

£700 or more a year in an attempt to keep the mosquitoes in check. I hope that with the co-operation of the City Council we shall be able to carry out the admirable scheme for the reclamation of the foreshore. The Minister for Works has taken a keen and enthusiastic interest in the matter and I hope he may be retained in his present position for many years to come so that he may be able to give effect to the scheme.

On motion by Mr. Clydesdale, debate adjourned.

LAPSED BILL—RESTORATION.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read requesting the Assembly, in accordance with the Standing Orders relating to lapsed Bills, to resume consideration of the Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill.

On motion by Mr. Taylor, ordered That consideration of the Council's message be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

House adjourned at 10.38 p.m.

with regard to the lamented departure of one of our number, Mr. Greig. No words of mine could be more fitting than those uttered by the Leader of the House, and I shall not attempt to improve upon them. The same remark applies to the welcome extended by various members to Mr. Glasheen. To judge by Mr. Glasheen's able speech of last week, much may be expected from the new member. The speeches already made on the motion before the Chair have been interesting and instructive, and it might be said that during the debate we have travelled from Dan to Beersheba. All sorts of complaints and all sorts of requirements have been voiced, and every member has viewed the situation from his own particular standpoint. This is only what might be expected from a debate on a motion of such elasticity as that under consideration. No doubt those who in the first instance granted such a wide range of ground to be travelled over were wise in their generation. The Address-in-reply enables members to forecast the requirements of their provinces for the information of the Government. Unless I, as a representative of the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, raise my voice on the same subject, it will be assumed that there is nothing whatever required in my province, but that everything in the garden is lovely. The Governor's Speech makes early reference to the State's financial position. Hon. members have expressed their individual views as to what has led to the success achieved. Amongst other things it has been claimed that the very substantial reduction of the deficit during the past 12 months is the immediate result of the progressive policy of group settlement initiated by Sir James Mitchell. I shall not say that it is not so, but I feel bound to express my views, so that my constituents will know exactly where I stand on the financial question. I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction that the success achieved is attributable chiefly to the foresight of Sir James Mitchell in opening up the eastern wheat belt years ago. His optimism in that direction aroused enthusiasm amongst people in city avocations, many of whom went into the country and began growing wheat. That fact, combined with the bountiful season and the good prices realised for wheat and wool, explained the financial improvement. I was glad to hear

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 20th August, 1925.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Tenth Day—Amendment.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. J. DUFFELL (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.36]: I desire to subscribe to the views so ably expressed by the Leader of the House at the opening of the session

similar views expressed by Mr. Glasheen. It is well known that people who have remained on the wheat areas for any length of time have made good, and now find themselves in a position very different from that which they would have occupied had they adhered to their city avocations. In view of the short time during which the group settlement scheme has been in operation, one cannot expect it to have as yet any visible effect upon the finances of the State. The Governor's Speech makes prominent mention of the subject of migration. Different views have been expressed by hon. members as to ways and means of placing migrants on the land and as to the type of men required. It is interesting to consider the various opinions expressed as to the proper type of migrant. Mr. Burvill suggested that the men should have agricultural training before they left the Old Country. No member to whom the conditions prevailing at Home are known could make such a suggestion. Four years ago it was my privilege to visit England, and while there I went to various provincial towns and travelled north, south, east and west. I had the opportunity of meeting some of the men high in Imperial counsels, and to exchange ideas with them on the subject of migration. From the aspect of secondary industries I said I could not offer much encouragement for tradesmen to come here. I explained that Western Australia was a country of magnificent distances, tremendous areas, wonderful climate, and good soil, and possessed facilities for helping those not well situated to help themselves from a financial aspect. I said that the men Western Australia was crying out for were those who had been engaged in agricultural pursuits. And how do you think I was met? It was explained to me by men in high positions that they had hundreds of thousands of men who, as a result of the war, were out of employment, and that, so far from singling out the few accustomed to agricultural pursuits, it was desired to find employment for all, even the artisan class. It was said to me, "If you can get a good healthy type, such as our artisans, out there they will soon adapt themselves to circumstances and make good." There is a great deal of truth in that statement, as confirmed by Mr. Ewing, Mr. Willmott, and others, when referring to the operations of some

