

the leading houses of the Eastern States and also many of the big London houses in their midst. It was satisfactory to notice also that it is the intention of the Government to amalgamate some of the departments. I think that the number of departments in Western Australia is simply disgraceful. We have three separate departments dealing with water supply; we have the engineer's department, the department of the engineer for mines water supply, and others that could be amalgamated and run more cheaply. No notice was taken of the Public Service Commissioner's recommendation some four years ago that this amalgamation should be brought about, but I am glad to see that this year it forms one of the paragraphs in the Speech, and no doubt it will be given effect to. I am pleased to see that the present Government have had the decency to propose to reduce the Ministerial salaries which were so unnecessarily raised by the last Government. I think that £1,000 a year for Ministers and £1,200 for the Premier is ample. It is equal to the amount paid to Ministers in the Eastern States and there was never any necessity for the salaries to have been raised.

Hon. C. Sommers: Did you not vote for the Bill?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: At any rate that is one of the evils that the present Government will endeavour to remedy, and they are deserving of thanks for their keen perception of public opinion. I will not further delay the House. The country will, I am sure, progress under the present Administration; the members of it are all men who have had vast experience in politics, and some of them have previously held portfolios. I congratulate Mr. Drew on his assumption of office, and assure him that he will have all the support I can give him while he is there.

On motion by Hon. W. Kingsmill, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.53 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 1st November, 1911.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Acting Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

### MESSAGE: OPENING BY COMMISSIONERS.

A Message from the Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour, Mr. Justice McMillan, having been commissioned by the Governor, appeared in the Assembly Chamber to administer to members the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The Acting Clerk produced election writs showing the return of 47 members as representatives for the Legislative Assembly, the writs for Pilbara, Kimberley, and Roebourne not having been returned.

All the members elected, except those for Leederville and Gascoyne were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll.

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan), addressing the Acting Clerk, said: Mr. Grant, the House being duly consti-

tuted, it becomes our duty and privilege to first elect an hon. member to preside over our deliberations, and I have much pleasure in moving that Mr. Troy be elected to the position. I feel sure that if Mr. Troy is elected he will carry out the duties of the office with honour and dignity and with satisfaction to all sections of the House. I, therefore, have much pleasure in moving—

*That Mr. Troy do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.*

The MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. T. Bath) : I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. TROY (Mount Magnet) : I have much pleasure in submitting myself to the will of the House.

The SPEAKER-ELECT, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder said : Mr. Premier and hon. members of the Legislative Assembly, I thank you most sincerely for the honour you have conferred on me in electing me to this high and honourable position. I can assure hon. members of the Assembly that whilst I occupy this Chair I shall endeavour to sustain and preserve the privileges of the House, and carry out the duties attached to the office with the most scrupulous impartiality.

#### *Congratulations.*

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) : Mr. Speaker, before proceeding with the business of the House, may I be permitted to convey to you the hearty congratulations of hon. members, at least on this side of the House, on your having attained to the highest position which it is in the power of the House to bestow on one of its members. We are satisfied you will realise the responsibilities and obligations which will devolve upon you as Speaker of the House, and that you will fulfil those duties without fear or favour. I want to assure you of the undoubted loyalty of the members of this Chamber.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, as leader of the Opposition, and also on behalf of members sitting on this side of the House, to con-

gratulate you sincerely on having been appointed by the House to preside over its deliberations. The position is a high one, indeed, as you have said; and it is one which will make or mar the proceedings of this honourable House, and I feel sure that so far as your ability will permit, you will preside over the deliberations of hon. members, preserving that true dignity which will add to the prestige of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. It is a position which will require all the tact and all consideration at the hands of any member, and your vast experience as a prominent member of your party for many years past, will, no doubt, be of great assistance to you in dealing leniently with hon. members, when they may, perhaps, be transgressing your ruling. However, I am quite sure that you will enter upon your duties fully impressed with the importance of your position, and determined without fear or favour to enforce the Standing Orders and the by-laws of the House, and also to render not only to the vast majority of hon. members who fill the Government benches, but also to the minority filling the Opposition benches, that justice and impartiality to which you have given expression. I congratulate you sincerely on your appointment, and I take this opportunity of officially announcing to you, and through you to the House, that I have been elected by my party as their leader.

#### LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) : May I be permitted to say that I learn with pleasure from the member for Sussex that he has been officially appointed by members opposite as their leader. I do not desire to echo the sentiments delivered by the hon. gentleman to myself when I was elected to fill a similar position, namely, that I might retain it for a considerable time, because I think he will recognise it is an unnecessary observation. However, I hope he will find that I will extend to him on all occasions the same courtesy that he was pleased to extend to me when he occupied the position of Premier of the State. I desire to make an

announcement that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to have you, Mr. Speaker, presented to him at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon in company with hon. members.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Perhaps I may crave the indulgence of the House to thank the Premier for his expression of good-will towards me. I can assure the House through you, Mr. Speaker, that I shall be ever ready to render the Premier all the assistance in my power to carry on the business of this House in a proper manner. I thank him very much for his expression of goodwill.

