

Hon. G. FRASER: Yes.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member may proceed.

Hon. G. FRASER: We were hopeful that the Hospital Bill would have become law. However, whether the fault was with this Chamber or with someone else, the fact remains that no such measure has become the law of the State. Mr. Cornell said that many people threw their arms up when the Bill was defeated. In my province the public still desire that legislation of that description should find a place on the statute-book. I am sorry to have taken up so much time. There are many other matters I would like to deal with, but as the proceedings this afternoon are more of a social description, I will not proceed any further. Before concluding, I desire to congratulate the Government on the fact that on the occasion of the opening of this, their last session of Parliament—

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I am glad you said it is their last session.

Hon. G. FRASER: If I left out one small word, or rather if the hon. member failed to hear me properly, I wish to make it clear that I meant to refer to the "last session of this Parliament." The point I desire to make is that the Government have refused to do what is usually done by Governments at the opening of the last session of a Parliament. They have declined to introduce legislation that is in the nature of window-dressing. The present Government are content to go to the people on the work they have done during the past three years. I have much pleasure in submitting the motion.

HON. J. R. BROWN (North-East) [3.53]: I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 25th July, 1929.

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m. pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening speech (vide Council report ante), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### BILL—TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.34]: By way of asserting and maintaining the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend Section 133 of the Transfer of Land Act, 1893.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to announce that in company with hon. members of this Chamber I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of convenience and better authority I have caused copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst hon. members of this Chamber.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.***First Day.*

**MISS HOLMAN** (Forrest) [3.36]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please Your Excellency. We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament."

I have very much pleasure in moving the motion, and in doing so I wish to congratulate the Government on the progress of the State as revealed by His Excellency's Speech. It is good to know that the Government of the day are working for the success of the State, and it is good to know that success is being attained. The State has made such progress that our Centenary year finds us all well, finds us on the way to a great harvest, and finds the State on the road to a greater prosperity. The Government, as can be seen from the Speech, are providing for those people who will live in our land to-morrow and all the to-morrows after that. The Government have encouraged land settlement and have by careful investigation made it almost certain that the people settled on the land in different parts of the State will be successful. This success is being assured through their experimental farms, their agricultural colleges, and all the other help that the farmers are receiving from the present Government. We have every reason to believe that the Centenary season will reach our highest expectations. The gold mining industry is also showing greater promise. A good deal of money is being spent on the Wiluna goldfield, which is being given railway communication, and there is every hope that the industry will soon be more prosperous than it has been for some time past. Reference is made in the Speech to harbour works. I have travelled in various parts of the State and have seen for myself the works being carried out by the Government. I have seen the harbour works and I have seen the agricultural water supplies that are being provided in the backblocks of the State. Wonderful water supplies are being constructed throughout the country

and I think the Minister controlling agricultural water supplies, as well as his department, is entitled to praise and gratitude for the work being done in the interests of the people who live in the backblocks. I have seen the water carried for miles and I have seen huge reservoirs constructed, and I am informed that more money has been spent on the provision of water supplies for farmers during the regime of the present Government than ever before in the history of the department. Light agricultural railways are being constructed to help the farmer market his produce, and the Government are doing all that is possible, not only for the primary producers, but for every section of the community. I should like to bestow a word of praise on the Medical and Health Department, which is doing really wonderful work. I believe that never in the history of the State has so much attention been given to the health of the people in the way of constructing hospitals, adding to existing hospitals and providing X-ray plants. Such assistance has been provided in many parts of the State and in fact, from one end of the country to the other, we find evidence of the practical interest manifested by the Government in the health of the people. When the present Government took office there was one medical officer examining the school children. Now there are three full time and one half time medical officers, and there are also three school dentists. I am looking forward to the time when the Minister will be able to provide the two travelling dental clinics he has promised us, so that the children in the country will have a better chance of preserving their teeth. The residents of my electorate do not have adequate opportunities to get the children's teeth attended to. I do not think there is any dentist in the district, and as the charge for extractions is half-a-crown and in some instances five shillings per tooth, to which must be added travelling expenses for parents to take their children to a dentist, the cost is exceedingly heavy. When we get the travelling clinics—

Mr. Latham: Do not they only make inspections? They do no work at all.

Miss HOLMAN: When we have a travelling clinic, it will do extractions and other work.

The Minister for Health: Such work is being done already.

Mr. Latham: We have not heard of any such work being done except in the city.

The Minister for Health: There were 34 country schools examined last year and every child examined was treated.