of the migrants. It is true that some have given up in despair and got back into the city and towns. That is only to be expected; but, taking all things into consideration, it can be said that the percentage of those who have stuck to their task and made good will compare favourably with the migrants in Canada or in any other part of the British Dominions. I have not had a very large experience of those on the group settlements in the South-West, but I have several times visited the Peel Estate. Only a fortnight ago I was again down on that estate, and I visited Group 54. There I met settlers who had come out from London. Toiling on their blocks they were perfectly happy. They had had 13 inches of rain during the previous three weeks. I mention this that members may realise that the out-of-door conditions were not the most inviting. I asked one settler what he thought of his changed position in life, and he said, "I am quite satisfied. I am going to make good."

Hon. T. Moore: Is he still on sustenance?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Yes, he is. I saw four others. They were engaged in clearing and preparing the land for their crops. I had a look at their homes, spoke with their wives and children, and found them all contented and happy. Passing along to another group I found a meeting being held of men who were desirous of securing hospital accommodation for the district. To show that they were willing to help themselves, 369 families were contributing 1s. 6d. per week towards the maintenance of the proposed hospital. It is gratifying to be able to state that, since then, the Government have granted the request and are about to build a hospital, which those 369 families will maintain by their contributions. It goes to show that the migrants on the Peel Estate are endeavouring to make good, and are happy and contented and altogether in a better position than they would have been had they remained in the Old Country. The future of the group settlements is causing anxiety, not only to the one who formulated the scheme, but also to those members of Parliament who were in the House when the scheme was first launched. I remember when we had a Bill before us providing for a railway from Pemberton to Denmark. The Bill was not viewed favourably by a majority of the House, and eventually it

found its way into the waste paper basket amidst a howl from some of those responsible for group settlements. We were informed by the Premier of the day, Sir James Mitchell, that the railway was part and parcel of his scheme, and that unless he got the line the scheme in that area would end in failure. Of such importance did he deem the railway that he called a special meeting of Parliament to give further consideration to the question. We met, and we complied with his request, feeling it to be our duty to help him to achieve success with the group settlement scheme. But, judge of my surprise when, a few nights ago, we were informed by Mr. Stewart that not a tap had been done in respect of that railway. I am still brimful of hope that the group settlements will be brought to a fruitful and successful issue.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: They owe us a lot of money.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: That is true, but so too did the men on the wheat belt in the early days of its development. Yet they have made good, as I have no doubt the group settlers also will do. Group settlement is an experiment, but it is well worth the risk, and I am quite sure it will ultimately meet with success.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The group settlers have a much harder fight than the wheat grower had.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: The question of sustenance for the group settlers will have to receive the early consideration of the Government, on whom will be the onus of saying whether or not the system should be perpetuated.

Hon. T. Moore: The day for a change is long overdue.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I have closely considered the report of the Royal Commission on group settlement. The Commissioners travelled far and wide, examining all sorts and conditions of men. They were no respecters of persons, but were out to do their duty, and they did it well. I have not read the evidence taken before the Commission, but I have carefully studied the Commission's report. It contains some findings and recommendations that, I hope, will be put into effect. There is one finding to which I would specially draw the Colonial Secretary's attention. It has been commented upon in the Press. There must be some virtue in it, else the Press would not have singled it out

for comment. It is in the majority report, and no exception is taken to it in the minority report. The finding reads as follows:—

The sustenance provisions of the scheme have had a demoralising effect upon the settlers, and have been the chief cause of the high cost of group work.

I can quite believe it. References have been made in the Chamber to the demoralising effect the dole system is having on the unemployed in Great Britain, and so we can quite believe the sustenance system will have a demoralising effect on the people on the group settlements. But what appeals to me most amongst the Commission's recommendations is this one—

That the whole work of preparing the farms be completed under piece work.

I agree with that, and I congratulate the Commissioners on having had the boldness to make such a recommendation. It must have caused them a great deal of consideration; they must have weighed it very carefully and tried to conceive the effects of such a recommendation. They have had the courage of their convictions, and have definitely recommended that clearing should be done by piecework. However, I do not know that we should be so very much surprised at that, for I am reminded that only a year or two ago, when the governing body of the trades and labour organisations in Western Australia decided to make extensive alterations and additions to the Trades Hall, they, like business men, went to a competent firm of architects, had plans and specifications drawn, and in due course called tenders and had the work done to their complete satisfaction by contract labour. I give them credit for that.

