

who had the privilege of knowing them. I am sure, also, that their memory will be held in the utmost esteem and affection.

**MR. SPEAKER** [12.29]: May I add a few words as a tribute to the memory of the three distinguished men who have been called to a higher sphere than that appointed for mortal man in this world. I am sure that their memory will remain green in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing them. I now submit the motions, and ask hon. members to be good enough to stand.

Question passed: members standing.

*Sitting suspended from 12.32 to 3 p.m.*

### SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council Report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

### LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

**MR. SPEAKER**: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended upon His Excellency, the Lieut.-Governor and Administrator, in the Council Chamber to hear the Speech His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy I have caused copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

### QUESTION—MINERS' PHTHISIS ACT.

**MR. MARSHALL** (without notice) asked the Minister for Mines: Is it the intention of the Government this session to introduce a Bill to amend the Miners' Phthisis Act, and if so, whether at an early date?

The **MINISTER FOR MINES** replied: It is the intention of the Government to introduce such a Bill this session as early as practicable.

### BILL—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE ACT CONTINUANCE.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [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 Continue the Operations of the Industries Assistance Act, 1915.

Leave given: Bill introduced and read a first time.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*First Day.*

**MR. CHURCH** (Roebourne) [3.40]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the 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."

The Premier and other Ministers during the past few days have expressed the opinion that Western Australia is about to embark on a series of good years, or at all events, they hope so. We should all like to concur in that hope. At the same time, these expressions of opinion as to coming prosperity do not always materialise. Still, there is one point on which we can congratulate Western Australia, namely, that she has succeeded in producing greater wealth per head of population in comparison with the other States, probably twice as much as any of the other States has done. We have that estimate from the Premier, and no doubt his word is right. Unfortunately, there is not so cheerful a note being sounded in the pastoral industry, in which I am particularly interested. In that industry we are not so confident of our position as the Premier seems to be about the position of Western Australia as a whole. I only hope that industry will come to be as successful as the Premier hopes Western Australia will be. Still, I have no fault to find with the Premier yet. The pastoral industry is undoubtedly in a bad state, how bad I really cannot say. How we are going to overcome the present

situation I do not know. We are getting such a low price for our wool that it does not pay to grow it. And we cannot sell our stock! It is difficult to see how these disabilities can be overcome, as things are just now. I have one or two suggestions to offer to the Government, who are the people to get at in a matter of this kind.

The Minister for Lands: Everyone is trying to do that.

Mr. CHURCH: I do not say they are responsible for the low price of wool, or for the fact that our stock is unsaleable.

Mr. H. W. Mann: Or for the season.

Mr. CHURCH: No.

Hon. A. McCallum: We contend that they are.

Mr. CHURCH: I suggest to the Government that they should give more consideration to the question of transport as well as the charges at their ports.

Mr. Sleeman: I thought you were going to say, more consideration to the unemployed.

Mr. CHURCH: Owing to the low price of wool, and the difficulty of selling our stock it is not easy to meet our commitments to the people to whom we owe money. The only way in which the Government can assist us in that direction is to give us better and cheaper facilities for the transport of our stock, and the handling of such stock at the ports. In the North-West the handling charges are very high. Several Ministers have lately been up there and have made a study of these questions. I am sure the knowledge they have gained will enable them more readily to bring their abilities to bear upon these things, and thus help the pastoralists to solve their difficulties. To send a bale of wool from the North to the City costs 4s. by the time it has been passed through the port and all the Government charges have been met, and to ship it down costs another 12s. 6d. This is only one of the many instances I could quote of the extent to which charges have to be met by residents of the North. When it comes to a question of sending our stock to the metropolitan area for sale, we find that there are many ports which do not possess the necessary facilities for handling it. If we want to send the stock overland we must have facilities to enable us to water it en route. I think the Government have done as much as they can in the circumstances, but I

should be glad if they could do a little more. When a train leaves Meekatharra for Perth the railway officials have to see to it that sufficient water is provided for the engine to enable it to complete the journey, otherwise it will not get to its destination. Why, then, should we not be given better facilities for the watering of our stock on the way to Perth? It is impossible to carry sheep such a long distance without giving them water. There is another matter I would refer to. This no doubt affects the policy of the Government, and perhaps it is not for me to suggest what policy should be adopted. I do think, however, the Government should give some consideration to the question of extensions of land tenure. I know they are thinking about it, but I should like them to think a little more. The Government, as well as the previous Government, have shown they are sympathetic towards the pastoral industry. As a member of this House who is closely connected with that industry I have felt it my duty to emphasise some of the disabilities under which we are suffering. I trust that the Government will do all they can to render assistance along the lines I have indicated. I submit the motion.

MR. THORN (Toodyay) [3.55]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [3.56]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.57 p.m.*