

to, and I hope when the next Speech comes down there will be even fewer, because we do not want legislation at all. Our statute books are pruned up and pressed to overflowing with legislation, and some of it is a dead-letter. We want less legislation and more administration, and if I may be permitted to say so, I think if the sessions were shorter and fewer Bills were introduced and the Ministry of the day had an opportunity to spend all their time in administration, it would be better in the interests of the State. I will not trespass much longer. The tenor of the Speech as a whole is of confidence, and I think that should be so. Recently I had the privilege and pleasure of travelling to the old country and seeing other countries and places as well, and I have returned perfectly satisfied with the outlook of this great State. As mentioned in the Speech, we find the pastoral industry in a satisfactory condition, the mining industry improving, the timber industry all right, and a large population settling on the land, so that the agricultural industry is also sound. While we have a great territory, the area that has been settled upon—600,000 acres—is only, figuratively speaking, a drop out of the bucket. In addition we have another asset not mentioned in the Speech. It struck me when travelling through Egypt that in the future there will be great schemes of water conservation in this State, and the lands at present arid and useless will become sources of wealth. Mr. President, I will not detain you further. I have much pleasure in seconding the Address-in-Reply.

On motion by *Hon. J. W. Langsford* debate adjourned.

The House adjourned at 3.45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 10th November, 1908.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. C. Lee Steere).

MESSAGE: OPENING BY COMMISSIONERS.

A message from the Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and 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 the Chief Justice (Sir S. H. Parker), having been commissioned by the 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 as representatives for the Legislative Assembly, the writ for Menzies not being returned owing to the election having been upset on appeal to the Court of Disputed Returns and a fresh election ordered.

All the members elected were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore), addressing the Clerk, said: Mr. Lee Steere, the House being duly consti-

tuted, it becomes our duty and privilege to first elect an hon. member to preside over our deliberations, and I have much pleasure in moving that Mr. Quinlan be re-elected to the position he occupied during the preceding Parliament. I feel sure that if Mr. Quinlan is elected he will carry out the duties of the office with honour and dignity and with satisfaction to all sections of the House. I, therefore, have much pleasure in moving:—

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

The TREASURER (Hon. Frank Wilson): I second the motion.

Mr. JOHNSON (Guildford): I desire to move—

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

In doing this I am influenced by a desire to uphold the dignity of this House and at the same time to protect the rights and privileges of members.

Several Opposition Members: Hear. Hear!

Mr. JOHNSON: I believe that Mr. Hudson has the necessary qualifications to carry out this duty with credit to himself, and at the same time to see that the dignity of the House is upheld, and that the rights and privileges of members are fully protected. To justify myself in moving this motion it is necessary for me to refer to the actions of the late Speaker. And while I do this, I want it to be clearly understood that I do not consider, neither have I said at any time, that the Speaker of the last Parliament was wilfully partial. Still I think his naturally nervous temperament sometimes led him to give decisions contrary to our Standing Orders. He failed on occasions, to my mind, to fully appreciate the seriousness or gravity of his actions. For instance, I cannot imagine any more serious political indignity than to be chastised by his Honour the Speaker. Still on occasions last Parliament members were chastised by the Speaker, when there were grave doubts as to whether the members chastised were really infringing the Standing Orders. When there is room for doubt as to the rights of members or as to whether a member is infringing the Standing Orders, then unquestionably the

member should get the benefit of the doubt. Consequently, feeling that last Parliament we did not get the benefit of the doubt on many occasions, I am of opinion that it is necessary in the best interests of this House that we should not re-elect the Speaker of last Parliament, but endeavour to secure one with higher qualifications for the post. Consequently I move that Mr. Hudson be elected. I can give one illustration, and I want members to believe me when I say that it is not this illustration which impels me to move as I am doing, for after all I was only chastised once. But my own illustration will show how, occasionally, the Speaker allowed his own nervous temperament to mislead him. On one occasion we had an all-night sitting and a hard debate continued throughout the night. Next afternoon we met again and continued sitting. Then, about half-past 10 or 11, a motion came on dealing with the construction of a proposed railway. It was well known to hon. members that I had taken a stand in opposition to the Government on this question. I went to the Leader of the Government and pointed out that we had had a long sitting, that members were tired, and that I would have to speak at some length. The Leader of the Government said that he could not see his way clear to adjourn. Consequently I felt called upon to speak at some length. I apologised to the Speaker and to the House for being called upon to make a long speech on a question that I felt was of the utmost importance to the country, seeing that the House was tired and that it had been sitting continuously for some considerable time. However I finished my speech and was apologising to the House again when a leading question was put to me by the Minister for Works. I replied to that; and the Speaker rose in his place and so far forgot himself as to criticise my method of speaking, threatening to suspend me from this Chamber because I replied to an interjection from the other side. I knew perfectly well that if I attempted to defend or justify myself I would be suspended from this House. Consequently, when we have in the Chair a gentleman of the temperament of Mr. Quinlan, we

have one whose very nature is against his giving that sound judgment and those sound decisions necessary to uphold the dignity of Parliament; and it is for that reason I move that Mr. Hudson be elected, because I believe Mr. Hudson possesses those qualifications that will lead him to give decisions in accord with the Standing Orders, and because his election will remove from the House those disagreeable scenes we had on various occasions owing to the decisions of the Speaker being, as we considered—and I am strongly of opinion our belief was justified—against the Standing Orders.

