

Legislative Assembly.

Friday, 19th December, 1930.

	PAGE
Questions: Marsupial skins, royalty	2874
Railway freights: 1, Increases, 2, Wire and wire netting	2874
Canning stock route	2874
Unemployment relief tax	2874
Mining, sustenance for prospectors	2874
Assent to Bills	2878
Bills: State Trading Concerns Act Amendment, 3k.	2874
Road Districts Act Amendment, Council's Message, request for conference	2877
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment, Council's Message, request for Conference	2877
Road Districts Act Amendment and Municipal Corporations Act Amendment, Council's further Message	2878
Road Districts Act Amendment, Conference managers' report	2878
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment, Conference managers' report	2878
Adjournment, Christmas holidays	2879
Complimentary remarks	2879

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12.30 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTION—MARSUPIAL SKINS, ROYALTY.

Mr. MARSHALL (without notice) asked the Chief Secretary: Have the Government taken any action to give effect to a resolution passed by the House some weeks ago regarding the abolition of royalty on marsupial skins?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: I am afraid I am not in a position to give the hon. member any better information than I gave him on the previous occasion. The Fisheries Department is a debt collecting department, and will continue to collect debts until it is instructed to cease.

QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

Increases.

Mr. WILLCOCK (without notice) asked the Minister for Railways: Is it a fact that several different classes of railway freights have been increased by 15 per cent., and will the Minister publish a statement explaining the incidence of the increases?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: There have been adjustments of railway freights, up and down, principally down, I think. I shall take an opportunity to make a public statement as suggested.

Wire and Wire Netting.

Hon. M. F. TROY (without notice) asked the Minister for Railways: Has the freight on wire and wire netting been increased by 15 per cent.?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: I cannot answer the question at this stage.

QUESTION—CANNING STOCK ROUTE.

Mr. MARSHALL (without notice) asked the Minister for Works: Has any news been received of the whereabouts of the party engaged on reconditioning the Canning stock route? If so, what progress has been made?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: I cannot give the hon. member any definite information. To the best of my knowledge, we have received no advice of the party's present whereabouts. We are paying the dependants of the members of the party as arranged.

QUESTION—UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF TAX.

Mr. RAPHAEL (without notice) asked the Premier: Is it the intention of the Government to bring in a taxation measure for the purpose of coping with the unemployed problem?

The PREMIER replied: Not at present.

QUESTION—MINING.

Sustenance for Prospectors.

Hon. M. F. TROY (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: Is there any possibility of sustenance being provided for prospectors who have been waiting for some time?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: There is quite a good possibility and even a probability.

Hon. M. F. Troy: They are getting nearer.

BILL—STATE TRADING CONCERNS ACT AMENDMENT.

Third Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [12.39]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [12.40]: Speaking on behalf of the members of the Opposition, I desire to take this opportunity to say that the reason why we left the Chamber at the end of the last sitting involved no disrespect to you, Mr. Speaker. So much is evidenced by our presence here now. Nor was any disrespect intended to the Leader of the House or to members of the Government. The reason for our leaving the Chamber was that we wished to make a protest against the bias displayed by the Deputy Chairman of Committees. We considered that he robbed members on this side of their rights, and that he displayed a most marked attitude of partisanship. After having addressed the member for Fremantle (Mr. Sleeman), saying "I want to state the question," he then stated the question and looked on the other side of the Chamber. We regarded that as a distinct breach of the rights of members of the Opposition, and as an exhibition of partisanship that we could not tolerate. I desire to announce on behalf of members of the Opposition that we decline to sit in this Chamber if Mr. Angelo is to be in the Chair, at any period for the remainder of this session, so strongly do we feel his attitude on the last question in which we took part. I leave the matter at that. We regret the incident. We never thought that any member of this House would be so unmindful of his duties and responsibilities when occupying the Chair. We never thought that any member would be so unmindful of the rights and privileges of members, or that the attitude of any member in the Chair could be so partial and biased as the attitude which the member for Carnarvon, Mr. Angelo, displayed, to the knowledge of everyone who was in this Chamber. In that regard the members of the Opposition do refuse to sit under Mr. Angelo if he presides here during the remainder of the session. As regards the third reading of the Bill, the Opposition have offered their utmost resistance to the measure at all stages. We consider we have done all that can possibly be done to mark our protest, and to express our resentment of the action of the Government. We are only sorry that the hours which have been given us to discuss the measure—during the night and the early morning—were such as to prevent our opinions and the facts that we adduced and the case we put up, from reaching the public. It