Hon. J. E. Dodd: It could not be helped.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I do not know whether it could or not; at the same time I give them credit for a display of business acumen in getting the work done in that manner. I will take members further back still and show them that it is not a new idea with the Labour Party. Let me go back to the days when the Parliamentary allowance was £200. It was generally admitted that members could not exist on that alone, that they had to do something else in order to keep things going. I remember that one W. D. Johnson, afterwards a Minister of the Crown, augmented his Parliamentary salary by engaging in work as a builder and contractor.

The Honorary Minister: What was wrong with that?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Nothing. But what I ask is why should the Fremantle Municipal Council be told that they should do certain work by day labour when the Labour Party thought fit to carry out alterations to their own Trades Hall by contract.

Hon. E. H. Gray: Day labour under contract.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: A very good idea. Rest assured that when the work is carried out by contract, the contractor will see that the men do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Was the work done under the 44 or 48 hours arrangement?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I am not concerned whether the men worked 44 or 48 hours. The point I wish to make is that the recommendation signed by Tom Moore, J. Lindsay and W. D. Johnson is that the whole of the work at the group settlements should be completed on the piecework system. Quite right, too, and I am sure that it will be carried out at a reasonable cost, and moreover, will be well done. Just another point about the contract system. The Governor's Speech, amongst other things forecasts an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act. I hope the Leader of the House will note my remarks and will see to it that his colleagues will not fail to include in the amending Bill a provision for the contract system.

Members: No hope.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: If that is not done I assure the Minister that something will be said. I do not intend to say much about settlement at Salmon Gums and Norseman. We have heard all about those places as well as Kalgarin, Bencubbin and other districts. But I may be pardoned for making some reference to what is said in the Speech about the metropolitan water supply. We in the metropolitan area are very charitable; we listen to the voicing of the requirements and complaints that come from country districts, and we take with a grain of salt all the abuse that is hurled at us, and the references that are made to us as parasites existing on the primary producers. It will be admitted that the water supply for the metropolis is a matter of importance. We all know from experience the value of a good water supply and we know what it is to be short of water. We find that all sorts of regulations have been framed, and that these regulations impose

hardships upon the consumers of water. The 176,000 people in the metropolitan area have had to endure hardships as a result of the regulations in existence.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: We have even had to go a day without water.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: A week without water.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That statement is not correct.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: It is correct, and consumers in some parts of the metropolis had to be supplied with water from a cart.

Hon. T. Moore: They were lucky to get it that way.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: We are a long suffering people in the metropolitan-suburban area, but we manage to get there somehow or other.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That is not so had as having to cart water 20 miles.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: During last session a select committee was appointed to go into the question of the metropolitan water supply. Unfortunately, it was such a big question that notwithstanding very close attention to the work and the examination of many witnesses, it was quite impossible for that committee to complete its task earlier than it did. Even then, it was towards the end of the session. It will be remembered that in October an interim report was presented to this House. The report was made because it was realised that it was imperative something should be done immediately. At that time we were not satisfied with the work that was being carried out at Churchman's Brook. The committee were convinced that a great mistake would be made unless the pipes which were manufactured for that scheme, and which at that time were not on the road, were diverted from the Churchman's Brook work to the Mundaring scheme as it was proposed to do. The object was to provide employment for those who were out of work. There was absolutely no chance whatever of getting any water from Churchman's Brook during last summer although it was anticipated by the department and the public were so informed by the Minister.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Were those pipes so diverted?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: No. Instead, all the available motor lorries were engaged to move those pipes with all possible haste. There was no go-slow about the business. Eventually they were dropped along the road from Churchman's Brook to the city, and the Mun-

daring scheme was not taken into consideration. Nor was any notice taken of the interim report; it was left to be debated before the committee by one man. That one man stood between 176,000 people in the metropolis and a water supply for the summer months. We did not get any additional water from Mundaring, nor did we get a drop from Churchman's Brook, although a promise was made that we should have it in January. To show the anxiety of the Minister for Works, on the 6th January last, he issued instructions for the curtailment of water supplies in the metropolitan area. That instruction was issued earlier than had ever been done before and it clearly indicated that something had gone wrong, that someone had slipped. No water was available from Churchman's Brook, although it has been promised. By an act of Providence we got summer rains, an unusual thing in this part of the State. Those rains began in January and continued at intervals through the summer period, and in that way obviated the need for the watering of gardens and lawns with sprinklers. What is the position to-day? The Governor's Speech contains this paragraph on the subject of the water supply.

