

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The First Session of the Sixth Parliament under Responsible Government was convened for the despatch of business on the 23rd November, 1905.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 23rd November, 1905.

	PAGE
Opening of new Parliament by Commissioners	1
Governor's Opening Speech; programme of measures	1
Bill introduced: Aborigines, first reading	3
Address in Reply, mover, seconder	3
Adjournment	9

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 12 noon, pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments.

COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour Chief Justice Stone and His Honour Justice Parker) having entered the Chamber, a Message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, His Honour the Chief Justice (senior Commissioner) read the following statement:—

HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

We have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, at three o'clock this afternoon, the causes of His Excellency's calling this Parliament will be declared to you; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should be

first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by the Commissioner appointed by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker, and notify the same to His Excellency.

The members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, the Commissioners left the Chamber; and the Hon. Sir George Shenton then formally took the Chair as President of the Council.

[Sitting suspended until shortly before 3 o'clock p.m.]

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR entered the Chamber at 3 o'clock; and the members of the Assembly having arrived in obedience to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech to the members of both Houses:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I have pleasure in meeting the members of the Sixth Parliament of Western Australia.

As mentioned in the Speech with which the First Session of the last Parliament was opened by me, the state of parties in

that Parliament apparently precluded the possibility of a stable system of Government.

This having been amply proved by the failure of three successive Governments to command the support of a sufficient majority of the Legislative Assembly, I felt it my duty to grant the dissolution of that body.

The election which has been held throughout the State has resulted in the return of such a majority of members prepared to support my present Advisers as to justify the hope that, during the life of the Parliament whose first session is now being initiated, that stability of Government, which is at present so vital a necessity to the State, will be assured.

The progress of the State in material prosperity continues without abatement.

The development of the mining, agricultural, pastoral, and other industries is of the most gratifying nature.

The gold export for the ten months ending 31st October was 1,629,976 ounces, and the amount of dividend paid by West Australian mining companies during the same period has been £1,887,533. The total dividends paid to 31st October amounted to no less than £13,459,736.

A satisfactory increase has taken place in the production of metals other than gold.

The operations of the copper smelter established by the Government at Ravenshorpe have shown that in the Phillips River Field the State possesses a valuable asset, while the recent additional discoveries of tin and tantalite in the Pilbarra District have greatly increased the mineral possibilities of the North-West. It is apparent that an industry of this magnitude is deserving of the utmost encouragement, especially in the direction of assisting in the discovery and development of fresh mining districts. With this end in view, the Government propose to take every legitimate means to encourage and aid *bona fide* prospecting.

The agricultural prospects of the State continue to improve day by day. Land settlement goes steadily forward, while the prospects of the coming harvest are satisfactory.

In order to provide farther necessary facilities for the successful occupation of those agricultural lands situated at some distance from our present railway system,

it is the intention of my Advisers to seek the consent of Parliament to the construction of several agricultural lines from various points on the existing railways. It is realised that the construction of these light lines, whilst proving of great assistance to the settlers already on the land, will also encourage additional settlement in the districts referred to.

The question of immigration, in connection with the development of our agricultural resources, is receiving the most earnest attention of my Advisers, and no effort will be spared to secure a class of immigrants who will become contented, prosperous settlers amongst us, and a valuable addition to the community.

During the month of September His Excellency the Governor General, accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Northcote, paid a visit to the State, and after having enjoyed opportunities of seeing our mining, agricultural, and timber-producing districts, His Excellency was pleased to express his satisfaction at our prosperity and advancement.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

The detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure will be submitted to you within the next few days.

The Finances of the State require close attention. Whilst the revenue is large in proportion to the population, the requirements of the State, embracing as it does nearly one-third of the Continent of Australia, are correspondingly heavy, and my Advisers feel that careful and economical administration in every department is of paramount importance.

Expenditure from Loan Funds will be necessary upon the railways previously referred to; on harbour improvements, increased water supplies to the goldfields, improvements of existing and creating new stock routes, boring for artesian water in the North and North-West, and in other important directions. Improving the water supply and the initiation of a comprehensive scheme of sewerage for the Metropolitan Area will be shortly commenced. You will be asked to grant a farther loan authorisation. My Advisers, having every confidence in the

future of our State, feel that development in every possible direction should be encouraged by judicious expenditure.

