

## ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.57]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 19th November.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.58 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th November, 1918.

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

### THE WAR—PEACE ARMISTICE.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.32]. This, I think all members will agree, is the most glorious day in the history of the British Empire, and the most glorious day in the history of Australia. I am going to ask the House to agree to two motions this afternoon, and will then ask the House to agree to adjourn. The first motion which I shall submit to the House is as follows:—

That on the occasion of the signing of the peace armistice, signalling the complete and glorious triumph of the Allied armies, the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, expresses its profound gratitude to Almighty God, its deep and abiding loyalty to the throne and person of His Majesty the King, and its proud admiration of the sailors and soldiers of the Empire and the Allies, and that a message be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor desiring him to transmit the foregoing resolution to His Majesty the King. I think, as representatives of the people of Western Australia assembled here in the people's House of Western Australia, it is certainly our duty on this occasion to express not only our loyalty to the throne, but also our admiration of the great part the sailors and soldiers of the Empire have taken in this great war, as well as to express our gratitude to a Higher Power, the God of Victory, who has brought about, by means of our arms, this great victory we are now celebrating. In expressing our loyalty to His Majesty the King we are expressing not only our loyalty to the individual, but we are expressing our loyalty to our own country, Australia, and the Empire. The King is the symbol of nationhood. The King is the power above all others which expresses the greatness of the Empire, and he is also the head not only

of the Government of Great Britain, but the head of the Governments of all his great Dominions throughout the length and breadth of the world. No doubt we approach this subject with a certain amount of solemnity—certainly I do. I am quite sure that all hon. members of this House approach the subject not only in a spirit of rejoicing, but also in a spirit of sadness on behalf of those who have suffered in the cause of freedom and liberty. There are few hon. members of this House who have not had relatives and friends at the Front. There are many hon. members who, like myself, have had sons at the Front, and there are also those in this House whose sons have made the supreme sacrifice. Consequently, although we may rejoice at the great victory which we have obtained, still I think it is our duty to consider those who have suffered, and whilst rejoicing show our sympathy with those who have given of their best in the cause of Empire. This war has been the greatest war since the world began. Wars, since the foundation of the world, have always been going on, from the time when the Philistines fought in the earlier days of history, and in the times of Hannibal and Caesar. Later we had the great Napoleonic wars which lasted for so long, when the world, or Great Britain, at any rate, was engaged in a great struggle for liberty. This war, which I hope has just been brought to a close, transcends all wars which have ever taken place, not only in its magnitude but in the greatness of the sacrifices which have been made. Over four years ago we found the German Empire imbued with the ambition to rule the world, and possessed of a great ambition to own *Mittel Europa*. They had made up their minds that they would start forth on this great struggle. They commenced the war by breaking an honourable understanding, and by overrunning little Belgium. If it had not been for the splendid stand which Belgium made on that occasion, who knows but that the northern shores of France would all have been in the hands of Germany. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Belgium for the great and noble stand which she took in the earlier days of the war, when we were unprepared, as Great Britain has always been unprepared, for such an event. Great Britain has never desired war, and although she may not be prepared at any time, nevertheless, she has always seen that a war in which she is engaged is brought to a final and satisfactory conclusion. One of the events which I so much deplore, and I am sure hon. members deplore, is that the man who took charge of the great work of organising our army, Lord Kitchener, should have lost his life. I would indeed have liked to have seen Lord Kitchener at the head of our Army to-day, so that he might view the result of the work of that great army which he loved so well. He told the nation that we had to prepare for a war of at least three years. Many people laughed at the idea, and thought it impossible in these days for a war to last such a length of time. It has now lasted not three years, but well-nigh four years and a half. And, Mr. Speaker, Germany, although always waiting for "the