Miss HOLMAN: Every dentist belonging to the Odontological Society has given his word to the Government that on being supplied with the requisite material to treat children's teeth, such treatment will be provided free of charge. This work is being done in country centres. The Government have provided a number of infant health clinics. When the Labour Party took office there was only one infant health centre, but there are now 16 infant health centres with the result that 60 per cent. of the children born in this State are receiving attention at child welfare clinics with consequently a considerable decrease of infantile mortality. Under the Psychological Department we are awaiting the provision of a girls' home for those who are not of normal intellect. I wish to offer a word of praise to the King Edward Hospital on the good work being done there. In connection with the Centenary I should like to see a new home provided for the women whose days of active life are past. Under the heading of "Legislation," the Speech forecasts the introduction of a Bill for a redistribution of seats in the Legislative Council. I hope the Government intend also to try to provide a better franchise for that House in order to overcome existing anomalies, particularly in districts such as that I represent where, out of the 4,000 people, only about 100 are eligible to vote at Council elections. I am particularly interested in forestry and in the timber industry. If we take notice of some of the employers in this State, the timber industry has not been in a very good way during the last year. On the other hand, anyone visiting the South-West may see new mills being erected by various employers, who are making them pay and even making money out of them. Some mills have been closed down during the past year, but I am informed that the jarrah trade to-day is quite flourishing. Possibly, if a jarrah campaign were conducted, more timber would be used in the buildings in our cities and on our farms. I would suggest a "use-more-jarrah" cam-

paign similar to the "eat-more-fruit" campaign.

Mr. Latham: Get the railway freights reduced and we will use the jarrah all right!

Miss HOLMAN: Recently a conference in the South-West deplored the dedication of so much land for forestry purposes. The carrying of the motion to that effect struck me as being not quite fair to the Forests Department. We have been told frequently that the prosperity and development of our South-West depend largely on the timber industry. Certainly that has been the case in the past, and I suppose it will be in the future. Timber industry and forestry work in Western Australia mean considerable wealth and advancement to the community. The Forests Department employ a large number of men. Renowned foresters and other timber experts have pronounced our jarrah forests one of the finest and most valuable hardwood belts in the world. They have also pointed out that our reserves of timber are utterly inadequate to the growing needs of the future population, and they have strongly urged the permanent dedication of sufficient areas of prime forest to provide a perpetual supply for our people. The Government are fully seized of the importance of stabilising the industry, and are placing forestry work and the timber industry on a permanent basis. The dedication of forests has not been effected in a reckless and haphazard fashion. Before a dedication is made, a detailed land classification is made by the Lands Department and a detailed timber classification by the Forests Department. Reports on the basis of these classifications are sent to the Surveyor General, who gives them full and careful consideration; and only after that may the land be dedicated. Before the Surveyor General agrees to a dedication, he has to be satisfied that the land is essentially forest country, that it is more valuable for forestry purposes than for agriculture. Practically the whole of the cut-out karri areas in the South-West are open for selection, and reservation of karri forests has been made almost entirely of prime forest and virgin country. This State has an area of 624,000,000 acres, and out of that less than 3,000,000 acres are set aside for forestry work. That is a very small part of the State in comparison with the future demands we may have for this valuable commodity. The State must have local forest re-

serves, and a full supply of timber for the internal development of our land. The officers of the Forest Department are doing very good work. At present 400 men are employed, and 85 per cent. of that number are in the field. Houses, schools, roads, fire-breaks, telephones, and other conveniences are being furnished by the department. Sir David Hutchins, a noted forester who reported on our forests 15 years ago, wrote that from actual tests made by experts in South Africa it had been ascertained that a cultivated forest made in four years what a wild forest made in from 100 to 200 years. Our Forests Department are carrying out experiments in pine plantation, and are also looking after sandalwood and mallet. I would like to say a word about the Timber Industry Regulation Act which, at the instance of the present Government, was passed in 1926. Since its enactment sanitary conditions, water supplies, and living conditions generally on bush landings in the timber country have appreciably improved. The houses on the mills are not yet improved very much. Recently I visited the Argyle Mill, owned by Bunning Bros., and I am bound to say that I have never seen worse houses anywhere. They are really not fit for people to live in, and yet the occupants have to pay rent for them and look after them. The roofs are not even rain-proof. At another mill lately I saw the houses overrun with rats, and the lining eaten off the roofs and walls by them. At one of the railway mills the Government are doing their best to improve the conditions of the workers. At that mill there is electric light, and a beautiful Centenary hall has been erected, and conditions all round are very much better than those obtaining on the mills of private employers. Unfortunately the Timber Industry Regulation Act does not include provision for the use of telephones on bush landings, and we still have the old complaint of bush landings situated up to 27 miles from the mill and having no communication whatever with the mill in case of accident. When the Act was before Parliament, I gave some figures relating to accidents in the industry, indicating that they amounted to about 25 per cent. In the Legislative Council, and also in this Chamber, those figures were ridiculed. The Act has been in operation for almost 19 months, and during the 12 months ended last