Measures for the imposition of a tax upon totalisator receipts, and for an amendment of the Stamp Act, will be submitted.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

In consequence of the lateness of the session, you will be asked to consider only those questions which are of the most urgent character.

The scheme of legislation which will be laid before you during the present session will not be of large proportions. It is realised that close attention to administration is at the present juncture of greater importance than adding to the statute-book.

It will, however, be necessary to consider, amongst others, Bills dealing with Aborigines, Secret Commissions (to carry out the undertaking arrived at at the Premiers' Conference), Racecourse Licensing, Betting Houses, and Fire Brigades' Amendment.

You will also be called upon to consider any offers that may be received from persons willing to construct, upon the terms published, a railway from Port Hedland to Nullagine.

The recent election has, in the opinion of my Advisers, demonstrated the necessity of amending the Electoral Act, and for a thorough reorganisation of the electoral system. This matter will receive early attention.

I declare this session of Parliament opened, and I confidently trust that, aided by divine direction, you will materially advance the well-being of the State.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, Fourth Annual Return and Report of Proceedings under "The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902," Return for the year ended 31st December, 1904. 2, Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending 30th June, 1905. 3, Report by

the Comptroller General of Prisons for the year 1904. 4, Report and Returns in accordance with Clauses 54 and 83 of "The Government Railways Act, 1904," quarter ended 30th September, 1905. 5, By-laws of the Municipalities of—(a.) Bunbury; (b.) Coolgardie; (c.) Fremantle; (d.) Midland Junction; (e.) North Fremantle; (f.) North Perth. 6, Roads Act, 1902, By-laws of the Albany Roads Board. 7, Annual Report of the Government Astronomer for the year 1904.

By HON. M. L. MOSS (Honorary Minister): 8, The Bankruptcy (Administration Order) Rules of 1905.

BILL—ABORIGINES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill) said: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted privilege of this House to initiate legislation, I move (without notice) for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to make provision for the better protection and care of the aboriginal inhabitants of Western Australia."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO THE OPENING SPEECH.

HON. H. BRIGGS (West): I beg to move the adoption of the following Address in reply to his Excellency the Governor for the Speech he has just delivered to us:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign King Edward VII., and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Before dealing with this Address in reply to his Excellency's Speech, perhaps, Mr. President, I may be permitted to congratulate the Council on your resumption of the office from which you have unfortunately been absent. I can assure you that in your absence you had our sympathy, and that on your return we are rejoiced that you have been blessed with renewed health and strength. While on this matter of congratulation, I think the Council may be congratulated on having as representatives of the present

Government two such tried and experienced Ministers as the Colonial Secretary (Hon. W. Kingsmill) and the Hon. M. L. Moss. In the case of the latter gentleman, inasmuch as he carries an honorary portfolio, I think in a double sense we may say that his services and aid to this Council will be priceless. Time would not allow for an elaborate presentment or answer to the lucid and carefully prepared Speech we have just heard; nor do I think, in the singular circumstances in which we have met, after such a lapse of time has been spent—I was about to say wasted, but the exigencies of political life necessitated our long absence from this Chamber; and if we had a long time, I do not think I should be warranted in intruding lengthy remarks on the present occasion, because the country is looking anxiously to its representatives for real work—not words, but deeds. This year the delay in presenting the Estimates of Expenditure for our consideration seems unavoidable; but I wish to add a word of caution to the many words of caution which have been heard in this Chamber as to leaving the important question of the finances of the State towards the end of the session; because it seems almost futile, foolish, and unbusinesslike to make provision for expenditure when more than half of the year's expenditure has been already incurred and is really beyond any words of ours. I hope that in the future timely action will be taken; and as the year ends on the 30th June, I hope that the annual Estimates will be presented to the representatives of the State so that we can express an opinion on them. With reference to the Speech, I shall content myself with making a few passing observations on the subjects as they occur. Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 speak of the stability of the Government, and of the assurance which it seems to give for the prosperity and good conduct of the matters of the State. We have seen the results of the past elections; and inasmuch as the chief matter of concern had to do with this Council, it is a satisfactory thing for the members of this Council to find that the country generally has confidence in the form of Parliament. Especially I would refer to the two branches of Parliament which have been so long tried and

honoured and proved by wisdom and experience. The election returns also show that the country has confidence in the representatives who appear in this Chamber, and so long as they show the same wisdom, honour, rectitude, and high principle, I feel sure that the country will not abolish their services. The old English word "platform" is familiar to our ears; and I beg to commend, in words better than my own, the lines of a platform set forth by a famous Lord Chancellor of England, who was accounted one of the wisest of mankind; because it seems to me that it accords with the views of many honourable members of this Chamber. He said:—

A froward retention of custom is as turbulent a thing as innovation.

