

ployment would be found for the inspectors. The question was raised last session. These inspectors, who were only occasionally employed, were obliged to have years of experience before they could be employed and their work was intermittent; they remained engaged for four or six weeks and then, perhaps, for a similar period they might be disengaged. Their full earnings did not run to more than £2 10s. a week, and these were the men who had spent 15 or 20 years of their lives in acquiring experience which would enable them to get this kind of employment. Would the Minister give an assurance that the men occasionally employed would be found other employment when their own work was intermittent? They would be prepared to do anything, so long as they were not idle.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: With regard to these inspectors, who were only occasionally employed, he was perfectly willing to give the assurance the hon. member had asked him for. At the present time, however, it was understood that they were fairly constantly employed.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Lately they have had about two months continuous work.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: They were likely to be fairly well employed now, because there was a greater amount of work to be done. He would promise, however, to look into the matter.

Vote put and passed.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 12.10 a.m

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 7th December, 1909.

Obituary—Hon. R. F. Sholl Pag
... .. 18

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

OBITUARY—Hon. R. F. SHOLL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): I regret to state that since we last met death has removed one of our members. I refer to the Hon. Robert Frederick Sholl. It is my intention to move that the House adjourn out of respect to the memory of the late hon. member. I have known the late hon. member for a great many years. Certainly there are those in the House who knew him probably many years longer than I knew him, more particularly as he was a native of the State; but I knew him sufficiently long to appreciate his value to the State, not only as a member of this House, but also as a citizen of Western Australia. I move—

That out of respect to the memory of the late Hon. Robert Frederick Sholl a member for the North Province in this House, the House do now adjourn and that a message of condolence be sent by the Hon. the President to his widow and family.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): Sir, you will perhaps allow me to take precedence of others who wish to address you on this subject, not because I happen to be the senior member of the House, but because the late hon. member and I were on peculiar terms of intimacy for a period extending over a quarter of a century. Our late friend was of a strong and distinct individuality. He had a big frame, a big heart, and a big will. He was a man who held tenaciously by his own convictions but as I often experienced, when a mistake was pointed out to him and he perceived he was in error, there was no man more ready to confess and acknowledge the mistake. As a politician his work is known to most of us. He should be called rather an earnest

than an eager or enthusiastic politician. We all know that his vote and his voice were usually given on the side of what may be called caution. He was circumspect to the last degree, when he had taken one step, before he took another. Nor can we blame him. He was one of those pioneers who helped to raise up this Colony when it was almost falling into ruins, and it is small wonder that, having escaped almost with their lives from one set of dangers, the old colonists, men who were the true founders of Western Australia, should have hesitated before incurring a second set of risks out of which they might not escape so readily. All this may be put down to the credit of Mr. Sholl, that he had the very strongest belief that a man who had made his money in the country owed something to that country, and that where leisure and experience were available, as they were in his case, it was his duty to go into public life. Consequently, for 20 years, I am not sure whether it was not more than 20 years, Mr. Sholl at one time or another occupied a place on the benches of the Houses of Parliament. Each House has seen him as one of its members. All of us know how he performed his duties. No man, I venture to say, not even Mr. Randell on my right, was more careful in the study of the work put before the House; and some of his latest regrets were that Bills and matters on which he intended to speak, and to which he had put down amendments, would have to be discussed without his raising his voice on the side he considered the right and just one. I am not going to detain the House any longer. In Mr. Sholl those who knew him well will mourn as upright and honest and open-hearted a gentleman as ever sat within the walls of Parliament; and as for his duty to the public, he performed it as long as he could and as far as the dictates of his conscience prompted him and his capacity permitted him. With the deepest regret I beg to second the motion moved by the leader of the House.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I may be permitted, perhaps as the

member in the House who has known Mr. Sholl longer than any other, to say a few words. I think I could confine myself to endorsing the sentiments to which Dr. Hackett has given expression, and which, I think, are nothing but the bare facts and truth. As to the integrity, uprightness, and honesty of the late hon. member, I think there could be no mistake about it. I believe every one of us has had evidence of that; also of his strong will and of his diligent application, especially in regard to measures brought before this honourable House. I do not claim to have had the intimate relationship with the late hon. member that Dr. Hackett has had, because our paths, I think, lay in different directions; nevertheless, I have been associated with him for many years in two or three companies, and I have always learned to appreciate his high ideals, especially as to honourable dealings between himself and others. I regret the House has lost a member, who, in many respects, may be considered an ideal member. When I say that, I mean that he gave his earnest attention to details of measures. I think every one of us must be seized with that fact owing to the way in which he spoke to them on many occasions. His politics, perhaps, were different to mine. I am often accused of being conservative in the extreme; I do not believe it; I do not think I am; but I think our late hon. friend was very conservative. At the same time, as Dr. Hackett says, when he found he had made a mistake, he was ready in a moment to acknowledge it and retrace his steps. I fully concur with the sentiments, expressed in the motion, of condolence with the family of the late hon. member, and I trust they may be sustained in the loss which has come upon them so suddenly. I say suddenly, because Mr. Sholl was in the House a few weeks ago, and we hardly anticipated the end so soon.

