

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

### SECOND SESSION OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.

*The Parliament was prorogued on the 23rd December, 1924, to the 26th March, 1925. It was further prorogued to the 28th May, 1925, then to the 25th June, 1925, and again to the 30th July, 1925, when it met for the despatch of business.*

*Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.*

### Legislative Council,

*Thursday, 30th July, 1925.*

	PAGE
Opening of Parliament	1
Governor's Opening Speech	1
Election Return, South-East Province	5
Bill: Public Education Endowment Act Amendment, 1R	5
Condolence, late Hon. J. A. Greig	5
Governor's Speech, distribution	7
Address-in-reply, First day	7

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

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

### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.5 p.m. and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

It is with pleasure that I open the second session of the Twelfth Parliament of Western Australia for the transaction of public business. During the past year, His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to appoint me Governor of the State of Western Australia, in succession to Sir Francis Newdegate, G.C.M.G. I take this opportunity of publicly expressing the

gratitude of myself and Lady Campion for the hearty welcome extended to me, as King's representative, by all classes of people, since our arrival in the State, and for the expressions of loyalty and attachment to the throne and person of His Majesty King George V. Since the last session of Parliament, in response to the wish of Ministers and a general public demand, the Honourable the Premier has visited England. His visit has afforded an opportunity for interchange of ideas and for the negotiation of public business with leading statesmen, financiers, bankers, representatives of mining industry, and business people of the British Empire, more especially in relation to migration, finance, shipping, and export trade, and it is already evident that much good will result from his visit.

### *Migration.*

During the past year, a new migration agreement between the Imperial Government and the Commonwealth Government has been finalised. This supersedes the arrangement previously existing with several of the State Governments of Australia. My Ministers recognise the greater benefits thus conferred, but they consider that in view of the ambitious policy of migration and land settlement now being pursued by this State, a much greater measure of financial assistance should be afforded. Without abandoning their declared intention of seeking every possible improvement in future, my Ministers have decided, after consideration, to come under the terms of the new agreement, which will mean a resumption of the migration activities which for a time have been suspended.

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

The financial position of the State shows considerable improvement. The revenue for the year ended 30th June, 1925, was £8,381,446 and the expenditure amounted to £8,439,845. The deficit for the past financial year was thus reduced to £58,399, the best result achieved since 1911. Notwithstanding this excellent result, the greatest care needs to be exercised in the domain of finance, as the accumulated deficit now amounts to £6,198,486; and the disbursements last year for interest and sinking fund payments under Loan Acts were increased by £262,587, which imposes a heavy drain on revenue. The interest rate on borrowed money is still high, though there are some indications of relief. Further conferences between the Commonwealth and State Governments have been held in relation to financial matters, and arrangements have been made through the Federal Loan Council for combined borrowing. You will be asked to grant temporary supplies, and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure will be submitted to you at an early date.

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

The condition of trade, industry, and land development in Western Australia may be regarded as generally satisfactory, and the outlook to-day is probably brighter than at any period since the outbreak of the world war. Increased activity and industry on the part of our own people are reflected in improved revenues from land settlement, timber export, electricity supplies, Fremantle harbour works, railway and tramway departments, and various other departmental services. The financial leeway to be made up, however, is very considerable, and every effort must be directed towards balancing our finances. The Federal Disabilities Commission visited this State during the year, took voluminous evidence, and its recommendations may be published at any moment. It is hoped and expected that the result of this commission will be a measure of relief for the State as a compensation for the disabilities suffered by the incidence of Federation.