And afterwards we have to keep in mind a sensible rule in making changes. In his words—

It were good that men in their innovations would follow the example of time itself, which indeed innovateth greatly but quietly, and by degrees scarce to be perceived.

And then follows that other wise counsel:—

It is good also not to try experiments in States, except the necessity be urgent or the utility evident, and well to beware that it be reformation that draweth on the change, and not the desire to change that pretendeth the reformation.

These archaic expressions of the wise Chancellor express my own feelings, and no doubt they express the feelings of many around me. While we hear of the liberal legislation that has emanated from Parliament, I have had serious misgivings at times that we have listened too much to the passing fashion and have not duly considered the weighty principles which lie at the bottom of these changes; and when I look round this Chamber and see representatives of almost every industry in the State, representatives who are in close touch with its great resources, representatives who are of such high character and principle that their sole concern is the welfare of the State, representatives who are biased by no party feeling, I feel sure that the State does well to retain that old system by which such representatives are returned; for while they are, as I said, representatives of stable material interests,

during my experience of this Council I have found the Council profoundly and sensibly responsive to the intelligent will of the country whenever such intelligent will has been plainly and unmistakably expressed. For as the best interests and concerns of the State are our earnest care, so we can all endorse that bright sentence in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, that "stability of Government is at present a vital necessity to the State." It must be pleasing to notice that the progress of the State in material prosperity continues without abatement; and in this relation the visit of His Excellency the Governor General and Lady Northcote is especially gratifying; for when we know the satisfaction with which so able, experienced, and observant a visitor noted our resources, we feel that the remarks from such a high and valued quarter will be a wall of defence against the flood of detraction which has poured forth against this State from certain parts of the Commonwealth; and when we know the gracious kindness of Lady Northcote in visiting the schools, in acquainting herself with our aged and sick and afflicted in hospitals and homes, we feel that in these acts of mercy our distinguished visitors were true representatives of our beloved King and Queen. Knowing our limitations in the matter of discussing Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, it is satisfactory to find that the fact that the finances of the State require close attention is well recognised. The careful and economical administration promised is to be commended, and the confidence in the future warranting development in every possible direction will find a hearty echo within the walls of this Chamber. I would ask members to note two lines of figures. On the 30th June, 1895, the public indebtedness of this State was £3,999,681, and the indebtedness per head was £42 17s. 10d. On 31st December, 1904, the public indebtedness of this State was £16,244,208, whilst the indebtedness per head was £63 1s. Members will notice that though the indebtedness of the State was increased fourfold, yet the increase per capita was only 50 per cent. This points out that it is wise of the Government to encourage immigration, because every good emigrant that comes to this State

will reduce the amount of indebtedness per head all round; and I am specially pleased that this immigration points to an increase of population in the agricultural districts. It seems to me eminently wise. I think on this ground we cannot estimate too highly the active and energetic efforts of our present Agent General, Mr. James; and on this question I feel that his predecessor, Mr. Lefroy, has not had due recognition from our people, because many of them were comparatively new arrivals and were unknown to him. It is not given to every State to be represented by men of high character and fine principle. At the present time we hear from many quarters that the Australian has a very uphill task to fight in the great centre of commerce, London. Perhaps these figures from the *Economist* will bear out what I say. Subscriptions in England to external enterprise during the first half of this year were: South Africa, £15,677,000; Canada, £10,751,000; Argentina, £6,823,000; India, £3,251,000; various other places, including Japan, £28,771,000; Australasia, including Western Australian loan of £1,400,000, had only £1,877,000; so that of this total of British money, £67,150,000, which was invested in the external places, Australia only received 2½ per cent., South Africa received 23½ per cent., Canada 16 per cent. Argentina, without the folds of the Empire, received from the mother country fourfold what Australia received in loans from the British investor. I think these figures bear out what I say, that Australia, regarded as a field of investment, is not in good odour in the old country. When we consider our stability of Government and our national resources, and remember that our loans are spent on reproductive works, and farther if we keep to that principle of having a sinking fund to every loan, I think the future seems bright with hope. I feel that members will all agree with the statement that close attention to administration is at the present juncture of greater importance than adding to the book of statutes. Following the great principle that revenue ought to be levied firstly on the luxuries and superfluities of mankind, I think that a totalisator tax is a fair thing to be introduced. If the amending of the Stamp