Hon. F. CONNOR (North): As one who was associated politically with the late Mr. Sholl for a great number of years, since the early part of 1893 when I joined the Parliament of which he was a member, I feel I must say a

few words on this occasion. It will be very few words indeed. Our late friend was an honest and fearless politician, and that is saying perhaps as much as can be said of any man at the present day. We are in want of men like he was, not only in the State Parliaments, but also in the Federal Houses. I do not think this is an occasion for a lot of words and talk, but I join in everything said by former speakers, and offer my sympathy to the late Mr. Sholl's relatives. Mr. Sholl, in my time, took up a position in another place which very few politicians would care to take up. He offered honest, straightforward, and fair criticism, particularly when the Estimates came on; and when he thought that certain actions of the Government, whatever Government was in power, were not in the best interests of the country, his voice was always raised in the interests of what he thought was justice. As Mr. Randell says, perhaps, he was looked upon as being a conservative. I cannot call him one, but, call him what one likes, I respect the memory of a man who, according to the best of his lights, gave to the country what he thought was best for it. I join in the expressions of condolence which have been offered not only to his family but to the country for the loss sustained by the death of our late lamented friend.

Hon. R. W. PENNEFATHER (North): As one of the colleagues of the late Mr. Sholl, I desire to tender my sincerest sympathy to his widow and family for the loss they have sustained, and I feel sure this Chamber will also feel the heavy loss sustained by Mr. Sholl's death. My only regret is that it was an unfortunate thing that, owing to the sudden demise of the honourable gentleman, members of the House, except you, Mr. President, and Dr. Hackett, could not attend the funeral. Nearly all the members of the House, with the exception of yourself and Dr. Hackett, only learned of the death of Mr. Sholl when they read of it in the *West Australian* on Monday morning. I feel very sympathetic towards the relatives of

the late hon. member, whose memory will, I feel sure, remain green in the recollection of hon. members of the House for many years to come.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan-Suburban): Perhaps I may be allowed to add a few words to what has already been said, and well said, on this subject. The late member always struck me as one eminently fitted to sit in the halls of an Australian Legislature, because he led a life that was typically Australian. Born in this State, the early part of his life was devoted almost entirely to visiting the wilder parts of Western Australia, and no doubt those large waste spaces that exist in Western Australia, or did exist, are being opened up as a result of the efforts of men like our late lamented friend, and put to better uses than it was ever thought they could be put to, and very likely the spirit of vastness which permeates Western Australia, helped to form that largeness of character which has been alluded to by Dr. Hackett. I feel that this House and this community, his family and his friends, have sustained a loss which they will grieve over for many years to come. Personally, knowing as I do the scene of the greater part of the late Mr. Sholl's earlier life, I can realise to what extent his experiences there would mould his after life. I join in adding my condolences to those offered by hon. members to the widow and family of the late lamented member of this House, and to the community of Western Australia.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs): Before putting the question, it may be fitting for me to offer to the memory of our late member a personal tribute of respect and affection. Robert Sholl had a long connection with the political life of the State. From 1886 to 1890 he represented the Gascoyne district in the old Legislative Council, and thence onward to 1897 he represented the same constituency in the first Legislative Assembly. Since 1904 he was a member for the North Province. The pages of *Hansard* record his blunt and generally adverse criti-

cisms of much so-called advanced legislation, his vigilance in financial matters, and his opposition to seeming recklessness in national borrowing and national spending. Justice and prudence were the leading lights of his life. As a speaker his utterances were marked by boldness and force, and he went direct to the heart of his subject, and would not be diverted from the course that conscience directed him to follow. Like most strong men he was sensitive to human suffering, and tender in his sympathies. Independence, honesty, and truth, characterised Robert Sholl's happy life, as in the old lines—

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will,
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill!

I would suggest that this motion be passed by hon. members standing.

Question passed, members standing.

House adjourned at 4.50 p.m.

OBITUARY—HON. R. F. SHOLL.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) : Before we deal with the questions I desire to move a motion, without notice. Since the House adjourned on Friday night last one of our representative men, in the person of Mr. Robert Sholl, has been removed by death. It is with the deepest possible regret that I move the following motion—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of the Honourable R. F. Sholl, and tenders to his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires that the terms of this resolution be communicated to the widow and family of the late gentleman by the Speaker.

The gentleman referred to was, as hon. members know, a native of the State, having been born in 1848 in the town I have the honour to represent. He was intimately associated during the earlier years of his life with the North-West of the State, and spent a considerable amount of his life time in connection with the pearling and pastoral industries. He was, in fact, one of the first to stock up the West Kimberleys. His energies, however, were not restricted to that part of the State, for during the early nineties he invested considerably in connection with our mining industry certain industrial and mercantile institutions in the City. The money he made in the State he freely invested in Western Australia, thereby setting an example of practical patriotism worthy of emulation. It was in 1886 that he was first appointed to represent in the Legislative Council the Gascoyne Division. Later on, when Responsible Government was granted to the State, he was returned as the first representative of the same constituency to this House. For some years he remained a member of this Chamber, and he represented the State at the Federal Convention, Adelaide. He resigned the seat in 1897, and in 1904 was returned to the Legislative Council as a member for the North Province. He was of a singularly independent turn of mind, his wide knowledge of the State, and all its activities, being of the greatest value in

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 7th December, 1909.

	PAGE
Papers presented	1871
Obituary—Hon. R. F. Sholl	1871
Questions: Fertiliser deposits	1872
Land settlement, Dylabing	1872
Pastoral lease, Captain Biddles'	1872
Land selection, Yorkrakine	1873
Bills: Loan, £1,342,000, 2s.	1873
Boyup-Kojonup Railway, 2s., Com., 2s.	1879
Loan Estimates, Message, Introduction	1878

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Regulations made by the Bunbury Harbour Board. 2, By-laws passed by the Port Hedland Local Board of Health.