

## Legislative Council,

Saturday, 16th January, 1904.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2:30 o'clock, p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## ROYAL PORTRAIT—THANKS TO THE KING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Walter Kingsmill) said: Mr. President, I have a very pleasant duty to perform in moving that you as President do convey through the proper channels to His Majesty the King an expression of our thanks for his being so good as to present to this House a signed portrait of himself, which adorns the wall of this Chamber. I think this Chamber has very largely to thank its President for the honour conferred upon it by the presentation of this portrait; and I feel that we are only expressing the loyal feeling which permeates not only this Parliament but the Parliaments of all the British Dominions, in paying this tribute of respect and thankfulness to his Majesty. I now move that the following address be presented through his Excellency the Governor to His Majesty the King:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

We, the members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to convey our humble thanks to your Majesty for presenting to this House the signed portrait of your Majesty.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: I beg to second the motion, with a sincere feeling of loyalty and of satisfaction at the mark of favour conferred on this House.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir George Shenton): When His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was here, I made a request to him and obtained a promise that he would endeavour to secure for this Legislative Council signed portraits of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen; also that he would forward those of himself and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. I read to members the despatch which came.

Although we have not yet received the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, that is to follow shortly; and I hope that when we next meet, in the new Houses of Parliament, we shall have the four portraits adorning the walls of the new Legislative Council.

Question put and passed.

## COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would now like to propose that a most hearty vote of thanks be accorded by this Chamber to the Hon. the President and to the officials of the House; and in doing so perhaps I may speak more feelingly than any other member of the House. Having come into this Chamber as I did fresh from another place, where the rules and regulations and Standing Orders differ in some respects from the Standing Orders which regulate the conduct of affairs in this Chamber, I may say it has always been an easy task for me to learn, and to learn gently and not by obtrusive means, the methods of conducting business in this place. For my part, I feel that in speaking thus I am expressing, too, the feeling of the House. I feel that all the members owe a deep debt of gratitude to yourself and to the officials of the House for the fair, kindly, and gentle manner in which you have presided over the deliberations of the session, which I am informed on very reliable authority, and which I am inclined to believe from my own observation, has been a particularly trying one both to the officials and to the members. I beg to propose, "That a most hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Hon. the President and to the officials of the House for their conduct of affairs during the session."

HON. G. RANDELL: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion which has just been made by the leader of the House. I agree with him entirely in the expression of thanks for the manner in which you have assisted the members during this session in the transaction of the business of the House; business of very great importance, I think, and somewhat difficult, as the hon. gentleman has said, in many respects. If I may be permitted to make use of the expression, I think you have excelled yourself during this session. You have assisted us, I

think, personally to the best of your ability, and have had the evident intention of assisting all the members of the House to put forward their views and to transact the business which has occupied our attention. I only hope that you may continue a good long time yet to preside over the deliberations of this House, and I am sure you will always be willing to give us the benefit of your long experience and your knowledge of the forms and procedure of the House.

Question put and passed.

THE PRESIDENT replied: The Colonial Secretary and members, I thank you for this vote of thanks which you have accorded to us for the manner in which the business has been conducted during the past session. As the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Randell said, it has been the most arduous and the longest session of Parliament which has taken place since I have had the honour of presiding over this House. I think we have managed to get through our work well, and all our deliberations have been conducted with the utmost of goodwill. As Mr. Randell said, there have been some very difficult matters to decide during the session, and the President has been called upon rather suddenly to act; but I am glad to hear that my decisions have given satisfaction to the House. I am glad to hear from the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Randell that the conduct of business has met with the approval of members. As far as the Clerks of the House are concerned, they are simply actuated by one motive, to see that the business is conducted in a proper manner and also to the best of their ability give their advice with regard to notices of motion and other information, to all members of the House. Before sitting down I would, as President, like to record my thanks to the Colonial Secretary as leader of the House for the manner in which he has conducted the business. As he said, he came in fresh, and had had no experience of doing business in the Legislative Council. He came from the Assembly, where a great many of the Standing Orders and rules are quite different from those we have here. He has shown that he was willing to meet the wishes of the members as to the way in which the business should be conducted, and I

thank him for the able manner in which he has acted.

#### PROROGATION—ASSENT TO BILLS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Chamber at 3 o'clock, and commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, who accordingly arrived with their Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER presented the Appropriation Bill, to which His Excellency assented.

HIS EXCELLENCY also gave assent to the following Bills, in addition to Bills assented to previously:—

*"An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from Moneys to Credit of the General Loan Fund to the Services of the Year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and four, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament."*

*"An Act to amend the Early Closing Act, 1902."*

*"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the construction of Tramways in the Municipality of Boulder."*

*"An Act to amend the Municipal Institutions Act, 1900."*

*"An Act to provide for the Construction, Maintenance, and Management of Works for the Storage and Distribution of Water."*

*"An Act to authorise Frederick Henry Piessie and his assigns to manufacture, generate, distribute, sell, and supply Electric Light, Power, and Heat in the Townships of Katanning, and to construct all necessary works in connection therewith." (Private.)*

*"An Act to confirm a Farther Provisional Order to amend, extend, or vary a Provisional Order and a Farther Provisional Order authorising the construction of Tramways in the Municipality of Kalgoorlie."*

