

they had been impartial they might have been more effectual in getting better treatment than they have obtained. During the first session of this Parliament the Labour party gained more in Western Australia than they had gained during the last 20 years. There was hardly a thing they required at that time that they did not force the Leake Ministry to put through the House. The hon. gentlemen who represent the Leake Ministry thought they could trifle with the Labour party; but the Labour party represent a strength that can never be trifled with, because any Government who attempts to trifle with them will find that by giving them only a little at a time the Government are only staving off the trouble. Difficulties will arrive, and when the Labour party demand a thing from the Government, no matter to what length they go, if the Government refuse to grant that request the party will go against them, and the Opposition will go into power. I say without hesitation if members on the Opposition benches had given way one inch in their principles, and had offered any inducement to the Labour party, the Opposition party would have been in power at the present time. But I made my position clear; the party made their position clear; they do not agree with the Labour party. As a Labour man the member for Mount Margaret is the true representative in the House. I do not agree with his principles; I can never agree with them.

MR. TAYLOR: And I do not agree with yours.

MR. FIGOTT: It is quite mutual. If I had acted as the Government party acted, and looked for the support of the Labour party and offered to make any terms with the Labour party, I should have had the support of the Labour party by purchasing it with promises in the same way that they have been bought by the present Government.

Question (as amended) put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	25
			—
Majority against	...	15	

## AYES.

Mr. Atkins  
Mr. Butcher  
Mr. Connor  
Mr. Hassell  
Mr. Moran  
Mr. Nanson  
Mr. Pigott  
Mr. Taylor  
Mr. Thomas  
Mr. Jacoby (Teller).

## NOES.

Mr. Bath  
Mr. Burges  
Mr. Diamond  
Mr. Ewing  
Mr. Ferguson  
Mr. Foulkes  
Mr. Gardiner  
Mr. Gordon  
Mr. Gregory  
Mr. Hastie  
Mr. Holman  
Mr. Holmes  
Mr. Hopkins  
Mr. Hutchinson  
Mr. Illingworth  
Mr. James  
Mr. McDonald  
Mr. Oats  
Mr. Phillips  
Mr. Purkiss  
Mr. Quinlan  
Mr. Rason  
Mr. Reid  
Mr. Wallace  
Mr. Higham (Teller)

Question thus negatived.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 1:52 a.m., Friday, until the next Tuesday.

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 1st December, 1903.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## OBITUARY—SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): Since this Parliament assembled some two and a-half years ago, the hand of death has been particularly heavy upon it. On this occasion I have to ask the House to adjourn out of respect for the memory of the late Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Sir James Lee Steere, who has for years past occupied one of the most dignified positions in this State, and

occupied it with honour to himself and with benefit to his adopted country. Whether we consider the deceased gentleman as a pioneer coming here in the rough early days of Western Australia, and winning his way by that determination and that patience which marked his character so admirably and with so much distinction, or whether we look on him as a Speaker amongst the Speakers of Australian Parliaments, I think we must all agree that in losing Sir James Lee Steere we lose one of the best and most illustrious sons whom Western Australia has yet possessed. The hon. gentleman was a conservative—conservative of all the best qualities which have marked that British race to which he belonged; those qualities which have gone so far to take Britons to the uttermost ends of the earth, to unsettled lands where they could make the ways smooth and the paths direct for those who were to follow in their footsteps. The same determination and the same firmness which rendered the late Speaker so admirable a pioneer of a new country such as Western Australia was when he reached it, rendered him also, I may venture to think, one of the best Speakers, if not the best, whom the Parliaments of Australia have yet seen. By losing him this State loses an illustrious citizen, and Parliament loses an able, just, and fair-minded president over its counsels. And while we place on record our sense of the loss which Western Australia and the Parliament have sustained, our sympathy too must go out to his family in their bereavement. May I venture to say that in his death and in his contest with the grim and all-conquering foe who has at last taken him from us, those qualities which marked his life were very evident—that determination with which he awaited the unequal contest, and that patience and equanimity with which at last he met it. No words of mine can add any but the slightest tribute to the memory of a man whom we all knew, whom we all loved, and whom we all respected; but I think I am voicing the opinion of members of this honourable Chamber when I say that by Sir James Lee Steere's death we have lost from amongst us one of those noblest types of men, the old English gentleman. May I be allowed to express

the hope that Australia will be fortunate enough in these later years to rear sons of the type of Sir James Lee Steere. I move: "That as a mark of respect to the hon. gentleman's memory, and of sympathy with his relatives, the House at its rising do adjourn until 7-30 o'clock to-morrow evening."