The construction of the pipe line to bring water from the Canning and Wongong catchment areas to Perth was commenced early in the year, and it is anticipated that sufficient water will thus be made available from pipe-head dams on the Canning River and Wongong and Churchman's Brooks to ensure an adequate supply for the coming summer.

I hope with all my heart that the Government's desire in this direction will be consummated, but I have my doubts. I am afraid that in the coming summer we shall be in the same predicament as we have always been in. If the Government are able to assist us to the extent of providing water from the hills they will do so, but I am afraid that it will not be in their power to do so. I congratulate the Government on many things they have accomplished. I feel sure that if everything goes well they will render a good account of themselves and will receive support, provided, of course, they do not introduce any wild cat proposals that savour of communism, and try to force them down the throats of members of this Chamber. I would not have alluded to this subject but for having seen in the "Worker" certain references to proposals of the Government.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: Do you read the "Worker"?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I read it every week and it is a paper that I can recommend to hon. members.

Hon. H. A. Stephenson: What is it good for?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: If the hon. member does not read it he misses a good deal because it gives the side of a question about which my colleague perhaps does not know anything, that is, if he does not read that paper. I will give one instance to indicate the value of that paper. The Labour Congress that sat in Perth a few weeks ago carried a resolution to the effect that unless this Chamber passed measures as they were sent to us by the Government, the whole of those associated with the unions would hold stop-work meetings simultaneously. Just think of it! Do the unions imagine such an action would influence us?

Hon. E. H. Harris: Don't you think they will do it?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: They can do it, but do they think it will stop us doing what we think is right? If anything is needed to buck us up and make us give consideration—serious consideration, most minute consideration—to the measures from the Assembly, it will be a resolution such as that passed by the Labour Congress. That is one item I read in the "Worker."

Hon. W. H. Kitson: What is wrong with stop-work meetings?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: What is wrong with them? What is wrong with Mr. Ryce, Miss Shelley, and so on? There is another matter I wish to refer to. It will be remembered that a Federal Disabilities Commission came to Western Australia some time ago to inquire into matters that we consider are not beneficial to this State under the Federal regime. There are a great many things that Western Australia has suffered from at the hands of the Federal Government. I am reminded of a statement made by the Acting Premier a few days before the Premier returned from London. It was to the effect that he had received a message from the Commonwealth Government that they could no longer continue to collect land and income taxes here for Western Australia at the price agreed upon. I think that price was 2½ per cent. commission. The Acting Premier stated in the Press report that as the Treasurer

would be returning soon from London he would ask the Federal Government to allow the matter to remain in abeyance until Mr. Collier returned. The reply that he received was that the matter was so important the Federal Government could not wait! I do not know what has happened since. I do not know what has been done regarding any increase in the commission for the collection of land and income tax. I remember, however, that in 1917 when Mr. Frank Wilson was Premier a motion was moved in this Chamber and was spoken to by 26 members. It was to the effect that an alteration should be made regarding the period at which merchants' returns for taxation purposes should be submitted. At that time the Taxation Department's financial year closed on the 31st December, and the motion proposed an alteration to the 30th June. The ostensible reason set out in the motion was to bring the Department into line with the State and Commonwealth regarding the closing of the financial year and to enable merchants, manufacturers, and others, who had to take stock and balance and render their returns on the 30th June and the 31st December each year, to take stock and balance on the 30th June instead of on the 31st December for the State taxation returns and on the 30th June for the Federal returns. The motion was agreed to, and it was stated during the debate that the primary reason for bringing forward the motion was to enable the State department to collect land and income tax for the Federal Government on a 2½ per cent. commission basis. The reason for the State collecting the taxation was that we had a permanent trained staff in our Taxation Department, whereas the Commonwealth Government had a department staffed only by temporary assistants who were employed for six months. It was realised that those assistants were in the Federal Taxation Department long enough to gain a knowledge of the business affairs of firms, and the impression was created that it was not wise to let such men acquire a knowledge of the firms' businesses and then have them walking about the streets possessing that knowledge. What happened? The Federal Taxation Commissioner, Mr. Ewing, visited Western Australia and put his proposition before members. He asked whether, in the event of the Commonwealth Government being prepared to take over the staff of the

