

in this State is saddled as a result of that month's deficit with a mortgage of 10s.

Question put and passed: the Address adopted.

House adjourned at 8.16 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 4th August, 1915.

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

QUESTION—CORNSACKS, IMPORTATION.

Hon. J. MITCHELL (without notice) asked the Minister for Agriculture: Is it the intention of the Government to import cornsacks?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: I might explain the position in regard to cornsacks. There has been a misunderstanding in the minds of many settlers due to the fact that there were some Press statements that it was the intention of some of the Governments of Australia to import cornsacks, but that is not so. Throughout Australia sacks are being supplied by the merchants in the usual manner. At the beginning of the season, or some months back, I had a conference with members of the Chamber of Commerce, and particularly those merchants who deal in jute goods, and they pointed out that there was a fairly large carry over from last year and that they

had made arrangements to get sufficient for our estimated crop this year; consequently there was no need for the Government to do anything.

EXPEDITIONARY FORCES AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brownhill-Ivanhoe) [4.35]: May I explain for the information of members that we propose to submit a motion to Parliament which will have the object of granting leave of absence to members of Parliament who are attached to the Expeditionary Forces. The motion will cover the whole period that those members are away from the State. It will be submitted to-morrow.

MOTION—WAR BETWEEN BRITAIN AND GERMANY, ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.37]: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, and with the indulgence of the House, before we proceed with the business on the notice paper I desire to submit a motion. To-day is the first anniversary of one of the greatest if not the greatest event, recorded in the history of the world, when the great nations of Europe are at death grips. I take this opportunity of referring to the matter because I think we all realise after 12 months, that the position to-day is such that it requires the united effort of everyone in the Empire and their sympathy and support for the purpose of bringing the war to a successful issue from the point of view of the British Empire, and by submitting a motion, I want to give the House the opportunity of expressing their sympathy and determination to see it to a successful end. I might explain the reasons why we are to-day at death grips with one of the greatest military nations of the world. We are all aware of the fact that the war was not of our seeking. We were compelled for our own protection and the protection of other nations to declare war upon Ger-

many, and it is just 12 months to-day since that declaration took place. Germany went to war with no less an aim than to dominate Europe, and through Europe the world. The destruction of France as a military power was merely incidental to the greater design. The second step was to have been the destruction of Great Britain which might have been accomplished with the resources of France and Flanders at Germany's command. The scheme miscarried because it rested on the miscalculation that Britain would remain neutral, standing like the ox in the pen until the German butcher was ready for the work of slaughter. But although the scheme has miscarried the end remains the same: the destruction of England. This war is being fought by the British Empire for no less a cause than its own existence. May I also point out that some time before the actual declaration of war, when I was in England in 1913, no less a personage than the late Lord Roberts himself had commenced a campaign to endeavour to bring about compulsory military service. He recognised that the danger to the Empire was the possibility of the near declaration of war either by or upon Germany. It was felt then by the public that such must of necessity happen, but I do not think even the late Lord Roberts himself imagined that it was as near as it actually happened to be, and may I say that, after all, from experience we have gained in the past, it is evident that Germany had been preparing for some time to declare war on England to dominate Europe and to do that she had of necessity to destroy Great Britain. I hold that as soon as a nation hitches its stand to the doctrine of force alone its doom is sealed. France tried it under Napoleon—the greatest General of modern times—and failed. Germany has tried it under Kaiser Wilhelm II. with the best organisation for war ever perfected—and she, too, will fail. It is truly now “either world domination or downfall,” whether Bernhardt meant it or not, for there can be no lasting basis of peace with an undefeated nation in arms which believes that its rights are as great as its power. It is also stated by journals

that ought to know, that statesmen who are in close touch with the Kaiser have convinced him that the war will never end while Great Britain remains disposed to continue it. For some reason or other he seems to think he can bring the British to the point of peace. He was never more mistaken in his life. Upon both sides there are great aims backed by tremendous passions; upon the one side the thirst for conquest, upon the other the instinct of self-preservation. It follows that this is no common war, but a fight to the death, and I believe that every part of the British Empire, even that portion of the dominions which was looked upon with some doubt owing to the racial difference which had existed and really existed at the time war was declared are at one to assist the Mother land for the purpose of self-preservation. So far as Australia is concerned, my humble belief is that we have far more at stake than Great Britain. If Germany were to be successful in this war, perhaps after all they would not annex the British Isles but look for spoils from some of the British dominions, and not the least would be Australia. I read not long since in an American journal that as far as it was possible the United States desired to remain neutral, although judging by after events their sympathies were with the Allies, but in that journal it was stated that a person holding high rank in America, a person who had not long since left Germany—his name, however, was not given—submitted his reasons why Germany went to war, and also why Germany must win, and after victory she would obtain as an indemnity something besides cash, namely, British colonies with one exception, the exception being Canada. The reason that Germany would not annex Canada was because America would protect it as it was part and parcel of the United States. Germany held that out as a bait to the United States to remain neutral, or that if the United States did join in the war, it would join with Germany. The bait however was not taken, but at the same time it is evidence of the fact that Germany desired to take possession of Australia, and I am pleased that so