*Sitting suspended from 12.40 until 2.20 p.m.*

#### PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER-ELECT.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. M. F. Troy): Hon. members, it is my intention to now proceed to Government House and present myself to the Governor.

On resuming,

Mr. SPEAKER said: I desire to inform members that I have submitted myself to His Excellency the Governor as the Speaker elected by the Legislative Assembly, and I also laid claim to the undoubted rights and privileges of the Assembly and prayed that the most favourable construction might be put on all its proceedings. His Excellency was pleased to reply as follows:—

I learn with satisfaction that the Hon. M. F. Troy has been elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and most fully approve of his elevation to that high and honourable office. I have the honour, as representative of His Majesty the King, to affirm the constitutional rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by Legislative Assembly of Western Australia.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*); and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: (1), Report of Royal Commission on alleged scarcity of artisans; (2), Annual Reports of—(a) Education Department, (b) Principal Medical Officer, (c) Government Savings Bank, (d) Comptroller General of Prisons, (e) State Children Department, (f) Public Library, (g) West Australian Fire Brigades Board, (h) Bunbury Harbour Board, (i) State Labour Bureau, (j) Chief Inspector of Liquors; (3), Public Service List 1911; (4) University Endowment Trustees' Financial Statement; (5) Life Assurance Companies Act, 1889, certified copies of Schedules; (6) Regulations—(a) under Land and Income Tax Assessment Act 1907, Fisheries Act 1905, Health Act 1911 (relating to analytical forms, meat branding, fees for analyses of foods, public buildings), and Friendly Societies Act 1894, (b) made by Central Board of Health (mitigation of contagious diseases etcetera), West Australian Fire Brigades Board (appointment and election of members), Medical Department, Fremantle Harbour Trust, and Bunbury Harbour Board, (c) for management of Homes for the aged and infirm; (7) By-laws made by (a) Municipalities of York, Leederville, Perth, Victoria Park, Fremantle, Broome, Subiaco, North Fremantle, North Perth, Clayemont, and Midland Junction, (b) Local Boards of Health of Davyhurst-Mulwarrie, Tammin, Roebourne, North Perth, Marvel Loch, Wickpin, Balingup, Belmont, Dumbleyung, Broome, West Guildford, Nannine, Baywater, and Fremantle; (8) Rules made by (a) Fremantle Public Hospital, (b) Perth Public Hospital, (c) Dental Board of Western Australia, (d) under Navigation Act 1904; (9), Petition from Queen's Park Municipality (division into wards).

By the Minister for Lands: (1), Annual report of Under Secretary for Lands; (2), Regulations under Land Act 1898; (3), By-laws under—(a) Cemeteries Act 1897, (b) Parks and Reserves Act 1895; (4), Timber Tramway Permits.

By the Minister for Mines and Railways: (1), Annual reports of (a) Government Railways, (b) Department of

Mines; (2), Returns—(a) under Government Railways Act, (b) of expenditure under Mining Development Vote, (c) of exemptions under Mining Act 1904; (3) Regulations under—(a) Government Railways Act, (b) Mining Act 1904, (c) Mines Regulation Act 1906, (d) Mining Development Act 1902, (e) Coal Mines Regulation Act 1902, (f) Explosives Act 1895.

By the Minister for Justice and Education: (1), Annual reports of (a) Education Department, (b) Department of Land Titles; (2), Regulations under (a) Licensing Act, (b) Electoral Act, (c) for the guidance of surveyors; (3), Rules for (a) Supreme Court, (b) Local Court Appeal.

By the Minister for Works: (1), By-laws made by—(a) Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department, and (b) the Roads Boards of Black Range, Mourambine, Moora, Tambellup, Esperance, Preston, Drakesbrook, Lawlers, Capel, Darling Range, Beverley, Williams, and Roebourne.

