

be under the Arbitration Act, and the arrangement under Part V. will be gone. That is the only alteration in the Bill as last approved by this Chamber. I move—

That the report be adopted.

Question put and passed.

[For text of new clause, see Council's proceedings, ante.]

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I move—

That a message be transmitted to the Legislative Council acquainting it accordingly.

Question put and passed.

### *Council's Further Message.*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the conference recommendations.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [5.22]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be fixed by Mr. Speaker.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.23 a.m. (Saturday).*

## Legislative Council,

*Thursday, 19th April, 1934.*

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

### ELECTORAL—SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have received the writ for the North-East Province election, showing that Charles George Elliott

has been elected. I am ready to swear him in now.

The Hon. C. G. Elliott took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

### CONDOLENCE—LATE HON. E. H. HARRIS, M.L.C.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.40]: Since our last adjournment Death has again visited us. We have lost one of our most prominent and active members, one, too, who was held in general respect. I refer to Mr. Edgar Henry Harris, who passed away on the 13th February last. Mr. Harris' death did not come with the shock of suddenness, though a few months previously no one could have realised that his remaining term of life was to be so short. Up to a few weeks before the end, he had discharged his parliamentary duties with his accustomed vigour and diligence. It is true that late in the 1933 session he had an attack of illness. He speedily recovered, however, and took a leading part in our discussions. It was only for a brief period. He took ill again and left the House, never to return. The late Mr. Harris was born at Gawler, South Australia, and, at the time of his death, was in his 59th year. Nearly 40 years of his life had been spent in Western Australia, and he was a member of the Municipal Council of Kalgoorlie when he was elected to the Legislative Council in May, 1920, for the North-East Province, a seat which he retained to the end. We shall miss the late Mr. Harris. His attendance here was marked by scrupulous regularity, and he gave a close examination to every Bill that was placed before him. He had made a close study of industrial questions, and always gave the House the benefit of his knowledge. He never spoke on important measures without fortifying his arguments with relevant data, and if there were any weak spots in a Bill, he soon discovered them. He could be caustic in his criticism. He could give blows and take them with equanimity, but he avoided personalities, and so no scars were left behind. His death was a severe blow to his relatives, to whom he was deeply attached. We all feel for them in their sorrow, and it will comfort them to some extent if we offer them our condolences. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the public service rendered to the State by the late Hon. E. H. Harris, a member for the North-East Pro-

vince, and expresses its deep sympathy with the members of his family in the irreparable loss they have sustained by his decease; and that the Deputy President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to Miss Adela Harris, Kalgoorlie.

**HON. V. HAMERSLEY** (East) [4.45]: I, too, wish to say how great I think is the loss we have sustained by the death of Mr. Harris. The first intimation I had of his illness I remember well. It was quite extraordinary how that particular attack afflicted him, and how speedily he appeared to lose ground. It was with sincere regret on my part, and I am sure on the part of every member, that we heard of his death. We all appreciated him as a member with whom happy and bright expressions were always closely associated. We looked upon him always as a most reliable guide, particularly on anything affecting the eastern goldfields. I frequently had good reason to recognise his wise counsel and good advice. He was always ready to give that advice to individual members. This House will miss the good nature, the kindly spirit, and the earnest and sincere way in which he carried out his duties. I wish to record my sense of loss through the untimely death of a member who performed such good service to the country.

**HON. H. SEDDON** (North-East) [4.47]: I wish to associate myself with the motion before the House. In my case there was more than ordinary relationship between Edgar Harris and myself. For many years he and I were the closest personal friends. Right through the whole piece we walked together, studied our questions together, and our association was of the very closest. His death has been a keen personal loss to me. It is also a very serious loss both to the Province he represented and to this House. The late Mr. Harris was undoubtedly an authority on industrial matters. Knowing all the circumstances associated with his death I can say that his life was one of long devotion to duty. There is no doubt that had he followed medical advice he could have lived a little longer, but his determination to attend to his duties had a great deal to do with the sickness which afterwards led to his death. I wish to associate myself with the message of condolence to the bereaved relations, and with the expressions of regret and sympathy which have fallen from members.