day," has at last burst like a bubble. She has gone suddenly. Only a short time ago, a few months back, hon. members, who were with me at the recruiting conference in Melbourne, know full well the anxiety that was felt at that time with regard to the great advance that was being made by the German army. It was thought even then that the northern coast of France might possibly come into the hands of Germany. The glorious country of France, which has so nobly carved out a history for herself, making all those sacrifices which a country should make in her own interests, has, I am happy to say, come back to-day into some of her own. The armistice, which does not mean peace in its entirety, means a cessation of arms, a cessation of arms which must in turn mean peace, because that armistice has been so framed that all the great weapons of the German Empire, her most powerful weapons, have been taken from her. France, which has fought for so long and so nobly and well, is now coming into her own. The Germans have to evacuate Alsace and Lorraine, and the day for which the French have been praying for so many years has come at last. Great Britain and her Dominions were brought into this war, not from any desire of aggrandisement. They were brought into it purely from a sense of right in order to protect the freedom of the world. Although not prepared, Great Britain has fought gallantly and well, side by side with the armies of her Allies. I am pleased, as I am sure hon. members must also be pleased, that that great Anglo-Saxon speaking race, now known as the great American Republic, has been fighting side by side with us on the soil of Europe, and I trust that the friendship which has now grown up, cementing the blood of the people of the two countries, may remain solidified for all time. Language is the great tie that draws people together. When we come to think of the great American Republic, speaking our own language and possessed of our own institutions, spring mainly from our own race, we must realise that the estrangement which took place long years ago was never intended. The time has come when Great Britain and her Dominions with the Great American Republic, and I trust France alongside of us, may be able to say that in the future, or at any rate in our time, the world shall not be devastated again by such a war. It is needless for me to proceed at any greater length on this important subject. I am quite sure that the minds of hon. members are fully seized with the greatness of the occasion. The pent up feelings of the people have been released, and in this city of ours these feelings have been displayed in such a way as to make us feel proud. I have nothing more to say except to ask the House to pass the motion which I have submitted with a feeling of gratitude and a feeling of solemnity due to this momentous period. I hope also that the war may have done good, that it may have brought the different people and the different classes of the Empire more closely together, and I trust also it will have the effect of causing the people

of the Empire to work with greater charity together, and that it may make them more considerate to each other and make them desirous of joining in a future life which may be of advantage not only to the people themselves, but to the glory of Australia and the Empire.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.48]: I have great pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Premier, and can but say that I entirely endorse the words and sentiments expressed by the hon. gentleman in submitting the motion. The events of the past few weeks have succeeded each other with such rapidity that one has been scarcely able to conceive of all the tremendous doings which have taken place in Europe. This, however, we do rejoice at, that the long black night of war has passed, let us hope forever, and that to-day we have emerged into an era which we hope will be brighter than that which has gone before, and which we hope will be entirely free from the tragedy the world has witnessed during the past four years. On an occasion such as this, one is possessed with mingled feelings. First and foremost our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the heroic men of the Army and the Navy who have been instrumental in bringing the war to such a successful conclusion. Had it not been for the unconquerable spirit animating the men of Great Britain and the men of the countries with which we have been associated in this war, the end might have been otherwise. We should not let the occasion pass without also expressing our deep sense of gratitude to the, if anything, more noble women folk of Great Britain and her Allies. After all in the triumph of war when men are cheered on by the martial strain of music, it is easier for them to face death than it is for the women folk to endure in silence and in the solitude of their homes the agony that falls to their lot in such circumstances. It would of course be invidious to make distinctions on an occasion such as this, but as members of the British race I think we are justified in saying that never perhaps in the history of Great Britain have her sons and daughters had occasion to be more proud of her than at the present time. It was thought that after such a lengthy period of peace, something in the nature of a degeneration of the race had set in. The war however, has demonstrated to us that that has been a fallacy, and that for courage and power of endurance the race stands as high to-day as at any time in our history. We may be proud of the wonderful power of organisation that Great Britain has displayed in the war. When we recall the fact that taken unawares four years ago, in the night so to speak, when we had no standing army, that we were able to organise a mighty army of four or five millions of men and transport them to Europe, and greater still to get together that great and tremendous organisation which was necessary for the maintenance of the army, what can we say of the great organising power of the British? It has never stood higher in any period of our history. And what shall we say of the im-