is our desire that the public should know what opposition was offered to the Bill, but they have not been given the information. That fact is due largely to the manner in which the business connected with the Bill has been handled by the Government. It was the first measure introduced, and the last to come up here for discussion; and then the Government determined to sit through until the Bill was finished. We have done all we could do, fulfilling our obligations and adhering to the principles we stand for and the views we expressed to the electors before we were returned here. Having done all that is possible in that regard, no further opposition from us, with the numbers we have in this Chamber, can bear any fruit.

MR. ANGELO (Gaseoyne) [12.44]: Referring to the remarks just made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I wish to say that I very much regret having had to take the action I did take. I wish to assure hon. members that there is no foundation for the statement, made during that unfortunate period, that I purposely approached the Chairman of Committees and asked him to allow me to take the Chair. The Chairman of Committees will, I feel sure, bear me out when I say that for about half an hour he had been nodding to me to relieve him. When I did relieve him, I asked him to return as speedily as possible because I wanted to be in my place when the two questions affecting the North-West were under discussion.

Opposition Members: Oh!

Mr. Corboy: Very thin.

Mr. ANGELO: I regret it very much if members of the House, or some of them, do not believe what I have to say.

Hon. P. Collier: Even if the hon. member was in the Chair, that fact would not prevent him from being fair.

Mr. ANGELO: I am coming to that. The member for Kimberley, Mr. Coverley, had just finished speaking on his amendment, and the member for Fremantle rose and called on me. I had not put the question. I therefore stated then and there that the question must first be put.

Mr. Wilson: And then you looked over there!

Mr. ANGELO: Mr. Speaker, you know that one has to read the question. I do not think it is fair for any member to rise be-

fore the question is put, because by doing so he may get an undue advantage over other members. As soon as I had finished reading the question, I looked up and caught sight of the two figures together.

Mr. Raphael: Your left eye was closed, that was the only thing.

Mr. ANGELO: I called upon the Minister for Lands. I did not know the Minister was going to do what he did.

Opposition Members: Oh!

Miss Holman: God hates story-tellers.

Mr. ANGELO: Anyhow, that is all I have to say, except that I wish to emphasise how very sorry I was that I had to adopt a certain drastic course. It was practically forced on me by a member whom I think every member of the House respects and likes.

MR. RICHARDSON (Subiaco) [12.47]: I think it only fair to say a few words. First, I wish to refute the statement that the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) came to me as Chairman of Committees and asked me to allow him to take the Chair. I had, in fact, been in the Chair for several hours, and I sent for the member for Gascoyne, as one of the Deputy Chairmen of Committees, and asked him to take up the position on my behalf. He then told me that he wished to be in his seat when the State Shipping Service was being considered, and I promised that I would come back and relieve him accordingly. What happened in the interval I know nothing at all about, because I was resting outside. I am very sorry indeed if hon. members think that the member for Gascoyne came to me and impressed on me the necessity for his getting into the Chair so that he might dodge some of his responsibilities with regard to the State Shipping Service and the North-West. I make this explanation because I am entirely at fault, if there is any fault. I was tired and sleepy, and wanted a rest; and therefore I sent for the member for Gascoyne. He kindly consented to take the Chair. The hon. member is not responsible in any way for his having gone into the Chair. I make this explanation because I consider it is due to him. He simply acted as a Deputy Chairman; he took the Chair on my behalf. But the hon. member insisted that I should come in to relieve him before the State Shipping Service came up for discussion.

