

gone to a depth of 4,000 ft. There are reasonably good values. It costs a lot of money to put down a drill and the Government now intends to drill a second hole to link up with the first one to see if the values continue. If they do, I have no doubt that the Great Fingal, which has been known through the length and breadth of the State, will come into production again—perhaps as one of our best producers. I sincerely hope it will.

I wish to refer to another mine—the Emu at Agnew, about 70 miles north of Leonora. I understand the Government will also diamond-drill in this mine. It will drill with a view to ascertaining the values there and finding out whether it can get the mine into production again. So we see that the State Government is doing a fair bit towards getting the gold-mining industry on the footing it was on some years ago. It was thought that, after the last war, the mines which were closed—and I have touched on only a few—would be reopened. I regret to say that instead of those mines being reopened, more have been closed down. It is a very sad state of affairs for this to happen to mines which are on the margin.

This afternoon I have not much time, for various reasons, to go into this side of the matter as deeply as I would like. It would really take some hours. But before I resume my seat I want to refer to two or three mines which are maintaining the outback in the Murchison and Mt. Margaret goldfields. One of these mines is the Timoni, some 70 miles out of Menzies. It has pretty fair values and keeps employed 76 men. It is a decided acquisition to the township of Menzies.

Another mine I have in mind which is doing a good job is the Sons of Gwalia. It does not turn out very high-grade ore, but it turns over a phenomenal tonnage each month. Only recently from 12,000 tons of ore it turned out 2,505 oz. of gold. This mine has also been assisted by the State Government to the extent of £250,000, because it was thought there were values there, and if it could be kept going and the developmental work could be carried on, the mine would continue to produce for many years. I have great faith in this mine and I think it will be a good producer. The Government will do some lateral diamond-drilling in this mine shortly. I noticed recently they got higher values than they had previously for some years.

Another mine which I must touch on is Hill 50 at Mt. Magnet, which is a prosperous little town. This is one of the richest mines outside the Golden Mile, and from 9,000 tons they received 6,500 oz. of gold. There is no doubt that if one or two mines like Hill 50 could be found, the gold-mining industry in this State would prosper.

I sincerely hope that the State Government and those closely associated with mining will make representations again to

the Federal Government to see whether it is possible to give a bounty, subsidy or bonus to the mines which are classed as low marginal mines, and thereby give the people in the outback a feeling of some security. Many of those people are not very happy at the present time on account of the mines closing down. If it were possible to have an increase in the price of gold or to give a subsidy, that would have a great effect on the people in those districts. With those few words I conclude my remarks, and shall wait until the Supply Bill comes up to continue on this subject.

HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (West): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. Sir Charles Latham, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West): In view of the late hour, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 4th July, 1957.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. E. Islip).

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 3 p.m.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and 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.

[*The Speaker resumed the Chair.*]

QUESTIONS.

LAND TAX.

Issue of Assessments.

Hon. D. BRAND (without notice) asked the Premier:

(1) Have all land tax assessments in respect of land owned at the 30th June, 1956, been issued, including assessments for unimproved agricultural land?

(2) If not, will the Premier give an assurance that administrative action will be taken to ensure that taxpayers are not called upon to pay two land tax assessments in the one financial year?

The PREMIER replied:

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, before answering these questions I would like, on behalf of all the Ministers, and the members on the Government side, to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on having been appointed to that responsible position; also to congratulate the member for Nedlands on having been elected to the almost equally responsible position of Deputy Leader. I would also like to congratulate the member for Cottesloe on his promotion to the Opposition front bench. The Leader of the Opposition was good enough to supply me with a copy of this question earlier today. The answer to his question is, "No." The Taxation Department advises that approximately 16,000 of all types of assessment in respect of land owned at the 30th June, 1956, including agricultural land, remain to be issued. It is expected that these will be completed within two months.

RAILWAYS.

(a) Investigation by Magistrate Smith.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

I would like to thank the Premier for his expression of congratulations, and I hope I will not be any more troublesome to him as Deputy Leader of the Opposition than I was when member for Nedlands.

For what reason was it necessary for Magistrate Smith and his assistant to go to the United Kingdom urgently to continue his investigations? Will the Premier confirm that Magistrate Smith's inquiry is only an inquiry into allegations against the Commissioners and certain senior men and not a full scale inquiry into the administration and operational efficiency of the W.A.G.R.?

The PREMIER replied:

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition supplied me with a copy of this question earlier today. In reply to the first part of his question I would say that the investigation carried out up to that time by Magistrate Smith disclosed some possibilities, even probabilities, that necessitated an urgent visit to England by the magistrate. The Government approved, and arrangements were made accordingly, with the result Magistrate Smith, now as a Royal Commissioner, is in England.

