

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 30th September, 1902.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS:
Papers relating to the alteration in classification and rate book.

Ordered: To lie on the table.

OBITUARY—MR. J. RESIDE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): I regret indeed that the painful duty falls on me of drawing the attention of the House for a second time to a loss which we have sustained by the hand of death. On the first occasion I had to refer to the death of the late member for West Perth, Mr. Leake; and it is now my painful duty to draw attention to another death, that of our late friend the member for Hannans. When we realise that only last Thursday the hon. member was occupying his seat in the House, speaking to all of us who came in contact with him, and exhibiting those signs of strong, robust health with which I think we were all impressed, it came as a more than ordinary shock to read in the newspapers on Monday morning that he who seemed so hale and vigorous when he left us on Thursday night had suddenly been struck down almost in our sight. We can say of the late member that all of us who knew him, however slightly, acquired for him a strong personal regard. He was a personal favourite on both sides of the House. We realise that he was essentially good-natured, that he was a generous and an eminently fair man; and whilst in politics he was a loyal and whole-hearted supporter of his political principles, he was not a member given to extreme utterances, but was at all times eminently reasonable, prepared to admit that in connection with his principles, as in connection with the principles of any other man who occupies a seat in this House, there are always two sides to a question. So we, now that he has passed from

us, can only express our regret that he should have had such a short parliamentary career, and that we should have had such a short opportunity of knowing and appreciating his personal worth. I am sure I shall be echoing the feelings of every member of this House if I say that we extend our warmest sympathy to his brothers, who I believe are his only relatives in this State, and to his other relatives who live in Victoria. Although we have lost a friend, a man whom we all respected, they have lost one who was nearer and dearer to them; and we can, without any hesitation or qualification, extend to them the expression of our deepest and sincerest sympathy. I beg to give notice that to-morrow I shall move, "That a vacancy having occurred in the electoral district of Hannans, owing to the death of the late member, Mr. J. Reside, the Speaker do issue a writ for the election of another member." I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

MR. J. L. NANSON (Murchison): On behalf of the members sitting on this (Opposition) side of the House, I desire to join in the eulogium which the hon. the Premier has passed upon our late friend. I think the course which the Premier proposes is an entirely fitting one, and we could not do less than show our respect to the memory of the deceased gentleman by adjourning the House till to-morrow. I beg to second the motion.

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): I wish to say a word, in the absence of the leader of the Labour party, to bear testimony to the unswerving loyalty which the late member for Hannans always showed, and to the thoroughly honourable, honest, and straightforward manner in which he discharged his duties as a member of the Labour party, as well as a member of the larger body comprised in this Chamber. I can personally say, having known the late hon. member very intimately and been associated very closely with him, that I fully appreciate the truth of every word in his favour that has been uttered by the Premier this afternoon; and we all feel very deeply that the Labour cause has lost a very worthy member, and one whom it will be hard, if not impossible, to replace.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned accordingly, until the next day.

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Wednesday, 1st October, 1902.

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—RAILWAY TRAINS, GREAT SOUTHERN.

HON. C. A. PIESSE asked the Minister for Lands: If the Government is aware—(a.) That passengers from Albany are frequently greatly inconvenienced through the unsatisfactory running of the trains on the Great Southern Railway. (b.) That such delay and annoyance are attributable to the class of engine used on that line being unsuitable for the service. (c.) That the port of Albany and intervening townships *en route* are suffering through this unsatisfactory service.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: (a.) No. The up mail from Albany averaged only five minutes late during the month of September, and during the same period the up mixed

reached Fremantle on time, except on four occasions, when it was 40, 10, 23, and 58 minutes late, owing to heavy traffic, hot boxes, derailment, and engine failure respectively. (b.) and (c.) (a) replies fully.

MOTION—PRINTING COMMITTEES.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. A. Jameson) moved:

That the Printing Committee of the Legislative Council have power to confer with the Printing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, with the view of considering the advisability of curtailing the cost of printing and issuing the *Hansard* debates and all other parliamentary printed papers.

The object was to bring about a conference of the two committees, in order if possible to reduce the printing bill. Every member would doubtless realise the enormous quantity of printing now carried out for the Legislature, consisting of a mass of reports, minutes, returns, etcetera. The number of papers printed might be largely reduced, were these to be obtainable by members on application only; for when a copy of every printed paper was sent to each member there must be serious waste, as many members had no time to read everything received. There was great need for economy in printing such returns, and possibly in the *Hansard* reports also. Economy in regard to those reports was certainly a more delicate subject, but it might be possible to appoint an editor of *Hansard*. However, the Printing Committee might be left to decide on the best of the various ways of dealing with the question. The motion was made simply to secure a conference with a view to reducing the cost.

HON. J. W. WRIGHT (Metropolitan): Once a certain document was set in type, the printing of 20 or 30 extra copies would surely make little difference in cost; for it was not the printing but the setting in the first instance which was expensive; and the saving of the few copies given to members of this House, whether or not they took them away, would make no difference in the printing bill.

THE PRESIDENT: As chairman of the Printing Committee of the Legislative Council, he might state that the attention of the committee had already been unofficially drawn to the question. Un-