

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

The Seventh Parliament was dissolved on the 31st August, 1911. The Eighth Parliament under Responsible Government was convened for the despatch of business on the 1st November, 1911; and the First Session commenced on that day.

Parliament was opened by Commission.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 1st November, 1911.

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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 12 noon, pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. G. F. Hillman).

COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir S. H. Parker, and His Honour Justice McMillan) 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) requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in his name for the opening of Parliament, which Commission was read.

The Senior Commissioner then read the following statement:—

Mr. President, 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, His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling of this Parliament; 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.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, His Honour Justice McMillan (Junior Commissioner) left the Chamber.

SWEARING-IN.

His Excellency's Commission to the Senior Commissioner to swear in new members was read.

The Clerk produced the return to the writ for the Central Province vacancy (Ministerial re-election).

The Honourable John Michael Drew, Colonial Secretary, took and subscribed to the oath and signed the roll.

The Commissioner left the Chamber.

Sitting suspended from 12.13 to 3 p.m.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.3 p.m.; and the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber obediently to summons His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen
of the Legislative Council—*

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

It affords me exceeding pleasure to meet the members of the Eighth Parliament of Western Australia.

The voting in the recent general elections (though a few returns have yet to come to hand) has demonstrated beyond question the keen political interest and consciousness of responsible citizenship actuating the people of this State, seventy-five per cent. of the electors on the rolls having exercised the franchise. This result is not only unprecedented in Western Australia, but eclipses anything of a like character yet achieved in the whole of the Commonwealth.

Since the last session of the late Parliament an Imperial Conference has completed its labours in London. The deliberations of that representative body are in themselves an evidence of the zeal and earnestness permeating and spurring the whole of the British Empire with the pulsations of kinship.

My Advisers will, in due course, submit for your deliberation measures arising out of the proceedings of the Conference, to the end that, in matters of Imperial importance and affecting the common weal, there may be uniformity of legislation throughout the Commonwealth and the British Dominions.

The prosperity prevailing throughout the Commonwealth, including this State,

justifies a national pride and high hopes for the future.

It is, however, a matter for sincere regret that our eastern agricultural districts have been visited by an unfavourable season. In consequence of an abnormal diminution in the rainfall, many of the pioneers and settlers in these parts will have their trials and pioneering burdens increased.

My Advisers feel confident, however, that this misfortune is only temporary, and with every resource at their disposal are meeting the difficulties caused by the shortage of water supplies and the partial failure of the crops within the areas referred to.

The prospect of the early construction of the Transcontinental Railway is an augury of increased commercial and industrial activity within the State.

My Advisers have every confidence in the future of the mining industry; are convinced that it is still far from having attained its maximum of success; and are giving serious consideration to all means of encouraging its expansion and progress.

Several districts show healthy signs of improvement, some of the most notable being Marvel Loch, Ora Banda, and Youanmi.

The results of geological investigations between Mount Jackson and Lake Barlee give good hopes of mineral discoveries in an extensive belt of country hitherto hardly known to prospectors.

The latest discoveries at Payne's Find in the Yalgoo Goldfield, at Mount Eger-ton in the Peak Hill Goldfield, and Mount Keith in the East Murchison Goldfield, have excited much interest, and have served to illustrate the possibilities of systematic prospecting.

Recent developments in the large mines of the Kalgoorlie district give reassuring testimony as to the permanency and value of the great lodes at depths.

Coal mining continues to steadily increase in importance.

Copper mining—particularly in the Whim Creek district—is also becoming more and more a settled industry.

My Ministers, fully recognising the importance of developing the agricultural resources of the State, have under consideration the routes of several railways, for the construction of which Bills will in due course be submitted to you.

Special attention is being given to land settlement, the aim of my Advisers being to secure the bona fides of such settlement, to ensure the utilisation and cultivation of the soil, and to avert the evils of purely speculative dealings in land.

