

recognise that if we put all unemployed persons on rations we should be depriving them of their independence. Therefore I hope the Government will press forward in their efforts to find work instead of reducing people to degradation by the receipt of rations. The task before the Government is very great. The time has come when all sections of the community, working in their respective districts, should strive earnestly to create work. When we see that savings bank deposits have been increasing, we get the suggestion that every citizen should strive to spend his money rather than hoard it. If everybody in the position to do so would immediately carry out necessary renovations to residences in the metropolitan area, every available carpenter and painter would find employment to-morrow morning. I ask everyone to support the Government. The only way we can do that is to exploit every avenue in which it is possible to provide work, to the end that we may quickly get all our people back into reproductive employment.

**HON. A. M. CLYDESDALE** (Metropolitan-Suburban) [3.51]: I formally second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.52]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 25th July, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.53 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 18th July, 1933.

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#### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to Proclamation by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. G. Steere).

#### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

#### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour Mr. Justice Dwyer having been commissioned by the Lieut.-Governor, appeared in the Assembly Chamber to administer to members the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The Clerk produced election writs showing the return of 49 members (Kimberley being the exception); also writs for by-elections for Boulder, East Perth, Geraldton, Hannans, Mt. Hawthorn, Mt. Magnet, and South Fremantle (Ministerial re-elections).

All the members elected, with the exception of Mr. Cunningham (Kalgoorlie) and Mr. Marshall (Murchison) were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute and signed the roll.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.47]: The House being duly constituted, I now move—

That Mr. Pantou do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

**THE MINISTER FOR MINES** (Hon. S. W. Munsie—Hannans): I second the motion.

**MR. PANTON** (Leederville): I submit myself to the will of the House.

There being no other nomination,

**THE SPEAKER-ELECT**, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, said: I desire to thank hon. members sincerely for the honour they have conferred upon me in electing me to the very high and honourable position of Speaker of this Assembly. I trust that with the assistance and co-operation of hon. members I may be able to maintain the very high standard that is characteristic of this House, and I feel sure that with such co-operation the standard will not in any way suffer by the fact that I have been elected Speaker.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.40]: I desire to congratulate you, Sir, upon your elevation to the very important and honourable office of Speaker of this House. I am quite sure that your experience as Deputy Chairman of Committees will enable you to conduct the business of the House with that strict impartiality which has been characteristic of all your predecessors. The older members of the House will have no fear but that the business will be conducted with that traditional impartiality which is so well known to this House, and that the rights and privileges of members, particularly of private members, will be preserved. I wish you a long and satisfactory term of office as Speaker.

**MR. LATHAM** (York) [12.42]: I desire to associate myself with the remarks of the Premier, and to congratulate you, Sir, upon attaining the high position to which the House has elevated you. This is a great pleasure to me personally. I remember my association with you long before I came to the House. It is a great satisfaction to know that an old personal friend, whom I had the pleasure of meeting under the conditions that we did meet, has been appointed to this high position. The impartiality with which you conducted the business of the House when Deputy Chairman of Committees won for you the affection and loyalty of all members. Now that you have been elevated to

the position of Speaker, I feel sure that the impartial manner with which you conducted the business of the House as Chairman of Committees will be maintained. You will probably have a great deal of material to guide into the right channels, because in the Chamber to-day there are quite a number of members who are entirely new to the business of the House. I am sure you will be tolerant to the younger members of the Chamber just as you were to the older members, who may have desired to try you when you were Deputy Chairman of Committees. I cannot entirely endorse the remarks of the Premier, that you may long be preserved to occupy the Chair, for that is a matter which rests upon the will of the populace. I sometimes think it would be wise if in our legislative halls we adopted the method followed in the House of Commons, and appointed a permanent Speaker. The occupant of the position would not then be called upon to submit himself to re-election every three years, but would be a permanent Speaker.

The Minister for Employment: No doubt the Speaker would agree to that.

**MR. LATHAM**: That is a matter which may yet come up for consideration. Until such time as that procedure is followed, and whilst the present Administration occupies the Treasury Bench, I sincerely hope you, Sir, will enjoy the honour which this House has been able to bestow upon you to-day.

**HON. N. KEENAN** (Nedlands) [12.49]: I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in offering you, Sir, the congratulations of those members of the House for whom I am entitled to speak, upon your accession to the Speaker's Chair. You will, I am sure, be guided in the discharge of your duties by the traditions which have been handed down through the ages, traditions that are enshrined in the hearts of us all, and which make our assembly, despite the friction of political controversy, a place of orderly debate. We believe you will add lustre and honour to your high office by your observance of these traditions, the most valuable of which may be said to be that the occupant of the Speaker's Chair knows neither party nor individual but is guardian of the rights of every member of the House. I can assure you, Sir, that we shall, at all times, show due deference to your rulings,

and that on all proper occasions we will support you in the exercise of the authority that has been entrusted to you. May I add my own congratulations to those of the members for whom I am entitled to speak, and wish you every pleasant experience in the office you have accepted.