#### BILL—HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER, by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege), introduced a Bill to amend the Health Act, 1911. \*

Bill read a first time.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that copies of the Governor's Opening Speech had been distributed to members.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### *First Day.*

Mr. THOMAS (Bunbury): In moving the adoption of the Address-in-reply to His Excellency's Speech I desire to take the opportunity before embarking on my address, to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon your elevation to the position you now occupy. I trust you may long be spared to fill that position with honour to yourself and credit to the Parliament to

which you belong. I also desire to congratulate the Premier and his colleagues on the position which they now occupy, and I trust that they may have a long term of office, a very long term indeed; so long, in fact, that the origin may be forgotten, and I trust that that term of office will bring lasting prosperity as well as happiness to the people of Western Australia. We were told in His Excellency's Speech that 75 per cent. of the people on the rolls exercised the franchise at the last elections. That seems to indicate that a great percentage of voters who recorded those votes did so in favour of the Labour party. I daresay that on an occasion like this I may be permitted, seeing that we have just returned from the polls in the first flush of our victory, to crow just gently. However, I have no intention of doing that. I do not think it is within my province to do so on this occasion, but I have no doubt that other members who will follow me on this side of the House will do all the crowing that is necessary. I think we have the right to emphasise the importance of the heavy poll, because on many previous occasions it has been alleged against the Labour party when they secured a victory that it had been due to the fact that the people had not gone to the polls. On this occasion there can be no question whatever about the matter. During the course of this debate I have no doubt many reasons will be offered for the victory we have achieved. Personally I do not propose to explore that field. I think it is possible that one may advance a lot of reasons, but I think the chief one is the fact that the people of Western Australia have begun to think politically, and the more deeply they think, it appears to me, their thoughts will be in favour of the Labour party. Of course, many people will attribute the success of the Labour party on this occasion largely to the Redistribution of Seats Bill. Whether that is so or not, it is a very curious coincidence that of the 26 members who were on the Government benches at that time and who voted so vigorously for that Bill, only 10 of them have gathered together to meet us on this occasion. It seems to me that almost

poetic justice has overtaken the perpetrators of that Bill; there can be no question of the fact that it has been complete. Possibly it would seem unkind to say much more about it. When I look across at the Opposition I am forcibly reminded of a cartoon which appeared in the *Western Mail* some time ago, and which I think was entitled "The roll call," in which cartoon there appeared only 10, all of whom were swathed in bandages, covered with scars, and lying about the ground; that was all that was left of them. To pass from that particular phase of the question, in the early portion of His Excellency's Speech regret is expressed at the drought which has overtaken the people of the eastern agricultural districts. In the expression of that regret I am perfectly sure we all join. Every member of this House, whether he comes from the goldfields or from the farming districts, must feel keenly sympathetic with the people who have met with misfortune during this dry season. I should not express any pronounced opinions on this point, but it seems to me some of the sufferings of those people are largely due to the excessive optimism of the gentleman who was recently Minister for Lands. I think that gentleman has been most of his time dreaming dreams and building castles in the air, instead of, possibly, looking more into the practical and possible results of what might have come from his operations. I heard a gentleman say the other day, and I think I may repeat the remark, that the former Minister for Lands earned a distinction and reputation in a certain direction. That gentleman told me he considered the former Minister had the right to be designated the greatest political Louis de Rougemont in Australia. Of course, we all know how famous that individual was for his wonderful imagination. I am pleased to see in the place of the former Minister for Lands, that we have a very practical Minister indeed, one who, I am sure, is fully in sympathy with the farmers and has truly at heart the development of the land in Western Australia; and whilst I am pleased to know that that is so, I am also pleased to know that at last we have a Ministry and a party in

power who are truly and wholly in sympathy with the primary producer. I think that possibly for the first time in the history of Western Australia that can be honestly and thoroughly stated. Because I believe, although it has sometimes been maintained by our opponents that the contrary is the fact, that the true friends of the farmer are the Labour party, and as time goes on this will be proved in the efforts made by this party for the general development of Western Australia. My friend the Minister for Lands has recently come in for a fair amount of comment in connection with certain regulations he has made. I am entirely in sympathy with what he has done, and I think that as time goes on the wisdom of those regulations will become patent. However, I will leave that matter to older hands to discuss. I trust when the Minister for Lands becomes familiar with his office, and has time to go thoroughly into the details of the vast concerns he has to control, he will give greater consideration to the more settled portions of Western Australia. I refer in particular to the South and South-West of Western Australia. It seems to me much of the disaster that is now overtaking us in connection with this drought might very easily have been avoided if greater attention had been paid to settling the people in those portions of the State where droughts are unknown. In most portions of the South-West we have had the finest season known for many years. I consider that there is there an immense field for development, an immense opportunity for any Minister for Lands who will give the possibilities of the South-West the consideration that is really due to them. There is the question of the dairying industry to be dealt with. For many years past I have seen it stated in the newspapers that we are sending out of Western Australia a thousand pounds a day for butter alone. I thought, of course, that that would gradually be diminished; but I read that the month before last we sent away £45,000 for that article alone. It seems to me that with all the acres that have been alienated from the Crown, the vast areas which we are continually being