Mr. TROY (Mount Magnet): I second the motion moved by the member for Guildford, and I agree with his remarks in that the gentleman who occupied the position of Speaker during last Parliament does not possess in a full sense every qualification for the position. My remarks shall be extremely brief. I believe that the Speaker should be able to control the House with firm dignity and courtesy; but I am sure this House was not controlled in that manner during last Parliament. I have often felt that, instead of being called to order in a manner members would have acknowledged as the right of the Speaker and to which they would have bowed, members have often been spoken to in a hasty and, to my mind, most insulting manner by the late Speaker. The member for Toodyay possesses the best of feelings towards all members of the House, but at the same time his impetuosity of temperament does not permit him to give a sound judgment on matters submitted to him. Therefore, on that account alone, not on account of any personal qualification, but simply because the member for Toodyay does not possess the qualifications I have named as necessary for a Speaker, I second the motion moved by the member for Guildford.

Mr. BATH (Brown Hill): There are certain responsibilities attached to my position as Leader of the Opposition which makes discussion and conflict on an occasion such as this very unpleasant. I know that members will agree with that; but after all, the occasion on which the

election of a Speaker of this House takes place is perhaps the only occasion, other than by a direct motion such as was moved by myself during the last session of the last Parliament, upon which members have an opportunity of expressing their opinions on this very important matter. I would be loth to see any party bias or feeling imported into the election of one who should be, in the truest sense, representative of the whole of the members of the House irrespective of our political opinions. The Speaker is, after all, the representative of members, the eyes and ears of members, he is there in the first place to protect the interests and the rights and privileges of members, but there have been occasions when I believe, instead of the decisions of the Speaker in the last Parliament having a tendency to promote harmony and good feeling, have on the contrary provoked a bitterness of feeling that has not been in the best interests of the speedy and smooth conduct of business in this House. In the first place I might refer to an incident which necessitated the motion that I was very much pained to have to move in the last Parliament. The member for Guildford also referred to an occasion when his manner of addressing himself to the House was called in question, a manner for which his own physical characteristic only can be held to blame; he was accused of speaking loud and long. The member for Mt. Margaret on another occasion may have transgressed a rule of the House, if rigidly applied, in giving utterance to an interjection of an innocent character couched in language which I have heard every member of the House use; but that interjection was characterised by the Speaker as vulgar, and the way the member for Mt. Margaret was chastised on that occasion was enough to provoke a scene in a House even if it were composed of angels. Now I think this is the occasion on which matters of this kind should be ventilated. I for one will say this, that we have chosen this opportunity, not I believe with the desire of imparting a party air to this election. We have nominated a member on this side of the House in order to testify the belief that we have members

capable of filling that position, and I for one will make this promise, that whoever is elected I will endeavour to uphold him in carrying out his duties in a fair and impartial fashion. I do not desire to reflect on the impartiality of the gentleman who occupied the position of Speaker in the last Parliament. Rather do I believe that his failings were such as might properly be ascribed to temperament. It is for those reasons I have spoken and expressed my opinion on this occasion, and knowing as I do what the result is likely to be, I believe it may have the effect perhaps of preventing a recurrence of these incidents in future and tend to greater harmony amongst members while sitting in this Chamber.

Mr. SCADDAN (Ivanhoe): In addressing myself to the House on this question I am sure no member will charge me with having a personal feeling towards Mr. Quinlan, but I have now to say—and no member of the House is a more regular attendant than I am—that I am satisfied from some of his decisions, and the manner in which he has carried out his duties in the Chamber—I will say nothing about his attitude outside the Chamber—that Mr. Quinlan is not the best member to fill that position. I remember when Mr. Quinlan in the capacity of Speaker attended a function in the City, the opening of Levi Green's building, he went out of his way to traduce members of this House. I will read the report of the incident from the *West Australian* of Saturday, 11th August, 1906. It says:—

“In responding to the toast of ‘Parliament,’ at the opening of Mr. Levi Green's new premises, in Wellington Street yesterday, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Mr. T. F. Quinlan, M.L.A.) referred in emphatic terms to the recent disorderly scenes in Parliament. He regretted extremely, he said, some of the occurrences that had taken place during this session, but the public might rest assured that while he held the honourable position he did in the Legislative Assembly it would never go to extremes, such as had been the case with Parliaments in other parts of Australia. (Hear, Hear.) He was determined that the Parliament of this

State should bear the name it formerly did of a properly-conducted and dignified House.”

Apparently from his own remarks it had lost that conduct and dignity. He went on to say—

“Some criticisms had been passed with reference to his conduct of the House during this session, but he would defy any man, inside or outside Parliament, to have controlled the proceedings better than he had done so far. (Applause.) As a public man he was open to criticism, and therefore he was not thin-skinned.”

Apparently he was not. He went on to say—

“But he wished the public to know—and he did not often get the chance of saying it—that should at any time the occasion arise, he would not be wanting in his duty and he knew that he would be upheld by the public at large.”

Now that may be a very commendable utterance, but not from a Speaker, a gentleman who should occupy that position to protect every member of this House irrespective of his party feelings. A Speaker should not go to the public and make such utterances as that. It is the duty of a Speaker to maintain order, but at the same time it is not his duty to go out to public functions and make statements traducing hon. members of this Chamber, as the late Speaker did on that occasion; and for that reason I am going to support the motion that Mr. Hudson should occupy the Chair. Again there was the occasion quoted by the Leader of the Opposition, the instance where the late Speaker went out of his way to read a communication he had received in his position as Speaker, but which had nothing to do with the House. It was a communication from the Chief *Hansard* Reporter that should have been in due course presented to the Printing Committee; and then if the Printing Committee had thought it necessary that the House should be informed of the contents of the letter, the Speaker could have read it to the House, though I am doubtful whether the Printing Committee would have authorised to do so. For the information of new members of the House I shall read

what the Speaker said on that occasion. He said:—

"I have a communication which I think it is requisite members of the Assembly should be made acquainted with, and also through them the taxpayers of the country. The communication is as follows:—

REPORTING ALL-NIGHT SITTINGS.

