

MR. ILLINGWORTH: We do not build them out of revenue.

THE PREMIER: We pay the interest out of revenue, any way.

MR. A. FORREST: I am going to strongly bring before the Government that it is absolutely necessary, and the Premier knows it himself, that the policy he propounded at Bunbury in reference to erecting public batteries on the goldfields should be carried out. It has been said the Government intend to put up batteries of two stamps; but if they do they will not be carrying out their pledge. No battery should be erected under ten stamps, and batteries should be erected where they are required and not by influence or favour. There are many places where batteries are necessary, where there are working men who require this assistance for crushing the stone raised. Indeed it is well known that in many parts of the fields you can get as many mines as you like, at present, so long as you pay three-fourths of the working expenses. As to over-capitalisation of mines, I do not think it is desirable to frighten people from investing their money in the country. If a person pays £5,000 for a mine, he has to get working capital to the extent of at least £15,000; when that has been subscribed, he has to indent and erect the machinery, and what does the investor get for his money? He gets a piece of paper, and if the paper becomes valuable, he and those concerned with him have made a fortune. But how many times does it come off? It has come off particularly in the district represented by the member for East Coolgardie, but not in other districts. In fact, the Kalgoorlie district is damping the whole colony, because no one will look anywhere else but there for payable mining properties. If we could find a place of equal magnitude to the Kalgoorlie district, our success would be complete. I hope the Premier will give it out that he intends rigidly to carry out the programme he enunciated at Bunbury, that public batteries should be erected where required, and I hope that no less than ten head of stamps will be erected in any place. We see these small batteries all over the fields in some parts, and we do not want any more of them, as they are a failure. If the Government have not got a vote for batteries, I think they will be justified

in expending money for this necessary purpose, the same as they have done in emergency for some other purposes, without the authority of Parliament. [General applause by clapping of hands on the tables.]

THE SPEAKER: I observe that some members have, in this session, commenced the unparliamentary practice of clapping the tables with their hands. The general manner of applauding is to call out "Hear, hear," and I hope hon. members will discontinue this practice which has been initiated this session, and that they will not clap the tables with their hands.

MR. WALLACE: As a new member, I feel I have a right and that it is a duty to make a few remarks in this first session. You, sir, on your appointment as Speaker kindly referred to new members by saying you would be pleased to assist them in matters of Parliamentary procedure, and I must say you have extended your kindness very generously to us up to the present. Being a new member myself, and burdened with a great amount of modesty, I trust that if I make an error this evening you will grant me the same privilege you have given to other new members. It has given me great pleasure to hear the congratulations passed on you, sir, on your acceptance of the chair, and I offer you, with the same sincerity, my congratulations. I also wish to congratulate this House on the return of the Premier to it, and am pleased to have been one of many who were afforded an opportunity of welcoming him to Western Australia. As I stood in the Town Hall on his arrival here, beneath a banana tree which reminded me of my own colony, I was pleased to see the good feeling exhibited by everybody on the Premier's arrival in the hall. I also join in the numerous congratulations that have been passed on the Premier; and with reference to some remarks made on the present Ministry, I have come in contact with the majority of Ministers, and have to accord my congratulations to the House on the Ministers as being a courteous and obliging lot, ever ready to assist members and give them information. The colony has something to be very proud of, from the Premier right through the whole of the Ministerial departments. It is not my desire to



attempt to eclipse some of the wonderful speeches that have been given; but there are one or two questions that affect not only the district which I represent, but the whole of the colony. I shall not detain the House by going into the question of federation. But one important matter to which I would like to address myself is that of the establishment of public batteries. I was one of a deputation which waited on the Minister of Mines some months ago to ask for their erection. I am very pleased to hear the Government do not wish to step in where private enterprise should reap the benefit. At the same time there is the promise made by the Minister of Mines and by the Premier, during his speech at Bunbury, that public batteries would be erected. The people cannot exist on promises. There has been ample time in which to consider the matter, and there are plenty of places in which they could be erected to the benefit of the whole colony. I understand the policy of the Government is to assist in the development of the mines and thereby assist in the development of the colony generally; and I would ask the Premier to now announce the intentions of the Government. This is a matter of vital importance to every gold-mining district, amongst which I would include the Murchison. The hon. member for West Perth made a suggestion to the effect that there were no gold mines in the Murchison; but I trust the Government are not so narrow-minded as to say the same thing. There are mines on the Murchison, but in these there has never been any outside capital invested. There are some really good paying properties, but there are others that will not pay, owing to the exorbitant rates charged by private crushers. If the Government desire to develop the fields, I see no reason for the delay which has occurred since the Premier promised public batteries should be taken in hand. I would like to refer to the remarks of the representative of Coolgardie on the proposed water scheme. That hon. member said that if the Government were not prepared to invest £2,500,000 in the scheme, they could have very little faith in the goldfields. If a Government investment of £2,500,000 is to be taken as a guarantee of faith in the goldfields, then I sincerely

hope the Government have no faith in the Murchison. This £2,500,000 seems to be regarded as a very trifling amount by the various Coolgardie members. I am not acquainted with the water supply of Coolgardie; but if it can be shown that the scheme can be carried out so as not to be a burden to the colony, there is no member in the House will oppose it. Up to the present nothing has been brought before the House to show that it will be a paying concern or will not be a burden.