*Land Settlement.*

Land selection and settlement are in a highly satisfactory condition. A keen demand for mixed wheat and sheep country continues. About one thousand new settlers have appeared on the books of the department during the last twelve months, apart from group settlement. A close classification of one and a half million acres of land north of the Benenbbin line, and extending eastward from the Pithara-Dalwallinu district to Westonia, has been completed. A classification of the country extending from Kalgarin, east of Kondinin, to Ravenshorpe is being carried out by surveyors. The land between Salmon Gums and Norseman has been classified, and discloses a belt of excellent forest country which is expected to provide at least 350 holdings. Surveys are proceeding. All land in these areas suitable for settlement will be thrown open for selection during the forthcoming year. An inspection is being made of light lands within 12½ miles of the existing railway system. Over two million acres have been examined, and another million acres are awaiting attention. This proposal will be completed shortly. Outside of the 12½ mile limit there are also several million acres of light lands which have not so far been examined on similar lines. The object of this investigation is to ascertain the best use to which the land may be put, and to determine if any amending legislation is necessary to make it acceptable to settlers on reasonable terms.

*Production.*

Wheat harvests garnered during the past season constituted a record, namely, 23,887,367 bushels from 1,867,614 acres, an average of 12.8 bushels per acre—nearly 5,000,000 bushels greater than the previous year. The price obtained by farmers for their wheat was highly satisfactory. It is anticipated that a larger area will be cropped during the forthcoming season, and that the wheat yield will be correspondingly increased. Authorisations by the Agricultural Bank were issued during the year for the clearing of 268,088 acres of land, involving an expenditure of £343,455. A record was also established in the production of oats. Oaten and wheaten hay crops show increased yields. Fruit export also shows an increase. Dairying is progressing, and the basis of a flourishing industry is being established.

*Pastoral.*

The pastoral industry continues to develop, and a bountiful season is being experienced in the pastoral areas after a prolonged shortage of rain. It is gratifying to see that experienced pastoralists from other States are purchasing stations and spending large sums of money in development. The outlook in wool production is very promising. My Ministers, realising the fine future that lies before the pastoral industry, and being seized of the necessity for enabling pastoralists to take up country with some security as to boundaries, have instituted a system of feature surveys, which will be continued during the forthcoming year.

*Cotton.*

Two survey parties were sent to Kimberley last March for the purpose of locating and classifying land suitable for cotton growing near Elephant Hill, and preparing a scheme of subdivision. Main access roads are being surveyed, and this work will be continued until about the end of November next. In all probability the land will be thrown open for selection, and surveys continued during the following season.

*Forestry.*

The export trade in timber has been maintained during the past year, and the increasing value of our forest wealth is reflected in the increased departmental returns during the past twelve months. Reafforestation has definitely emerged from the experimental stage. Considerable areas have been treated for the regeneration of indigenous hardwoods, principally jarrah; and new nurseries have been established in a number of centres to provide planting stock, with a view to rendering the State independent in future years of softwood supplies from foreign countries.

*Mining.*

The value of the gold and mineral production during 1924 amounted to £2,581,162. In view of the enormous auriferous area of the State and the increasing consumption of the base metals and other minerals of which the State possesses some huge and valuable deposits, the future prospects of the mining industry may be regarded in a spirit of optimism. Every possible assistance has been rendered to the industry by the Government, and the report of the Royal Com-

mission on the mining industry is now receiving the serious consideration of my Ministers.

*Railways.*

The results accruing from railway operations are gratifying. The bounteous harvest of last season and heavy timber export traffic during the year taxed the capacity of the rolling stock to the utmost. Following on the introduction of an increased land tax estimated to produce a return of £45,000, railway rates were reduced by a like amount as from the 1st May, 1925. All sections of the community have received the benefit of this reduction.

*Electricity Supply.*

The electricity supply shows increased sales of 5,000,000 units during the year, and to cope with the ever increasing demand for current, additional generating plant has been ordered, which will be installed by the end of December, 1926. This will increase the capacity of the power house by 12,500 kilowatts.