told the Minister has been successful in selling—it seems to me there must be something wrong with the development of the land of Western Australia when, in spite of all these alienated areas, we find that we cannot produce enough butter for the people who are living here. And we also find that, notwithstanding the millions of acres let on leasehold to the people of the North-West, we are paying probably the highest price for meat that is paid in any State in Australia. Surely there is something wrong in this condition of affairs. There is no doubt that Mr. Bath's regulations will alter this somewhat. On the other hand, I think we are missing a very great point in connection with the development of the land, and that is that we are not taking advantage of the opportunity to provide facilities for the education of the man who is going to develop the land in Western Australia. In almost every other walk in life, science and skill and education is obtained for the purpose of assuring the best results. In the conquest of the air, in our gigantic liners that cross the ocean, in wireless telegraphy, in all these things the acme of science has been reached; but in the farming industry, the primary industry from which everything else is derived, we are back in the dark ages, somewhere about the stage coach period. It seems to me that this is a point which should occupy the attention of a Government anxious to do the best thing for the settlers. Some form of agricultural schools or colleges should be spread right through Western Australia. Even if these institutions failed to show a profit, even if they were run at a loss, they would have the effect of educating the people and teaching them the value of scientific agriculture, the merits of intense culture, and the best methods to be followed in connection with the dairying industry, and that class of thing; so that any expense upon which we embarked in this respect would be amply justified. The Minister, through His Excellency, speaks in optimistic language of the prospective development of the mining industry. I may say that during my campaign in Bunbury a very strong effort was made on the part of—shall I call them the Liberal, or the

Conservative party?—to set up a feeling of animosity between the people of the coastal districts and those of the goldfields. I am proud to say I was not a party to such an attempt, because I very much deprecate any such feeling. I am an old goldfields' man, and, having spent many years on the goldfields I feel that we owe a great deal to the development of gold mining in Western Australia. While I am member for an agricultural constituency, and intend to do my best to fight for that constituency, I shall at the same time feel it my bounden duty to lend a hand to the securing of justice for the people of the goldfields, just as for those of an agricultural constituency. They have helped us in the past, and are still helping us, and it is our duty to help them. I trust the mining industry will go on and prosper. Under the present Ministry no doubt it will prosper. With a vote for the assistance of prospecting we may expect a great deal. Very brief reference has been made to coal mining, only about half a dozen words. I sincerely hope Ministers do not mean that we should gauge the importance of these various proposals by the length or brevity of the matter devoted to each item; because I think, in future, we may expect much from the Ministry for the Collie coal mines. I expect a great deal of future development to come from the export of Collie coal. In the past we have not received that attention and fair play we should have had. I have had an opportunity of being in touch with the people who use this coal on the steamers, and I may say the trouble in the past has been in getting facilities for despatch. The unfortunate delays continually occurring have been the logical result of this state of affairs. We are not exporting the amount of Collie coal we should be doing. An expert has estimated that in the Collie basin there is something like 350 million tons of coal. At present we are exporting 25,000 tons per annum. If we could advance that to something like a million tons per annum we should have a supply sufficient to last us for 350 years. There is a fine field there for good work to be done. We are told in His Excellency's Speech that the Government

propose to ask for a loan authorisation for the purpose of carrying on increased public works policy, and the construction of several railway lines. I do not know that this will come as a surprise to our friends on the Opposition. Because, while they have alleged against us that we are in favour of a policy of stagnation, and are a non-borrowing party, I really do not believe they ever thought any such thing. I believe they merely said it as one of those many little jokes they played off on us during the recent campaign. It is just on a par with that other little joke concerning the stealing of the old lady's cottage and taking it away—a joke which the member for Murray was so active in putting before the people.

Mr. Holman: And with great success.

Mr. THOMAS: Not so much success, however, as he expected. Because he got in by a very narrow majority, a majority so narrow as to give him unpleasant anticipations of the result of the next elections. The statement contained in the Speech that the Ministry propose to ask Parliament to give them authority to raise a loan, and further that they are going in for an increased public works policy, must come as gratifying information to the people of Western Australia. In connection with the public works policy, I understand that it is intended to appoint a Parliamentary Standing Committee for the purpose of enabling the various works to be laid before that committee. This will provide an opportunity for the works being more thoroughly dealt with and conscientiously gone into. It will relieve the Ministry of much of their work, and it will enable a better case to be laid before Parliament, and it will give members a better opportunity of having a just case put through, that is, if they have one. I have so many just proposals to bring before the Parliamentary Committee that I shall look forward to its appointment with pleasure. There is one item in the Governor's Speech, namely, the proposal to increase taxation, than which I do not think anything more unpalatable could be introduced. But we realise such a thing is necessary, and I suppose it will have to be done. The amendment of the Arbi-