To the Honourable the Speaker, Legislative Assembly.

Sir,—It becomes necessary to apply to you as the directing head of the official staff for reporting Parliamentary Debates, to provide such additional strength as will enable the reporting and typewriting duties to be carried on through the nights as well as through the ordinary working days. The Legislative Assembly required this extraordinary work to be done last week, by sitting from Tuesday afternoon till Wednesday midnight without a break, the Legislative Council also having to be reported during two long sittings within the same period; and again in this current week the Assembly having started with an all-night sitting extending till 5 o'clock a.m.; these demands on the working strength of reporters have reached the limit of physical endurance, and I as leader of the staff feel that it would be cruel and unreasonable to call on my colleagues to continue this excessive strain. Our staff having been formed on the basis of ordinary requirements, these having also increased greatly in recent years without increase of strength, and our number being 5 reporters as compared with 10 or 11 on the East side of Australia, it will be evident that five reporters cannot be divided into working relief parties for carrying on day and night.

I have the honour to be your servant,

EDWARD HOUGHTON.

14th November, 1906.

It would be out of place, holding the position I do, a neutral one, to make any comment farther than to say that I felt it incumbent upon me to make this information known to the Assembly; and it will perhaps be the means of calling the attention of the taxpayers of the country to the question whether they get full value for their money in oratorical effect or monetary value.

Mr. Walker: I want to know if this is a reflection on any members in this House, collectively or individually.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow any debate.

Mr. Walker: We are traduced and injured without the right of reply.

Mr. Taylor: It is scandalous.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow any debate. As I have said, I express no opinion. I merely considered it incumbent upon me to read the letter, and draw the attention of members to it.

Mr. Walker: You said the taxpayers.

Mr. Taylor: It is your duty to protect the House.

Mr. Speaker: I have protected the House [A section of it probably.]

Beyond placing the letter before the House, I have nothing to do with it.

The question before the House is "That the House do now adjourn."

And he got out of a hot position. As pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition and by the member for Guildford, the late Speaker also made comments on the manner in which members addressed themselves to the House. We all cannot be of the disposition of the gentleman who was Speaker during last Parliament. I do not know whether I am favoured with a loud voice, I do not know whether the member for Guildford is, but in any event I am not going to whisper to members, I am going to say what I have to say in my own manner as loud or as low as I like, and I contend a Speaker has no right to make the comment the late Speaker made on that occasion. Moreover, I remember an incident occurring when I was addressing myself to this House. The Speaker complained of some disorderly conduct, or at least what would have been disorderly conduct, which had transpired previously to my rising to my feet. He complained of something which he said I had interjected. I pointed out that if I had been unruly the time for correcting me was when I was actually interjecting. We had a wordy warfare; and eventually the Speaker allowed the matter to drop. It only goes to show, as pointed out by Mr. Johnson, that Mr. Quinlan's nervousness does not fit him to hold the position of Speaker. A Speaker should be of quite a different temperament. He should not be of a nervous disposition or he must necessarily fail. I venture to say that in the history of Western Australia no occupant of the position of Speaker in this Chamber has made so many grievous blunders as Mr. Quinlan did during the last Parliament. Therefore I

am opposed to Mr. Quinlan and will support Mr. Hndson for the position.

Mr. WALKER (Kanowna): Whoever may be appointed to the Chair, I take it that this discussion will do some good. I quite sympathise with Mr. Quinlan, inasmuch as his last term of office was his first. He was inexperienced, and I question whether he has qualified himself during his term of office by the study and self discipline that is required for such an important and dignified position. He certainly forgot himself more than once by that natural impulse, as it has been described, which perhaps belongs to his race, and peculiarly to one of his temperament. He, I doubt not, did his best. Personally I have little to complain of. But is there not in this House, and in past Speakers possibly, and at all events in the general public, a wrong idea prevailing as to what the Speaker should be and do. When a Speaker is appointed to that Chair, he does not assume the attitude or the functions of a schoolmaster or of the father of an unruly family. He is distinctly the mouthpiece and the servant of this Assembly, and it seems to me that Mr. Quinlan scarcely recognised and realised the importance of that during his term of office. It is not known, or rather it is not realised, that a Speaker may be just as disorderly as any member of the House; that a Speaker, if not wise, if not tactful, if not observant of his duties, may provoke instead of subduing disorder; that many and most disorderly scenes have been created not only in this Parliament but other Parliaments by the lack of judgment and discretion at the proper moment on the part of the Speaker. It certainly is the duty of the Speaker to protect this Assembly from outside impulses. He is the guardian distinctly of its liberties, its privileges and its rights. That much he should never forget if he wants to be an ideal Speaker. And it is upon that score more than all others that I regret that the Speaker last Parliament should have so far forgotten himself as to appeal to taxpayers, or to abuse a section of this House at public assemblages. There he should be silent as to what comes under his observation in this Assembly. I venture to think

there has been no Parliament in Australia more generally orderly and correctly behaved than this Parliament was during its last course. If we were to view history—and I may be pardoned, as it is so apropos, quoting from the writings of one of the ablest authorities in England, *May*, who in his *Constitutional History of England* gives us a glimpse of the House of Commons itself. Speaking of the bitterness between Lord North and Fox, he says:—

