

ever my actions in the House may be in endeavouring to carry out my duties, they will be carried out with justice to the people of Western Australia and in a straightforward and honourable manner.

Mr. CARPENTER (Fremantle): While joining in the congratulations that have been offered to you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the honourable position you now hold, may I go one step further and venture to compliment you upon having discarded one of the ancient and, shall I say, hideous adornments of your office which has been handed down to us from the dark ages? I hold that the true dignity of your position depends not upon adornment, but upon the reputation and integrity of the man who holds office and I venture to say your action in this regard, small though it may be, is made with the approval of the majority of the members of the House. Glancing across the Chamber at the remnant of the previous Ministerial party, looking very small indeed, I naturally feel some of the elation the member for Kalgoorlie has expressed in his very eloquent speech. It is something to be a member of the prominent party with, at least in one House, a sufficient number to enable it to carry its ideals and aims into practical realisation; but while I feel that elation, or share it, I could not help thinking when the member for Kalgoorlie was speaking that he had, for the time being perhaps, lost sight of the fact that, though we are here in such overwhelming numbers with the endorsement of the great majority of the people in Western Australia as to the policy for which we stand, there is also another place which, unfortunately perhaps, still exists, and which has to say something on all the legislation we put through this Chamber. I find myself in a somewhat unique position as a member of my third separate Parliament in Australia. It may be proof of inconsistency or, perhaps, of the generosity of electors of different parts of this great country; but it is something to the credit of the Australian democracy that, no matter what his position may be, one can hold these positions to which I have just referred. Having been a member of

the Federal Parliament, may I say here what I have said there, and what I hope to say no matter what position I may hold, that while recognising all the powers and rights of our national Parliament, the people of the States of Australia should on no account lose sight of the importance of their State Parliaments? In my opinion it would be a sorry day for the people of Australia if, dazzled by the brilliance, perhaps, of the Federal Legislature, they for one moment lost sight of the very great importance that still attaches to State Parliaments, and of the great power which those Parliaments have should they wield it judiciously in the interests of the people grouped as States. If there is one danger to the State Parliament to-day it arises from the fact that our Federal Parliament represents the whole of the people, whereas the State Parliament, at least one branch of it, represents one section only. It has been a matter of regret to myself to find already that this is being made a reason for depreciating the value of the State Legislatures. Naturally the democratic element in State politics clamours for full political rights. The democratic appetite, if I may use the term, grows upon what it feeds upon; and having had full power granted to it under the Federal Parliament, it cannot be expected that it will sit down and allow the major portion of its political powers to be controlled by any one section of the community in a representative State Parliament. If the people of the States and the members of the State Legislatures want to maintain the power and dignity of their State Parliaments then they must see to it that at the earliest possible moment both branches of the State Parliaments are made as representative of the people and as responsive to the wishes of the people as the Federal Parliament now is. I believe that will be one of the fights of the future. Before this Parliament expires I quite expect to see that question raised in a very acute form here, and I am sanguine that with the ranks we have on this side of the House—and I hope with assistance from the other side—when the fighting does come on.

we will find ourselves standing to some extent shoulder to shoulder in seeking to serve our State Parliament by giving to the people of Western Australia the full right of participation in both branches of the Legislature as they have now in the Federal Parliament. There are just one or two matters I want to refer to without exhausting the full programme which has been dealt with by previous speakers. For some time past we have been discussing the important question of developing our North-West trade. I regret we have not in the Chamber as yet those hon. members who have been elected to represent the Northern and North-Western portions of the State; but I think hon. members generally agree with me that, while the South-West of the State is demanding and, shall I say, receiving the attention it deserves, we have a heritage in the North-West that ought to receive greater attention than it does to-day. One of the reasons given for the non-progress of this country, and one of the chief complaints made by those who are endeavouring to develop that portion of the State, is the disability under which the people there suffer with regard to shipping facilities. I suppose the matter has been mentioned in this House time and again, and I make no apology for mentioning it here at the very first opportunity; because, apart altogether from the general importance of the matter to the State as a whole, I represent the chief port of the State which is peculiarly interested in the matter. Some time ago, through the Trades Hall Association at Fremantle, a request was made to the late Government to look into this matter and appoint a small Commission to inquire into the cause of the complaints made by the settlers in the North-West on the one hand and the Fremantle merchants and traders on the other. For a long time our request went unheeded; then after a long delay the Government appointed not the Commission we asked for, but one Government officer to make a sort of official inquiry. I have not a word to say against that gentleman and his work. I believe Mr. Sinclair did his work well, ex-