far Australia has stood shoulder to shoulder with the Mother country and has done its part with the rest of the Dominions in attempting to save the Empire from this disaster. The motion which I have to submit to the House summarises the remarks that I have made. I have much pleasure in moving—

That on this anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in conjunction with the rest of the Empire, records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies.

Hon. H. B. LEFROY (Moore) [4.45]: I am sure I voice the opinion of the whole of the members on this side of the House when I say that I have very much pleasure and, indeed, that I feel proud to be able to support a motion such as that submitted by the Premier. We all feel the seriousness of the moment, but at the same time the nation is determined to see this war ended rightly and victoriously. As the Premier has stated, there is not the slightest doubt that we here in Australia would have been among the first to suffer had our enemies been allowed to become victorious in this struggle, and I am sure the people of Australia feel that those who go forth to fight are not only fighting for the Empire itself but are at the same time fighting for their own hearths and homes. It is fitting that on this, the anniversary of Great Britain's entry into this great struggle which has shaken the very foundations of the world, this House of Assembly should express its opinion in a motion of this description. I am sure it will be supported by the people throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia. The British are a peace-loving people, and 12 months ago when the war broke out, we scarcely realised for the moment what had occurred. But it did not take long for the patriotism of the people, which perhaps is not always apparent in times of peace, to manifest itself to the fullest extent. They at

once rushed to arms, and were ready to go forward for the protection of the Empire and of their own land. The nation is prepared to see this war carried to an honourable conclusion, and we have full confidence that victory will be ours. We are confident that we are on the side of right, that we are on the side of justice, and that we are on the side of freedom. If the little country of Belgium had not held its own 12 months ago, though for such a short space of time, while the mother country prepared to enter into the conflict, I do not know what might not have been occurring to-day. Throughout the nation there is a feeling of gratitude and pride in the fact that Belgium adopted that position and considered that the honour of her country was at stake, and that that honour, though merely contained in a scrap of paper, still was to be respected and fought for. It is needless for me to enlarge upon this subject, but I know and feel full well that Australia is with the motherland to the very last man on this occasion, and not only Australia but the whole of the Empire is prepared to fight to the last man for the great objects we have in view. The end, I feel sure, will be a glorious victory, which I trust will bring about the peace of the world and prosperity amongst us for all time.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER (Irwin) [4.50]: My leader has been good enough to ask me to say a few words on this motion. I think it is a very fitting motion. We who to-day are pursuing our avocations of peace protected by the great sacrifices that the Allies and our own kin are making for that preservation, have a right, in this the people's House, to say that our hearts go out in thankfulness for the great work they have done. We to-day see our fields watered by a gracious rain sent by the Creator, while in our hearts is a recollection of the fact that the fields of other lands are being watered by the best and noblest blood of the nations engaged in this great struggle. Surely therefore it is but right that we, the representatives of the people in this land of ours, should show our appreciation on this the anniversary of the great

event, by passing the motion submitted by the Premier. It is a time of sorrow. There is not a man of us worth a man's name the strings of whose heart have not vibrated to the anxiety and to the cruel and sustained—because it has been sustained—grief of the whole nation in the present crisis. To ourselves there comes something of national pride to give relief to that sorrow. When our lads left here, in our hearts was just a wonder how, when they faced modern warfare, they would acquit themselves, and every man in Australia felt himself grow inches in national pride when he read the feat of arms accomplished by the Australians at the Dardanelles, a feat that, when the true history of this great war is told, will stand in the annals of the British nation as worthy to compare with the charge of Balaclava. In passing this motion, let us remember that whilst we are writing that history, we are writing it with the indelible ink of blood and tears—the blood of the best and bravest of our men, the tears of our self-sacrificing women. To-day let those of us who are left behind say that we will give of our best; let us give of our best to show that we appreciate the sacrifices of others, and let us remember that we are standing for our nation. My sympathy goes out, not so much to the men—though I myself have a son there fighting, and I am proud of it, and I have relations fighting too, but that is the pride of race which says it is up to them to stand for their race. But our hearts go out in sympathy to the women. While we are proud of the fact that our sons are fighting for our land, we cannot forget that mothers ever look upon them as little babes with their arms around their necks whom they crooned to sleep. When we remember these things, let us be proud of the race from which we have sprung. Let us say that by no action of ours will we bring any suspicion of a desire to see this war brought to other than a full and final end so that, when there is a victory and a triumph of the righteousness of right over the arrogance of might, every man who owes allegiance to the grand old flag so brilliantly upheld and carried by Louis Botha in South