For facility in administration, and equality in distribution, costs, and charges, my Advisers propose to amalgamate the various Government water supply services, and to place them under the control of one department.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

You will be asked without delay to meet the requirements of the public service by granting temporary supplies.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

Though it is intended that this, the first session of the Eighth Parliament, shall be brief, Bills will be introduced for the appointment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Works, with a view to the introduction of a vigorous, but, at the same time, safe and enduring public works policy.

Bills will also be introduced empowering the Government to make advances to persons of limited means, in order that they may provide homes for themselves;

To increase the capital and extend the operations of the Agricultural Bank;

To alter the constitution of the Public Service Appeal Board, and to meet the requirements of reclassification;

To amend the Early Closing Act with the object of enabling the weekly half-holiday to be determined by a vote of the electors;

To reduce Ministerial and certain Parliamentary officials' salaries; and

To regulate the practice of veterinary surgery.

Measures will also be submitted for the purpose of simplifying the procedure of Local Courts;

To amend the Criminal Code, so as to provide for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, and the special detention and treatment of habitual criminals on indeterminate sentence or otherwise;

To transfer the appellate jurisdiction of the Governor-in-Council in divorce and matrimonial causes to the Supreme Court; and

To amend the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

The details of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure are now in course of careful preparation and will be submitted to you at an early date.

The revenue for the financial year ended 30th June last exceeded the expenditure by £115,991, and therefore converted the deficit of £102,692 brought forward from the previous year into a surplus of £13,298.

It is not anticipated, however, that the result will be so favourable during the current year. In all probability the revenue will not be so large as that of the preceding twelve months, as the shortage in the season's rainfall will materially affect our railway earnings and other receipts—more particularly in the deferring of payment of land rents and Agricultural Bank interest—and large expenditure of an unforeseen nature will have to be incurred in assisting agriculturists and pastoralists, who are suffering from a shortage of water, to tide over the dry season.

My Ministers will, in due course, request you to grant the Loan Authorisation which they deem necessary for the prosecution of public works incidental to the continued development of the State.

With the expansion of our primary industries, the provision of facilities for land settlement, and means of transit in all parts of the State, it is contemplated that expenditure will increase, and my Advisers are directing their attention to a proportionate augmentation of the revenue.

Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

Notwithstanding the recent unfavourable season in some portions of the State, my Advisers have every confidence in its recuperative and expansive resources, and it is proposed to proceed on lines of general development in all public undertakings.

My Advisers have also in view the preparation of measures providing for the betterment of the conditions prevailing in the public service, and the granting of equal political rights to all citizens.

Educational matters are receiving earnest attention, the vast importance of this sphere of government being fully recognized by my Ministers.

Efforts are at present being made to secure suitable sites for a University, a sanatorium for consumptives, and a maternity home.

I now leave you to your labours, trusting that, under Divine guidance, they may be conducive to the material prosperity of the State and to the lasting happiness of its people.

The members of the Legislative Assembly left the Chamber.

The Governor then retired and the President (Hon. H. Briggs) took the Chair.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Annual Reports of—(a) State Children Department; (b) Under Secretary for Lands; (c) Government Railways; (d) Comptroller General of Prisons; (e) Education Department; (f) Government Savings Bank; (g) Department of Land Titles. 2, Life Assurance Companies Act,

1889—Certified copies of Schedules. 3, By-laws made by the Road Boards of Beverley, Black Range, Capel, Darling Range, Drakesbrook, Esperance, Lawlers, Moora, Mourambine, Preston, Roebourne, Tambellup, and Williams. 4, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, by-laws.

BILL—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew): In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move (without notice) for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to enlarge the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and to repeal an enactment relating to the establishment and jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal of Western Australia."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

The PRESIDENT: I have to announce that his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to deliver a Speech declaring the reasons for calling this Parliament together. For the sake of convenience a copy of the Speech will be placed before each member.