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): In echoing every word that the Colonial Secretary has given utterance to, I do so with the advantage of having known our departed friend for so many more years than my hon. friend. It is getting on to a quarter of a century since I first made the acquaintance of Sir James Lee Steere, and every month that he has been good enough to extend to me his friendship has convinced me of the truth of the panegyric the Colonial Secretary, in words which I think do the hon. gentleman and the House credit, has passed upon him. Sir James Lee Steere's life was a long one. That portion of it spent in this State, something over 40 years, was in the highest degree devoted to the service of his adopted country. Throughout he has shown himself (for I will not touch upon his private relationships) one of the most useful and public-hearted citizens that this or any other State of Australia has had the good fortune to possess. There was no call made upon the time or abilities of Sir James Lee Steere to which he did not respond. Everything he took in hand was carried out with scrupulous and conscientious care. He was solely intent on the good of the institution with which he was dealing, or of the State at large. The present is not a time for many words, especially from one who feels Sir James's loss not merely on behalf of the State, but as a personal and near friend. Sir James Lee Steere was a man, I cannot help saying, of strong views, and a man whose convictions were somewhat sharp and defined; but while he never faltered or wavered in whatever he thought was his duty, I have never met one who was in an eminent degree more truly reasonable than Sir James Lee Steere. In losing his services the State and Parliament at large and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him feel in their heart of hearts that they have lost a useful and public-minded citizen, an

admirable man, and a good friend. With melancholy thoughts I second the motion proposed by the Colonial Secretary.

SIR E. H. WITTENOOM (North): In supporting the remarks already fallen in such well-chosen words from the leader of the House and Dr. Hackett, I will only add a few words of regret in connection with the loss of Sir James Lee Steere. Dr. Hackett claims to have known him a long time, and I perhaps may claim to have known him even longer. I was in Parliament with him in 1883, over 20 years ago, and since then I have met him and been associated with him in many ways. There is little need to say much, because when we remember the positions he occupied in this city and State, it will be seen how thoroughly he was appreciated. Hardly any board of directors was considered perfect without him, and, from a mercantile point of view, any company which happened to be able to secure his services considered themselves fortunate. From this point of view alone I think his character is one anyone might be envious of. I say nothing of his political career. It has been one long career of steady advancement till the time of his death, when he had arrived at the pinnacle of possibilities and achieved his ambition, I believe, in being able to die in harness as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I wish to say nothing more, and desire simply to support the motion before the House.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I am heartily in accord with the sentiments so ably expressed by the Colonial Secretary and Dr. Hackett. For many years I have been associated in many ways in public life with Sir James Lee Steere. I esteemed him as a personal friend, and looked upon him as a type of the honourable, high-minded, and loyal citizens of this country. I believe that loyalty was pre-eminent in Sir James Lee Steere in every possible way, and I can only say that I think the State and Legislature have sustained a great loss. I am quite sure this honourable House will sympathise with his wife and children and friends in the loss they have sustained by his death.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir George Shenton): Before putting the question I should like, as one who knew the late

Sir James Lee Steere from the time of his arrival in this State nearly half a century ago, to say a few words in support of what has fallen from previous speakers, more especially as the late Sir James and myself were the remaining politicians of the Parliament of 1870, when partial representative government was granted to Western Australia. From that time to the introduction of Responsible Government in 1890, we were closely connected in politics. He was then appointed Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and I accepted the position of leader of the Government in this House. In the late Sir James Lee Steere Western Australia possessed a man of sterling integrity and blameless character, one whose principal object was to upraise the moral and social position of the land of his adoption, and to aid in such measures as should tend to its prosperity. To such purposes he willingly gave up his time, and he also joined and was a member of nearly all the most useful institutions we have at the present time in Western Australia. As Speaker of the Legislative Council and later as Speaker of the Assembly, he presided over the deliberations with mature judgment, and fully upheld the dignity of the position with which he was intrusted; and I may say without fear of contradiction that he gained the approbation of the members not only of the old Legislative Council but of the present Legislative Assembly. Personally I feel the death of Sir James most acutely, as I was associated so closely with him both in political and in business connections. I feel it will be some time before the gap will be filled up, because when one has arrived at mature age it is not easy to fill the blank caused by the termination of a friendship formed in one's earlier years. Whilst regretting the loss which has befallen the Parliament and this State, we must not forget the family so sadly bereaved, and I am sure members will join with me in giving them our condolence in the sad loss they have sustained.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned accordingly, until the next evening.