

in public life and all that was desirable in a private citizen. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE (South-West): I am sure no words of mine can thoroughly express the appreciation in which I know that the late Mr. Piesse was held not only in his public but in his private life. He was one of those men of whom I can say I never heard anything but that he was a thorough gentleman, a man who was a tower of strength in the district, and such men are vastly necessary in this State. I knew Mr. Piesse somewhat; I came into contact with him in his official capacity and privately, and I can only characterise him as one of Nature's true white men.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 4.40 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 2nd July, 1912.

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

OBITUARY—HON. F. H. PIESESE, C.M.G.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. Walker): Since the last gathering of the Assembly, death, the great leveller, and great reconciler, has taken from our midst a distinguished former member of the Assembly, and an able, conscientious and worthy citizen of our great State. I am sure, although not at present a member of the Assembly, his loss is a loss to

the whole community, but it is particularly a bereavement to his family which is represented by members in the Assembly. The Hon. F. H. Piesse, in the course of his long and active public life, was one of the builders of the great edifice we are proud, collectively now, to call our State. His varied attainments, his great knowledge of the State, his zeal in seeing to the advancement of more than one portion of it, as well as his keen interest in every industry promotive of the welfare of this great portion of the Commonwealth, entitle him to the respect of all citizens irrespective of party or interest. Though we occupied different platforms and our views did not always coincide, I felt for him a warm personal attachment because of his genial character, his love of amity, and his desire, as far as possible, to look to the point of agreement rather than to emphasise the distinctions of differences. He never had a bitter heart to his keenest political opponent; and it is at times like this, when we lose the services of one who has figured so largely in the public eye, that we forget all our bickerings, all our conflicts, all our battles, and remember only those qualities that endear man to man. I shall not dwell at length upon the career of this honourable gentleman who has caused, by his passing away, such sad bereavement, not only to his family, but to an exceedingly large circle of friends and, I may say, to a still wider circle of acquaintances; because his public career is so well known to us, he has been active so freshly in our midst that it would be supererogatory to dwell upon his services; but I will say this much, that his name is associated with the great strides that lifted this State from, almost, a pastoral and fishing colony to the great State now dotted with thriving towns and with this magnificent metropolis. It was in his career as a Minister of the Crown that those gigantic public undertakings at least took a number of their steps towards completion—the building of railway lines to connect the metropolis and the port with our now thriving goldfields, the great en-

gineering undertaking that takes the rivers up to the dry districts in the interior, those improvements in railway traffic and connections, in fact, the first steps towards that completed condition, or condition in process of completion, that we now behold. All these things are now reminiscent of his name; and we cannot write the history of our country without mentioning his name with respect and with honour. Therefore, without further words, I ask permission to move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the Hon. F. H. Piesse, and to express its deepest sympathy with his family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by his decease; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to the relatives of the deceased gentleman.

Mr. MITCHELL (Northam): I appreciate the words that have fallen from the Attorney General. The Hon. F. H. Piesse always took the broadest possible view of his public duties and sacrificed himself to a great extent in the interests of the people. To some of us he was known for a great many years. In every phase of his life he was a success; but while he succeeded himself, he endeavoured to improve the lot of others. It was 35 years ago when he was first connected with the great district that has been associated with his name. We all know that it is due to him that the Great Southern district has prospered to such an extent, while to his foresight and ability the great town of Katanning is what it is to-day. In his public life he was an undoubted success. He became Minister of the Crown when the country needed the services of an able, energetic, and capable administrator; and the Attorney General has rightly said that the Hon. F. H. Piesse has been associated with all the great works that have been undertaken in Western Australia. He was associated in no small degree with the great water scheme that supplies Kalgoorlie. Probably no man had less credit for the work

he did. It is true, of course, that not every public man during his lifetime gets the credit that is really his due. Mr. Piesse was known to all of us. We remember him with very strong affection, no matter on which side of the House we may sit. The Attorney General has said, and I agree with him, that Mr. Piesse loved peace, notwithstanding which he was always perfectly willing to fight for his principles. We very much regret his loss, and I have pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Attorney General.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 4.42 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 3rd July, 1912.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Assent to the following Bills of last session reported:—

- Agricultural Bank Act Amendment.
- Appellate Jurisdiction.
- Appropriation.
- Collie Municipal Rates Validation.
- Criminal Code Amendment.
- Deputy Governor's Powers.
- Dwellingup State Hotel.
- Early Closing Amendment.
- Goldfields Water Supply Act Amendment.
- Health Act Amendment.
- Hotham-Crossman Railway.