The inquiry so far carried out by Royal Commissioner Smith has gone beyond a matter of allegations by one highly placed railway officer as against another. If the inquiries now being carried out by the Royal Commissioner indicate that a further broadening of the terms of reference should be made, the Government will consider that situation and make a decision accordingly.

(b) Scope of Royal Commissioner's Inquiry.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

In view of the answer that the Premier gave regarding the visit of Magistrate Smith, who is now a Royal Commissioner, is the Premier prepared to go so far as to say whether the visit is directly connected with allegations against senior officers or with the operational efficiency and administration of the railways?

The PREMIER replied:

Both.

KENWICK LAND RESUMPTION.

(a) Compensation to Mr. Charles.

Mr. WILD (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the notice of intention to resume land from one Charles of Royal-st., Kenwick, on the 14th February, 1955—two years and four months ago—and in view of repeated assertions last session that finality would be reached shortly, will he inform the House when the sword of Damocles will cease to be held over this man's head, and when fair compensation will be given him for this resumption; or, alternatively, will the resumption be called off?

The MINISTER replied:

If the hon. member had given me prior notice of this question, I would have been in a position to give him precise information. As the hon. member knows, unfortunately some difficulties have been encountered in connection with this resumption and every attempt has been made to solve the matter as expeditiously as possible. As previously asserted here and reiterated now, fair compensation will be paid.

(b) Amount of Compensation.

Mr. WILD (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

If he thinks that fair compensation will be paid I would like him to tell the House how it is that a city valuator valued this man's compensation at £10,881, and his department offered £2,150.

The MINISTER replied:

My statement to the House was that fair compensation would be paid. The matter is still in the stage of negotiation.

IRON ORE.

Sale to Japan, Cost of Mining, etc.

Mr. ACKLAND (without notice) asked the Premier:

(1) Has the Government entered into, or is it negotiating, an agreement to sell iron ore to Japan?

(2) If so, what tonnage is involved?

(3) What price per ton does the Government anticipate it will receive?

(4) What is the present cost of mining the ore, and loading it into motor-trucks for use at Wundowie?

(5) How much per ton is paid to the road hauliers for cartage to the railway?

(6) What rail freight is credited to the Railway Department for railage of ore to Wundowie?

(7) What rail freight will be credited to the Railway Department for railage to ship's side for export?

(8) What is it anticipated will be the cost of loading the iron ore from rail trucks to ship's hold?

Mr. Thorn: Pig-iron Bert!

The PREMIER replied:

I desire to thank the member for Moore for his kindly action today in supplying a copy of these questions, and also express appreciation to the member for Toodyay for his wit this afternoon. He was not nearly as witty some 15 months ago.

(1) The Government has a provisional agreement and is awaiting the Federal Government's decision on an export licence before negotiating a final agreement.

(2) 1,000,000 tons.

(3), (4), (5) and (8) It is not thought advisable to supply this information at this stage. It will be made available at a later date.

(6) 45s. 6d. per ton.

(7) 52s. 5d. per ton.

CLAREMONT MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Bathing Facilities.

Mr. CROMMELIN (without notice) asked the Minister for Health:

Following on his visit with me to the Claremont Mental Hospital three months ago, is he aware of the fact that the men's No. 1 Ward of three storeys, which today accommodates 147 patients, has available the following bathing facilities:—

Second floor—Three baths out of order and unusable.

Top floor—Three baths, two out of order and unusable, and two showers only?

The MINISTER replied:

I am not aware that these are all out of condition, but I am satisfied that something should have been done. I feel that, as far as the Public Works Department is concerned, it would have done the work had it been possible to do so, but it has not had the time.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Government Policy on Fluoridation.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (without notice) asked the Minister for Health:

What is the Government's policy in regard to the fluoridation of public water supplies?

The MINISTER replied:

That has not been determined.

DRAINAGE.

Harvey River Main Drain.

Mr. I. W. MANNING (without notice) asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware that the Harvey River main drain in the area west of Cookerup recently overflowed its levees, and as a result many hundreds of acres of pasture land are still completely inundated with water?

(2) Does he recall that last year repeated representations were made to him and to his department to carry out work designed to prevent this very serious situation?

(3) Will he give an assurance that the necessary deepening and widening of the Harvey River in this area will be carried out during the current financial year?