tration Act is a proposal that will bring pleasure to a great section of the community, and I sincerely trust that the measure, when introduced, will prove satisfactory and will go a long way towards bringing about lasting industrial peace in Western Australia; if it does only that one act the Ministry will have earned the good wishes of the people. There is one other little matter, known to the public as the salary grab; I do not know what other name can be applied to it, and I do not know what name was given to it when the Bill was introduced to Parliament last session. I am exceedingly pleased to see that at the very outset of the opening of Parliament it is announced that the Ministry intend to reduce their salaries to the level at which they previously existed. Not that I consider the extra £300 a year is more than they are worth, or more than they ought to have, but I consider that it is a duty that they owe to the people of Western Australia and a duty they owe to themselves to refuse to be a party to a measure that was carried through this House in the way that was done in regard to that particular one. I think it will redound to the lasting credit of the Labour party, whatever their faults and failings, that at least they intend to deal fairly and squarely with the people of Western Australia. The Governor's Speech also mentioned that it is the purpose of the Government to introduce a Bill for the improvement of the conditions prevailing in the public service, and the granting of equal political rights to all citizens. I do not know that I need labour this question very much, but I am sincerely pleased to know that steps are being taken in that direction. It seems to me that for many years past the public servants in Western Australia have not received the consideration they were entitled to. I recognise the fact that in opening up this question the Ministry are, so to speak, bringing a hornet's nest around themselves. They have scores of difficult problems to deal with, but I trust common sense and kindly feelings, and the promptings of justice, will lead them out of the difficulty and that a fair thing will be done by those people who are in

the service of the State. The last thing I wish to speak about is the establishment of a University. I am pleased to see that at this early stage of our career that that all-important matter has not been forgotten. I am also pleased to know, as is provided in the Labour party's platform, that when this University has been established it will be free to all, and that there shall be no distinction between rich and poor people. We know that when the Bill was originally introduced in connection with this matter by the previous Government that it was proposed to charge fees, and that that former Government charged fees for the Secondary schools in Western Australia. I trust that by one stroke of the pen all those fees will be wiped out in the future from the kindergarten to the university. We can afford to provide that they shall be absolutely free to everybody, because I consider the greatest asset Western Australia can have is an educated population. I feel sure that I have taken up sufficient time, and I will now conclude by moving the following Address-in-reply:—

*May it please Your Excellency—We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.*

Mr. B. J. STUBBS (Subiaco): In rising to second the Address-in-reply so ably and eloquently moved by the member for Bunbury, I desire first of all to offer to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your appointment to the high position you now hold. I think that selection was a wise one indeed, because I think you are eminently fitted by your characteristics and temperament to carry out the duties pertaining to that high office. Whilst it is undoubtedly gratifying to the State, and particularly to the members sitting on this side of the House, that 75 per cent. of those who are entitled to vote went to the polls at the recent elections, I think that the most gratifying result was that a great majority of those people saw fit to cast

their votes in the direction of returning members who were pledged to support the Labour party, and thereby assisting in bringing progress and prosperity to this great State of ours. When I mention progress and prosperity I do not mention it in the usual acceptance of the term, I mention it in the way of bringing about increased remuneration for the general class of working people, because there is not the slightest doubt that by raising the standard of living enjoyed by the working classes we bring about the only true progress and prosperity which could possibly come to a nation. There is not the slightest doubt that for some years past this State, in common with all others in Australia, has enjoyed increased prosperity. If we look through the returns which we receive from the Statistical Department, we see that in every way possible increased wealth and prosperity have come to this State; but there is one dark cloud on the horizon, and that is with regard to the very dry season which we are experiencing this year in our eastern agricultural areas. I think that experience will not be without its beneficial results. I think it is generally understood that those who have studied this question have become convinced that those of our farmers who have pursued scientific methods are this year not suffering the effects of the drought as the others are. Those who have taken the trouble to fallow their lands, and use other means of scientific farming expounded by experts, find that the results are standing them in good stead at the present time. The member for Bunbury touched lightly on the mining industry. Although our gold yield has been declining for many years past, we still find that this State produces about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times as much as the next gold-producing State of Australia, namely, Victoria, and produces considerably more than half the gold produced in the whole of the Commonwealth. I think these figures are very gratifying to all interested in the mining industry. It is also reasonable to expect that in the near future increased mineral wealth will be found in this State. We have not by any stretch of imagination exhausted all our privi-