Taxation Department and collect land and income taxes on a 2½ per cent. commission basis, leaving Mr. Black, the State Taxation Commissioner, as the link between the State and Federal Governments, that proposition would be acceptable. It was accepted and finalised on those conditions. To-day, however, notwithstanding the fact that the Federal Government have such huge surpluses, they realise the work is costing a little more than they are getting out of Western Australia. This is another of those signs that make their appearance from time to time that have justified the Press in bringing such matters before the State, to prove that we have not received from the Federal Government the treatment we ought to have had. It will be observed that at the commencement of his Speech the Governor expressed appreciation at being permitted to open the second session of the 12th Parliament of Western Australia. He also notified the Parliament of Western Australia that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to appoint him as Governor of the State of Western Australia in succession to Sir Francis Newdegate. Hon. members who have had the privilege of meeting His Excellency and Lady Campion since they have been in Western Australia are all agreed in proclaiming that they are most excellent people and that Sir William is an excellent representative of His Majesty the King. Sir William Campion is trying to follow on the lines adopted by Sir Francis Newdegate. He desires to acquire his knowledge of this State by means of a close personal touch with the people. With that object in view he has set out on his travels. Therefore we in Western Australia realise that we are very fortunate indeed in having had sent out as the representative of the King a man of Sir William's calibre. Judge of my surprise and that of many others, too, when on opening Wednesday's paper I read the following telegram under the headings "Australian Governors," "Mr. Lang's Proposal":—

The Premier (Mr. Lang) said to-day that he was quite sanguine that the Home authorities would accede to the request of the Governments of the various States for the appointment of Australian-nominated Governors. The Premier now has in his possession the memorial which will be despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as soon as it receives the signatures of the Premiers of the various States which have fallen into line with the request. It has already been signed by Mr. Lang and the Premier of

Queensland (Mr. Gillies). Mr. Lang said that he understood that the Home authorities had signified some time ago that they would be agreeable to give favourable consideration to a request made by the whole of the Dominion Governments concerning the proposed abolition of State Governors. The representations about to be made for Australian-nominated Governors was a very mild request as compared with the abolition, and he did not anticipate any difficulty in the way of the Home authorities acceding to the petition, which would be forwarded in due course.

The part that interests us as a State followed. The matter did not stop with the telegram from Sydney. Below that telegram appeared, under the heading of "Mr. Collier Signs Memorial," the following:—

The Western Australian Government have decided to agree to the request made by the Premier of New South Wales (Mr. Lang) that representations be made to the Imperial Government that, in future, only Australians should be appointed to the positions of State Governors. The Premier (Mr. Collier) made that announcement last night. Mr. Collier said that, in common with other Premiers, he had received a memorial which was to be sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, favouring the appointment of Australian-nominated Governors. "The Cabinet agrees with the memorial," said Mr. Collier, "and it has been signed and returned." Mr. Collier would not express any personal views on the question.

Hon. E. H. Gray: That is no reflection upon the present Governor.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: As a result it is my intention to move an amendment to the Address-in-reply as follows:—

But this House expresses its regret that your advisers have thought fit to sign a memorial addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies praying that State Governors in future shall be Australians on a recommendation by the Government for the time being of each State.

In moving that amendment to the Address-in-reply I wish to make it clear that I have not seen the memorial and I do not know the wording of it. I am satisfied that the report appearing in the "West Australian" warrants my taking this step. I am satisfied I am voicing the opinions of thousands of people in Western Australia when I say I do not desire that any change should be made in the present system of appointing State Governors.