mortal French in whose land the great struggle has been conducted for so long? One would like in this hour of triumph to be able to celebrate the victory in cities like Paris, London, New York, or other great centres of the world. Certain it is that the very great fight which has been put up by the French will live as long as the world itself survives. With the French, Great Britain had to bear the brunt of the earlier period of the war, and that was at a time, too, when the forces and the might of the enemy were at their strongest. Having been able to stall off the power and fighting force of the enemy we were successful then in getting to our aid in the closing scenes of the war the power and might of the great republic of the West. So, taking all things together, we have reason to be proud and satisfied with the result. I do not think it will be boastful if we in Australia, situated as we are, at the other end of the world, so far from the scenes of activities and the movements of the old world, having a comparatively small population, claim that we have played a part which will also live for ever in history. When we have regard to the fact that with a population of 5,000,000 people this small nation has been able to raise and transport over the seas of the world an army of 400,000 men, a feat that has not been paralleled in the world's history, we may feel proud of our share. We learned a day or two ago that of that great army 56,000 will not return. That sacrifice which Australia has made is just about double the losses of the British Empire in the South African war, but having regard to the difficulties we have had to face, Australia's part in the war has been a proud one, to say nothing at all about the reputation that our boys have made as fighting men on the battle fields of Europe. I hope that now we have peace, it will endure for ages. There will be problems to face, difficult problems when peace is finally settled, and I hope that the people of the British race, as well as those of other countries, will realise more in the future than has been done in the past that there are great responsibilities owing to that mass of people who have enabled the war to be carried on to such a successful conclusion. There is no doubt that the brains, genius and skill which has carried the nation through these years of trial, will not fail when dealing with the problems which will have to be faced when peace is finally accomplished. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. STUBBS (Wagin) [4.55]: In the absence of the Deputy Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Piesse), I have been asked to say a few words in support of the motion which has been so ably proposed by the Premier and seconded by the leader of the Opposition. Words to my mind cannot adequately express what the nation owes, first of all to the British Navy and the mercantile marine for the wonderful part that they have played in the destruction of the Kaiser and his satellites. I endorse the words that have fallen from the lips of the leader of the Opposition in connection with the great part

Australia has played in this war, and although the remains of 50,000 of our brave men lie buried on the Continent of Europe, their memory will ever be green in Australian history. As the leader of the Opposition has also said, there will be great problems to be faced and not the least important will be that of seeing that our soldiers are adequately rewarded. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.58]: I agree with what has been said by the Premier and the leader of the Opposition, and in this hour of our triumph I am very proud indeed as an Englishman and prouder still as an Australian to rejoice in the triumph of the British race and our Allies. The only thing I want to say further is that my sympathies go out to those who have had lifted from them the burden which has weighed them down during the last four and a-half years. Those of us who have lost our sons have had our sorrow and in some measure we have been relieved from further anxiety. But to those whose sons are still at the Front this signing of the Armistice has brought the long looked-for relief. To the parents of those men who are still at the Front my heart goes out. From them at least the dark pall of sorrow and anxiety has been lifted, and I can rejoice with them that they will see their boys again, although I shall not see mine.

Question put and passed.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [5.0]: I have yet to ask the House to agree to another motion. I do not think this is an occasion when one should do more than one should do. At the same time I think the House will agree with me that, although the former motion was one in recognition of our national spirit and loyalty to the throne, we would like to pass some motion in appreciation of the services of our Australian navy and army. With this object in view I beg to move—

That the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled desires to convey to the Australian army and navy abroad the thanks of the people of Western Australia for the magnificent services in the cause of freedom, justice and righteousness, rendered by the soldiers and sailors of Australia, and its heartfelt congratulations on the glorious victory in the achievement of which the Australian divisions have played so notable a part. That a message be forwarded transmitting this resolution to the Minister for Defence and to the Minister for the Navy of the Commonwealth.