leges of exploration in regard to mineral wealth, and I think we can reasonably expect that in the near future we shall have some other mining areas found, if not as wealthy as the Golden Mile, at least something that will justify the optimism in His Excellency's Speech. I particularly want to touch upon the new legislation foreshadowed for this session. There is a great deal of legislation which we have not heard much of in Western Australia, but which in other countries has been tried and found very beneficial indeed. The principal item of new legislation is to my mind the Homes for the People Bill, which is to be introduced. This principle has been given effect to in New Zealand and South Australia. In both these countries it has proved very beneficial indeed in enabling workers in the secondary industries to secure homes which they otherwise could not have hoped for. Another matter is in regard to the Saturday half-holiday. This was outlined by the Premier in his policy speech, and a Bill is to be introduced to give effect to the proposals of that speech by taking a vote of the people interested. Not only the shopkeepers and their assistants, but the whole of the shopping public have a right to be considered in matters of this kind. I think it is a step in the right direction; because after all I have never heard any logical argument why the weekly half-holiday should not be at the end of the week instead of in the middle. I do not intend to make any remarks with regard to the reduction of Ministerial and Parliamentary officers' salaries. The member for Bunbury has dealt fully with that matter. But what is gratifying to me is that a Bill is to be brought forward to amend the Criminal Code, to provide for the establishment of a court of criminal appeal. For the life of me I cannot understand how we have gone on so long refusing to a person who has had sentence passed upon him the right to appeal to a higher tribunal, whilst in most infinitesimal matters connected with property a litigant in a lower court has his right of appeal. Another matter is in regard to the introduction of indeterminate sentences. If there is one thing more than

another which criminologists have agreed upon it is that the old method of inflicting punishment for crime is out of date. It was a cruel way of punishing people, because the punishment brought about no good or lasting results. It had, in fact, opposite results. As far back as the time of Sir Thomas More very stringent articles were written, and that gentleman himself wrote a powerful book dealing with this matter, in which he pointed out that it was the height of absurdity to punish men for committing crimes which our system had practically educated them up to. This newer method of dealing with those who are unfortunate enough to bring themselves within the scope of the law has proved itself of great advantage in other countries, and there is no reason why it should not so prove here. One matter I would lay stress upon is that it is intended only to make the principle apply to the habitual criminal. I think that would be a great mistake. In Victoria, where this class of legislation has been brought to the highest pitch, the principle of indeterminate sentences applies not only to habituals, but to first offenders. It is applied to first offenders with a view of trying by education to take away from their environment those who in their youth have come within the pale of the law, and to try by various other means to make good citizens of them. I think that any steps we take in this direction will be well repaid to the State. I may say that, in Victoria, when this legislation was first launched it was brought into existence without mature consideration, inasmuch as it was introduced before a proper reformatory has been provided for those who were to come under its operation. Consequently when the board created under this Act visited the various gaols they found there was not a suitable place in the whole of Victoria, and because of this they were at a great disadvantage. I trust that steps will be taken to procure a suitable establishment somewhere away from centres of population, where there will be sufficient land for successful farming operations; because it has been found that it is only by putting these people to some remunerative and intelligent class of

employment that we can hope for some lasting good from the measure. With regard to education, another subject touched upon by the member for Bunbury, I would like to add that it is not only admission to our schools free of charge that we should insist upon, but we should insist that the whole of the school requisites of our children should be provided free by the State; because it cannot be said that education is free while children are charged a fairly large amount each week for books and other plant and material necessary to their education. With regard to the University, these remarks would apply also. Further than that, I may say I am in the happy position of being able to suggest an admirable site for the University. Crawley Park, which was purchased by the Government of this State a few years ago, is in my opinion the most admirable site we can find in the whole of the State for a University. It can be established there without any cost in regard to procuring the land, and at the same time an admirable park can be retained for the people, and while there is sufficient ground there on which to establish a University, there is also sufficient foreshore to make an admirable pleasure resort for the people. Another matter in the Governor's Speech I wish to touch upon is the proposed amendment of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Some little time ago the Federal High Court gave a definition of an industry, which, to put it mildly, staggered all the people in Australia who took an interest in this class of legislation. The High Court ruled that an industry should be defined according to the occupation of the employer and not by that of the employee. I think if we give a moment's consideration to this we will see how unreasonable it is. I may mention that in clothing factories at the present time there are engine-drivers employed. It would not take any great stretch of imagination to see the absurdity of the position of ruling that an engine-driver employed in a clothing factory should be a member of the tailors' union, and I hope in amending our Arbitration Act the Government will take particular pains to see

