

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 25th August, 1903.

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

PRAYERS.

OBITUARY—HON. B. C. WOOD.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): I regret to have to announce to the House the death of Mr. Barrington Clarke Wood, a member of the Legislative Council, and an old and respected member of this Assembly. The news of the morning caused a shock to the whole community, and aroused universal feelings of sorrow for the death of one whose personal friends were legion, and whose personal enemies were unknown. The late Mr. Wood served his native town for many years in civic work; he served his native State both as Minister and member of Parliament; and in all these capacities he impressed those who met him with his generosity, his tolerance, his fair-mindedness, and, above all, with his perfect uprightness. During the past 18 months the hand of death has rested heavily on the public men of this State. It has left us poorer by the losses thus occasioned, but richer in the expressions of mutual sympathy for those who have done their life's work and have passed from us. In moving, as I now move, the adjournment of the House, out of respect for the memory of our old friend and fellow member, I extend to his widow and children the expression of our deepest sympathy and regret.

MR. S. C. PIGOTT (West Kimberley): On behalf of this (Opposition) side of the House, I beg to join with the Premier in his expressions of sorrow for the death of the late Mr. B. C. Wood, and of sympathy for the bereaved widow and family. I second the motion.

MR. R. HASTIE (Kanoona): I merely wish to indorse every word which has fallen from the Premier and from the member for West Kimberley. I can but say that although Mr. Wood was not in my time a member of this Assembly, yet

by all the members of this House and by those of the Council also he was always looked on as a personal friend. We all greatly regret his being taken away, and I agree that we should show our respect by adjourning.

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth): On behalf of the leader of the party to which the late lamented Mr. Wood belonged, and speaking for myself as a colleague of his in a Ministry of the past, I must express entire concurrence in what has been said by the Premier. I know that the opinion of Mr. Throssell is one which is held by everybody, that no matter how strongly Mr. Wood felt on any subject, political, civil, or otherwise, he was never known to be other than ever ready to extend the hand of friendship to any person. More especially was this noticeable in his character, that no man I have yet met was more willing to go out of his way to do a good turn to anyone in need of it. He had one of the best of hearts; he was one whom all men liked to meet; he was universally respected by those who knew him, and he did as much good as he possibly could. I deeply regret the death of Mr. Wood in the prime of his life; while it gives me a certain amount of pleasure at least to be able to indorse what has been said by the Premier, that one of Western Australia's sons has left behind a record of which his family may be proud. I was deeply shocked to hear of his death, having only last Saturday seen him apparently in the best of health.

Question passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned accordingly at 4:42 o'clock, until the next day.