I am quite sure the House will desire that the people's representatives should place on record on this momentous occasion their appreciation of what the men of Australia have done for Australia and the Empire. When the first bugle sound was noted our young men were true to us, and have been continuing to be so, ever since the war commenced. The Empire, the old motherland, in the early days of the war, the great lioness of the world, sent out in the form of the "Sydney" one of her cubs, which brought back to the old mother lioness

a fox, in the shape of the "Emden." It will never be forgotten in the history of Australia, it will never be forgotten in the history of the Empire, the notable services that the Australian navy did for Australia and the Empire on that occasion, and wherever the Australian forces have contended with the enemy they have done credit not only to themselves but they have done honour to Australia and the Empire. Sad indeed it was that so many young lives left their names behind on the shores of Gallipoli, that great peninsula which the armies of the Empire and her Allies endeavoured to occupy in the early stages of the war. I am not going to say it was a mistake: when the history of the war comes to be written, I have no doubt it will be shown that, at any rate, it was necessary, but Gallipoli will always be remembered with sadness by the people of Australia. It will always be remembered at the same time with pride that the name of Anzac was derived from the work which they did on that peninsula. We have heard very little of the navy of Australia and the Empire; at the same time the navy of the Empire, perhaps, has done one of the greatest works that has been done during this great war. In the first instance it shut up the whole German navy which that country had been building for years, and it has kept the sea clear for the passage of our troops and mercantile marine service from many disasters throughout the length and breadth of the world. And, when speaking of the sailors, I would also like to say a word, nay, more than a word, in recognition of the great mercantile marine of Australia and the Empire. They are the men who have gone without any reward; no honours for them; no medals; no decorations for what they have done. At the same time those men were travelling the seas, their lives in their hands for the moment, just as much as those who were fighting for us in the trenches. They had not the excitement of war around them to keep them up. It is marvellous the way in which the great stream of commerce, that in the dark days which they have gone through, was carried on throughout the length and breadth of the world. We owe much, although there may have been richer times, to the manual workers of the Empire. Without those manual workers, those men and women to make the weapons and munitions of war, without the manual workers to get our minerals and coal, and the things required to carry on the war, where would we have been? Disaster would have been ours. I think we may well be proud, all things considered, of the great work that has been done by the workers throughout the Empire. We owe a great debt of gratitude and of admiration to the women of the world. Not only the mothers of those who have gone and suffered, but also those women of the Empire who have taken on the duties of the men who had to go and fight for the Empire. Our men, I trust, will soon return to us, and although it may be only an armistice there must be peace, and it is, I think, wonderful to recollect at the present moment, after nearly 4½ years of thundering on the shores of Europe and

elsewhere, to-day there is not a shot being fired. I do feel for those soldiers of ours; I feel for the soldiers of Australia who have borne the burden and heat of the day, who, although they may often have been sick of it, have said they would stick to the end. That is the spirit of the Australian; that is the spirit of the Britain. Four years of war must sicken anyone; at the same time although they have been sick of the whole thing, they have striven and fought for this great day, this hour that has now arrived. We congratulate them; we feel for them on this great occasion, feel that, at any rate, they can move about without expecting to meet death at any moment. We have a sympathetic feeling running through us to know that those soldiers of ours are having a rest at last. I ask the House to agree to the motion as an expression of our gratitude and admiration for the men of our own land. I trust that it may never be necessary for them to take arms up again in defence of Australia. Surely they did on this occasion and I am quite sure of this, that if the time does come again they will acquit themselves in the same noble, glorious manner that they have during this greatest war the world has ever seen.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.12]: It affords me very great pleasure in seconding the motion which the Premier has just moved. I feel sure all members will agree with me that we cannot pay too much honour to those who have kept us from being held in that bondage, which some of us thought some time ago was possible. While the Premier has referred to the gallant deeds of Gallipoli, we must not forget the work the Australians have done at Pozieres, at Bullecourt, in Palestine, and Mesopotamia, the deserts they have had to travel over. It shows the Australian soldier still possesses the blood of his forefathers and also the old bulldog breed. Above all, in connection with this final victory which our soldiers have gained for us, we must not forget the time when the Australian, in the darkest hour which we have passed through since the commencement of this great war, when the British and allied troops were being driven back on the shores of France, the Australians, after a long and continuous march, were sent to fill the gap without having been fed, before taking up the munitions of war, and it was through the gallant Australians that the tide was stemmed, and to-day we are reaping the benefit. We have a lot to pay those who fought our battles. No one will be able to say how much we are indebted to them, and while to-day we, in various parts of Australia, are saying, "We have won a great victory," we must not forget it is the men who left Australia who have won it for us. And upon each and all of us must be borne in the question, "What have we ourselves done?" I hope we shall never forget those who have upheld the honour of Australia and of the British flag, those who have given to Australia a name never to be forgotten, and I hope we shall never forget that we must assist those coming back to us with loss of limb and loss of health as the