that industries are defined according to the occupation of the employee and not of the employer. Then, again, it is absolutely necessary that the procedure for citing a case before the court should be greatly simplified. At the present time we have the most cumbersome procedure that the ingenuity of man could invent. Not only is a union compelled to pass a motion by a majority of its members that it shall cite a case, but the motion has again to be submitted to the members in the form of a secret ballot. I contend, and I think it is a reasonable contention, that it should be sufficient to pass a motion by a majority of those who care to attend the meeting. Then, with regard to taking breaches of awards to the court it is essential that the procedure should be simplified. There is the same cumbersome method to go through as there is in connection with the citing of a case. I contend we should only be compelled to pass a motion to summon a meeting by a majority of those who show interest enough to attend that meeting, and that that shall be sufficient. Speaking of the arbitration court in conjunction with the references in the Governor's Speech to the civil service, I think it would be a wise procedure to compel the civil servants to approach the arbitration court to have their remunerations fixed. I can see no reason why Government servants should not have their remuneration fixed by the court just as is done in the case of outside workers. That would be of great assistance to the Government, because they would not have the workers or some of their servants approaching them every now and again seeking an increase in their salaries. I think that is a point which the Government might well consider in bringing forward an amendment of this Act. I think I have dealt with all the matters that it is necessary to refer to at this juncture, and I shall conclude by saying that it affords me great pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, which was so ably moved by the member for Bunbury.

On motion by Mr. Frank Wilson, debate adjourned.

## BILL—SUPPLY, £460,000.

*Standing Orders Suspension.*

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

*That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and be dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.*

Question put and passed.

*Message.*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with this Bill.

*Chairman of Committees, Election.*

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. P. Collier): As it is necessary to go into Committee it is essential that we should appoint a Chairman of Committees. I have great pleasure in moving—

*That Mr. Holman do take the Chair as Chairman of Committees.*

Mr. Holman has been privileged to occupy a seat in this House for something like 10 years. He is, in fact, one of the few old members we see with us to-day, and I feel sure that with his lengthy experience, and with the generous assistance which will be accorded to him by the House he will fill the office with credit to himself and satisfaction to members generally.

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE (Hon. T. Walker): It affords me great pleasure indeed to have the privilege of seconding the motion. I have a very high estimation of Mr. Holman's abilities; there can be no doubt about his large experience, and there can be no question whatever of his knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, and I may moreover say that apart from my appreciation of his high official character and my knowledge of his abilities, I personally have a very high regard and

respect for him. Therefore it is with very great pleasure indeed that I second the motion moved by the Minister for Mines.

Mr. FRANK WILSON (Sussex): Whilst I have not the slightest intention of objecting to this motion, for I know that the decision has been duly arrived at in caucus and that members are behind the Government to carry the election of the hon. member to the position of Chairman of Committees, I am sure even Mr. Holman himself will not think that I am unduly debating the question, or that I am in any way slighting his ability to fill the position in a dignified manner, more especially owing to the very extensive experience that he undoubtedly has had in this Chamber, which has been referred to by the Minister for Justice; yet I cannot allow the motion to be carried without expressing my deep regret that Mr. George Taylor, the member for Mount Margaret, who has already filled the position with so much credit to himself, and I think I may say satisfaction to all the old members of this House, was not selected for the honourable position of Chairman of Committees once more. Indeed, Mr. Speaker I may, without giving undue offence to you, say that I regret he was not selected to fill the honourable position which you yourself hold; for if a man gives of his best to the Chamber, if a man has served honourably in a capacity such as Mr. Taylor occupied during the last session of Parliament, and on previous occasions, I think it is due that we should at any rate place on record our keen appreciation of the services he has rendered to the House. For my part I could have wished to do something more, even to see him occupy the position of Speaker. That not being the wish of the majority I could have wished that he could be retained in his old position of Chairman of Committees. However, I know it is useless to put up any motion contrary to that which has been duly arrived at in caucus. I know that Mr. Taylor himself would decline the honour if it were offered to him from this side of the House; because he has received his orders, caucus has decided, and Mr. Taylor must bow, no matter how well

fitted he may be for the post. In regard to Mr. Holman, I may say I appreciate the fact mentioned by the Minister for Justice, namely that Mr. Holman has ability and experience. And, having on many occasions had to bow to the decision of the Chairman of Committees, and on some occasions to withdraw statements made, he will probably be the more lenient with members new or old offending against the rules. Beyond these remarks I do not propose to oppose the motion which has been submitted by the Government.

Question put and passed.

Mr. HOLMAN on taking the Chair in Committee of Supply said: Hon. members, I desire to thank you for the honour you have done me in appointing me to this position. As long as I hold this position I will endeavour to be as impartial as possible and do justice to all concerned. I will endeavour to temper my decisions with justice, and try to be as lenient as possible. I hope my term of office will be satisfactory to all concerned. I will endeavour to uphold the dignity of the House and give my decisions to the best of my ability.

