

factories may collect the levy from the growers. As has been mentioned by the Minister and two previous speakers, the growers agreed through their organisation to this amendment. I was present at two meetings at which growers agreed to citrus growers being included in the fund. Other branches including growers of stone fruit have talked of forming an organisation and in that case they would subscribe to the fund. I support the second reading.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

(in reply): There are only one or two comments I wish to make. I know of no case of legislation of this type in which the growers have not been consulted before the Bill was introduced. Although it is not incumbent upon me to table reports of organisations working in their own interests and using their own money, I am quite prepared to confer with them and furnish information to the House at any time. During the last day or two I have seen the returns of last year's operations of this fund, and to allay any fears that the member for Toodyay or other members may have in regard to the cost of administration, I may say that speaking from memory the cost last year was £38. All the moneys are used by the growers in their own interests.

Mr. Thorn: I want that information to give to the growers.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: It is available and may be tabled at any time. The reports of these funds may be found in the Public Accounts.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 19th September, 1944.

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

QUESTIONS (4).

TRANS. RAILWAY.

As to Kalgoorlie-Fremantle Extension.

Hon. A. THOMSON asked the Chief Secretary:

Will he lay on the Table of the House copies of route, plans, and estimated cost in 1935 of the proposed extension of the Transline from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle, which was prepared by the State railway engineers in conjunction with the Commonwealth Railway Department?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Yes. Herewith copy of the report of the Chief Civil Engineer dated the 6th February, 1935, and copy of railway map showing the proposed route. Detailed survey plans are not available.

BRAIDWOOD CASE.

As to Tabling Police Files.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER asked the Chief Secretary:

Will the Minister for Police lay on the Table of the House all files relating to—

(i) The enquiry and prosecution of one Braidwood for stealing from the Public Works Department;

(ii) The charges recently laid against Detective-Sergeant S. A. Smith?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

Yes.

POLICE ACT.

As to Belated Tabling of Regulations.

Hon. H. S. W. PARKER asked the Chief Secretary:

As the regulations under the Police Act, 1892, were gazetted on the 16th March, 1944, and not tabled until the 31st August, 1944, thus not complying with the limitation of time as required by statute, what does the Minister propose to do?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

The Gazette of the 16th March, 1944, was a special Gazette published on a Thursday. The officer charged with the responsibility of forwarding the papers to Parliament was not aware of the special publication, and when he was advised thereof the fourteen days limitation had expired. The regulations will be regazetted and laid on the Table of the House in due course.

WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

As to Re-opening.

Hon. C. R. CORNISH asked the Chief Secretary:

(i) Is it the intention of the Government to re-open the Wyndham Meat Works at an early date, and if so,

(ii) Can the Minister indicate the approximate date?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(i) These works were closed by reason of National Security Regulations. Negotiations for re-opening the works were instituted by the Premier some time ago, but to date no definite decision has been received.

(ii) Answered by (i).

MOTION—OBITUARY.

The Late Hon. H. V. Piesse, M.L.C.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY [4.35]: It is with deep regret that I move, without notice, the following motion:—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Harold Vivian Piesse, a member for the South-East Province, and to express its deepest sympathy with his widow and family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to his widow.

The late Mr. Piesse led a very active life and rendered great public service during a valuable and honourable lifetime. He had

a genial and likeable personality and was a man I was privileged to call a friend. He comes from a family highly respected and widely known for its long association with the agricultural and commercial development of this State, the name of Piesse being synonymous with progress in the Katanning district.

Like his father, who was known as the founder of Katanning, the late hon. member had every confidence in the future of Katanning and lived to see the progress of that town and the surrounding district. His record of public service will remain a credit to his memory. He was elected a member for the South-East Province in this Chamber in May, 1932, and retained his seat here until his death. During the course of the debates he was particularly outstanding for his enthusiasm and work on behalf of the primary producers of this State. His sincerity of purpose was never in question.

None will deny the valuable work the late Mr. Piesse performed, and the important bearing that his knowledge of our primary industries and his association with the business life of the community had in the outcome of some of the legislation passed by this Chamber. This was particularly so in respect of the potato industry, in which he was keenly interested. He was most energetic in all matters affecting primary producers, and in addition had many other interests.