MR. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [12.49]: I do not know that we should let this matter subside in the manner that perhaps is intended. As regards what has been stated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about the partisan attitude adopted by the Deputy Chairman of Committees, while we accept unreservedly the statements made by the Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Chairman of Committees as to the taking of the Chair by the latter—something that has not been under discussion or in dispute—I do not think that anyone who is un-biassed can reasonably accept the further statements of the Deputy Chairman of Committees. The member for Fremantle (Mr. Slecman) was on his feet, and the Deputy Chairman should have called that hon. member. We were sitting here watching, and as soon as the Deputy Chairman resumed his seat, or before he resumed his seat, it was a case of one up and one down. The member for Fremantle was on his feet. The Deputy Chairman addressed the member for Fremantle, and looked straight at him. The member for Fremantle was manifestly on his feet. Then the Deputy Chairman said to him, "Let me state the question first." If a member is on his feet and catches the Chairman's eye when there is some formal procedure to be gone through, this latter circumstance should not, in fairness, debar the member from being called on the moment there is an opportunity. The member for Fremantle had caught the Chairman's eye, and had already addressed him. I do not wish to impute anything further to the Deputy Chairman, but as regards his statement that he did not know the purpose for which the Minister for Lands was going to address the Committee I feel bound to say that every member of the Chamber knew absolutely what was going to happen, for it had happened two or three times previously. The object of the Minister for Lands was known to all of us. We were prepared for his moving that the Committee divide on the question. The Deputy Chairman must have known it; and his denial, I consider, makes things worse. He should have accepted the position as it was, and admitted his mistake. Then there would have been no further debate on the incident. I am sorry we cannot accept that part of his statement. We must adhere

to what has been said by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and in order to mark our disapproval of the Deputy Chairman's action we must refuse to be present during any sitting of the Chamber while he occupies the Chair.

Question (Third reading) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	25
Noes	..	..	..	..	23
					—
Majority for	..	..	..	..	2
					—

AYES,

Mr. Angelo	Sir James Mitchell
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Parker
Mr. Brown	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Davy	Mr. Plesse
Mr. Doney	Mr. Richardson
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Keenan	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. J. M. Smith
Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Thorn
Mr. H. W. Mann	Mr. Wells
Mr. J. I. Mann	Mr. North
Mr. McLarty	

(Teller.)

NOES

Mr. Collier	Mr. Millington
Mr. Corboy	Mr. Munsie
Mr. Coverley	Mr. Panton
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Raphael
Mr. Hegney	Mr. Sleeman
Miss Holman	Mr. Troy
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Walker
Mr. Kenneally	Mr. Wansbrough
Mr. Lamond	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Lutey	Mr. Withers
Mr. Marshall	Mr. Wilson
Mr. McCallum	

(Teller.)

Question thus passed

Bill read a third time and returned to the Council.

STANDING ORDERS' SUSPENSION.

On motion by the Premier, Standing Orders suspended to enable messages from the Council to be dealt with as received.

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council notifying the Assembly that it insisted upon its amendment now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Richardson in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council had amended Clause 2 by inserting at the beginning of line 12 the words "with the consent of the Council being first obtained and."

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It will be remembered that the Committee decided not to agree to the amendment made by the Council. That Chamber, however, has insisted upon its amendment. I again move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Request for Conference.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Legislative Council on the Road Districts Act Amendment Bill, and that at such conference the managers shall be the Attorney General, Mr. Willcock and the Minister for Works.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council notifying the Assembly that it insisted upon its amendment now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Richardson in the Chair; the Attorney General in charge of the Bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The same procedure exactly will be followed as with respect to the Road Districts Act Amendment Bill. I again move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Request for Conference.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I move—

That a conference be requested with the Legislative Council on the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill, and that at such conference the managers shall be the Minister for Works, Mr. Willcock and the Attorney General.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, the report adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

Sitting suspended from 1 until 2.40 p.m.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

- 1, Reserves.
- 2, Totalisator Duty Act Amendment.
- 3, Anatomy.
- 4, Entertainments Tax Assessment Act Amendment.