December 850 accidents were registered, with a total working list of 3,292. That number of accidents represents 25.8 per cent. And that figure obtains in spite of all the safeguards which have been installed since the Act has been in operation. The average number of days lost per accident was 19.43. It can be seen, therefore, that the accident rate in the timber industry is a very serious thing indeed. The insurance rate for timber workers is the highest of all the workers in the State, proving that the work is really dangerous. Recently the industry has had some hard knocks. A Federal award reduced wages 5s. per week on the basic rate, notwithstanding the fact that the same Federal Arbitration Court gave the flour-millers in this State a weekly minimum of £4 9s. 6d., or 8s. 6d. more than was granted to the timber workers. Millars Co. had their mills working 38½ hours in a week of six days for some time last year. I really believe that the reason for the closing of some of the mills is that cheap sleepers are obtainable from foreigners, sleepers far cheaper than can be produced at the mills. Practically the whole of the hewing on private property is done by foreigners. This permits of the tendering of very low prices. Before the foreigners went into the hewing, experienced men did the work. Now inexperienced foreigners come in and work long hours on cut-out areas, and contractors are tendering under those conditions. The inexperienced foreigners spoil a lot of good timber. No royalty has to be paid, and they work under union rates, and a proportion of them cannot speak English. Some of the contractors in question are also foreigners. I may mention that the same thing applies to the lime and stone industry. No fewer than 7,000 foreigners have come into the State during the last five years. For that, I consider, the Commonwealth Government are very much to blame. They should have taken action to introduce the quota system. The foreigners, once they are here, cannot be blamed for what they do; I suppose they have to live and eat. Perhaps if we went to their country we would act in the same way as they do here. Still, the number of foreigners coming into the country is a dastardly shame. The Commonwealth Government should establish a quota system, and so help us to keep our country better. I desire to congratulate the Collier Government on the good work they

have accomplished, and I offer them my very best wishes that they may occupy the Treasury bench for many years to come.

**MR. LAMBERT** (Coolgardie) [3.53]: I formally second the motion moved by the member for Forrest.

(On motion by Hon. Sir James Mitchell, debate adjourned.)

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.54]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 30th July, 1929.*

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

### QUESTION—RAILWAY, LAKE GRACE-KARLGARIN.

Hon. J. CORNELL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Has any definite date been fixed for commencing the construction of the Lake Grace-Karlgarin railway? 2, Pending completion of this railway, will facilities for stacking wheat along the proposed route be provided for the coming harvest?

The **CHIEF SECRETARY** replied: 1, No, for the reason that the route has not been surveyed. This will be commenced within the next two or three weeks. 2, The matter will receive consideration.

### QUESTION—STOCK TRANSPORT. BRUCE ROCK TO MIDLAND JUNCTION.

Hon. H. J. YELLAND asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What is the scheduled time of transit of stock from Bruce Rock to Midland Junction abattoirs? 2, How long are the stock in the trucks before leaving Bruce Rock? 3, What are the reported losses of stock on these trains during this half-year? 4, Is he aware that motor transit of sheep to the abattoirs has been successfully carried out, and is likely to prove a serious competitor to the railways? 5, Will the Government take steps to shorten the period occupied in transit?

The **CHIEF SECRETARY** replied: 1, 22 hours 17 minutes. 2, Approximately 10 hours. 3, No information is available in this connection. 4, Yes, but so far only in isolated instances. The matter is being watched by the Department. 5, Provided the growers along the line combine to send their stock to Midland once a month or at other suitable periods, a special train can be arranged at a convenient time.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Second Day.*

Debate resumed from the 25th July.

**HON. C. F. BAXTER** (East) [4.40]: Before dealing with the Governor's Speech, may I add a few words to those already spoken by Mr. Fraser as to how pleased we are to have you, Sir, back again, and how very proud we were of you and your speeches and your attitude generally in the Old Country, where you endeavoured to further the interests of Western Australia. We certainly missed you while you were away, but we now feel that the absence has been well repaid in the splendid way in which you furthered the interests of the State. Many people leaving Western Australia to visit the Old Country do what they can to favourably advertise our State. There are many ways of doing that, and you, Sir, took the correct line in letting the people of the Old World know exactly what they had to face on coming here, and also the many inducements offered to them to migrate to our shores. I am sure that members generally appreciated the very able and concise speech made by a young member,