“There have since been altercations of equal bitterness. The deepest wounds which sarcasm and invective could inflict, have been unsparingly dealt to political opponents. Combatants have sharpened their tongues like a serpent: adder’s poison is under their lips.” But good taste and a stricter order in debate have restrained the grosser outrages to decency. The weapons of debate have been as keen and trenchant as ever; but they have been wielded according to the laws of a more civilised warfare. The first years of the Reformed Parliament threatened the revival of scenes as violent and disorderly as any in the last century: but as the host of new members became disciplined by experience, and the fierce passions of that period subsided, the accustomed decorum of the House of Commons was restored. Indeed as the Commons have advanced in power and freedom, they have shown greater self-restraint, and a more ready obedience to the authority of the Speaker. They have always been more orderly in their proceedings than the Lords; and the contrast which the scenes of the first twenty years of George III. present to those of later times, can scarcely fail to strike an attractive student of Parliamentary History. What would now be thought of such scenes as those enacted in the time of Sir John Cust, Sir Fletcher Norton, and Mr. Cornwall—of rebukes and interruptions, of unseemly altercations with the Chair—of the words of the Speaker himself being taken down—and of a motion that they were disorderly and dangerous to the freedom of debate?”

I quote this to show that of old in the

House of Commons a Speaker was called to order, and his words were taken down. He was rebuked by the House for his disorderly conduct, and I submit I have had repeatedly to witness the spectacle of the Speaker himself being the most disorderly member of the House. The words the Speaker used in drawing attention to Mr. Houghton's letter regarding the long service of *Hansard* and reporting of all-night debates, were strictly disorderly and calculated to produce a scene. They did produce disturbance and took up the time of the House; but all that may be the result of inexperience, and may result from a lack of taking that proper attitude towards members of the House, from a want of knowledge that the Speaker is a servant of the House, the guardian of its liberties, and that he is not there to correct and chide and interrupt members, but that he is there to see that every member has his full share of liberty of speech. That is what he is there for, not to curtail speech, not to stop liberty, not to prevent debate, not to reflect on its length, not to criticise its merits, whether it be elegant or uncouth. The Speaker is there to listen to a member say what he has to say; because this House, through the people outside, has the right to hear the humblest member put his case in the form he is capable of; and it is the Speaker's duty to guard the feeblest speaker, the weakest mind, the most untrained, the most undisciplined in the use of language, and not to pit one's vulgar way of utterance against the polished style of another, but to see that the privileges of no member are curtailed by a majority on the Government side or by the anger and passions of his own side. That is his object, to give every man his opportunity, and above all, to see that no member of the House is asspersed and discredited in order to appeal to the popular applause of the general public outside. That is the reason, I think, this censure, if I may call it so, on Mr. Quinlan has originated. We have felt that he has not deserved the praise of individual members, that he has catered to the wishes of certain members of the House on some occasions; that he has, so to speak, kowtowed to the

general public opinion of the worthlessness and vulgarity of this Assembly; that he has delivered us into the hands of our opponents, instead of giving us that guardianship which we rightly expected of him. I expect that he will be re-elected; if so, I trust that he will remember what has been pointed out, that a Speaker, as well as a member, can be disorderly. I trust he will remember he is there, not to favour some and disfavour others, but to give all their equal right of speech in the service of the country. This censure, this criticism, has not been done on personal motives, for I venture to think there is not one member on this side of the House who for Mr. Quinlan personally has not the very kindest of regards. Socially we know no better or more congenial companion. It is to guard this House from his own blunders, his own mistakes, that the criticism of this morning has been indulged in.

Mr. HOLMAN (Murchison): I desire to say a few words on this question. It may appear to some members that I have occasion, because I was perhaps harshly treated by the Speaker during last Parliament. All my life I have been in the habit of giving hard blows and receiving the same. I desire it to be understood that in my opinion when a man is sent here to represent and protect the interests of the people he should be allowed every latitude. He should be allowed to place his requests before the House and other members in the best possible manner, and each and every member should receive the same treatment, immaterial of what position in the House he occupies. To show that it not a personal matter brought forward to-day, I may say that when Mr. Quinlan was first approached and asked to become Speaker of this Assembly, it was done by Mr. Taylor and myself. We were the first to ask Mr. Quinlan to accept the position, knowing as we did that as far as Mr. Quinlan's popularity was concerned there was no disputing the fact. I think the same feeling obtains here to-day. The only question which arises is as to whether Mr. Quinlan has the strength of will to deal out to every member in this House the protection he deserves. One point brought forward last

Parliament, and a very strong one, was my suspension from my seat in this Chamber. On that occasion I made use of a word that in all probability I should not have made use of. In looking through *Hansard* however I find that in another place far stronger remarks are used, and do not call for a demand for withdrawal by the President. Far stronger remarks were made use of by Dr. Hackett when he referred to another member as a liar, and that did not bring forth a reproach. When speaking in this Chamber in the heat of the moment I made use of a remark which I should not have done. I withdrew that remark and that was, to my mind, doing as much as I should on that occasion; but the Speaker desired me to humble myself and to apologise, not to this House, but to the Minister to whom I made the remark. In connection with the remark, although I may not have been justified in making it, I had good grounds for feeling very sore on the point I brought forward. It may seem that in connection with this debate we are voicing our own personal grievances. I do not desire to defend myself in any way, for so long as I am in this Chamber I will try and do my duty to the country, immaterial as to what the question under discussion is, and rather than be gagged I would prefer to leave the House and let someone else take my place. I will always, to the best of my ability, do my duty, and if the Speaker prevents me from speaking on another occasion I will have to submit to the same treatment meted out to me in the past.