*Agricultural College.*

An important advance in agricultural development is the establishment of an agricultural college, for which a site, consisting of 2,222 acres of undulating country, was purchased in the Avon Valley. As soon as the position of principal has been filled, details in connection with the curriculum will be finalised. Although much preliminary work will have to be negotiated in the direction of equipping Muresk with the requisite buildings and apparatus for conducting such an important institution, it is intended that the college shall be open to receive students at the beginning of next calendar year. The Wongan Hills light land farm was officially opened on the 16th May. The soil on this property is typical of a large area of Western Australian country, and the object of the establishment is to demonstrate the best methods of working light lands.

*Harbours.*

Steady progress has been made with the development of the Fremantle harbour, and the work of reconstructing Victoria Quay is also being continued. The improvement of the Geraldton harbour, as authorised, is well in hand. For the improvement of Bunbury

harbour the dredge "Sir William Mathews" was reconditioned at a cost of £10,000, and the work is rapidly proceeding.

#### *Agricultural Water Supply.*

The continued expansion of the wheat areas of the State calls for the consideration of water supplies in those areas which cannot be served from the Goldfields scheme. Investigations have been proceeding to this end, and the matter will receive further consideration when the Loan Estimates are being prepared.

#### *Metropolitan Water Supplies.*

Notwithstanding a heavy increase in the consumption of water in the metropolitan area, supplies were maintained during the past year with comparatively slight restrictions. The construction of the pipe line to bring water from the Canning and Wungong catchment areas to Perth was commenced early in the year, and it is anticipated that sufficient water will be thus made available from pipe head dams on the Canning River and Wungong and Churchman's Brooks to ensure an adequate supply for the coming summer. Filters recently constructed at Osborne Park were in use throughout last season, and gave a supply of excellent quality to North Perth and Leederville. The sewerage systems of Perth and Fremantle have been extended, and the construction of the tunnel to carry the stormwater drainage and sewage from Subiaco to the ocean has been commenced. This work is still in progress. During the present year a start will be made with the construction of the treatment works for Subiaco sewage, and thereafter the reticulation and sewerage house connections will be undertaken.

#### *State Shipping.*

In order to improve the shipping facilities along our sea-board, arrangements have been made for the replacing of the s.s. "Bambra" on the north-west coast, and the s.s. "Eucla" on the southern coast, by two vessels of modern construction and better suited to our requirements. The Trade Facilities Board in London are rendering a considerable measure of assistance. Tenders have been accepted for a vessel to succeed the "Eucla," and tenders to replace the "Bambra" are now being considered.

#### *Soldiers' Mental Home.*

Under agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments a new mental hospital for soldiers, of modern design, is in course of erection at West Subiaco on a very high and otherwise excellent site, comprising an area of 127 acres. Accommodation is being provided for 70 beds, 35 of which are for the soldier patients for whom the Commonwealth is responsible, and 35 for soldier patients for whom the State is responsible. The erection cost is estimated at £45,000. It is the intention of the Government to commence the erection of the Point Heathcote Reception Home during this financial year.

#### *Railways.*

During the last financial year the following railways were completed and handed over to the Working Railways Department:—The Busselton-Margaret River railway, 42½ miles long; the Narebeem-Merredin railway, 53¼ miles long; the Margaret River-Flinders Bay railway, 21¾ miles long, purchased in 1912 from Millars' Timber and Trading Co., was reconditioned and brought up to standard, making, with additions, a total length of 25¼ miles. Railways under construction at the end of the financial year were—The Esperance Northwards, 66½ miles; the Piawaning Northwards, 27 miles; the Lake Grace-Newdegate, 38¾ miles. The Piawaning Northwards railway will be handed over for traffic early next month; the Esperance Northwards will be handed over within a month or two; and the Lake Grace-Newdegate railway will be completed during the present financial year. The Railway Advisory Board, in the near future, will report upon the desirability of railways to serve the areas lying to the east of Dalwallinu and Pithara, as well as other districts needing railway communication.