*"An Act for the Endowment of a State University."*

*"An Act to amend the Law relating to the Sale of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs."*

*"An Act to amend an Act intituled the Land Act, 1898, Amendment Act, 1899." (Private.)*

*"An Act to validate certain rates made by the Council of the Municipality of Victoria Park and the Victoria Park*

*Local Board of Health, for the year ending the 31st day of October, 1903."*

*"An Act to validate an Agreement dated the Twenty-ninth day of May, 1903, and made and entered into between the Kalgoorlie Road Board of the one part and the Kalgoorlie Electric Power and Lighting Corporation, Limited, of the other part."*

*"An Act to farther amend the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, 1896."*

*"An Act to farther amend the Agricultural Bank Act, 1894."*

*"An Act to amend the Law relating to the collection and payment of Public Moneys, the Audit of the Public Accounts, and for other purposes connected with the control and management of the Public Finances of the State of Western Australia."*

*"An Act to enable the purpose of Permanent Reserve No. 1667A and portions of Permanent Reserves No. 4228A and No. 4991A to be changed."*

*"An Act to constitute the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Area; to establish the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage; to define the Powers and Duties of the Board, and for other purposes incidental thereto."*

*"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Mining for Gold and other Minerals."*

*"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Collie to Narrogin."*

*"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Woodman's Point to Jandakot."*

*"An Act to authorise the raising of a sum of One million five hundred and eighty-two thousand pounds by Loan for the construction of certain Public Works, and other purposes."*

*"An Act for the closing of certain Roads and Streets."*

*"An Act relating to Factories."*

*"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to the Maintenance and Management of Government Railways."*

*"An Act to amend the Roads Act, 1902."*

Bills amending the Constitution were reserved, as follow:—

*"An Act to regulate Parliamentary Elections."*

*"An Act for the Redistribution of Seats at Parliamentary Elections."*

HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to speak as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

The close of the third and last session of the Fourth Parliament of Western Australia affords an opportunity of recording the valuable work done by both Houses of that Parliament during the past three years.

The Bills dealing with the Redistribution of Seats and the Electoral Law will remedy the existing defects in connection with these subjects, and make the Parliament more closely representative of the people of the State.

Your efforts in connection with Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration, Workers' Compensation, Trades Unions, Industrial Societies, Early Closing, Coal Mines Regulations, Factories, Development of Mines, the Fremantle Harbour Trust, the Trans-Australian Railway, and University Endowment have placed upon the statute-book of the State some of its most useful and important Acts.

Many Consolidating and Amending Acts of great utility have been passed. Of these the Criminal Code, the Justices Act, the Mining Act, the Roads Act, the Public Works Act, the Audit Act, the Government Railways Act, and the Acts in relation to Prisons, Administration of Deceased Persons' Estates, Lunacy, and Water Supply are measures of special value which simplify and liberalise the law, and have long been urgently demanded.

The completion of the Goldfields Water Scheme, the extension of our railway system in various parts of the State, the decision to provide a system of water supply and sewerage for the Metropolitan Area, and the increasing attention paid to water supply throughout the State, testify to the attention you have given to the more material interests of the State.

The sound and satisfactory state of the finances, the expanding population, the gratifying increase in the output of gold, accompanied by a decrease in the cost of production and the great expansion of our agricultural settlement, mark the

past three years as a period of steady advance and solid prosperity.

The accomplishment of so great a volume of useful work has made heavy demands upon the time of members, and my advisers desire to thank members for the sacrifices so willingly made, and to express the hope that the electors of the State will appreciate the valuable results which have been accomplished.

**MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—**

I sympathise with you in the loss which the Parliament and people have sustained by the death of your late Speaker, Sir James Lee Steere. His long life was devoted to the service of the community, and stands as a testimony to a distinguished Parliamentarian and a loyal and brave servant of the State.

I thank you, in the name of His Majesty, for the liberal supplies that you have voted.

**MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—**

**MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—**

I again thank you for your services to the State, and congratulate you upon the record of good work done.

I now prorogue this Parliament to Thursday, the 31st day of March next.

*The session then closed.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Saturday, 16th January, 1904.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2:15 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL ROLLS.

MR. BATH, without notice, asked the Premier: What steps does he propose to take to prepare the new electoral rolls?

THE PREMIER replied: As soon as Parliament is prorogued I purpose to confer with the electoral authorities, and to have extra assistants put on to prepare the provisional rolls for publication. They will be prepared from all existing data, and will enable people to see whether their names have been inserted or omitted. These provisional rolls will be subject to amendment until the Electoral Bill becomes law, and will at once be reprinted as amended up to date, and be published under that Act. Every possible effort will be made to let the public know what is being done, so that there may be no excuse for non-registration.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR LANDS: Permit to construct Timber Tramway in Mt. Malcoln district.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

QUESTION—CROWN BRIEFS.

MR. THOMAS, without notice, asked the Premier: Whether he has in his possession the return as to Crown briefs, for which I moved some weeks ago. On the 16th December, in reply to a question, the Premier promised that the return would be tabled before prorogation.

THE PREMIER replied: I must apologise to the hon. member, and candidly admit that during the last few days I have overlooked the matter. I gave instructions that the return should be prepared; and if the hon. member can afford the time before he returns to Cool-