The MINISTER replied:

I wish to express appreciation to the hon. member for giving prior notice of this question. I am aware that the

Harvey drain overflowed this winter, but in view of the abnormally wet June, it is not surprising. Repeated representations have been made in order to have this drainage work carried out this year, but it has not been possible because of the limitation of loan funds and the necessity to utilise as much money as possible in the more important work of the provision of water supplies, which has been going on extensively. I regret I cannot give the assurance asked for by the hon. member that the work will be undertaken this financial year. It has been listed on the tentative loan programme. However, every endeavour will be made to carry out and fulfil the commitments set down. I am not today in a position to say whether it will be done this financial year, but every attempt will be made to include it in the works programme.

WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON INDUSTRY.

Selling Price of Pig Iron.

Mr. HEARMAN (without notice) asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the cost of producing one ton of pig iron at Wundowie?
- (2) What is the selling price per ton of Wundowie pig iron in Perth?
- (3) What is the selling price per ton of B.H.P. pig iron in Perth?

The PREMIER replied:

- (1) £25 16s. 4d.
- (2) Average past twelve months—
Local—£22 11s. 5d.
Export—£28 15s. 9d.
Average—£26 12s. 4d.

(3) B.H.P. office advises that it does not sell pig iron in Western Australia in competition with Wundowie.

KING'S PARK.

Aquatic Centre.

Mr. COURT (without notice) asked the Premier:

Does the Government propose to introduce legislation to authorise the Perth City Council's King's Park aquatic centre project?

The PREMIER replied:

The Government has not yet given this matter any consideration.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Appreciation of Premier's Congratulations.

Hon. D. BRAND: We have no further questions, Mr. Speaker, but, with your permission, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to express to the Premier and all others my appreciation for their good wishes on my elevation to leadership of the Opposition. I realise its importance and only hope I will do justice to the position of

leading the Opposition which, in the main, I think has always been constructive in its criticism. We will try to keep the Government on its toes.

The Minister for Education: We hope you are there for many years.

BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER: 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 for "An Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1893-1955."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The SPEAKER: Accompanied by 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 members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

MR. GAFFY (Canning) [3.58]: 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 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.

At this juncture I would like to offer my congratulations to the member for Greenough on his elevation to the high office of Leader of the Opposition. I would also like to congratulate the member for Nedlands on his elevation to the high office of Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am quite sure that those hon. gentlemen will both be worthy successors of previous occupants of those offices. I would include in my congratulations the member for Cottesloe on his elevation to the front bench.

At the same time I express regret at the decision of the member for Murray to relinquish the leadership of his party. The hon. member has, as leader of his party and a Premier of the State, served faithfully and well; and I am sure that

all members, and the community at large, will join with me in the sincere hope that henceforth he will be blessed with continued good health.

It is my honour—and, through me, the honour of those whom I am privileged to represent—to move this motion on this occasion. The custom of submitting an Address-in-reply comes to us from the days when Parliament was asserting its supremacy over the Crown and it became necessary for members to make much of their expression of loyalty. I believe that today such an expression is a mere formality, because our loyalty has never been in question; and I am sure that every member will agree with me when I say that an Address-in-reply merely serves to affirm and emphasise our own affection towards the Crown.

The statement has been made that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. This being so, I believe that eternal vigilance on the part of members of this House and of the community at large is the price of maintaining this parliamentary institution of which we are the proud inheritors; and the place of Parliament in our way of life should be safeguarded at all times to ensure that the final power of government remains in the hands of the duly elected representatives of the people. So long as that position is maintained, I consider we shall be a safe community.

In the Speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open Parliament today, I find that much legislation of importance was brought down last session, and upon this I congratulate the Government. Points of interest in the Speech are that the economic condition of the State is sound, that primary industry remains prosperous, and that increased production is noted in secondary industries. All this is very gratifying.

Concerning primary industry, it is observed that there is a keen demand for Crown lands along the coastal plains from Geraldton to Esperance, and that a large area of land between Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe is to be classified, giving approximately 500,000 acres in a 15in. to 20in. rainfall belt. While this is encouraging, I feel that there is still far too much good quality land within the safe rainfall area from Northampton southwards which is undeveloped. I feel that it is an economic waste for this land, which is of a good producing potential and within reasonable distance of ports and markets, to be left idle, and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure that this situation is attended to.

In speaking of idle land, I would point out that there are vast areas to the east and north-east of the existing wheatbelt along the Eastern Goldfields railway line which is in marginal, light and very light rainfall areas. In the main, it is land of

good quality. Knowledgeable people agree that, given a good rainfall, it would produce prolifically. The point of interest is that in the 1927-28 season, the rains were generous and at the new settlement of Ghooli, east of Southern Cross, new land, roughly cultivated, returned 27 bushels per acre.

