

to say that the speeches made to-day by North-Western members will go far towards convincing the people of this State of the importance of that vast territory. Those speeches have shown us that there are very many avenues in the North-West which admit of being exploited with advantage to the whole community. Like the member for Guildford (Mr. Davies), I desire to assure North-Western members that, coming as I do from the remote South-West, any support I can give whilst representing that electorate will be most heartily given for the advancement of the North-West.

Item, *Roads and Bridges throughout the North-West, including subsidies to roads boards, etc.; North-West roads generally, £2,750:*

Mr. DURACK: I desire to call attention to the meagreness of this item for a territory of 650,000 square miles and with a coastline of 1,400 miles. The Federal Government have laid down in this connection the principle that area should be taken into consideration as well as population. I hope the Government, when considering this matter next year, will deal with it more on that principle. In that case the North-West would get a very nice sum for its roads. Roads are one of the principal factors in opening up the North. That fact was stressed by the action of the Federal Government in sending a special tractor and road-making machine to Port Darwin. The share of the North-West from the Federal grant towards road construction should work out at about £50,000. I hope the State Government will see that the North-West is fairly treated in that connection.

Item, *Derby jetty, £1,000:*

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: This item illustrates a procedure that is hardly fair to the North-West. On turning to the Colonial Secretary's Estimates, hon members will see that there is a revenue of £29,000 from tramways and jetties of the North-West. The cost of keeping up the tramways and rolling stock is charged to the North-West vote, while the revenue received from that expenditure is credited to the Colonial Secretary's Department. Surely if the North-West is to be treated as a separate entity it is essential that the revenues earned by North-West public utilities should be kept separate.

The Premier: I agree with that.

Mr. ANGELO: In supporting the contention of the member for North-East Fremantle, let me remind the Committee that in reply to a question I recently asked, the Colonial Secretary stated that the Carnarvon tramways made a profit of £900 the year before last and a profit of £1,000 last year. I entirely agree that the expenditure should not be charged to this vote while the corresponding revenue is appropriated by the Colonial Secretary's Department. One of my reasons for asking a question on the subject was to show that the so-called facilities of the North-West are really profit-making concerns.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Aborigines (North-West), 67,548:*

Mr. PICKERING: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

Vote put and passed.

[This concluded the Estimates for the Department of the North-West.]

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [11.1]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 30th October.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I would like to call the Premier's attention to the fact that several annual reports have not yet been presented to the House. These include reports from the Auditor General and from the Commissioner of Taxation, and also the Public Accounts. I hope the Premier will endeavour to have them made available by the time we meet again.

The PREMIER: I do not know that I can promise they will be presented by then.

Hon. P. Collier: It is time we had them.

The PREMIER: I will certainly ask for the reports.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.3 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 30th October, 1923.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT, APPOINTMENT.

The Clerk announced that, in the absence of the President through family bereavement, it would be necessary to appoint a deputy president.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That the Hon. J. W. Kirwan take the Chair as Deputy President during the absence of the President.

Question put and passed.

CONDOLENCE—THE LATE LADY WITTENOOM.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.32]: It is with great regret I find it my painful duty to ask members to carry a motion of sympathy with the President. Since last we met, the President has lost his wife, Lady Wittenoom, under circumstances almost tragic. Some twelve months ago Lady Wittenoom went to England with every hope of regaining her health and strength. It was thought she had done so, but, when she was returning to her husband and family, death overtook her very suddenly. Lady Wittenoom had endeared herself to a very large circle in Western Australia, and to-day many are mourning her loss. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its expression of sincere sympathy and condolence with the Hon. the President and his family in the irreparable loss that they have sustained by the sudden and unexpected death of Lady Wittenoom while on a voyage to rejoin them after a long absence.

It is my intention subsequently to ask members to adjourn to-day and to meet again to-morrow evening at half-past seven. That will enable them to attend Lady Wittenoom's funeral at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.34]: I second the motion. I desire to express my sympathy with the President in the great loss that has befallen him. When, a few weeks ago, I quoted in the House some lines from one of our young poets, Rupert Brooke, "Comes Death on shadowy and relentless feet," I little thought the words would be brought home to us in so tragic a manner, and particularly to one who occupies so high a position as does the President of the House. The deceased lady was well-known to most of us, and especially to the older generations of Western Australians. She had endeared herself to a large circle of friends, and both her married name, as the wife of our President, and her maiden name representing the old family of Habgood, one of the pioneering families of Western Australia, were household words in this State when I was a boy; in fact, her maiden name served as name for that corner on which the A.M.P. buildings now stand, which for many a year was known as Habgood's corner. We all deeply regret the bereavement our President has sustained in losing one so near and dear to him.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.36]: I wish to say a word in support of the motion. It is twelve months ago almost to the day when some of the wives of members of the Chamber gathered together on these premises and gave the late Lady Wittenoom a send-off. As they had sent her off under the best auspices, so it was intended, I believe, to welcome her back in similar circumstances. Unfortunately, death has intervened. On behalf

of those ladies who desired to welcome Lady Wittenoom back, I wish to express sympathy with the motion and with the President, who has been so suddenly bereaved.

Question put and passed, members standing.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That the resolution be conveyed to the President.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.39]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 7.30 p.m. to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.40 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 30th October, 1923.

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

CONDOLENCE—THE LATE LADY WITTENOOM.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.32]: During the period over which the House has stood adjourned, we have heard the sad news of the death of the wife of the President of the Legislative Council. Lady Wittenoom was known to many of us and was appreciated by all who knew her, and we feel the deepest possible sympathy with Sir Edward in his hour of trouble and sorrow. I move—

That this House desires to express its deep sympathy with the President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, in his bereavement, and requests that the terms of this resolution be communicated to that gentleman by the Hon. the Speaker.