**MR. WARNER** (Mt. Marshall) [12.52]: I feel very proud to support the congratulatory remarks of the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the member for Nedlands (Hon. N. Keenan). More particularly am I pleased to do this, seeing that you, Sir, are the first returned soldier to be elected to the position of Speaker of this House, and I believe the first returned soldier elected to the Speakership of the Assembly in any House in the Commonwealth. There are several returned soldiers in this House who have desired that I should, if given the opportunity, convey to you their congratulations. I do this most sincerely, and trust that whilst you occupy the Chair you will do so with credit to yourself, and I am sure you will also be the means of affording much useful education to the younger members who have recently been elected for the first time. Those younger members must receive their knowledge of Parliamentary procedure and debate very largely from your decisions.

**THE SPEAKER-ELECT**: I thank members very sincerely for their congratulations, and trust that whenever my term of office comes to an end they will have no feelings of regret for the manner in which they have offered their congratulations. I think at all events it will be agreed at the end of my term of office that I have been impartial, and that at all times I have done my best, as the member for Nedlands has indicated, to carry out the traditions of the House.

#### PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER-ELECT.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [12.57]: I desire to announce that His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor will now be pleased to receive the Speaker and myself.

*Sitting suspended from 12.58 to 1.20 p.m.*

**MR. SPEAKER**: I desire to report that I have submitted myself to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, and that His Excellency has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms:—

The Hon. the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,—It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner, and I have the honour to affirm the constitutional rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly of this State. (Signed) James Mitchell, Lieut.-Governor.

*Sitting suspended from 1.22 to 2.55 p.m.*

#### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Hon. J. Cunningham (Kalgoorlie) took and subscribed the oath, and signed the roll.

#### SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

#### BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS ACT AMENDMENT.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.30]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Road Districts Act.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

#### LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

**MR. SPEAKER**: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, to hear the Speech His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have had printed copies of the Speech distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*First Day.*

**MR. TONKIN** (North-East Fremantle)  
[3.32]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency 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 deliver to Parliament.”

Before proceeding to refer to the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, I desire to add my congratulations to those you, Mr. Speaker, received earlier upon your election to the high and honourable position you now occupy. I understand that the attainment of that office represents the realisation of a long-cherished ambition. I am doubly pleased, therefore, to add my congratulations on this occasion. I would also like to congratulate the Premier upon again being appointed to his present high and important office. It is most reassuring in difficult times such as the present, to know that the destinies of the State are in such capable hands. I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. C. G. Latham, upon his elevation to the responsible position he now holds. Of course, the chances are that his efforts will be most ineffectual, because of the paucity of the number of members who may be expected to support his endeavours. I feel sure that he will do his best to add weight to his contentions, even despite the smallness of the numbers sitting behind him. Finally, I congratulate the member for Nedlands, the Hon. N. Keenan, on his appointment as Leader of his particular party, although the members sitting behind him have been considerably depleted in numbers, through circumstances over which he himself had no control.

The Minister for Works: All that are left him.

Mr. TONKIN: I dare say that, for the next few years at any rate, he and the members of his party will be busily engaged in thinking out some new policy under a fresh name in order that they may be saved from complete extinction.

Mr. Nulsen: No chance of that.

Mr. TONKIN: Referring to the Speech that His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor has

been pleased to deliver to us, at the outset I would draw attention to the fact that the Government are fully appreciative of the difficulties of the financial position. It is realised that they must adhere to the policy of sustained rigid economy so that we may remain within the limits of the deficit of £750,000 that has been stipulated for this State. I hope that the exercise of rigid economy will mean the elimination of waste only and not the curtailment of expenditure that is essential. It may be that expenditure can be saved, and so long as it is a saving in figures, all is well, but very often parsimonious expenditure is an economic blunder. I hope the Government, when they cut down expenditure where considered necessary, will adopt that course only so far as the elimination of waste is concerned. The most important problem with which Parliament will have to deal is that of unemployment and if the Government, at the end of their term of office, are able to demonstrate that they have done something appreciable to remedy the present difficult position, they will have earned the praise of those people who saw fit to repose confidence in them. The Government are fully seized with the importance of this problem, and the increased allocation of loan money granted to Western Australia will be spent to the last penny in the provision of work for those who unfortunately are unemployed. I am afraid I cannot hope for much from the Economic Conference in Europe. Probably nine out of every ten people to-day believe that international action is necessary to deal with current problems of financial stringency and world-wide depression. Personally I take a different view. I believe the first steps will have to be national, because I am of the opinion that the trouble is domestic. To my mind, the problem is essentially a national one. Let me give members a simple illustration. Consider the position of the bread-winner who is the head of a household and earns a weekly wage. Let us suppose that he has two sons who are out of employment. What would we think if that householder were to go across the road and engage a couple of men to cut his wood and mow his lawn, for which he paid them certain wages? What would we think of that action, seeing that the man's own sons were idle at the time? Such a position would be farical, and the family concerned would be