Act promised includes the substitution of embossed stamps instead of adhesive stamps, I think it will be a great saving of money to the State, as it will be a great check against evasion; and after our people become accustomed to the change, it will be a matter of convenience to the public. The Electoral Act cannot receive too early attention. The miserable breakdown which took place in the last election cannot, for the sake of our credit, be repeated. It seems a great injustice, with a fine and liberal constitution, for we seem to give privileges with one hand and filch them away from the people with the other by obstructions in this electoral law. I feel that with the masses of people the great thing to be gained is that they shall have definite knowledge when to register their claims and get put on the electoral roll. The varying dates cause uncertainty. People know how the old calendars became landmarks in the nations of the world. Take for example the four English quarter-days: these grew up with the people and are a part of their lives. The people know exactly what to do when those times come, and I should like certain days to be fixed similar to those; a certain week in each quarter in which the elector might be sure that his electoral claims were registered. In the scanty time before us this session, we cannot hope that much can be done on important questions which interest the State. They are alluded to in an indirect manner in His Excellency's Speech. First the connection of the Jandakot Railway with the main line is slightly indicated in the allusion to agricultural lines. Also allusion is made to the expenditure of the loans that are raised on the improvements of the port; and I cannot refrain from mentioning that a graving dock at Fremantle is of primary importance to the State; for there is no place between Singapore on the north and Melbourne on the extreme south where a ship can get repaired. It will not only encourage our shipping, but I feel sure that the graving dock will be a reproductive work. One other question I should like to see mentioned, which is not brought forward, but which I hope will not be lost sight of. A year or more ago, steps were taken with the object of throwing open Rottneest to the public.

The whole island was surveyed. A certain part of the island was set apart for the use of His Excellency the Governor, and the rest was surveyed with the intention of its being a holiday place of resort for our citizens in the summer months. And above all, one portion was set apart in the plans, if I remember rightly, where there might be a hospital for consumptives where they could have the benefit of sea air. I know that these things cannot be taken into consideration in the next month, but they should not be lost sight of. The greatest question of all is the promise of an Aborigines Act. Mr. Sholl, who will follow me, knows more about that Act from personal acquaintance, but there is one thing about the early history of that Act which deserves the attention of members. When this Colony received Responsible Government the Constitution Act of 1889 deliberately set forth the solicitude of the English Parliament and people with regard to aborigines, before they handed over this immense territory to the small number of people the Western Australians were at that time. They distinctly stipulated that the aborigines should be cared for, and they did that in a strange manner. They appointed a board to set apart £5,000 a year, or if the revenue of the Colony exceeded £500,000 then it was to be one per cent. of the revenue. In the course of time this was found to be impossible. When our revenue reached £3,000,000, that board would have had £30,000 to work on, and the board was outside Government influence or Government control, while the work was done by the Police Department. It was thought advisable that the section should be rescinded. For that purpose, in November, 1894, a Bill was passed through the Houses of this State, and sent home and reserved for Her Majesty's sanction. It seemed so important a thing, because it appeared that the Secretary of State for the Colonies thought, in 1894, that there was a compact and agreement between the Government of this State and the Home Government; and so, though he thought it was wise to repeal this section, yet he thought it was his duty to place all the particulars on the table of the House of Commons. Time went on; Her Majesty gave her sanction in Council; but it

seems an important section in an old Imperial Act had been forgotten. I mention this because it was brought under my notice during the last session. I myself was ignorant, and I found that many other persons were ignorant, of what happened when a Bill was reserved for the British Parliament. We find that the Imperial Act 5 and 6 Vict., No. 76, Section 33, says:—

No Bill which shall be so reserved as aforesaid shall have any force or authority in the said Colony unless Her Majesty's assent thereto shall have been so signified as aforesaid within the space of two years from the day upon which such Bill shall have been presented for Her Majesty's assent as aforesaid.