*In Committee of Supply.*

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply, Mr. Holman in the Chair,

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

*That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the services of the year 1911-12 a sum not exceeding £460,000.*

It had been found necessary thus early to ask the Committee to grant Supplies because the Supply granted by a previous Parliament to permit of the then Premier representing the State at the Coronation of His Majesty King George V. was not sufficient even to tide us over the four months the requirements of which it had been estimated to meet. The Government were desirous, as far as possible, of consulting Parliament with regard to the expenditure of public funds, recognising to-day, just as when in Opposition, that Parliament was the guardian of the people's money. The Government there-

fore required the consent of the Chamber before proceeding with the expenditure of public funds. The Supply Bill of £1,683,700 passed last session of Parliament had been obtained to cover expenditure of the first four months of this financial year, namely Consolidated Revenue Fund, £829,700; and General Loan Fund, £854,000. The proportion for the Consolidated Revenue Fund was now exhausted, and there was a balance of £357,640 on the General Loan Fund account which would be sufficient to meet expenditure to the end of December. Thus he was not asking for supplies for General Loan Fund. The supply asked for was estimated to meet the expenditure of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for November and December, based on the actual expenditure for the past four months, exclusive of expenditure under special Acts. He had consulted with the Leader of the Opposition prior to submitting this motion, and that gentleman had readily agreed that if it were the desire of the Government to obtain the consent of the Committee before expending public moneys he would assist them. For this attitude on the part of the Leader of the Opposition he desired to express gratification.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: While having no intention of opposing the motion, he would say that at the close of the last session of Parliament Supply was granted on an estimated amount required to carry on until the end of October, in order that he (Mr. Wilson) might represent the State in London, and that we should get over the general elections before coming to Parliament for Supplies. He had been trying to find out exactly what the Supply now asked for represented. It seemed to him that if the Premier required £460,000 for two months, exclusive of funds provided by special Acts, a very large expenditure was being anticipated. Based on this £460,000 for two months, the year's expenditure would be some £2,760,000 outside special Acts, so that the Premier apparently expected to spend nearly four millions within the current financial year. Had the Premier any figures to show how this expenditure

was to be made, or on what it was based? If the Premier had only taken a sixth of the actual expenditure of last year he would have been perfectly justified in coming to the House to ask for that amount; but the Premier had been understood to say that it was in proportion to the expenditure of the last four months. Perhaps the Premier would favour the Committee with some further explanation as to how he arrived at this expenditure, and what were the figures of the last four months which he had based it upon.

The PREMIER: If the leader of the Opposition would take the returns published in the *West Australian* of even date he would discover that, exclusive of moneys expended under special Acts, the sum worked out at a total expenditure of something like £230,000 per month since the 1st July last. Including expenditure under special Acts it would amount to over £300,000; thus it would be found we were asking for sufficient to carry over two months, and that it had been based on the actual expenditure for the four months of the financial year which had already expired. He was not stating that that would be the actual expenditure, but we had to face the position as we found it, and we wanted funds to carry us on to December on the basis of expenditure of the period already expired. It might not amount to that; it might amount to more.

Mr. FRANK WILSON: There was no objection to the granting of supplies to the end of the current year. He realised that we could not hope to have the Estimates here and passed much before Christmas, and it was necessary that we should have supplies to carry on to the end of December.

Question put and passed; Resolution reported and the report adopted.

#### *Supply Bill introduced, etc.*

Resolution in Committee of Ways and Means having been passed, a Supply Bill was brought in providing for the expenditure of £460,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Bill passed through its remaining stages and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

*House adjourned at 4.43 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Tuesday, 7th November, 1911.*

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

### ELECTION RETURNS—METROPOLITAN-SUBURBAN PROVINCE.

The President announced the receipt of the return to writs issued for the election of two members for the Metropolitan-Suburban province, showing that James Alfred Doland and Frederick Davis had been elected.

The Hon. J. A. Doland and the Hon. F. Davis took the oath and subscribed the roll.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the Table reports and papers similar to those presented by Ministers in the Legislative Assembly on the preceding Wednesday; also annual report of Public Service Commissioner.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

#### *Second day.*

Debate resumed from 1st November.

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East): I wish first to congratulate Mr. Drew on the position to which he has attained and to assure him that in common I am sure with all members of the House I will give him all possible assistance. The ideal Upper House is a non-party House, a House which calmly and maturely reviews the work done in another place. The best legislators, even in the calm atmosphere of this House, may occasionally be betrayed beyond bounds of calmness, but I am sure it would only be in the heat of debate and that every member of the House will endeavour to maintain the ideal of a non-party attitude. Through