Mr. Quinlan and Mr. Hudson submitted themselves to the will of the House.

Members then proceeded to a ballot, and the Clerk declared, as the result, that Mr. T. F. Quinlan had been chosen Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: Mr. Premier and hon. members of the Legislative Assembly: I am deeply indebted for the honour you have conferred upon me for the second time, and it shall be my endeavour to carry out the duties of the position in as dignified a manner as possible. I was glad to hear the few words which were uttered by my friend Mr. Walker, when he said this House

has the reputation of being the best conducted House in Australia. With those remarks I entirely agree. It shall be my endeavour to maintain the truth of these words during the present Parliament. I have been for 18 years elected to public life: in fact, since the first Parliament under Responsible Government, and, I believe, it was in this very month. I am a firm believer in the old axiom "he who excuses, accuses," and I desire to follow that motto as I have endeavoured to do during my private and parliamentary career. I can only conclude by assuring hon. members that they will not have any grounds whatever for any charge of partiality. It will be my endeavour to conduct the affairs of the House with the utmost integrity, and in doing that I feel I shall be doing what my conscience dictates. If I should err—human nature is frail—I hope hon. members will remember those words so often expressed, "Be to his faults a trifle blind, and to his virtues ever kind."

Congratulations.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) : Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to congratulate you upon having been once more elected to the highest office it is in the power of the House to bestow on one of its members. I am satisfied you realise the obligations which devolve upon you in connection with the administration of this important office. Although to-day we have had some slight criticism from hon. members, still we realise that the first duty of Parliament is to redress grievances even before passing legislation, and possibly it was considered by most members the most opportune time to comment on the past actions of the Chair, and the necessary qualifications for the position. I can only say that I feel sure, having been elected, every member in this House will now be prepared to give you loyal support in carrying out your most important duties, and I desire, sir, on behalf of members on this side of the House, to heartily congratulate you upon your re-election to the position of Speaker.

Mr. BATH (Brown Hill) : The Speaker having been elected to the Chair, I desire, on behalf of the Opposition, to

congratulate him on being appointed to that very important position. We are starting a new Parliament and, as the Premier has said, it is probably just as well that members should have expressed their opinions at this early stage. I, for my part, can give this assurance—and I believe I can give the same assurance on behalf of the other members of this House—that so far as my conduct is concerned I will at all times, when consistent with the performance of my duties, try and assist the Speaker in carrying out the duties attached to the very important position he holds.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Premier, Mr. Bath, and hon. members: I thank you very heartily for the congratulations you have expressed towards me, and I hope I shall be able to fulfil all that is desired from me as the holder of the high and honourable position you have been good enough to elect me to to-day.

[*Sitting suspended, at 1.45, until 2.40 p.m.*]

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*); and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber at 3 o'clock, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and announced that in submitting himself to His Excellency as Speaker elected by the Legislative Assembly he had laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable consideration might be put on all its proceedings, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

"It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been again 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."

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Labour Bureau—Report of Superintendent, 1907; 2, Prisons—Report of Comptroller General, 1907; 3, Public Charities and Industrial Schools—Report, 1907; 4, Insane—Report of Inspector General, 1907; 5, Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and Trade Unions Act—Report on, 1907; 6, Government Railways—Report, 1907-08; 7, Perth Observatory—Report, 1907; 8, Fishing Industry—Report, 1907; 9, Friendly Societies—Report by Registrar, 1906; 10, Early Closing Act—Regulations; 11, Marriage Act—Regulations; 12, Police Transfer and Travelling Expenses Regulations; 13, Fremantle Hospital—Amended Regulations; 14, Municipal By-laws (Perth, Claremont, Cottesloe, Guildford, Leederville, Newcastle, North Perth, Subiaco, Victoria Park, and York); 15, Health Board By-laws (Central, Kundip, Leonora, North Perth, and Onslow); 16, Lands—Report by Under Secretary, 1907-08; 17, Government Railways Act, 1904—Report and Returns under; 18, Government Railways—Rules for Carriage of Exhibits for Agricultural Shows; 19, Cemetery Boards—By-laws and Statements (Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Karraikatta, Nannine, Southern Cross, Roebourne, and Sandstone); 20, "Land Act, 1898"—By-laws for Broome and Onslow Commons, and Coolgardie, Burbanks, and Widgemooltha State Forests; 21, "Permanent Reserves Act"—B. Reserves 254, 256, and 261.

By the Colonial Treasurer: Government Savings Bank—Balance Sheet and Report, 1907-08.

BILL—MIDLAND JUNCTION BOUNDARIES.

The PREMIER, by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege), introduced a Bill to amend the boundaries of the Midland Junction Municipal District to include portion of the Swan Road District.

Bill read a first time.

KING'S BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): His Excellency the Governor on behalf

of the people of Western Australia cabled a congratulatory message to His Majesty the King on the occasion of his birthday, and the following reply has been received:—

"My sincere thanks to yourself, the Government and my people of Western Australia for telegram of loyalty, congratulations and good wishes on my birthday.

Edward, R. and I."

TIMBER TROUBLE, MURCHISON.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) : A telegram which may be of interest to members has just been received with regard to the timber strike that has taken place on the Murchison. Warden Troy has telegraphed:—

"Re wood strike, firewood company and representatives of strikers met last night and concluded an agreement by which company pays nine shillings per cord to cutters. Anticipated cutters will confirm this agreement to-day."