Hon. E. H. Gray: You have not got the A.N.A. behind you.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: Never mind about the A.N.A. I have the hon. member behind me and many others. The fact remains that

the present system of appointing Governors has given complete satisfaction and that the appointees for many years past have rendered splendid service. Let us recall the services of such men as Sir Harry Rawson, a former Governor of New South Wales, Sir William Gibson Carmichael, one time Governor of Victoria, and Sir Francis Newdegate in this State. Sir Francis as he moves about the United Kingdom, must be one of the finest advertisements Western Australia has ever had, for he is capable of giving this State just the class of advertisement of which it stands in such great need. He is a man who has seen the State for himself and who is able to explain to people in England the opportunities and privileges that await those who care to settle in this country. Of those who preceded him I might mention Sir William Ellison-Macartney, Sir Harry Barron, Sir Frederick Bedford—in fact, all along the line, without a single exception, the appointments to this high office have been judiciously made and have been the outcome of mature consideration. Men selected for such a high and important position should be men having wide experience of Imperial affairs.

Hon. J. R. Brown: Too much Imperialism.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: They should be men au fait with conditions at the seat of Empire, men who have earned distinction, men well and worthily recommended by the Home Office. A vast majority of the people in this State are thoroughly satisfied with the present system of appointing Governors. I can see very plainly that there is something underlying this proposal to nominate Australians for the position.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Do you think it is meant to give Tom Walsh a chance?

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I would not be surprised at anything they did in that direction. We have seen wonderful things in the past, and if the Government succeeded in getting this proposal through—

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member had better not insinuate any of those ideas.

Hon. J. DUFFELL: I am not insinuating anything that is out of place; I am merely suggesting what might occur. We have had experience of it before. We have heard Mr. Brown take exception to an appointment from political life to the judiciary. The less he says the better; otherwise I shall feel constrained to make statements that for him would perhaps be best left unsaid. If effect were given to the memorial and the

nomination of Governors were left to the State Governments it is possible that all future appointments would be political ones. As the leading article in this morning's paper points out only a little while ago one of the Premiers tried to make a position for himself at Washington—a position both unnecessary and uncalled for. Fortunately, he failed. I would recommend every member to read that leading article. It indicates the dangers that will confront us if the memorial meets with success. I have moved the amendment because I realise that a matter of great importance is involved. Let me give some reasons for my surprise at the Premier having signed the memorial. A few weeks ago he returned from the seat of Empire after having met statesmen, financiers and men of high standing. In England he we well received; he obtained a good deal of information and he had a good time. Those privileged to hear the Premier's utterances in the Prince of Wales Theatre on his return are not likely to forget it. It was one of the finest addresses I had heard. From him, therefore, I did expect something better than his bowing to such a request by subscribing his name to the petition. It is beyond me how he could see what he saw, hear what he heard, and be received as he was received in the Old Country, and then almost immediately after his return to the State could concur in the advocacy of such a radical change. Maybe it was within the Premier's province to act as he did, but on a matter of such importance he should first have consulted Cabinet and the representatives of the people in Parliament assembled, and given them an opportunity to express their views.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.41 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th August, 1925.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Tenth Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WILSON (Collie) [4.35]: I shall not detain the House very long. Were it not for a little episode this week, I would not have spoken. In common with other members of the House I attended the Legislative Council to hear the Governor's Speech. I heard it and I believe the Governor was there. In fact I did not see him, but I found out afterwards that he was hidden from sight by some uniformed person occupying the seat of the Chairman of Committees. Whether the Governor ever nodded to me or to the back of that particular gentleman, I do not know. The time has arrived when we should have some manners displayed and we should see that no officer of the Legislative Council stands in front of His Excellency. In fact I think a change of programme would be very acceptable in this House, because I think the Governor should open Parliament in the House of the people—the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Panton: Hear, hear!

MR. WILSON: It is not too late in the day to make the attempt.

Mr. Maley: We will have it over again.

MR. WILSON: It is one of those things that everyone appreciates.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: We will have to get better furniture here.

MR. WILSON: I wish to congratulate the State upon the appointment of such a distinguished soldier and gentleman as Sir William Campion to the position of Governor of this State. I also wish to congratulate ourselves upon having so worthy a Lieutenant-Governor as Sir Robert McMillan. At the same time I endorse the action taken by the Premier in conjunction with Premiers in the Eastern States relative