

there are other ways of doing this. I will not suggest them now. At another time perhaps I will suggest a way if nobody else does. [MR. JACOBY: By a land tax.] Some hon. members want to "land-tax" everything. If one takes up a piece of land he will be well taxed in working it. The land which should be taxed is that lying idle and only growing timber, unimproved and useless. The company should not be compelled to do anything unreasonable; but as regards the settlement of their lands, when they are selling on five years' terms and charging 25s. per acre, while the Government charges 10s. per acre on 20 years' terms, allowing the settler, if he has made some improvements, to go to the Agricultural Bank and borrow money, it is impossible for the company to make any headway. I hope the Bill will be modified, as there is no occasion to deal with the Midland Railway Company for the reason I have indicated.

On motion by MR. WALLACE, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10:47 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

### Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 8th September, 1903.

Obituary : Adjournment of House ... .. PAGE 839

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, Payment of Supreme Court Fees by

means of Adhesive Stamps. 2, The Mining Development Act, 1902—Regulations under which stone will be crushed and tailings treated at the State Batteries after 1st July, 1903. 3, The Mining Development Act, 1902—Statement of Expenditure incurred to the 30th June, 1903. 4, Roads Act, 1902—Exemption of certain Road Boards from levying General Rates.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

#### OBITUARY—HON. B. C. WOOD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): Mr. President, since we last assembled in this Chamber, an event has happened which I think must have filled the minds of most of us with surprise and feelings of grief. I allude to the untimely death of our honoured and lamented late fellow-member, the Hon. Barrington Clarke Wood. I feel a certain amount of diffidence in speaking on this subject before a Chamber which holds so many members who have known the deceased gentleman for so much longer than I have, some who had been his companions in boyhood, and some his colleagues in politics and in a career which has been a credit to the deceased gentleman and of good profit to the State of Western Australia which he so dearly loved. Mr. Wood was a man who, from the earliest age at which he could occupy such a position, identified himself to the fullest extent with public life. He was a man whose one prominent characteristic I think was unselfishness; and this undoubtedly was the motive which prompted him to devote so much of his time to public affairs, and to give of his best to the State which was the land of his birth. The late gentleman filled in this State a number of important positions, and I think I may say—and I believe in this I have the concurrence of this Chamber—that he filled them well. He enjoyed to a very large extent, to an extent which is rarely met with, the trust and the confidence of his colleagues. It is scarcely necessary for me to say much about the hon. gentleman in his private capacity. We all know that he was the very soul of good nature, that it pleased him more to be of benefit to his fellowmen than I think to reap any benefit to himself. I

feel that we would be wanting in respect to his memory if we did not fittingly mark the occasion of this our first meeting after his death by moving in the first place the adjournment of the House, and in the second place that the condolences and sympathy of this House be expressed towards those nearest and dearest to him, who have suffered an even greater loss than we have, an even greater loss than the State has by their sad bereavement. I beg to move—

That as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Hon. B. C. Wood, the House do now adjourn; and that the condolences of the members of the House be conveyed, through the President, to the widow and family of the late honourable member.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): I beg to second the motion which has been made by the Colonial Secretary. I do not think I need add anything to the very nice way in which he has referred to our late friend Mr. B. C. Wood. None of us expected when we last left this Chamber for an adjournment that one of our number would be missing when we met again. But such is the case. We must all regret the circumstances of his death—the suddenness of it, and his being away from his home and dear ones. All these things seem to mark the event as one for deep regret and sorrow to any thinking man. Mr. Wood was a colleague of mine in a late Ministry, and he was a man for whom I always voted whenever he stood for the different constituencies for which I have votes. We all admire a good many traits in his character. I am sure our deepest sympathies go out to his widow and family. As Mr. Kingsmill has said, the hon. member was cut off prematurely in the prime of life, and it is a very sad thing for the children and the widow. I think we shall all join most heartily in condolences offered to her in this sad bereavement which she has sustained. This is not a time for very many words. I feel keenly the loss we have sustained, for I have known Mr. Wood from his earliest boyhood. I remember his father and mother very well in the town of Fremantle, and I think he had a most excellent mother. I do not know so much of his father. He had good training under Mr. Newman, and there is no doubt that he took much interest in

public affairs, devoting to them the time which he could spare, and giving his best to the interests of the State. I believe he was very generous in his intercourse with his fellows, and in that respect he has been an example to us all. Whenever help was needed, he was always ready to give it either by counsel or by assistance to the best of his ability.