BILLS (2)—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT AND MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT.*Council's Further Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Assembly's request for a conference, and had appointed Hon. J. Cornell, Hon. H. Stewart and Hon. J. Nicholson as managers, the Speaker's room as the place and forthwith as the time.

Sitting suspended from 2.50 until 4.20 p.m.

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.*Conference Managers' Report.*

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I desire to report that the managers of the Assembly met the managers of the Council and failed to agree on the Council's amendment, but agreed to the deletion of Clauses 2 and 3 and an amendment to the title to read, "An Act to amend Section Two hundred and fifty-four of the Road Districts Act, 1919." This

means that the clause dealing with rating is still left in the Bill. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

Council's further Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had adopted the report of the conference managers, that it had amended the Bill in accordance with conference recommendations and returned it as so amended.

BILL—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT AMENDMENT.*Conference Managers' Report.*

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I desire to report that the managers of the Assembly met the managers of the Council and failed to agree. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Mr. WILLCOCK: As one of the representatives of the Assembly at the conference, I deem it necessary to report to the House on one phase of the proceedings. I have considered it my duty when appointed to act as a manager to confer with the representatives of the Legislative Council, to ascertain if there was any possibility of arriving at an agreement whereby the wishes of both the Assembly and the Council could be met. I have had considerable experience on conferences both as a private member and as a representative of the Government. I think it my duty to inform the House that in respect of any conference that the Hon. J. Nicholson has attended as a manager for the Legislative Council, there has been no possibility whatever of any agreement, compromise, or anything being done that would tend to an agreement. When Mr. Nicholson attends a conference, his attitude is not to find some way of arriving at an agreement, but to get the managers representing the Assembly to agree to the amendments that he wants himself. We should be clear, candid and frank on this matter. I assure the House that we have wasted a considerable proportion of the time of Parliament in appointing managers to attend conferences on which Mr. Nicholson has sat. I advise the House that it will be wasting

the time of members and of Parliament to participate in a conference at which Mr. Nicholson is one of the Council's managers appointed to confer with our managers. I do not say this in a vindictive spirit at all.

The Attorney General: Of course, we appreciate him personally.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is so. The fact remains that valuable time is wasted whenever we attend conferences with that gentleman, and I think the House should be acquainted with my opinion of what has occurred at those conferences.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.26]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, such date and time of meeting to be notified to each member by telegram or letter.

It is considered wise to adjourn the House in this way as the Federal Government do in order that we may call members together should an emergency arise.

Question put and passed.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.27]: We have come to the end of a very strenuous session. During the last five months we have experienced a time of great anxiety and stress. Never before in the history of Western Australia have we found ourselves quite in the position we occupy to-day. Primary products are bringing the lowest prices we have known for many years, and the national income is much reduced. The outlook is not as hopeful as it should be. We are experiencing difficulties that this State should not be confronted with. I do not propose to say anything about the reasons for our difficulties, other than to remark that the low prices of products and the impossibility of borrowing money now to carry on works as we were able to do in the past, have contributed to our present position. The whole of Australia is suffering as we are suffering, and the rest of the world seems to be in an unsettled state. I hope that in the New Year

