

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 5th December, 1933.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read, notifying assent to the undermentioned Bills:—

- 1, Constitution Acts Amendment.
- 2, Geraldton Sailors and Soldiers' Memorial Institute Lands Vesting.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

- 1, State Transport Co-ordination.
- 2, Public Works Act Amendment.
- 3, Government Railways Act Amendment.

Received from the Assembly.

BILLS (2)—ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGES.

Messages from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the Council's amendments to the following Bills:—

- 1, Land.
- 2, Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment.

OBITUARY—HON. J. EWING, M.L.C.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.42]: It is with sincere sorrow that I approach the task which lies before me to-day. The duty which devolves upon me is rendered necessary by the death of Mr. John Ewing, who had been a member of this House for 17 years, and who had also been a Minister of the Crown and a Leader of the Legislative Council. Mr. Ewing had a lengthy and varied Parliamentary career. In 1901 he entered the Legisla-

tive Assembly as member for the South-West Mining District. He was not a member of the next Parliament, but in 1905 he was returned as member for Collie, serving three years. In 1916 he entered the Legislative Council as representative of the South-West Province. He was elected Chairman of Committees in 1920, holding the office until June, 1923, when he was appointed Minister for Education, the North-West, and Justice in the Mitchell Ministry, filling those positions until April, 1924, when the Government resigned. He remained a member of the Legislative Council up to the time of his death. The late Mr. Ewing's public career was characterised by all the fine attributes that adorned his private life. His was a most lovable personality. His kindly, gentle manner and his unflinching courtesy won him the esteem and friendship of those who had opportunities of gaining an insight into his character. I do not think he could have had a single enemy. The late Mr. Ewing was an honourable man. No one ever doubted the high-minded motives by which his actions were inspired. Throughout his political career, his conduct was guided by a desire to be fair; and even in the heat of debate a bitter word never escaped his lips. As Chairman of Committees, as Minister of the Crown, and as Leader of this House, he commanded respect by his good qualities and the scrupulous discharge of his responsibilities. Both in his private and his public life he set an edifying example. It was decreed that he should have a long period of illness, but he bore his sufferings with fortitude and resignation. We deeply regret his passing, and our hearts go out to the bereaved. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the late Hon. John Ewing, a member for the South-West Province, and to express its deepest sympathy with his widow and family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by his decease, and that the President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to Mr. Ewing's widow.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [4.46]: I desire to add my praise of the work the Hon. John Ewing did during the period he was in Parliament. We all appreciated his buoyant nature and manner, for he was always optimistic, seeing the bright side of every question. It is that characteristic

which helps so many of us along through the various ups and downs we experience during life. He served his electorate as a member of the Legislative Assembly faithfully and well. He was very closely associated with the early days of the Collic coalfield, and he played an important part in the opening up of that field; right up to the last he maintained his close contact with that phase of the public affairs of the country. I am sure we all join in the regret expressed by the Chief Secretary at our loss, and in sincere sympathy with the widow and family of the late Hon. John Ewing.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir John Kirwan—South) [4.47]: Before asking members to carry the motion in the usual way, I wish sincerely to endorse all that has been said regarding the late Hon. John Ewing, and especially those remarks concerning his very lovable personal characteristics. He was one of three brothers who established what, I think, is a unique record in Australian parliamentary history. They were the sons of a clergyman at Woollongong, New South Wales, and they must have been inspired by a very high sense of public duty and public service. Two of them were surveyors, and the third a lawyer; all busy, professional men, yet they found time to take part in parliamentary work. One of them, the Hon. Sir Thomas Ewing, with whom I was associated in the Federal Parliament, was for 16 years a member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales. Immediately on the establishment of the Commonwealth he was returned as member for Richmond in the House of Representatives, and he held that seat until his death, 19 years later. During the 35 years that Sir Thomas Ewing was in the State and Federal Parliaments, he filled many important posts, and for three years was a Commonwealth Minister of the Crown. The second brother, the Hon. Norman Ewing, was for three years a member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. When the Commonwealth was formed he was elected to the Senate as one of the six senators from this State to the first Commonwealth Parliament. He resigned from the Senate a couple of years later and took up his residence in Tasmania, where he served as a member of the House of Assembly for six years. Then he was

raised to the Tasmanian Supreme Court bench as a puisne judge, and for a time he acted as Administrator of Tasmania. As has been said, the third brother, our late fellow member of this House, whose death we all so deeply deplore, began his parliamentary career as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia and served six years in that Chamber. For the past 17 years he was a member of this House, of which, as the Chief Secretary has said, he was for a time Chairman of Committees and, later, ministerial Leader. The three brothers served in the aggregate 63 years in Australian Parliaments and had distinguished careers in seven separate Chambers of four different Australian Parliaments. All three brothers were men of much ability and highly esteemed, and their record of public usefulness is one of which the Ewing family have good reason to be proud.

Question put and passed, members standing.

ADJOURNMENT, SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.52]: Out of respect to the memory of the deceased gentleman, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.53 p.m.