cepting that, as he himself put it, in his efforts to obtain information as to the grievances complained of he found himself thwarted at every turn, because those who had the information necessary for him simply refused to let him have it. So he had to make his report without the information he should have had, and which a Royal Commission could have insisted on obtaining. For some reason that I have not been able to ascertain his report was pigeon-holed for several months, and it was only after repeated requests that it was at last made public. Then we found that the position taken up by Mr. Sinclair supported and justified the complaint we had made and the request we had made for an inquiry; and it so happened just at that time one member of the late Government, the Colonial Secretary, had to seek re-election. He, as members are aware, had to obtain the support of the electors in the North-West part of the State, and Mr. Connolly promised during his election campaign that if he were returned the Government would relieve the pressure on the North-West coast and give the settlers a chance of getting their goods to and from the North-West ports. He promised that if he were returned the Government would put on a steamer between Fremantle and the North-West ports in order to compete with the shipping ring and give the settlers on the North-West coast a fair deal. Mr. Connolly was elected, but not a word further was said in reference to the Government steamer. Just a few weeks ago when the election campaign was coming on the subject was resurrected by the late Premier, and we were told by him that if his Government were returned to office again he intended to put on a steamer between Fremantle and the North-West ports, if found necessary. To those who have any experience of Parliamentary life, that qualification "if it were found necessary" is sufficient to show just how much value is attached to a promise given in that way. So that I am particularly gratified to find that the present Premier before he assumed office frankly told the public that he recognised the difficulty

that the North-West settler was labouring under and he, if returned to office, would put on a steamer at the earliest possible date and I have sufficient confidence in him and his colleagues to believe that he will keep that promise to the full. I am quite aware that the matter is one of the utmost importance. The project needs to be looked into from every point of view. The one monopoly which is affecting Western Australia injuriously to-day is that of the shipping monopoly, and any Government which attempts to compete with or modify the doings of that combine has a difficult problem to face. I am going to suggest to the Government that they take the earliest opportunity of making inquiries from those who have expert knowledge of the conditions of shipping, and possibly secure the services of some one man or some men who personally are acquainted with the North-West coast, so that when this step is taken it shall not be taken hastily or without full knowledge of all the difficulties. If that is done, as I believe it will be done, I am sure the putting on of a steamer on the North-West coast, with the idea of regulating and bringing down to a fair level freights and fares the settlers have to pay, will help very materially in assisting the development of that important part of the State. I could quote if time permitted, and if it were necessary, some of the figures that Mr. Sinclair mentioned in his report. I will just quote one, and only one paragraph and that is this:—Mr. Sinclair pointed out that in a 1,500 mile journey, compared with the conditions on the northern coast of Queensland which is somewhat similar to our coast here, a shipping owner charged on a 1,500 mile journey 14.45 per cent. more in freights for the journey, and 34 per cent. more in fares. That is just the average of that one journey, but on some shorter journeys the difference is greater than that. I repeat, if the Government can do anything in the immediate future to relieve that it will be a benefit not only to the chief port of the State, but a very large number of people will settle upon our North-West country.

There is one other matter on which I would like to say a few words, and that is the question of further harbour extensions. I listened with very much interest to the mover of the Address-in-reply, and I quite agree with him that the port which he has the honour of representing should be congratulated on the growth of its trade; and while representing another port, I want to say very frankly that along with the hon. member I rejoice that the trade of the South-West is giving to Bunbury the importance it deserves. If at any future time the member for Bunbury and myself happen to come into conflict—I hope we never shall—both, I am sure, will be actuated by the highest motives and will work in a friendly way. So, recognising all the member said in respect to the growth of the trade of the port he represents, I can at the same time claim that the chief port has made, and is making a corresponding growth, so much so that the question of further extension to accommodate the increasing shipping trade is an urgent matter. For some time past the people of Fremantle, those most particularly interested, have given attention to this subject, and one or two proposals have been made for suggested extensions to the harbour. This is not the time or place to discuss these propositions. All I wish to say now is this, that the Government should be seized of the importance of making timely and adequate provision for the extension of the shipping trade that must come, and it would be very unwise for anyone charged with the administration of the affairs of the State to allow the time to go by and not make provision beforehand of such an important thing as the accommodation of our shipping trade. Last year we had the spectacle during an emergency of seeing ships lying outside the harbour waiting for berthing accommodation. If that were to occur more than once it would be a bad advertisement not only for the port but for the State also. I am convinced that the Government are fully alive to the importance of the matter and will make provision beforehand for the

accommodation which we all know must be made. I do not know how long it will be before the proposed Parliamentary Works Committee is appointed, but I have a fear that when it is set up, if it should be during the next month or two, it will be rushed with work, the extensions of railways that are going on and other works must of course have attention, and this question of harbour extension, not only in regard to Fremantle, but all other ports as well, is a question needing very special attention. The evidence and information required to enable any body of men to report effectively on it requires some very careful collection. I am doubtful if any works committee amongst its other duties will find time to make the researches and to take the evidence necessary to give a fair and effective report on the subject in hand, so I am suggesting to the Government whether it would not be better for themselves, and for the committee who will have a large amount of work—certainly it would give satisfaction to the people at the ports—that a small Commission be appointed to undertake particularly the question of harbour extension, not only as regards Fremantle but other ports as well. I am aware that other ports have their claims, but I am here to advocate particularly that of the chief port of the State, and I want to suggest what will be best for all the ports concerned. If the Premier and his colleagues will take the matter into consideration they will agree that a question of such importance will warrant the appointment of a small Commission which can get to work at once, and bring up a report at least in time for next session. If that can be done I think they will give satisfaction to the people who are anxious and who at present do not know what the next step in regard to harbour extension is to be, particularly at the port of Fremantle. So much has been said as to the matter of the land proposals that I almost hesitate to touch the subject at all, but I just want to refer to one point, and one point only. In all the criticism indulged in by the opponents of the Government there is only one point. They