#### *Arbitration Court.*

During this year my advisers were faced with a total stoppage of the work of the Arbitration Court, owing to the resignation of Mr. Justice Burnside. The difficulty was met by the appointment of the Master of the Supreme Court, Mr. T. F. Davies, as a temporary judge and as president of the Arbitration Court. This will permit the work of the Court to continue, pending the passage of contemplated legislation.

*Public Service.*

With a view to securing the greatest possible efficiency in the public service, several important appointments have either been recently made, or are now under active consideration. The appointments include Mr. F. W. H. Stileman as Engineer-in-Chief, a resident engineer for Hills water supply, an engineer for harbours and rivers, a factory superintendent for the State implement works, a chief veterinary officer, a veterinary pathologist, a bacteriologist and pathologist, a medical officer of schools, two divisional forest officers, and an assistant principal architect, while applications are being considered for the positions of hydraulic engineer and principal of Muresk Agricultural College. These appointments will greatly strengthen the professional arm of the public service.

*Licensing Poll.*

Under the Licensing Act, as amended, a prohibition poll was held on the 4th April of this year. The number of electors on the roll at the time of the taking of the poll was 200,212. The number of effective votes polled was 118,475, of which 41,362 were for prohibition and 77,113 were against prohibition.

*Legislation.*

You will be asked to give consideration to measures dealing with: Agricultural Water Supplies, Marketing of Produce, Main Roads, State Labour Exchange; and to the amendment of the Constitution Act, and the Acts relating to: Industrial Arbitration, Mines Regulation, Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs, Traffic, Juries, Vermin, Electoral, Land Drainage, Coal Mines Regulation, Road Districts. I now declare this session of Parliament open, and trust that Divine Providence may bless your labours in the interests of this State.

**ELECTION RETURN—SOUTH-EAST PROVINCE.**

The Clerk announced the return to a writ for the election of a member for the South-East Province showing that William Thomas Glasheen had been elected.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

**BILL—PUBLIC EDUCATION ENDOWMENT ACT AMENDMENT.**

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.37]: 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 Public Education Endowment Act, 1909."

Leave given, Bill introduced and read a first time.

**CONDOLENCE—THE LATE HON.**

**J. A. GREIG.**

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.38]: Since we parted at the termination of our labours last session, death has claimed one of our members, the Hon. J. A. Greig, who passed away at his home in Narrogin on the 22nd June after an illness extending over some weeks. During the nine years in which he was a member of this House Mr. Greig impressed all with his fine characteristics. He was a man whose every action was guided by a strict conscientiousness. He always pursued with courage and tenacity the course that he believed to be right, and he brought to bear upon all questions that engaged his attention a wide experience and a ripe judgment. Mr. Greig in early manhood came to this State from an agricultural district in South Australia. He selected land and he prospered. He was one of the many farmers from the East whose example in agricultural activities proved a great asset to their adopted country. It is worthy of remark that during his last hours his thoughts were with this Chamber. When I visited his sick bed at Narrogin just before the end, he spoke of the Legislative Council in terms of affection. The late Mr. Greig was a man for whom I conceived a great respect almost from the first time I met him, and my regard for him increased with the progress of time. My experience, I feel sure, was the experience of every other member of this House. We all deplore his death, and our hearts go out in sympathy to his widow and relatives. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the late Hon. James Alexander Greig, a member for the South-East Province, and to express its deepest sympathy

with his widow and relatives in the irreparable loss sustained through his decease; and that the President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to the widow.