EXHIBITION AWARDS, FRANCO-BRITISH.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) : It will be interesting if I take this opportunity of stating that we have received intelligence of further awards at the Franco-British Exhibition, among which was a gold medal for wheat that the hon. member for Katanning has been successful enough to win.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that copies of the Governor's Opening Speech had been distributed to members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First day.

Mr. JACOBY (Swan) : When the request was made to me to move the motion which I shall directly submit for the consideration of members, I hesitated to accede to it because I felt there were many members in this Chamber more worthy to undertake the task and fulfil it with better credit than I was.

Secondly, I look upon a Speech in connection with the Address-in-Reply as not leading to any very definite conclusion, and I always find myself in some difficulty in making a speech of this sort. Thirdly, after my experience in the House in previous Parliaments, and after having been out of the House for the term of one Parliament and watched its proceedings during that time, it appears to me that the time taken up in the Address-in-Reply debate is hardly justified by the result, and it would appeal to me personally if the House were placed in a position to go straight on with the work as soon as it met, and particularly on this occasion when we are now nearly midway through the financial year and in many directions the authority of the House is required for the commencement of works necessary to the progress of the State. However, before I proceed any further, sir, permit me to offer you my congratulations on the position you now occupy as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and I feel sure we can place in your hands those liberties and rights of individual members of Parliament, irrespective of which side of the House they sit on. Now, in the Speech just delivered by His Excellency due prominence has rightly been given to the financial position. The conclusion I hold regarding the State's position is not such a gloomy one as that taken by a good many who have recently been discussing our finances. When we recollect that in every State in Australia periods have had to be passed through of great depression as far as the State finances are concerned, and in every case large deficits have been built up; and when we recollect the size of those deficits in different States, four and a-half millions in Victoria and over two millions in South Australia; recollecting all that, we can take heart of grace when we see that in spite of the depression in our finances, at the end of last financial year we had no more to the debit side than a little over £200,000. While agreeing with the measures taken by the Government to see that proper economy is practised, I trust we are not to in any way stop those developmental works so necessary to the welfare of our

people and of our State. I notice that in many directions we are opening up new districts, and I much regret that while doing this we have been neglecting to some extent those older-settled districts still requiring roads. And whilst I am prepared to support the Government in every way in opening up country by means of the railways that have been proposed, I trust that the Government will not lose sight of the fact that very great settlement can still take place in the older-settled districts of the State if proper roads be provided. Outside the State finances it is unfortunately a fact that we are suffering from a depression in business. However it is not a depression caused by any shortage of the output of our own primary industries, but one caused by the fact that owing to the drought in Eastern Australia the Australian exports of last year were of £6,000,000 value less than they have been on an average for some years previously; and so it is because we have received from abroad £6,000,000 less than we usually get for produce exported, that the shortage of money is being felt all through Australia. And in this connection I want to express this hope, that as we have in Western Australia a large number of banking institutions and a certain proportion of them are affected by the financial position in the East, and I think it is also true to say that some of the deposits the people of Western Australia have put into these banks are being utilised not for advancing to people who are carrying out industries in our own State but are being taken away to help build up industries in the East—in view of this I hope that when it comes to a question for the Government to consider which bank they will deal with and transact business through, they will remember this and favour those banks not open to this charge.

Mr. Walker: Why not have our own bank ?

Mr. JACOBY: Now this Parliament will pass through, what will be in connection with the financial position of this State, a most anxious time, and the reason I am standing here moving this motion and thereby announcing myself a sup-

porter of the Government is because I consider it necessary in the interests of the State, especially in reference to our financial relationship with the Commonwealth, and for our welfare generally, that we should have stable government. At the same time I will not give way one iota of my right to express my opinions, but they will be expressed for the purpose of improving and building up the party with which I am sitting. Now I note with appreciation the statement made in His Excellency's Speech regarding the improvement noticeable in connection with the mining industry; and I can assure my friends who sit as representatives of districts where that industry is the paramount industry that they can look upon me as an agricultural member prepared, however, to give every assistance to the development of the mining industry. Now agricultural development is proceeding by leaps and bounds, and although probably I shall have some proposition that I may venture later to bring before this House to develop that industry, I must express my appreciation of the work already done by the Government in connection with that industry. Before I conclude I desire to express the hope that members will recognise with me that one of the greatest privileges of a Parliament and of our Parliament is that we should lead the public opinion in this State and that we should endeavour not so much to pass legislation or to legislate in accordance with public opinion, but more in accordance with the real interests of the people; and I feel sure that members, sitting on whatever side of the House they may, will bring to these discussions whatever talent they may be gifted with, so that at the end of our labours we may look forward to work done in the real interests of the country. I beg to move the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech :—