**HON. C. B. WILLIAMS** (South) [4.50]: I desire to add my quota to the expressions of regret concerning the loss of Mr. Harris. Whilst most of us in this House take our politics seriously, when we get away from the Chamber we are all more or less friends. That was one of the characteristics of the late hon. gentleman. I was associated with Mr. Harris long before he thought of entering Parliament, when he was secretary of the Kalgoorlie Enginedrivers' Union. I always found him a keen fighter in whatever he took up. He was of great assistance to me here and we were personal friends. I miss him more than I can say. We were close friends, despite the differences in our political beliefs. I was very sad when he told me he did not think he had long to go. He took the situation like a man, although he believed that his illness would carry him off. I desire to join in extending sympathy to his family. I very much regret he is not with us to-day.

**HON. W. J. MANN** (South-West) [4.52]: I, too, wish to associate myself with the motion that has been moved by the Chief Secretary. This House, the State, and we as individual members, have lost a fine citizen, a good friend, and a distinguished politician. I looked upon Mr. Harris as one of the outstanding members of this House, as one of the most unassuming, and one of the most delightful. The Chief Secretary said he was a man who could take a knock and give a knock. I think we will all agree that no matter how warm the atmosphere was or how keen the fight, once Mr. Harris left the Chamber he forgot anything that had been said that was best forgotten. I looked upon him as a delightful personality. I know that his work outside the House will live long. He was always the champion of what he termed the under dog, and was a wondrously good friend to many people. Those who knew him best loved him most. So far as I am concerned, and that portion of the State I have the honour to represent, I can only say we feel we have lost a good friend.

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [4.54]: That the regret expressed at the death of one of our members is sincere is evident by the very kindly remarks which have fallen from the lips of various speakers. If there is one thing more than

another one can admire about this Chamber and another place it is that there is always a complete absence of any political animus or feeling on occasions such as this. The very gracious tribute that has been paid by the Chief Secretary to the memory of our late comrade is something we can greatly appreciate. We know that the Leader of the House is sincere, and that every member who has spoken is equally sincere in the expressions of loss and deep sympathy to the bereaved that have fallen from their lips. The loss of Mr. Harris will be keenly felt, because, as has been stated, no one was more accurate or more attentive to his duties than he was. No one was more desirous of giving of his best to the State in which he dwelt for so many years. We are now left to mourn his loss. All we can do to prove our sympathy to his bereaved family is to convey to them the expressions of sympathy which have fallen from the lips of members.

**HON. A. THOMSON** (South-East) [4.55]: As one who was closely associated with Edgar Harris in this House, I would like to add a few words. Very few of us thought when we said goodbye to Mr. Harris that we were bidding farewell to him for all time. It is said that true citizenship means dutiful service to the State. Of Edgar Harris it can truthfully be said that he lived up to that principle. It can certainly be said of him when the time came for him to leave us that he had given his best to the State. Those he has left behind will, I am sure, greatly appreciate the warmth of these expressions of sympathy, and the sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by Edgar Harris during his term as a member of this House.

**HON. R. G. MOORE** (North-East) [4.57]: I should like to associate myself with the motion. I first came into contact with Edgar Harris in Boulder some 24 years ago, but I was more intimately connected with him when I became a member of this House some 18 months ago. He was of the greatest assistance to me, and was only too ready to help me whenever possible. In the course of my journeys between Perth and the goldfields I found Mr. Harris a delightful travelling companion, possessed of a wonderful sense of humour, bright and

cheerful, and a tiger to work. He gave his best to the State. Only those who were intimately connected with him knew the amount of work he did. Whether Parliament was in session or not he was always busy, and always ready to help those in need of it. I regret his death sincerely, and I know that he was held by this House in the highest esteem as an honest and able politician.