This question has always been looked upon from the angle of rainfall, but I suggest that consideration should be given to it from another angle. I put it to the Government that it should give earnest consideration to embarking upon research measures to produce, if possible, a fodder grass, or grasses, and/or a cereal that will give satisfactory results under existing conditions.

Another source of revenue could be our auriferous belt. Judging from recent reports, there is reason to believe that gold in payable quantities is yet to be found. But it is beyond the realm of possibility for the average prospector thoroughly to test such ground. It appears that deep drilling is necessary to do it. I make the suggestion that where a prospector has found good prospects, the Government assist him by deep drilling.

I note, too, in His Excellency's Speech that there is an upward trend in tourist activity. This is an avenue that could well be developed. We are fortunate in that we have many tourist attractions quite handy and I feel they could be enhanced and added to. This brings me to a consideration of the preservation of our natural wildflowers. Western Australia is unique in the quality and quantity of her wildflowers and flowering shrubs. Western Australia is the proud possessor of species unknown elsewhere in Australia. But with the building up of our suburbs and the cultivation and stocking of our inland, many old friends of our youth are fast disappearing, but they are fairly hardy and I believe that, given the opportunity, they could rehabilitate themselves. This would be an added tourist attraction because Western Australia is well known both interstate and internationally for the quality of her wildflowers.

The growing need for education on a higher plane is becoming more apparent every day. Therefore it is gratifying to learn that the Government intends to proceed with ten new high schools, and as one of these will be in Applecross, which is part of the electorate I represent, I am indeed very happy. This school will serve a large and ever-growing district and, in consequence, will relieve congestion elsewhere.

Proceeding on from that, I commend the Government on its attitude respecting the bridge across the Narrows. I feel that this, too, will be a boon to the people south of the river and I am anticipating development along the roads leading to

it. Another project of some importance is the Serpentine dam. This also serves a portion of the Canning electorate. Indeed, with the addition of a little further drainage and a few areas for playing fields, we would be content, for a little while anyway.

There is one item of proposed legislation in His Excellency's Speech that I would like to comment on, and that is the suggestion to amend the Native Welfare Act to improve the status of the natives. This is legislation of a high humanitarian order and I trust that consideration will be given to the higher education of the natives so that their leaders may ultimately be available from amongst the natives themselves. His Excellency, in his Speech today, indicated the legislation with which it is proposed to proceed this session. I would say that the announcement is a further indication that the Government will maintain its good record in respect of the legislation it introduces of governing in the interests of all the people of the State. Mr. Speaker, I count it an honour to move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

MR. O'BRIEN (Murchison): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. D. Brand, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday next.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.12 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 9th July, 1957.

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

PETITION—NATIVE WELFARE.

Proposed Reserve at Beechboro.

Hon. A. F. Griffith presented a petition from 138 residents of the Beechboro district praying that the decision of the Government to establish a native reserve in the area be reconsidered.

Petition received and read.

Resolved: That the petition lie upon the Table of the House.

QUESTIONS.

RAILWAYS.

(a) Freight Rates, Yuna Service.

Hon. A. R. JONES (without notice) asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is the Minister aware that freights on many items for Yuna are now much in excess of what they were when rail services operated?

(2) Will the Minister take steps to have the position brought into line with his and the Government's promise that freights would be subsidised to places where rail services were discontinued and replaced with authorised road transport?

The **MINISTER** replied:

(1) I am not aware that freights on many items are dearer than they were before railway operations ceased. The transport service operating in the area charges the same rate today as was charged prior to the cessation of railway operations. People were pleased to use that service then and they are using it now. I do not know, but I presume that on some items—a small volume of items overall—charges may be a little dearer; but on the great bulk of tonnage that will come out of the area I understand there will be a substantial reduction in the cost of transport.

(2) The position is in line with the undertaking given by me and the Government in relation to subsidies. The only undertaking given was that miscellaneous classes of goods would be subsidised where railway services ceased to operate.

(b) Geraldton-Yuna Service.

Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) Was the Minister in recent weeks asked by the Upper Chapman Road Board to reinstate the railway service between Geraldton and Yuna?

(2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes"—

(a) What were the reasons given to the Minister by the road board as to why the rail service should be reinstated?

(b) What reply did the Minister give the local authority?

The **MINISTER** replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) Because a 12-mile section of road remained unsealed and the board feared it might become impassable.