result of the victory they have won for us. No member of this Assembly, I am sure, will ever forget those who have fought on our behalf. We must endeavour to the best of our ability to repay them a portion—we cannot hope to repay the whole—of what they are justly entitled to.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [5.16]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next.

I have consulted with the leader of the Opposition, and he agrees with me that during this outstanding week in the history of Australia members will scarcely feel that they can settle down to their work in the way they should do. I hope that when we meet again we shall be able to move along rapidly with the business of the session.

Question put and passed.

[At the call of the Premier members sang "God save the King" and "Rule Britannia."]

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.

## Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 19th November, 1918.

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

[For "Questions on Notice" and "Papers Presented" see "Minutes of Proceedings."]

#### THE WAR—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The PRESIDENT [4.31]: I have received the following communication from His Excellency the Governor—

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, I thank you for the resolution passed unanimously by the Legislative Council of Western Australia on the 12th November last, which I shall have the honour of forwarding for submission to His Majesty the King. (Signed) William Ellison-Macartney, Governor.

#### BILL—INTERPRETATION.

Assembly's Message.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that the Council's amendments had been agreed to.

#### BILL—PRISONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Assembly's Message.

Message received from the Assembly notifying that the Council's amendment No. 2 had been agreed to, but that amendment No. 1 had been disagreed with.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—FRENCH MISSION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.35]: With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement regarding the business of the House for the remainder of the week. As hon. members are aware, to-morrow has been declared a public holiday in honour of the visit of the French Mission, and it is not intended that Parliament shall sit on that day. As the probabilities are that we shall have to wait at some stage of our proceedings for business from another place, it has occurred to me that it would suit the convenience of hon. members if, at the conclusion of to-day's business, we adjourned until Tuesday next. I have also been asked by the Premier to intimate that members' passes will pass them through the guards at the railway station to-morrow. It is hoped that as many members as possible will there assemble to meet the French Mission. It is also desired by the Premier that all members of both Houses of Parliament shall attend the luncheon at Parliament House at one o'clock to-morrow, to meet the visiting delegates.

#### BILL—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Select Committee's Report.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL brought up the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the Bill.

Report received and read.

#### MOTION—ELECTORAL ACT, TO AMEND.

Hon. H. CARSON (Central) [4.51]: I move—

That in opinion of this House the Government should bring in a Bill to amend the Electoral Act to more clearly define the definition of "Householder."

I have no desire to reduce the franchise for this Chamber. I should not like to see it the same as that for another place. While we have the bi-cameral constitution, it is essential that there should be some more restricted franchise for this House than for another place. Those who have the greater burden of taxation to bear, and those who have wives and families here, should have a greater say in the government of the country than those who might be able to flit at any stage of their sojourn in Western Australia. The reason I have brought forward the motion is that during the last two elections of members for this Chamber there has been considerable trouble and also a great