**HON. J. W. KIRWAN** (South) [3.40]: I second the motion. Our late colleague was one of those members of the Legislative Council of whom the public perhaps heard and knew little, but he was one of the members animated by an earnest desire to serve the well-being of his State and to do what he thought was best. He did that in no self-seeking spirit. He was a man of rugged independence and of robust character. He was one of the men who pioneered the country and the industries of the country. He came from the Eastern States, attracted by the glitter of the gold discoveries of Bayley and Ford. He worked on the Golden Mile and engaged in the mining industry, but like a great many others who went to the goldfields and engaged in mining, he left it for the pursuit of agriculture. The same energy and enterprise that prompted him to leave his home ties in the Eastern States and to seek his fortune in the golden West were employed in the development of the great industry of farming. We who were his colleagues in this House knew him chiefly as a man of purpose and of transparent honesty. He belonged to a party, but he was one who never allowed the shackles of party ties to interfere with his individual judgment, and he proved his independence on more than one occasion. He was a good member for the South-East Province; he did his best for those to whom he owed the breath of his political existence, but he never advanced the interests of his constituency at the expense of the national interests. He was no parochialist; he always thought first of the welfare of the State as a whole. On one memorable occasion, which will be in the minds of members present, he opposed the construction of a railway through the province he represented, being firm in the belief that he was doing what was right in the national interests, even though it meant the sacrifice of some of his personal friendships and of support at an impending election. It is in this spirit that we support the motion which has been proposed by the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Greig was one of those men engaged with us in the work of attending to the affairs of this country, and we who worked with him, and had our differences with him, hardly realised the

loss that he is to this Chamber until he had passed away. However, those who are left of his relatives may, at any rate, have the consolation of knowing that we, the members of this Chamber, who knew him best, will remember him as a man unflinching in the discharge of his public duty, a man who did his best irrespective of consequences to himself, a man who, as a member of the Legislative Council, well and faithfully did his duty by Western Australia.

**HON. H. STEWART** (South-East) [3.46]: As a representative of the South-East Province, and as one who was a colleague of the late Mr. Greig for eight years, I cannot let this occasion pass without on my own behalf and on behalf of the other member of the Province, and also on behalf of the people of the Province, speaking a few words in appreciation of Mr. Greig's value to his constituency and to the State. Mr. Greig was brought up in the pastoral districts of South Australia, and was a student at Way College. He was driven to this State by the adverse conditions experienced by many pioneers through rabbits and drought in his native State and went to the goldfields, like many a good man who had been following agricultural pursuits in South Australia. Later he proceeded to the Great Southern district, and in view of his bitter experience in South Australia he determined to choose what was safe country. Not being fully conversant with Western Australian conditions, he selected land in those portions of the State which are not the most favourable from the aspect of making an income quickly, as is the case on the wheat belt. Mr. Greig went where rainfall and water were assured, so that he might be certain of not being again driven out by drought. There, under very difficult conditions, he established himself and made himself independent of a Parliamentary career as a means of livelihood. His colleagues and his constituents alike were struck by the transparent honesty of the man. He enjoyed the absolute confidence of the majority of the electors in the South-East Province; and I do not think that anyone who could have been put up against him in that province, would have been capable of defeating him. One could not have had a truer or stauncher colleague and friend than the late Mr. Greig, or one more helpful, or one more void of offence. On many occasions

his actions, as Mr. Kirwan has indicated, were almost those of a Sir Galahad. When he was fighting a lone hand, the strength of the man seemed to be as the strength of ten, because his heart was pure. I should say that his life can almost be epitomised in the words of Polonius—

To thine own self be true,  
And it must follow as the night the day  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

Speaking of Mr. Greig as the representative of the South-East Province, and as a loyal and true colleague in the political sense, and also as a friend, I deeply regret the occasion that has arisen for supporting the motion which is before the House.

**HON. C. F. BAXTER** (East) [3.50]: I support the motion, and deeply regret that occasion has arisen for its submission to the Chamber. The late Mr. Greig was one with whom I was associated long before either he or I thought of entering Parliament. Mr. Greig was a man of outstanding ability, sincere to a degree, and not afraid of opposition. In this Chamber and out of it he repeatedly fought a lone battle for what he thought was right. He never shrank from doing his duty. In him the farmers of this State have lost a very sincere friend, one whose life was given to the advancement of the agricultural industry and that of the State. Western Australia is very much the poorer by his loss. When he was able to do it, he devoted years of his life to the progress of this State on the lines of development of its lands. My sympathies go out to his bereaved wife, and I trust that Mrs. Greig will experience some little consolation in knowing the feeling of those who have been associated with the late gentleman, those who knew his worth and are therefore in a position to recognise his value as a member of this Chamber.