With this Bill of 1894 two years had elapsed, and so the Bill lapsed. This necessitated another Bill passing through the Western Australian Parliament, and a second Bill was passed in 1897, in which Section 70 was repealed, and instead it was provided that—

Five thousand pounds shall be reserved, and such farther sum as Parliament may appoint. The English Government trusted the Parliament of this State to look after the aborigines, and to make it sure, Section 13 of this Act of 1897 said:—

This Act shall be proclaimed in Western Australia by the Governor within three months after he shall have received official information by cablegram or otherwise of the Royal assent thereto, and shall commence to take effect from the date of such proclamation.

Hon. members may not be aware, like myself, of the care the British Government take, so that it is interesting to know what happens to a Bill when it is reserved for the Royal assent. Section 33 of the Imperial Act I have already quoted tells us the steps which have to be taken:—

No Bill which shall be so reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon shall have any force or authority until the Governor of the Colony shall signify, either by speech or message to the Legislative Council of the said Colony, or by proclamation as aforesaid, that such Bill has been laid before Her Majesty in Council, and that Her Majesty has been pleased to assent to the same.

I would draw attention of hon. members to this:—

And an entry shall be made in the journals of the said Legislative Council of every such speech, message, or proclamation, and a duplicate thereof duly attested shall be delivered to the Registrar of the Supreme

Court, or other proper officer, to be among the records of the said Colony.

After long search I failed in finding this record. I have gone into this matter perhaps at some undue length to express my opinion that, as all Bills emanate from Parliament, the question of whether they received the Royal assent and what becomes of them when reserved should be known and found among the records of Parliament. Perhaps this matter may be more fully elaborated when the Aborigines Bill is brought forward. Meantime I conclude by moving the motion I have already read.

HON. R. F. SHOLL (North): Before proceeding to deal with the Address-in-Reply, I also wish to express my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your improvement in health; and I trust that your health may continue to improve so as to enable you to occupy for many years to come the position which you now hold. Your absence from the Chair has been felt by members; and we are all very much pleased to see you back again with renewed health. I also wish to congratulate the two Ministers. By the way, it is about the first time on record that this House has been honoured with two Ministers of the Crown. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: No.] At any rate I wish to congratulate the two Ministers, though I miss the Colonial Secretary from his former seat on my right hand. I have no doubt that we will hear his eloquence, and that, by his winning ways, he will be able to pass many measures through this House without much trouble. Politics for some time have not been satisfactory. Parties have been very nearly equal, and very little practical work has been done. Therefore, it is a matter for congratulation that the Ministry of the day have been returned with a substantial working majority, and I trust that practical work may now be done, that useful measures will be passed, and that the work of the session will be proceeded with in a satisfactory and prompt manner. We have been kicking our heels about the precincts of this House for the last twelve months—for the last two sessions, at any rate—waiting for work to be sent down from the other place where, though there has been a great deal of talking to the gallery and to the constituencies, very little work has been done, I hear. With

regard to the work proposed to be placed before the Council by the present Government, I think they have shown their wisdom in putting forward useful and urgent measures which may be passed without much difficulty. We are getting late into the year, and the sooner useful measures are passed the better. With regard to immigration, I am not one of those who are altogether enthusiastic. Of course, I realise that we want immigrants, but we must not go into the East-end of London or into the manufacturing centres of England to get agriculturists. I am not quite so certain we are going to get good agriculturists from the old country. But if we do go in for an extensive scheme of immigration, it will remain with the Government to prepare and provide for these immigrants when they arrive, so that they will not be kicking their heels about the cities and swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Some scheme must be provided whereby they can be placed straight away on the soil, and their energies and labour utilised. I am pleased to see that the Government propose at last—and I hope promptly—to deal with the sewerage scheme for the city of Perth and suburbs; and I think the sooner it is taken in hand the better. It has been long promised, and it has now become urgent. The city has increased, and it is absolutely necessary that we take this matter in hand as soon as possible. I believe it is the intention of the Government to take this matter in hand immediately. At the same time I desire to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that an improved water supply for Perth should go hand in hand with the sewerage scheme. From the Mundaring Weir millions of gallons of water have been running into the sea which, with very little cost, might have been conserved and utilised in the metropolitan area. Of course, hon. members will understand that to have a proper deep-drainage scheme we must also have a good water supply. Also, the price will need to be considerably reduced; because 2s. per 1,000 gallons is more than the general public can afford to pay. There is one matter on which I am certainly not in accord with the Government, that is the building of a railway from Port Hedland to Marble Bar on the guarantee system.