accuse the Minister for Agriculture, and with him of course the Government of which he is a member, of having broken faith with the present settlers. We have been told that in introducing these new regulations the Minister for Lands has really broken the contract between the Government and the present settlers. If there is any truth in that charge it would be a very serious one, but I contend there is no such breach of faith, that no settler to-day has been interfered with in any degree in regard to any contract made with the Government in the procuring of his holding. What has really happened is this. To-day many of the so-called settlers are not keeping their contracts, and it is to prevent a breach of contract on the part of a settler who is also a speculator that the Minister for Lands has introduced his new regulations. Only a few weeks ago, just before the elections, a man in my office confessed to me that he had taken up land, some of the choicest he could get hold of, and he said, "I am going to live on it for two years, and no longer." I said, "Then, you are not a genuine settler," and he replied, "Yes; I am. I am going to carry out all the improvements I have to do, but when I get my improvements through I am going to sell." To that extent he was going to be a speculator and not a settler.

The Minister for Works: He would change his mind in the two years.

Mr. CARPENTER: It is just to prevent operations of that kind, a breach of contract, which the so-called settler sometimes makes, that the regulations have been introduced and not in any way to retard the genuine settlement of the land of the State. The question of stopping the further sale of Crown lands is a matter which will have to be the subject of legislation, and I am doubtful if it will be carried into effect at present. I had the honour fifteen years ago, of assisting in passing a resolution in the Legislative Assembly of South Australia to stop the sale of Crown lands, and that resolution represented the opinions of a majority of members of that Chamber: but while that Chamber expressed its opinion on the subject then in the way

of a resolution, we all recognised that there was no possibility of getting legislation through another place in order to put that resolution into effect. And so to those who may be expecting to see something revolutionary with regard to the lands policy, I want to say that it will be some time yet, even though we have a majority in favour of it, before we can possibly hope to see that policy put fully into operation. As one who was not in the previous Parliament, I felt very much gratification at the action what was taken, on the instigation of the Labour party, I believe, to make a beginning, through the Agricultural Bank, in the encouragement of manufacturing in our own State. For some time past it has been a matter of concern to me that, while we were making such splendid progress in our agricultural development, we were not making corresponding headway in what are sometimes called our secondary industries. That term is, to my mind, a misnomer, because both are equally important to the State. I repeat that I was gratified to find that an attempt had been made through the Agricultural Bank to encourage the purchase of agricultural machinery manufactured in the State. Some five years ago I had the pleasure of going through an exhibition in Melbourne, where, of course, the exhibits were chiefly those of Victorian manufacture, and I made it my business to ask two or three manufacturers, or their agents, who I knew were doing business with this State, what was the reason for their not establishing branch manufactories in Western Australia, seeing that there was a prospect of such good business to be done here. The reply in each case was—"We do not want to establish workshops or factories in Western Australia so long as the Western Australian people will buy from us in Victoria." I am not so narrow as to say that we must not buy from the manufacturers in the other States.

Mr. George: We must buy if we want the machines.

Mr. CARPENTER: We are doing so at the present time, but, as those responsible for the development of our own

State, if we can by legitimate means encourage the establishment of those manufactories here, we are doing no more than our duty to our constituents. I am hopeful that either other means will be devised, or that the present provision in the Agricultural Bank Act may be extended, so that we may be able to give the same assistance to the manufacture of other products as we are giving to the manufacture of agricultural machinery. If we can do this, we will be helping forward the industrial production which plays a very important part in the prosperity of every State. I believe that the members of the party to which I have the honour to be attached come to the House with the highest zeal and actuated by the best motives for the progress of the State. I may say also that perhaps our opponents have the same object, and are fired with the same zeal; we differ merely as to methods, but whatever our difference as to the means by which that progress can be best assured, I am confident that in all essential things we shall find ourselves in harmony and co-operation in helping forward the prosperity of the State of which we have the honour to be representatives.

Mr. FOLEY (Mount Leonora): In opening my remarks I wish to compliment you, Mr. Speaker, on your attainment to your present high position and also to compliment the Chairman of Committees on his election. I hope, with the leader of the Opposition, that the experience you two gentlemen have had in this Chamber will lead you at times, when all the brain you possess is brought into requisition, to temper your justice with at least a little mercy. There are many questions that affect the State which we will be called upon to discuss from time to time. It is not my intention to speak on many of them but there are a few on which I, as representative of a mining constituency, may be able to enlighten the House, particularly as to the requirements of the goldfields. I might say with a great deal of truth that during the last few years the goldfields of Western Australia have been the land of promise. I trust that after the present Government have held the Ministerial benches for three years the gold-