*May it please Your Excellency—
We the Legislative Assembly of the
Parliament of the State of Western
Australia in Parliament assembled, beg
to express loyalty to our Most Gracious
Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency*

for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. OSBORN (Roebourne): I have pleasure in rising to second the motion moved by the member for Swan (Mr. Jacoby), for the adoption of an Address in reply to the Governor's Speech. But before doing so, allow me, Mr. Speaker, to express what I think is due from me towards yourself. Allow me to offer you my congratulations upon being elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It is very pleasing to me to be able to offer you those congratulations for more than one reason, from the fact that I think we have known one another practically all our lives, and from the fact that we started on our careers practically in the same direction. We both struck out in the same direction in the constituency in which I now represent. It will be fresh in your memory that we both branched out in our own careers in the same direction and we have been practically associated with one another for many long years. And I trust you will be spared many years to occupy the position you now occupy, and that with the support of hon. members in this House you will not be hampered or harassed in your deliberations, and I am sure and certain that any ruling you will give will be in accordance with your conscience and what you consider in the best interests of the State and this Parliament assembled. Land settlement has been referred to in the Speech and it is gratifying to note the statements contained therein. No doubt the Government have done the best possible in the interests of the State in this direction. They have pushed land settlement forward with the utmost ability. I am certain if they had not taken advantage of the flourishing condition of the mining industry the agricultural industry would not be so flourishing as it is to-day. At one time in our State there was seemingly a feeling from the mining point of view that agriculturists should receive no attention, but I am glad to say that feeling has changed, and to-day the mining industry seems to recognise that the agricultural industry is necessary for the welfare of the State and the public generally, and that it is one

of the first and foremost things that should claim the attention of this House. Take for instance the imports last year of things we should really be producing in the State. Last year we imported bacon, ham, eggs, butter and tea. etc., to the value of £655,350, and jams, jellies and fruits to the value of £153,911, while we imported meats, flour, oats, pollard, potatoes and onions to the value of £262,495. There appears to be a splendid inducement for those prepared to spend their money in the direction of taking up land and producing those items I have enumerated. One fact seems to present itself in dealing with those items, and that is that the ham and bacon factory that was established at Fremantle some two or three years ago appears to have given up the industry in this State because it has not been able to buy sufficient live stock for its continuation. I think that in itself should induce the people of the State to consider whether there is not plenty of scope for the settlement of land and the production of these commodities. So far as the resources of the State are concerned every day brings with it some new discovery of importance to the country. Only lately we have heard of discoveries in phosphates, also tale. Although perhaps the discovery of tale is of little importance, yet it points to the fact that in the State we have everything required, and I am sure that with judicious handling of the reins of Government these minerals, these deposits, will be further exploited, and there will be fresh discoveries. In regard to the phosphates discovery I trust the Government will not lose sight of it, and that every endeavour will be made to get it on the market, or that facilities will be given for private enterprise to put it on the local market at the earliest possible moment. Mention is made in the Governor's Speech of steps to be taken to assist and encourage mining operations. Although this assistance is to be practically at this end of the State, I hope the Government have not overlooked the Northern portion of the State, and I trust that at an early date the Government will take into consideration the value of the mineral deposits and of the precious and baser

metals in the North, and that a great deal more assistance will be given in the future than has been given in the past, in regard to assisting prospectors if necessary by running light tramways or light lines of railway to assist in bringing minerals or the baser metals to the market at a reasonable and profitable price. At present we have enormous deposits of copper and silver lead in the Northern portion of the State, yet the prospectors have no way of getting the products to the port. Onslow suffers from this. There are enormous deposits of copper and silver lead, but the owners have had to abandon them because they have spent all their profits in putting the product on the market. We have no smelter in the State to treat the ores. I trust the matter of smelters will be taken in hand by the Government so that we can utilise our own mineral deposits instead of sending them away for treatment, and instead of paying enormous prices to have them treated. I trust the Government will not lose sight of this urgent matter, that smelters should be erected in a central spot to assist in putting the baser metals on the market. I notice with much pleasure that the Government propose to bring in a Bill called the Vermin Extinction Bill. I know this measure has had some consideration at the hands of the Government, but unfortunately it did not become law during last session. I can assure the Government that the pastoralists of my constituency are very anxious that the Bill should be put through at the earliest possible moment. Undoubtedly the primary object of the Bill, from what I can learn, is to deal with the rabbit invasion, but besides rabbits there is a pest in the Northern districts of the State, to cope with which is a costly matter to the squatters. I refer to the wild dogs, and I hope the Bill will include a provision dealing with wild dogs. I hope the Government will take an early opportunity of amending the Licensing Act so that there can be a limitation to the number of natives' dogs in the Roebourne and neighbouring electorates, because I can assure members that the natives' dogs are doing nearly as much damage as the wild dogs. I understand that each native is allowed to keep one

dog without licensing it, and as many more as he likes by licensing, which makes it practicable for the blacks to keep around them as many dogs as they like, and thereby do a tremendous amount of damage to the squatters in the districts where they reside. I hope the Government will amend the Licensing Act so as to allow the natives to have no dogs, or at any rate a limited number, because this is a matter of great importance to the district from the pastoralist's point of view. Some pastoralists in the North are paying as much as £125 a year for the destruction of dogs, that is, in addition to what is already allowed by the Government for that purpose. In regard to the Early Closing Act I hold certain opinions, and I trust that when the matter comes before the House we shall arrive at some decision that will be equitable to all concerned, not only favourable to the shopkeeper or to the shop assistants, but also to the purchaser who has to purchase his commodities when time affords. It is not at all times of the day or week that some of our people can shop, they have to take the opportunity of shopping when it is convenient to them, and I trust that when this matter comes up for discussion we shall see our way clear to give the three classes I have mentioned the opportunity of saying on what days the shops shall be closed. I trust that the solution of the matter will be in the direction so that the purchaser as well as the employers and employees shall have a say. I take some little interest in matters of the Federal Parliament as well as in those of the Parliament of the State, and I notice a very disquieting feature in current affairs is the continued attempt on the part of legislators in the Federal Parliament to usurp to themselves the right to administer the whole of the affairs both Federal and internal. I trust that while this State exists and while the fact remains that we are disconnected by a thousand miles of seaboard or a thousand miles of desert—

Mr. Collier: What! Desert? You have been reading the *Age*.