Africa, may say we are not only proud of that flag but we are proud to be associated with all the other nations of the world in fighting for that freedom which means to us peace and prosperity and the right to live in a free and enlightened country untrammelled. Therefore, with every pleasure I support the motion so splendidly moved by the Premier and seconded by the deputy leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER [4.55]: Before putting the motion, may I also be allowed to say a few words in support of it. Words are such poor things to express one's feelings, but I can heartily endorse all that has been said by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken in moving and supporting the motion. I realise, as we all must realise, that this is the greatest issue in the history of our nation; in fact it is the gravest issue in the history of all the nations of the world, and when we say that Australia will do its best we do not forget that Australia has already given portion of its best, and if necessity requires will give all its best. When we state that we will sacrifice the last man and the last shilling, we say it because we feel it would be far better to die a thousand deaths than to lose the great privileges, the great opportunities and the great freedom we possess as subjects of the King and as a portion of the British Empire. I think that is the feeling which influences us all. We are loyal Britishers. We enjoy great opportunities, great advantages, and great privileges, and while death may seem to be very hard, death is nothing at all in comparison with the loss of freedom and the loss of liberty and honour. Better that the nation should be wiped out than be a conquered and humiliated people. That would be the very worst thing which could happen to any people like ours. Some, myself included, are at times depressed by the progress of the war from day to day, but all that we here can do is to support our leaders and to have full trust in them and the confidence that, realising the highest expectations of the nations, they will see the war through to an honourable and glorious conclusion.

I think it would be fitting if hon. members stood in their places while I put the motion.

Question put and passed; members standing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I declare the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. S. Stubbs: May we sing the National Anthem?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

[Members sang the National Anthem.]

QUESTION—STATE BRICK- WORKS, COST.

Mr. ALLEN asked the Minister for Works: 1, What is the total capital cost to present date of establishing the State brick works, including salaries and expenses of State officers inquiring in the Eastern States, prospecting for material and cost of railway siding from main line to the works? 2, What sum, in addition, was spent in producing bricks for sale up to June 30th, 1915? 3, What sum was received for sales of bricks up to that date?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, £26,299 7s. 11d. 2, £1,665 4s. 5d. 3, £545 17s. 7d.

QUESTION—YANDANOOKA ES- TATE AND CROWN TENANTS.

Mr. THOMSON asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is the statement correct, as printed in the *Colonizer*, of London, that the Minister for Lands has under consideration a scheme for settling Yandanooka estate with Crown tenants operating under the share system, under which it is proposed that the Government should supply every necessary, the tenants supplying only their own labour? 2, If so, (a) what are the conditions? (b) will he extend the same system to other portions of the State?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The scheme is still under consideration, and as outlined in the local Press statement, it will not be finalised until after this year's crop has been har-

vested. 2, If the scheme is adopted it could be applied to any or all similar repurchased estates.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. NAIRN (Swan) [5.3]: It is difficult under such strong emotions as must have been felt by most of the members during the last half hour or thereabouts to bring oneself back, so to speak, to mother earth, because after all, the bugle sound of the Empire appeals to us and fills us with that sense of strong devotion which everyone must have at heart. It has indeed lifted us away from the smaller affairs of life, but I propose to claim the indulgence of the House for a short time to discuss the question which is opened up before us this afternoon, and I quite realise as we all must do that we are gathered together under circumstances which, to a very large extent, overwhelm us. We are gathered together under no better circumstances, so far as the war is concerned, than we were at the time we adjourned some few months ago, but the responsibility has increased with the advance of the war, with all its difficult problems, and I believe the people of the State, the same as the people in other parts of the Empire, do look forward to the Ministry of the State to give some guidance and inspiration in this their hour of need. I am pleased to say, so far as the discussion has gone, it has been of a tone in harmony and keeping with the circumstances in which we find ourselves today. Now is not the time when this State or any other State in the Empire should be torn asunder by questions which are purely party and capable of developing friction amongst the people. While I say that, I am not unaware of the fact that there are questions which it is the duty of everyone of us to discuss. We have listened to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, and with that Speech I, in common with most mem-