Most people think that all these discoveries of minerals in the North—tin and copper and tantalite—will be served by this railway. As a matter of fact, this proposed railway goes nowhere near these discoveries. There is a large belt of auriferous country 80 miles wide, extending from Roebourne for 250 miles in a south-easterly direction, and it is rich in gold, tin, and copper, and this new mineral, tantalite. By running a railway from, say, Roebourne or from that locality, the line will traverse the centre of this belt, with Nullagine the objective, as is proposed with this Port Hedland Railway. The latter railway will traverse from 90 to 100 miles of sandplain before reaching the auriferous country, and then only the eastern fringe of this belt. I think it will be wise for the Government to consider whether at the expense of the State they will build a railway on the guarantee system for the sake of an English company, to develop the company's mines, considering that the railway is not going to serve the enormous auriferous mineral country to the westward. I can promise the Leader of the Government that when that motion comes before the House, if it comes before the House, it will not receive my support. With regard to the treatment of the Aborigines, we have had from Mr. Briggs a history of the old method from the beginning up to the introduction of Responsible Government. I think I was in the Parliament under the old form of Government when this question was settled. I am not one of those who believe there were half of the iniquities Dr. Roth stated had taken place in the northern districts. I think an unjust stigma has been cast on this country, and I hope the Government will appoint a royal commission to thoroughly go into the question and sift it to the bottom. Surely out of 250,000 people, we can get some disinterested persons to thoroughly sift this matter, and if these abuses exist to have them rectified at once; and if they do not exist, let the stigma be removed from the country. I have documents in my possession—extracts from official records and debates in the Queensland Parliament—where Dr. Roth has been accused of inhumanity, lying, and neglect of the natives; so if that is the case, and if he is discredited in his own country, I do not

think we should accept the dictum that the settlers of the North and the people who employ these natives are such inhuman brutes as he would try to make people believe. I believe this Bill, with the exception of a little alteration, has been before us previously. It is a measure which, in my opinion, will rectify any evils that may exist; and I am sure it will receive every support from Parliament. We must not be too lenient in the way of pampering the natives. The best thing to do is to encourage a native to work and keep him at work. If this is done, he is kept out of mischief. He should be kept at work, and treated kindly at the same time. The proposal in regard to railways to open up our country to settle our agricultural land is, I think, a wise one. Light lines extending inward from main lines of railway would open up for settlement country which cannot now be reached by railways. I do not know that I will keep members any longer. I simply conclude by seconding the motion.

On motion by Hon. C. SOMMERS, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 4 o'clock, until the next Wednesday afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 23rd November, 1905.

	PAGE
Meeting of the new Assembly	9
Message: Opening by Commissioners	9
Swearing-in of Members	9
Election of Speaker	9
Congratulations	10
Notices: Bills and Motions, etc.	12
Question: Factories Legislation, Papers	12
Bill introduced: Roads and Streets Closure	12
Address-in-Reply to the Opening Speech, mover, secondor	12
Adjournment	17

MEETING OF THE NEW ASSEMBLY.

The General Election having been completed, the elected representatives met in Parliament House pursuant to

proclamation made by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk.

MESSAGE: OPENING BY COMMISSIONERS.

A Message from the two Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of the sixth Parliament was received in the Chamber shortly after 12 o'clock noon, requesting the attendance of members 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 CHIEF JUSTICE STONE, 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 CLERK (Mr. C. Lee Steere) produced the election writs, showing the return of 49 members as representatives for the Legislative Assembly (the writ for Kimberley not yet having been returned).

Members present took the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

MR. W. B. GORDON (Caoning), addressing the Clerk, said: I move "That Mr. Quinlan do take the Chair of this House as Speaker," and in doing so I desire to bring to the recollection of members that Mr. Quinlan was one of the members of our first Parliament under Constitutional Government, one of the only two sitting in this House to-day who were members of that Parliament, the other being the member for Kataning (Hon. F. H. Piesse). Mr. Quinlan has occupied the position of Chairman of Committees for some three years past, and I think that his experience as an old parliamentarian, and the honourable and fair way in which he has filled the position of Chairman of Committees, qualify him eminently for the position of Speaker, which I believe he will fill in a manner that will be a credit to the State and an honour to himself.