**THE PRESIDENT** [3.52]: Before formally putting the motion to the House, I should like to say a few words in support of the remarks that have fallen from the Leader of the House and from other members who have spoken. Mr. Greig was with us in the Council for almost 12 years. He paid unremitting attention to his duties, and whilst always keenly alive to the local interests of his constituents had the

general welfare of the State in view as well. He was an extremely loyal member, and endeavoured to carry out his duties in accordance with the rules and customs of the House. His experience of country life and settlement was of great value. I am afraid his health was at times far from satisfactory, so much so that he must have done his work occasionally under considerable pain, which he did his best to hide, and which therefore very few really appreciated. Having left a good record behind him, let us hope that he will have a peaceful future assured to him in the Great Unknown.

Question put and passed, members standing.

### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

**THE PRESIDENT**: For the sake of greater accuracy I have obtained from His Excellency the Governor copies of the Speech which he has been pleased to deliver. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*First Day.*

**HON. T. MOORE** (Central) [3.55]: 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 us:—"May it please Your Excellency. We, the members of the Legislative Council 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."

I wish to join in the expressions of regret which have already fallen from the lips of several members in regard to our late colleague Mr. Greig. I endorse every word that has been uttered concerning the late gentleman's worth and adopt every sentiment which has been expressed in that connection. Further, I would like to extend a welcome to our new member, Mr. Glasheen. I trust that his presence in this Chamber will prove of benefit to his health as well as to the country. I am sure we are all pleased to note the cheerful tone engendered by the Speech which has been submitted to us by His Excellency the Governor. That tone

comes well after a term of years during which times have not been so good. During the last 10 or 11 years, especially since the war, Western Australia has been struggling along, as it were, very slowly, but during the past 12 months conditions have improved to such an extent as to hold out an assured prospect of better times. Inevitably the aftermath of the most terrible war in history was bound to be characterised by a period of difficulty. Everybody realised that. However, we are now well on the road to better days. The Speech points out that much of the improvement apparent in the State to-day is due to the development of our primary industries. The Speech also remarks that a great part of the improvement is due to our land development policy. That undoubtedly is so. It is remarkable when one considers the short space of time in which such vast improvements have been effected in the back blocks of Western Australia. The excellent results obtained so speedily are very striking. To realise this one need only take a trip into the agricultural areas. The difference is especially noticeable by those who have traversed the areas in question in years gone by. The change brought about by even the last few years is such as must arrest attention. Recently I was in the Dalwallinu country, where ten years ago there was practically no settlement. What was then almost a wilderness has during the last 12 months produced exportable wealth to the extent of £350,000. Such a fact enables one to realise how our country districts are developing. And so it is further along in the direction of Mullewa, Yandanooka, and right up to the great province which I represent. Indeed, it is so right throughout the State. Developments have been remarkable for their rapidity. We are all very optimistic regarding the future of Western Australia so far as the primary industries are concerned. There is one thing we must always bear in mind, however, with regard to the people who are doing the pioneering work out back. I wish to point out, as I have pointed out in the past, that we are apt to forget the claims of those who do the pioneering. It is too often assumed that those who go out back should necessarily put up with the rough life there. I consider that it is the duty of the present Government, a duty which they will carry out, to see that the pioneers have every possible advantage,