there may be some change for the better. The trouble has extended to very many people indeed. Deflation in values has brought trouble upon many of our citizens. Unemployment has brought further trouble upon a large number. I do not see at the moment how we shall get out of it, but I hope it will not be long before we do so. There is one bright spot, namely, the success of the loan raised by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Lyons, recently. A loan of £28,000,000 is a great deal of money to raise from the people. Its success points the way to a little brighter outlook than has up to now been visible. When we discussed at the Loan Council the raising of that large sum, none of us was hopeful that it would be got together so quickly. The loan was offered to the public only a few days before the list was closed. I took the opportunity, when speaking over the telephone to Mr. Lyons the other day, to congratulate him and the Federal Government upon the success of the loan. This is the festive season. I am afraid it will not be very festive for the great bulk of the people, the people on the land and those in the city. Many will not have a very comfortable time. We shall do all we can to make the lot of the unemployed bright for the few days around Christmas. Fortunately, the Federal Government have distributed £500,000 amongst the States. Owing to our small population, our share will be only a little over £30,000. We shall endeavour to get some of this into the hands of local authorities for use amongst the unemployed. I thank members for their courtesy to me and the Government during this session. It has been a strenuous one because of the difficult times through which we are passing. Usually we bring down a Loan Bill to provide for work for development and opportunities for the people. This time we cannot do much in that way. I thank the members of the Opposition for their unfailing courtesy and consideration, and also members sitting on this side of the House. I should like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his kindness and consideration. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happier New Year. I also extend the same wishes to the staff of the House, the "Hansard" staff, and all who are connected with Parliament. I hope they will have a happy New Year and enjoy their holiday. I hope you, Sir, will enjoy the rest that you must

feel the need of after the strenuous time we have had during the last week or two. Once more I thank members for their kindly consideration and wish them all the compliments of the season.

MR. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [4.35]: In the temporary absence of the Leader of the Opposition, and on behalf of members on this side of the House, I thank the Premier for his expressions of goodwill and felicitations. These expressions are reciprocated by all members sitting in opposition. I also extend to the staff, the "Hansard" staff, and all who are associated with this House, best wishes for a Happy Christmas and the brightest prospects for the New Year. We are all very pleased to know that two members of the House staff, who have been away in ill-health, have recovered sufficiently to return to their duties. It is a good thing that this Parliament has over the years been able to meet here, to discuss business, and that its members can hold convictions, fight from their viewpoints, express themselves forcibly in trying to achieve their ends, and without detracting anything from what they have said in debate, or departing from the attitude they have adopted whilst fighting for their convictions, can meet outside without any hard feelings, as men to men and as friends. This shows the good characteristics associated with the Parliament of this State. In that regard it stands out well in comparison with other parts of the continent and the British Empire, and it is something over which we have reason to feel gratified. I am sure we all regret there is one of our number who is unable to be with us to-day because he is stricken down with ill-health. His absence will be the outstanding regret of every member. Last year we suffered from a good deal of sickness, and at the breaking up several of our members were away. This year the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) is absent, and we all deeply regret the position in which he finds himself. We hope that the future holds out bright prospects for him. Whilst we are all wishing one another a merry Christmas and the compliments of the season, it is unfortunate that a large percentage of our people, the largest in our history, are situated as they are. Parliament will deeply regret that, and will do what is possible to help them. Whatever the Government can do to lighten their load will, I am sure, be

done. We all regret so many people are unemployed to-day. Australia has passed through crises and overcome them successfully. We have had bright times following upon depression. As an Australian-born, one who has travelled abroad and visited every State in the Commonwealth, and who knows Australians, I feel sure that we have every reason to be optimistic concerning the future. We know the enormous wealth of this country compared with other parts of the world, and we should have the greatest confidence in thinking that Australia will come well out of her troubles. We can look forward to the future with great optimism. We may have this depression hanging on us for the year or two which, I am at the moment afraid, it may last. Still, Australia cannot do otherwise than become a great nation, thanks to the enormous amount of wealth she possesses. If there is one index of the future of Australia as a whole, it is, as the Premier has already said, the success of the £28,000,000 loan. I take that to be the Australians' declaration to the world as to their opinion of their country's future. Who would have believed, prior to the war, that it was possible for us to raise £28,000,000 in loan money in a few days within our own borders? If that had been declared possible a few short years ago, no one would have credited the statement. It would have been retorted that the man who made the declaration was drawing the long bow and that the money could not be found. But there is the evidence, there are the facts: this huge amount of money has been subscribed in a few weeks by a handful of people. It is a clear declaration by Australia to the outside world that she is determined to meet all her obligations. I agree with the Premier that a considerable proportion of the credit for the success of the loan is due to the Acting Federal Treasurer, Mr. Lyons. I have had the pleasure of meeting that gentleman on more than one occasion, but I have not the privilege of knowing him so well as does my leader, Mr. Collier. Mr. Collier has met Mr. Lyons frequently at conferences, and is closely acquainted with him. They have been in the habit of exchanging communications over a long period. Those who have worked with Mr. Collier in Cabinet know the high opinion he holds of the Federal Treasurer. We have heard our leader make many highly complimentary references to Mr. Lyons. We all know what