In business he was associated with the Katanning Flour Mills, B.C.D. & Piesse, Ltd., Richardson & Co., Ltd., and the Katanning Stock and Trading Company; and I have no doubt his great experience and sound advice were of great value to those undertakings. Personally I will always remember the many kindnesses of a man whose friendly disposition was manifest at all times. He leaves behind him the memory of one who gave his best on all occasions, and I trust that the high regard with which he was held by all with whom he came in contact will be of some consolation to his bereaved family.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East): I second the Chief Secretary's motion with the deepest regret, and desire to pay my tribute to the memory of the late Hon. Harold Piesse. Together, the late gentleman and I represented the South-East Province, and during the 14 years he was

a member of this Chamber we not only were Parliamentary representatives of the South-East Province but became very close friends, working in sincere co-operation for the well-being of our constituents. I agree with the Chief Secretary that the late Mr. Piesse's breezy and cheerful personality will be missed by very many. The kindly actions performed by him will, I am sure, linger in the memories of those whom he helped so frequently and for whom he acted in this House. The Chief Secretary has pointed out the keen interest he took in the potato industry. He devoted a great deal of time and energy to that work in a sincere desire to improve the position of those engaged in the production of potatoes.

An important enactment that stands to his credit is the amendment to the Administration Act, which enabled people living in the country to have their estates attended to by a magistrate or clerk of courts. His passing will remove from the roll call of Parliament the name of Piesse, a name which has been associated with the legislature since the establishment of responsible government in Western Australia. The record of that family is rather unique. First of all we had the Hon. F. H. Piesse, our worthy friend's father, who occupied a ministerial position in the government of this country. He was followed by Mr. Edward Arnold Piesse. Then there was Mr. A. N. Piesse. Those three gentlemen played an important part in the government of Western Australia as members of the Legislative Assembly. In this House we had the Hon. Charles Austin Piesse, who represented the South-East Province for many years, and later our recently departed friend who was elected member for that province in 1932. So from that family alone no fewer than five members have played worthy parts in the affairs of this country and the development of the State. All our sympathy goes out to the widow and family of the late Harold Piesse.

HON. H. L. ROCHE (South-East): I wish to identify myself with the remarks of the preceding speakers with respect to our departed colleague, and to support the motion submitted by the Chief Secretary. The passing of Harold Piesse has left a gap that I do not think it will be possible adequately to fill. He carried on in the Piesse

tradition in our public service and rendered good and loyal service to the people in that capacity. He brought to that task, as he brought to all his activities, a wonderful good fellowship and comradeship that endeared him to thousands of people with whom he came in contact. He managed to combine all the qualities of public service and good fellowship in a way that I do not think it is given to many men in this life to accomplish. That the call must come to all of us in time we recognise. Yet I think that we can ill spare a man of Mr. Piesse's type and character from the public life of this State. I feel sure that not only on that account, not only for the service he rendered and the kindnesses he showed to so very many people throughout his life, but also on account of his manner of doing the work he did, his passing will be lamented by all of those who had contact with him. I wish to add my tribute of respect to him and express to his sorrowing relatives my regret at his passing.

HON. G. B. WOOD (East): I also desire to associate myself with the motion. It is now nearly 50 years since I first knew Mr. Piesse, which is practically the whole of my lifetime. His father and my father were very closely associated in the nineties, not only as parliamentary colleagues but also as personal friends, and that friendship has been carried on right throughout the years by the children of the two families. I can assure members that I feel very keenly the loss of Mr. Piesse as a personal friend. He was always ready to help others. He would never refuse a request for assistance. I remember telling him nine years ago that I intended to stand for the Legislative Council. I think he was the second person I told. At once he said, "I will do all I can to help you," and he did so in characteristic fashion. He wrote dozens of letters to friends he thought could help me and I shall always remember that; it was a wonderful gesture. Harold Piesse was a man of tremendous energy. He did not know what it was to be too tired to attend to his public work, and I believe many people will regret the loss of a good friend who was always out to do what he could for them. We are going to miss him very much from this House, not only for his genial personality, to which Mr. Roche has referred, but

also for the advice he gave, particularly in regard to matters such as the potato industry, referred to by the Chief Secretary, and debt adjustment problems. This House will assuredly be the poorer for his absence. I am sure his family will derive considerable comfort from the knowledge of what we here and hundreds of people outside think of him.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan): My friendship with the late Mr. Piesse goes back to the days of his boyhood, half a century ago. His was indeed a lovable personality. But I think his most distinctive characteristic was the courage and fortitude with which he carried out all his public duties in the face of a painful and critical illness.