heading for bankruptcy. That is the position in which the State is placed to-day. Annually we are importing more and more goods. What that amounts to is that we are engaging people overseas to work for us. In other words, we are employing people overseas to work for us while unemployment is rife in our own midst. Let me give the House some figures relating to the position during the eleven months to the end of May last, and compare those with the figures for the previous year. If I do that, members will realise that we imported into this country goods of a total value of £52,293,000, which represented an increase of 31.2 per cent. compared with the previous eleven months. That demonstrates that this country, which is unable to employ its own people, has embarked upon a policy of employing more and yet more men overseas to produce goods for local requirements. What makes the position much worse is the fact that, owing to the decreased prices that our own primary products realise, we are paying more than ever for the services of the workers overseas than we ought to do. That is to say, we have to give away more of our produce in proportion for what we receive from overseas. Bankruptcy lies in that direction. Just as the domestic family, certain of whose members are out of work, despite which the services of others are engaged to do work for them, would be heading for bankruptcy, so Western Australia or any other State will be heading in a similar direction by the adoption of such a policy. So I say that the problem is essentially a domestic one. We must see to it that our own people are put back to work before we engage people elsewhere to work for us. We must take the unemployed and make them their own employers. They will create a demand for their labour and supply it themselves. To give another simple illustration: If £50 is available for expenditure and half a dozen people share it between them, then they possess purchasing power to the extent of £50. If we take £20 from them and give that money to another half-dozen people, we increase the number of people who can buy, but we do not increase the purchasing power available. Unfortunately, Governments to-day by various Acts of Parliament have taxed the people, taking money from even those who have been out

of work, and spreading the funds available under various systems amongst those who are unemployed. They have not increased the amount of the available purchasing power, and so have not improved the position. What needs to be done is to see that the unemployed persons are put to work and are made their own employers. They will create the demand for their labour which they will be in a position to supply. This State possesses wonderful resources in the way of soil fertility and variety of climate for the production of wheat, wool, timber, and other products. I venture to say there is not a single commodity that could not be produced in this State if we set ourselves to do it. If private enterprise will not get on with the job but is too timid and prefers rather to allow its money to remain in the banks, I say the Government must undertake the task. Someone has to do it if the problem is to be solved at all. Although that point of view may be different from what is generally expressed, I commend it to the consideration of the Government hoping that they will get to grips with the problem and do something to alleviate a condition that is so widespread to-day. Nothing has been done anywhere in the world to solve the problem. Go where we will, we find Governments waiting only for the morrow in the expectation of seeing a ray of hope somewhere. No definite method of attacking the problem has been attempted. It is not a time for the application of the theories of experts to the international sphere. It is time for the application of common-sense to the domestic economy of the country. The Speech mentions that the State has made great strides in the production of wool, dairy products, eggs, fruit and gold. That is extremely gratifying. I am reminded that bananas might also be included in that category. I am pleased indeed at the progress being made in the North-West and I am prepared to believe that before long the whole of the requirements of the State in the shape of bananas and pineapples will be supplied from that portion of this great country. Reference is made in the Speech to education. Unfortunately short-sighted Governments consider that this is a very large vote which can be sliced at whenever it is essential to make a saving. I feel certain that the present Government will

not take that view. Any cutting down of the vote for the education of the children is false economy. The progress of science and the introduction of machinery make it imperative that the hours of labour be considerably shortened in the near future. The consequent shortening of hours must give increased leisure to the men and women of the country, and how can the men and women spend their leisure profitably and intelligently unless they have had a reasonably good education? As the hours of leisure increase, so does the need for improved education increase. The figures mentioned in the Speech show that less than £10 per child was spent on education last year. Take a child who goes to school at the age of six years and continues until the age of 14; during those eight years the Government spend under £100 for the education of that child. Many men spend more than that on dogs and cats. Such a sum is little enough to fit a man or woman for life, and any further whittling down of the vote would be disastrous. There must be no attempt further to curtail the expenditure on education, and nobody will be more pleased than I shall be if the Government are able so to finance the country as to permit of increasing the vote for education, so that the children will have the benefit of a larger measure of education than they have received in the past. To my mind there can be no better investment than money spent in training the intellects and improving the minds of the boys and girls of to-day who will be the men and women of to-morrow. Unfortunately, perhaps, I am sufficiently pessimistic to believe that many of the men of about the age of 50 to-day will not see the end of the existing depression. I regret that I cannot take any other view. Still, those men will not have to bear the full brunt of it. The boys and girls who have just left school, for whom no avocations have been available and the best years of whose lives have been wasted, are the ones who will not be fitted to withstand such troubles as those we are experiencing to-day. We have had a period of prosperity which offered us ample opportunities and so made us the better fitted to cope with the present conditions. But there are men and women who have not yet done any work. When they left school no position was open