a keen judge of men Mr. Collier is. Having heard his opinion of Mr. Lyons, we were nowise surprised to learn that the Federal Treasurer had played so great a part in making the loan a success at so critical a stage in the history of Australia. I join with the Premier in wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a bright New Year. From you, Mr. Speaker, we have always received the utmost courtesy; and your occupancy of the Speakership has, I believe, met with the approval of every member of the Chamber. We extend to you, Sir, and your good wife and those associated with you our good wishes for a happy Christmas and best prospects in the New Year. We request you, Sir, on our behalf to extend similar wishes to the staff of the House.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. G. Latham—York) [4.44]: I have been asked by the members of the Country Party to join with the Premier in extending to you, Mr. Speaker, to the Chairman of Committees, and to "Eansard" and the staff of the House our best thanks for the courtesy and kindness at all times shown to us. We also desire to join in the hope that the festive season will restore all associated with the Legislature to their usual energy, after a most strenuous session. We are specially anxious that those members of the staff whose health has been impaired will speedily regain complete health. It is our fervent wish that the resumption of the session will see our old friend "Teesy" amongst us again. I know the affectionate esteem in which the member for Roebourne is held by everyone. Not only is it our regret, but also his, that he is unable to be with us. We appreciate the very difficult position of the primary producers and of those who are unable to obtain work, but we agree that the confidence of the Australian people in their own country will be reflected in the Old Land. In all probability means will be found to relieve the present situation. To yourself, Mr. Speaker, to the Chairman and the Deputy Chairmen of Committees, to members opposite and also to members of another place we extend our very best wishes for a happy Christmas season and a New Year with a much brighter outlook.

MR. SPEAKER [4.46]: In tendering my thanks and gratitude to the party leaders and each individual member of the House for their wonderful goodness to me, and for

the kind remarks which have been made, may I add a few sentences. The labours of the session having ended, and on the eve of the festive season remembering the historic symbol "Peace on Earth, good will to all men," may I suggest in the right spirit, that we do not separate to-day without first having agreed to forgive and forget any untoward incidents which have happened during the session. Sometimes in the heat of debate, and more especially during the course of a lengthy and all-night sitting, things are said which, on calm reflection, one regrets having uttered, and mistakes are often made unintentionally. I confess having offended, myself, and desire to make the amende honourable by a full and complete admission to the House, and an expression of regret. In thanking party leaders and members for their loyalty and courtesy to the Chair and all the traditions for which it stands; realising, too, my responsibility and keen desire to emulate the able manner in which my predecessors, Messrs. Walker, Taylor and Troy, filled the position, may I say that my task was not an easy one. This session, we have missed the genial member for Roebourne, Mr. Teesdale, and I think I am echoing the sentiments of every member in expressing deep regret at his unfortunate illness. We hope to see him back with us next session. Permit me to express to the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Richardson, my appreciation of his good work; also my thanks to Messrs. Panton, Angelo, and J. H. Smith, temporary Chairmen, for the services they have rendered. To the officers of the House, who have performed their duties in a highly satisfactory manner, especially Mr. Grant, the evergreen Clerk, who has been a tower of strength to me, I am indebted. We were all glad to welcome back, after a serious illness, Mr. Steere; but his health is not yet as it should be, and on your behalf I have given him leave of absence to take a sea voyage to the Eastern States. We all hope the trip will be the means of restoring him to normal health. The Sergeant-at-Arms has passed through a very serious and trying time, and we were pleased to welcome him back two weeks ago. Finally, and from the depths of my heart, I wish every honourable member and the staff the compliments of the season and very best wishes for 1931.

House adjourned at 4.49 p.m.