question of overlapping was further considered, but little progress was made.

Financial Position.

The financial position is now causing grave anxiety to the Federal Government as well as to other Governments. It is now admitted by every member who attended the latest meetings of the Loan Council—the Premier of New South Wales was the only absentee—that the restoration of confidence transcends in importance all other considerations, for upon it depends the well-being of the whole of the people of Australia. For this reason I am hopeful of fruitful results when the meetings are resumed.

Opposition Co-operation.

The advisableness of asking Leaders of Opposition to meet the Prime Minister and the Premiers of the various States in conference was discussed and determined upon. The Loan Council will deal with the report of the sub-committee and endeavour to reach some definite conclusions as to the best means to restore confidence. It will be for the Prime Minister to issue invitations to Leaders of Opposition to attend. I am hopeful that this meeting of Ministers and Leaders of Opposition will be arranged to take place in Melbourne immediately after the business of the Loan Council has been concluded. Members will realise that, situated as we are, so far away from Melbourne and much farther from Canberra, it is impossible for us to go over there as frequently as we have been going. If we have to meet in Melbourne, and after that the Leaders of Opposition in all the States are to be written to and asked to attend, it will necessitate a second trip following close

upon the one to be undertaken in a few days. I hope that will be avoided. I expect the Loan Council to resume its sittings on Thursday, the 21st instant.

In order to permit my statement to be considered by the House at the next sitting I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a motion for the printing of the statement to be moved at this sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Standing Order 207 no member shall make any motion initiating a subject for discussion but in pursuance of notice openly given at a previous sitting of the House and duly entered upon the Notice Paper. So in order to carry this motion it will be necessary that 26 members, constituting an absolute majority of the House, support it.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER: I move—

That the statement I have presented be printed and its consideration be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

Question put and passed.

ILLNESS OF MEMBERS.

The PREMIER: Will you, Sir, permit me to say that when I was in Melbourne the other day I called upon Miss Holman, one of our members, who is ill there. She is certainly too unwell for us to expect her here for some time. I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Lutey, the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, is also ill. I hope Miss Holman will be returning to the State before long, but certainly it will be some time before we can hope to see her in the House.

[House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.]