Hon. B. C. O'BRIEN (Central): I beg to move the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply to his Excellency the Governor to 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, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I desire at this stage to thank those responsible for having entrusted me with this very important motion, and to say that I appreciate highly the honour they

have done me. I would like also to make a few remarks with reference to the Hon. J. M. Drew, and to offer him my humble congratulations on his elevation to the very high and honourable position which he occupies to-day. I feel sure I am only expressing the sentiment of the whole of the members of this Chamber, when I say that that gentleman is highly respected by all of us. He has undertaken very responsible and onerous duties, especially following as he does on the heels of a most able predecessor in the person of the Hon. J. D. Connolly, but I am sure that he will get from hon. members every assistance in doing what he thinks is right in the interests of this Chamber and the citizens of the State generally. Turning now to the Speech of His Excellency, it is not particularly remarkable for debatable matter, because it has been realised that the new Ministry have a very great amount of work to do. They have to try to grasp the affairs of their offices, and consequently they have not, burdened us with a heavy programme; besides, most of the matters which are contained in the Speech have been dealt with on the hustings at quite a recent date, and I therefore intend to-day not to labour this motion, but just to refer briefly to the salient points of the Speech. At the outset, His Excellency thought fit to refer to the recent elections and the heavy vote recorded at the poll. I think with His Excellency that it is a matter for very sincere congratulation to this country that we are so far ahead in electoral matters, having by that tremendous vote a few weeks ago exceeded anything done in this State in the past, and furthermore created a record for the Commonwealth. We will not go into the details as to why such a heavy vote was recorded—it was certainly a most emphatic vote in one direction, but that is a matter which will be dealt with on a later occasion—but I agree with His Excellency that it is a matter for congratulation that the people so rose to the occasion and showed such a high sense of public duty. His Excellency referred also to the Imperial Conference held in London recently. At that Conference the chosen representatives of the

Commonwealth were present and took an active part in the deliberations. We are told that as an outcome of the deliberations of the Conference, we are likely to have some say in the matters dealt with, and I think it is a matter of gratification for us as a small unit of the great British Empire to be permitted to have some little say in the matters concerning the welfare of the British people and concerning our common interests. We are informed in the Speech that a wave of prosperity is prevailing. It is true that there is a tremendous wave of prosperity throughout Australia at the present time. I had the pleasure only a few months ago of travelling throughout Australasia, and wherever I went there was noticeable a wonderful buoyancy of trade and industry in every direction. Coming back to my own State, I found conditions just as buoyant as they were in the Eastern States. We cannot account for this wave of prosperity; providence has been kind to us and the good seasons in recent years have no doubt been mainly responsible for it. While on that point, I desire to say that it is with regret that we find in parts of our own State at the present time a certain amount of depression, caused through the rainfall having diminished considerably this year as compared with other years; but it is only to be expected in a vast territory such as ours that from time to time droughts will come, at any rate in some portions of the State. We are pleased, however, to know that in many parts of the country the lighter rains have improved the crops, and I feel sure that when the returns come to be tallied up, the State as a whole will average out fairly well. The only cause for regret is that a few may suffer, but I believe that the Government are fully alive to the fact that some assistance must be given to the struggling settlers, especially to those younger settlers who have not been long on their land. I am confident that the Government are alive to the necessity of helping these people either by providing water, reducing their rents, or by some other means which will help to keep them on their holdings. We find the Transcontinental Railway is also referred

to, and I am very pleased that His Excellency has thought fit to remind us of that. I have always anticipated that the line would be built in a few years. It now seems to be an absolute certainty, and feeling confident that our Government will place no obstacle in the way of its early construction, I venture to express the opinion that when the line is built or even commenced, it will give a general impetus to trade in this country such as we have never had before, because the people will at once realise that instead of being citizens of an isolated State as we have been in the past, we will be brothers, as we ought to be, in this great Commonwealth. I feel sure that the construction of that line is close at hand and that it will be completed within a very few years, and one thing we can say is that no Government of this State has ever offered any obstacle to the carrying out of that great work. The mining industry is dealt with somewhat exhaustively in the Speech; rightly so, I think. It is a matter of concern to us all that we should do all that we possibly can for that industry. It has been hinted here and there, sometimes in the Press, sometimes in the street, and sometimes by speakers on the public platform, that the mining industry is on the wane. I do not think it is. We may not just for the present be turning out as much gold as we were a few years ago, but nevertheless the possibilities of turning out as much gold, or even a greater quantity, are still within our grasp, and with a little reasonable assistance extended to the goldfields there is every hope of the industry continuing to flourish. But it is absolutely necessary that we should give it every assistance that is within our power, because for the development of our mining areas we have at all times capital waiting for investment in any reasonable proposition. At Kalgoolie and Boulder and on the Eastern Goldfields generally to-day there are as many men employed, I think, as ever there were; the amount of gold taken out is not quite so great, but the same amount of money is being distributed. We have also on the Murchison belt that magnificent area practically as yet untouched. We