HON. J. CORNELL (South): Having associated myself with a similar motion over 30 years ago with respect to the late Mr. C. A. Piesse, it is only fitting I should now say a word or two in regard to the motion before the Chair. The late Mr. Harold Piesse endeared himself to everyone. It can be said of him that he never spared himself but always gave of his best. He was all that a good father, husband and citizen should be, and I am sure his sorrowing wife and children will find much consolation in the knowledge that he gave of his best to them and to the State.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West): I would not like the motion to be passed without adding my expression of regret at the passing of our late colleague. My acquaintance with Mr. Piesse did not extend over nearly so long a period as that enjoyed by others who have spoken. However, during the years Mr. Piesse and I were together in this House, I learned to respect him and to form an appreciative opinion of his vitality and energy in all matters relating to the welfare of Western Australia. For the last two years I noticed the determination with which he endeavoured to carry out his public duties. We have seen him here at times when probably he should have been in bed, but such was his disposition that he felt he had a duty to perform, namely, to occupy his seat in this Chamber and represent the people of his province. He did that worthily, and I am sure our recollections of the late Harold Piesse will always be of his

brightness and happy personality. I regret very much his passing.

THE PRESIDENT: Before putting the motion, I wish to inform members that early on Saturday morning when I heard of the death of the Hon. Harold Piesse, I immediately sent a telegram of condolence to Mrs. Piesse expressing the profound sympathy of the Legislative Council with her and her family, adding that all members deplored the loss of a valuable and popular colleague. With everything that has been said about the late member, I am in complete agreement. There is little left for me to add. He was indeed a patriotic Western Australian. Born and educated in the State, a successful farmer and grazier by occupation, he was a worthy son of the soil. He followed in the footsteps of his father, a man with whom I was well acquainted when he was a member of the Forrest Ministry, and for whom I had a great respect as a sturdy battler for what he thought to be right. Like his father and other members of his family, the late Mr. Harold Piesse worked in Parliament and elsewhere in the public service, and as a member of the Legislative Council he maintained the best traditions of this Chamber in his endeavours to advance the public welfare. Personally he was bright, cheerful and optimistic—a man whom it was ever a pleasure to meet. We will miss him greatly.

Question put and passed; members standing.

RESOLUTION—COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS.

As to Extension of Appointment.

Message from the Assembly received and read requesting concurrence in the following resolution:—

That the appointment by His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor of Mr. J. A. Ellis as Commissioner of Railways for five years commencing on the 15th January, 1944, in the terms of the Executive Council minute laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly on the 12th September, 1944, be approved.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Shearers' Accommodation Act Amendment.
- 2, Fruit Growing Industry (Trust Fund) Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY: As a mark of respect to our late colleague, Mr. Piesse, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.59 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 19th September, 1944.

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

QUESTIONS (3).**COMMONWEALTH HOSPITAL GRANT.**

As to Application to Home of Peace.

Mr. CROSS asked the Minister for Health:

Is the proposed grant by the Commonwealth Government to hospitals of six shillings per bed per week, to apply to the Home of Peace for the Incurable?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied:

No. Some lesser amount will probably later be fixed and notified as applying to institutions for chronic cases.

ALGAE NUISANCE.

As to Control.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is the algae nuisance one which can now be controlled?

(2) If not, what has to be done to overcome the trouble?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied:

(1) Investigation discloses that the only permanent method of controlling algae is to deepen the shallow parts of our river channels.

The work in this direction was commenced prior to the war, but had to cease because the necessary plant and manpower were required for war purposes.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

MALARIA.

As to Prevention of Spread.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is there any liaison between the Federal and State Health Departments in planning to prevent the spread of malaria, which, unfortunately, has broken out near Sydney?

(2) If so, what steps are being taken?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The State Health Department is in touch with the Federal Health Department which advises at regular intervals occurrences of malaria in other States. The Federal Health Department also provides confidential information regarding malaria incidence in war areas. Cases of malaria among service men on leave or repatriated are notified to the State Health Department.

The State Department has been able to purchase from the Commonwealth supplies of atabrin and plasmoquine for treatment of civilian cases.

Malaria is essentially a local problem depending on the presence of the particular varieties of mosquito which carry malaria and on persons who still have the parasites in their system.

FRUIT GROWING INDUSTRY (TRUST FUND) ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

TESTATOR'S FAMILY MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.