for them; they never had an opportunity to work, and if an opportunity does occur, how will they fit into any position? Their lives have been spoilt. Therefore it is essential that the country do everything possible so to liberalise the education of the people that some pleasure may be brought to those who find themselves, in a difficult period of history, the victims of circumstances over which they themselves have had little or no control. I hope that the labours of this Parliament will prove successful. I hope that the deliberations of the Government will lead them into the right track and that, as a result, the State will benefit considerably. If the Government succeed in bringing about some little measure of improvement, they will have justified their occupancy of the important office they hold. A matter I would like to mention had almost escaped my memory. One of the most difficult problems is going to be experienced in connection with the people who occupy workers' homes and war service homes. Tremendous expenditure has been incurred to provide those homes, and the men and women who assumed the obligations some years ago when prices were high and employment was available now find themselves unable to keep up their rental payments. Consequently they may be forced out of their homes and the country will have some hundreds of houses thrown on its hands. The occupants will be turned into the streets or obliged to live on the fore-shore, as some people are compelled to do to-day. The problem will not be a simple one for the Government. It seems to me that the people who originally undertook those obligations and lived up to them when they had work and were able to do so, should not be cast out when, through no fault of their own, they are unable to keep up their payments, small as they may be. I commend that phase of the problem to the consideration of the Government in the hope that they will give it sympathetic treatment and endeavour to do the right thing by the hundreds of people so circumstanced.

**MR. WISE** (Gascoyne) [3.50]: I desire formally to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Mr. Latham, debate adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.51]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.52 p.m.*

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## Legislative Assembly.

*Wednesday, 19th July, 1933.*

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

### **QUESTION—GOVERNMENT PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.**

*As to Election Promise.*

Mr. J. H. SMITH asked the Premier: 1, What action is being taken to give effect to the election promise and policy that immediate full-time work for three months of part-time employees would be instituted? 2, Is it a fact that hundreds of men who were part-time employees under the former Government have reverted to sustenance conditions? 3, When do the Government propose to carry their election promise into effect?

The **PREMIER** replied: 1, Effect is being given to the policy of the Government. 2, Some works were completed before the Loan funds for this year were made available by the Loan Council, and, consequently, some men went back to sustenance, but there are 4,000 fewer men on sustenance now than there were this time last year. 3, Answered by No. 1.

**MOTIONS (2)—CONDOLENCE.**

*The late Hon. T. A. L. Davy, K.C., M.L.A., and the late Mr. H. J. Brown, M.L.A.*

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.35]: Since the close of the last Parliament two of our old and esteemed members have passed from this life. The late Mr. Davy, who represented the West Perth electorate for a period of nine years, and held during the past three years the high office of Attorney General, is no longer with us. Mr. Davy was a man of fine qualities, and had a distinguished scholastic career. Coming to Western Australia as a child, he spent his early school days in Coolgardie, subsequently winning a Rhodes scholarship and concluding his education at the Oxford University. Following upon that, Mr. Davy returned to this State to take up active life, and during the too few years that were spared to him he rendered distinguished service to Western Australia. He was a man of brilliant parts in many respects; and as regards his personality I am sure I voice the feeling of every member of the last Parliament, and of all who were privileged to know the late Mr. Davy, when I say that we have lost a personal friend. To me the hours that I spent in his company will be unforgettable. I am sure also that every member of the House and all who enjoyed the privilege of personal acquaintance with Mr. Davy will agree with me that his passing represents a very great loss indeed to Western Australia. The late Mr. Brown, who represented the Pingelly electorate for a number of years, we particularly loved. I do not think any member of this Chamber for many years past spoke to fuller benches than did the late Mr. Brown. His genial personality appealed to all. He was a rugged, conscientious, capable and honest member of his party. He lived and worked during the years that he was in this House, for those whom he represented. His passing is indeed a great loss to the public life of this State, and especially to the older members of the Chamber. It is my melancholy duty to move—

That this House desires to place upon record its profound sense of the loss sustained in the passing of the late Hon. Thomas Arthur Lewis Davy, a member of this House and Attorney General of the State at the time of his