SIR E. H. WITTENOOM (North): I rise with the deepest sorrow and regret to add a few words to those which have already fallen in connection with the death of our hon. colleague. The Colonial Secretary has uttered remarks in excellent taste, and in well chosen words. I do not propose to say anything in regard to the public services of the hon. member. They have already been referred to, and it is more as a companion and friend that I desire to address the House. Mr. Wood was at school with myself and I think Mr. F. M. Stone. In fact I cannot carry my memory back to the time when I did not know him, and during all the usual varying career in school-life we jogged along together. As time advanced our various occupations led us in different directions, and consequently we did not see so much of each other as before. However, we know he has struggled along not always under favourable conditions, and has placed himself in a good position and also advanced the State; and it is satisfactory to think that, at all events during his last days, he was in a position satisfactory both to himself and his family. I have much pleasure in indorsing the remarks that have already fallen in connection with our late colleague's death.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER (East): I would like to express my concurrence with what has been already spoken as regards the demise of our late friend. I know his demise was not only regretted exceedingly in this House, but it was genuinely regretted throughout the State by those who knew him. He was always genial and always amiable, and one who made many friends during his lifetime. I can only say that I little thought, when we last separated, it would be the last time I would see him. It only shows how uncertain life is. No one knows what the day may bring forth. I deeply regret Mr. Wood's demise and concur in all that has been said. I deeply sympa-

thise with his wife and family in the great loss they have sustained.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4:47 o'clock, until the next day.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 8th September, 1903.

[ALL-NIGHT SITTING.]

	PAGE
Questions: Metropolitan Waterworks, validity of by-laws	841
Tick in West Kimberley, to inquire	841
Midland Junction Workshops, Plant	841
Hospital at Broome, Cost	842
State Forestry, to legislate	842
Financial Statement, when	842
Bill: Redistribution of Seats, Select Committee's recommendations considered in Committee of the whole House, clauses passed, First Schedule discussed at length, Divisions (9), Progress reported after all-night sitting	842

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

PRAYERS.

#### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Rules and regulations in relation to payment of Supreme Court fees by means of adhesive stamps.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

#### QUESTION—METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS, VALIDITY OF BY-LAWS.

MR. OATS asked the Premier: 1, Whether his attention has been drawn to an article in the *Sunday Press* newspaper of the 30th August, in which it is contended that certain by-laws of the Metropolitan Waterworks Board are *ultra vires*. 2, Whether it is true that a considerable portion of the board's revenue is obtained under the by-laws alleged to be illegal. 3, Whether the Government

will make inquiries, and if necessary introduce a Bill this session, to remedy the board's defective position.

THE PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2 and 3, Inquiries will be made, as the hon. member desires such action; but otherwise no importance will be attached to the matter.

#### QUESTION—TICK IN WEST KIMBERLEY, TO INQUIRE.

MR. WALLACE asked the Minister for Lands: Whether, in consequence of a remark made in this House yesterday to the effect that cattle tick is existent in West Kimberley, the Government will make inquiries for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not such statement is correct, and, if correct, whether the necessary steps will be taken to deal with the stock coming from that district.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: Similar statements were made relative to West Kimberley in 1896, when tick first appeared in East Kimberley, but an inspection showed that the herds of the former district were clean. Since then the clean condition of West Kimberley has not been questioned until now. Thousands of West Kimberley cattle are shipped South to Fremantle every year. They are closely inspected, but no sign of tick life has ever been discovered; their hides are free from the puncture marks which betray the presence of tick. Cattle arriving from West Kimberley, despite the careful inspection to which they are subjected, have never given the officers of the Stock Division the slightest cause to suspect the presence of tick in that district.

#### QUESTION—MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS, PLANT.

MR. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Works: 1, Whether the Government have been informed from any source that the ship "Milton Park" has been lost at sea. 2, If so, what steps the Government have taken to replace the plant which she had on board for the new Workshops at Midland Junction. 3, Whether, in view of the time which must elapse before the arrival of the plant to be again ordered, the Government will consider the advisability of placing the orders locally as far as may be practicable.