**HON. H. V. PIESSE** (South-East) [4.59]: I too wish to refer to the great qualities possessed by our departed member. When I was elected to this House Mr. Harris was a stranger to me. I remember what you, Sir, said to me, when I remarked that I would like to sit near a member who would give me good advice. You said then, "I do not know anyone who can give you better advice on procedure than Mr. Harris." A friendship sprang up between us very quickly. That was something I greatly appreciated. We all thought highly of Mr. Harris's honesty of purpose. We realised that he was a man who had sprung from the ranks, who had worked for his living, but had made his way. There is no doubt Mr. Harris was noted for his sincerity and honesty of purpose. His death represents not only a big loss to the House but a loss to the goldfields and the State as a whole. He was an able representative of his province. I join with other speakers in my desire to convey to the family our sincere sympathy in the loss of so splendid a man.

**HON. E. ROSE** (South-West) [5.0]: I join other hon. members in expressing my deepest sympathy with the relatives of the late Edgar Harris. Mr. Harris was known to me for many years and I always found him a very conscientious and straightforward man. As has been stated, his death means a loss not only to this House and to his family, but to the State. Few members took such a deep interest in public affairs and did so much for the country as our late friend. That is why I consider his death is a loss not only to the Legislative Council, but to Western Australia.

**THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** Before putting the motion to the House, I wish to add another stone to the cairn of appreciation and respect raised by members who have preceded me, to the memory of the late

Mr. Harris. For over 30 years I had intimately known and had been connected with our late friend. To me his passing is a personal loss as he was one of my close friends and confidants. The private life of the late Mr. Harris was above reproach, and he was all that a good son, brother, friend and citizen should be. His public life was a long and varied one, and it can be summed up in the two words—unstinted service. So long as any hon. member of this House, contemporaneous with the late Mr. Harris, endures, I am sure he will appreciate and extol the good service rendered by our departed friend to the State in general and to this House in particular. Though the late Mr. Harris was for a long time aware that the end might come at any time, he did not let up in his work as a member of this House. So it can be said of him, as it can be said of a good soldier, he fought valiantly on without regard to the end and died practically in harness.

Question passed; members standing.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [5.5]: I intend presently to move the adjournment of the House out of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Edgar Harris. In the first place, I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 1st May.

**HON. J. M. MACFARLANE** (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.6]: I am wondering whether the Chief Secretary has in mind the fact that the Legislative Council elections will take place on the 12th May, and in view of that whether it would not be advisable to adjourn over that period. Certain members of this House will be engaged in contests and it will be awkward for them to attend the sittings here at about that period. Perhaps the Chief Secretary overlooked that fact.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [5.7]: But for the death of Mr. Edgar Harris, I should have asked you, Mr. Deputy President, to suspend the sitting until 7.30 this evening when I would have been in a better position to decide whether it would be necessary to sit at any period of next week. Out of respect

to the memory of our late friend, however, I am asking the House not to continue to-day's sitting. My desire is that members who have to contest seats at the forthcoming elections may be able to get into the country, and it is with that object in view that I suggest we should not meet until Tuesday week. It is not expected that the Secession Bill will reach us before then, and in the meantime members may be able to go into the country; but should there be longer delay in the Assembly in passing the measure, I shall communicate with those members who are away, particularly the country members, and inform them that it is not necessary for them to attend on the 1st May. I have discussed this matter with the Deputy President, but we shall require a full attendance of metropolitan members and also those country members who will not in any way be connected with the elections.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 5.8 p.m.*

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## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 19th April, 1934.*

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

### BILL—SECESSION.

*Paper Presented.*

The Premier presented the report of the committee appointed to prepare the case for secession.

*Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Premier, Standing Orders suspended to permit of the introduction and passing through its second reading of the Bill at this sitting.