THE PREMIER: The Act was passed last session, and we then discussed all the facts.

MR. SIMPSON: You would not be able to pass such a Bill now.

THE PREMIER: Yes, we would.

MR. WALLACE: I understand the scheme has been submitted to high authorities at Home, and approved of; but I venture to say that it was only the feasibility of carrying out the construction of the scheme that met with approval. I have not seen any statement which proves that the scheme would be a paying concern.

THE PREMIER: Look at my speech made last session. You never read that, I suppose?

MR. WALLACE: I have not read that speech.

THE PREMIER: I will send it to you to-morrow.

MR. WALLACE: If it can be shown that the scheme will pay, and not be a burden to the country, I will vote for it.

THE PREMIER: That was shown last session.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, it was not.

MR. WALLACE: As to the construction of railways it is a sore point, not only with the residents, but all over the colony, that members of this House seem to take the view that there is no part of Western Australia but Coolgardie.

THE PREMIER: The Government built you a railway, anyway.

MR. WALLACE: And we are paying for it now.

THE PREMIER: We built the railway, at any rate.

MR. WALLACE: The hon. member for West Kimberley remarked that lines could be carried *via* Menzies to Niagara, and, if necessary, on to the Murchison. While not wishing to belittle in any way the Coolgardie fields, I would ask hon. members for that district to bear in mind



that the Murchison is part of Western Australia.

MR. MORAN: We have never done anything against the Murchison yet.

MR. WALLACE: I hope we shall all work together in giving a helping hand to all parts of Australia. [The PREMIER: So we have done.] I acknowledge on behalf of my constituents that the Murchison has been helped greatly. At the same time I would ask for some indication of the policy of the Government in regard to the erection of public batteries. As the hon. member for South Murchison remarked, we cannot rely on promises, but want something more practical. The Electoral Act is the next subject I would like to refer to. Far more consideration should be shown to those who are roaming about the country and assisting in developing the resources of the colony; and I ask hon. members to support a measure which I trust will be brought before the House to place every man on the electoral roll. At present we have over 100,000 males in the colony, of whom, I understand, only about 14,000 are on the roll.

THE PREMIER: Let them get themselves put on the roll.

MR. WALLACE: They cannot.

THE PREMIER: Rubbish! Nonsense! You know better than that.

MR. SIMPSON: If there was proper registration they would get on the roll.

MR. A. FORREST: They won't go on.

MR. WALLACE: Some two-and-a-half or three years ago, I had an experience as to getting on the roll, and I found that it is not possible to get on under the present regulations. The prospecting class, on whom we depend for the development of the goldfields, have the least chance of getting votes. I will conclude my remarks by referring to a little matter of "jumping." I do not wish to deal with jumping cases on the goldfields, but with the "jumping" of seats in this House. I believe I "jumped" some hon. member's seat, but I was prepared to hand it over, and I desire to thank the hon. member whose seat I took for the courteous manner in which he pointed out my error. I made a mistake to which young members are liable, and under the tuition of yourself, sir, I feel confident that I, and others who are new here, will get over all such difficulties. I

thank hon. members for the attention they have given to my remarks.

MR. SIMPSON (Geraldton): Mr. Speaker,—I am sure I voice the opinion of the country when I express their recognition of the graceful act performed during the recent visit of our Premier to London by the administrative authority, in conferring on the member for Bunbury the great distinction of a privy councillorship. I congratulate the right hon. gentleman on having secured for the representative of this colony so dignified a position, and also on the fact that one of the great seats of learning conferred on him a distinguished honour, which calls upon us in the future to address him as "learned doctor." The remarkable production which the Attorney General submitted to us in a very gingerly way—and which, though called the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, really means the Government programme—has been pulled about a good deal, and its limits have most certainly been widened so far as expressions of opinion have gone. The ordinary observer cannot see very much in it; but the hon. member for Albany directed attention to a matter of great importance to the country, when in the few grave words he addressed to the benches opposite, he reminded this House of its duty to conserve the constitutional and Parliamentary privileges belonging to the people who sent us here. That is a grave matter, not to be laughed at or treated lightly. This Speech of His Excellency the Governor to a new Parliament is absolutely without parallel in Parliamentary procedure. My mere dictum may, perhaps, go for nothing; but I am not in the habit of making wild statements or of urging upon the consideration of hon. members facts without submitting to them the sources of my information. It is usually recognised in Anglo-Saxon communities that the book called "Parliamentary Government in England, its Origin and Practical Operation," by the late Dr. Todd, should carry weight. On parliamentary procedure we turn to that work with great regard, as in private life we turn to Holy Writ. In that work I find this statement with regard to speeches from the Crown to a new Parliament:—

The Speech at the opening of the session should include a statement of the most