Mr. OSBORN: While these conditions exist, or even if they do not exist, I think this State or any other State has

a perfect right to manage its own concerns, and I regret indeed that the legislators we have sent from here to do our work in the Federal Parliament lose sight of the fact that if we were able to select them to represent us in the Federal Parliament we should be given the credit that we still possess in Western Australia men able to administer our own affairs, and I hope they will not endeavour to take from this State or any other State the right to manage its own affairs. I hope the Government and the Parliament will use every effort in maintaining the rights and privileges of our own State, our own industries and our own financial future. Although a few days ago there was some controversy in respect to the management of our railways, yet the facts show a very gratifying improvement in the administration of our railway system. Working expenses have decreased and profits have increased. Though some say that our railways are too expensively run, each year shows that they are run on more economical lines and the administration must be better. To my mind the prospect of our railways is very pleasing, and I think that under the present administration the railways are giving most excellent results. Each year brings down the loss in the cost of running. While the mileage run is considerably more, our profits likewise are more, so that I do not think there is much to fear in respect of the administration generally of the railways of the State. Now in regard to the railways in the mining districts, I quite recognise that as far as the Marble Bar-Hedland Railway is concerned it is a thing of the past, a matter that has been fought out in this House; but nevertheless I regret that the starting point of that railway was not from a seaport further this way, where it would have given a great opportunity of developing far more country and the results would have been far greater for the port where it is to go through. But I am hoping that the Government will not forget that there are other portions of the same district requiring some consideration in the direction of a railway, and I hope they will take this as a hint that it requires some little attention.

Mr. Gill: You want another one.

Mr. OSBORN: Yes, we want two more, for by two more we could get far better results. While in business at the particular centre that the railway is now running to, I believed that the line should start from Port Hedland, whereas I now know that from Roebourne or Cossack ports, or Balla Balla, it would be running through mineral country the whole way. If hon. members will only look up facts they will notice, as I said before, there are immense deposits outside Onslow that could be very well worked if the commodity could be brought to market. A second railway is needed to bring those mineral deposits to market. We do not mind whether it is a railway or an electric tram. We are not proud people in that district, and I can assure members that they will receive the thanks of the constituency when they consent to the scheme I have suggested, and which I hope the Government will not lose sight of. In conclusion, may I express the hope that in the very near future the State will reap the benefit of the developmental policy of the Government to a far greater extent than what it has done up to the present time. We know that some railways have not yet had a chance to show that they will be remunerative and justify the Government in having undertaken them, and I hope this House will give the Government every credit for having undertaken the developmental work which they have carried out in this State during their career. I think we must acknowledge, everyone of us, that the Government have done their best for the development of the State generally and as a whole, and they have not to my mind paid attention to any one particular district more than to another. Perhaps they have not been able to cope with all the requirements and requests of the people; still I think they are doing their utmost and using every endeavour to further the interests of the State as a whole, and I trust this House will give them that assistance and support which it is absolutely necessary for them to have. While touching on the finances we must admit that it seems rather bad on the face of it that we should have gone

so far behind in the first four months: still I agree with the hon. member for Swan that there is nothing to be very down about in the fact that we have a little more overdraft than we ought to have. It will occur with every business just as with Western Australia. Surely the amount of overdraft, or the amount of expenditure in excess of receipts, is not going to lay us out in bankruptcy. We still have our industries although if we do not get the support and the facilities that we should get from the Government of the day, then our own industries must suffer. We must support the Government in the undertaking, knowing they are not running the State into any financial difficulties, unreasonable financial difficulties, that we would not undertake individually ourselves. Every man who has any idea of business at all will admit that he would not close his doors to business for the simple reason that his bank overdraft had run up a little more than he had expected. The Government recognise that they have certain work to do and will endeavour to carry it out, and I hope the House will support the Government in this and not feel afraid of the small overdraft staring them in the face. I am quite confident that the present Treasurer is not likely to give away the enormous grants that have been built up in the past, and I hope he will carry out his intention of straightening up the affairs of the State. Too much money has been given away in special grants and for works really not necessary.

Mr. Heitmann: What about the poor squatters?

Mr. OSBORN: I do not think the squatters ever received any special grant, neither have they asked for any. I would like to mention this fact, that the squatters in the constituency I represent do not ask the Government for assistance to exterminate wild dogs, but simply for a measure to enable them to tax themselves to pay men to exterminate the dogs. That is one feature that does not strike hon. members in this House. They do not ask the Government to assist them, but merely to allow them to assist themselves. I have much pleasure in second-

ing the motion moved by the hon. member for Swan.

On motion by *Mr. Bath*, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 12th November, 1908.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Treasurer: 1, Amended Regulations under the Audit Act; 2, Copies of Orders in Council under Section 35 of the Audit Act; 3, Public Library—Annual Report, 1907-8.

By the Premier: 1, Return of Exemptions granted under "The Mining Act, 1904"; 2, Fremantle Harbour Trust Regulations.

By the Minister for Works: 1, By-laws of the Ashburton Roads Board; 2, By-laws of Upper Gascoyne Roads Board; 3, By-laws of Melville Roads Board.

TIMBER TROUBLE, EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

Debate Irregular.

Mr TAYLOR (Mount Margaret): I desire to move the adjournment of the House on a matter of urgency to deal with the Kurrawang wood trouble.