equally with the people who live in the cities. That, indeed, is the duty of every Government. Too often in the past, however, the duty has been overlooked. It has been overlooked in the matter of education, for example. One of the reasons for the drift to the cities is that our educational system really demands it. That is so by reason of the fact that in the country districts nothing but primary education is obtainable. When a boy or a girl in the country leaves school at 14 years of age, there are only two alternatives: either the child has to be sent to the city, or the child has to go without anything in the nature of secondary education. That is a great drawback. When we realise what it costs to send a child to school from the country districts, we realise the difficulty country parents have in knowing what to do with their children. Those parents are just as desirous of seeing their children properly educated and endowed with all the accomplishments as are city parents. In many instances it is possible to send one member of a country family to a finishing school, but only at the expense of brothers and sisters. The question of education is one of the outstanding reasons for the discontent existing in country districts. I hope that successive Governments will always have that in mind. The prosperity of the country districts is reflected in the city, and it behoves the city people to realise this and not to make their demands for Government assistance too heavy; for when such demands are granted people out back have to go without. Also in the Speech the mining and base metal industries are referred to. Despite what has been said about the decline in the gold mining industry we find that that and the base metal industry produced during the last financial year something like 2½ millions sterling. I believe that particularly in respect of our base metals, we shall have a great industry built up in this State. To-day large developments are taking place in manganese on the Murchison, where there is a great body of rich ore. Again, in the Northampton lead mining country considerable wealth is being won. All these projects need facilities, including short lengths of railway lines. I am sure we are going to get those advantages. In Wiluna, to which all the gold mining heads are looking, there is a possibility of a second Kalgoorlie arising. If development should warrant it, it will be



necessary to connect up the Murchison railway with the Wiluna goldfields, Geraldton being the natural port for all that district. The present Government are doing well to continue the work of building up the Geraldton harbour; for it is quite necessary to have an up to date port there, in view of all the progress that is taking place. We have to proceed further with the development of our agricultural country. I am pleased to note that the Government contemplate building a railway to serve that country east of Pithara which is adjacent to the district I have mentioned, and which produced last year £350,000. I am sorry to note that the Premier, when in the Old Country, did not manage to buy the Midland Railway. Along that line progress has been retarded owing to the fact that the settlers there cannot get Government assistance in the development of their land. I hope that the Midland Railway Company, when dealing with the Government, will take into consideration the fact that they have retarded the development of a very large area of country and are retarding also the exploitation of the great Irwin coal deposits, the use of which depends largely upon the purchase of the Midland railway. There is also the development of that great area of country between Mingenew and Mullewa to be considered. There can be no gainsaying the fact that the Midland Railway Company are not fulfilling the conditions under which they were granted their concession. The Government ought to intimate to them that if they are not prepared to accept a fair price for their line they will have to live up to the conditions they accepted so many years ago. We are pleased to note that the State finances are now getting back to normal and to feel that in the days ahead of us their condition will be still more satisfactory. I do not wish to credit the present Government with the whole of the improvement made, but I do not think that fair-minded members believe what has been put up by the leading newspaper, namely, that the whole of the credit for the improved finances should be tendered to the previous Government. In my view the present Ministers have got right down to their work and fully understand their business of controlling the department. Certainly it must be conceded that they have accomplished a great deal in the short time they have been in possession of the Treasury benches. There

are a few other subjects I should like to touch upon but, having regard to the lateness of the hour, I will defer my remarks to a subsequent date, before the Address-in-reply debate is concluded.

**HON. E. H. GRAY** (West) [4.7]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. J. Ewing, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 1.9 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 30th July, 1925.*

	PAGE.
Meeting of the Assembly ... ..	9
Summons from the Governor ... ..	9
Election Return, Forrest ... ..	9
Bill: Transfer of Land Act Amendment ... ..	10
Governor's Opening Speech ... ..	10
Address-in-reply, First day ... ..	10

### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

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

**THE SPEAKER** took the Chair.

### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

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

### ELECTION RETURN—FORREST.

**THE SPEAKER** announced the return to the writ issued for the election of a member for Forrest, showing that Miss Mary Alice Holman had been duly elected.

**MISS HOLMAN** took and subscribed the oath, and signed the roll.