have evidence of big finds coming to light there, and who knows but that any day another Golden Mile will be discovered? We have Cue coming to the front again, that little town that has struggled so gamely for years, and mines that were abandoned are now producing heavy returns. There is Meekatharra, a bright little centre, and, again, there is Youanmi, and there are other centres yet to be developed. The Government should not hesitate for a moment in giving all reasonable assistance to our mining industry—I mean assistance to prospectors, by batteries wherever necessary, even if they have to be shifted again, where good prospects are shown; also assistance by giving water supplies and helping in matters of sanitation, and in giving railways here and there wherever they are justified. I hope our Government will continue to do that. In this Chamber at one time I heard an hon. member say that we heard too much of the goldfields; but we cannot hear too much of the goldfields, because, after all is said and done, they create a great market for the produce of other portions of the State. We are told in His Excellency's Speech that the same system will be followed as has been followed in the past, in the matter of extending agricultural railways. I am pleased to hear it. Any incoming Government would make a tremendous mistake if they hesitated at all in regard to that policy. I may say the party to which I have the honour to belong, the Labour party, have never at any stage hesitated to build railways and assist the agriculturist in every possible direction; and I feel sure they will not be backward in doing so now. I am pleased to hear they still intend to push on the spur lines in agricultural areas; in fact we are told a number of Bills is now in preparation to be submitted to us. We are also told measures will be submitted for our consideration dealing with the bona fide settlement of land. I am not going to anticipate or tell hon. members the contents of those measures, because I do not know what they will be; but I take it that the advisers of His Excellency feel the responsibility of their action quite fully and

will only bring down such measures as will be respected and treated properly in this House. We find in the Speech a reference to the amalgamation of the different water supply departments. I cannot understand why that has not been done long ago. Every member of the House has business with the different water supply departments. We have the Coolgardie Water Board, the Mines Water Supply, and the Public Works Department dealing with water supply. One department will construct a little water supply, and another department will take control of it; but when we look into it and want something done, the two departments argue the point as to who is responsible for the upkeep and so on. I am pleased to see in this very important matter of water supply the Government desire to organise a proper water supply department to manage it. Reference is made in His Excellency's Speech to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on public works. Though I have not given this question deep thought I think it is a step in the right direction, because we know that many public works have been constructed in the past at the whim of a Minister, or even of a Government, which have never paid their way or been of any use to the country. I take it the object of the present Government in appointing this body is to have a Parliamentary committee irrespective of parties, in order that they may be advised as to where money can be expended properly and handled in a legitimate manner. Another matter referred to is a very good one, the matter of providing homes for the people. This measure will be brought along, and I take it that its provisions will be discussed in the ordinary way, but so far as I have seen it, I think it is a step in the right direction. An alteration to the Public Service Appeal Board is proposed. It is evident to us all that there is absolute necessity for this. From inquiries I have made and from what I have seen there seems to be, at any rate, a spirit of no-confidence prevailing right throughout the public service; and when we try to inquire the cause of this, it appears that the cause is all laid at the door of the Public Ser-

vice Appeal Board. It is now intended that this condition of affairs will be altered. If what we hear from the man in the street is correct, that there is this seething discontent in the public service, it is time some action was taken to remedy it. The matter of early closing is old news; we have had the opportunity of discussing it before, and we will again; and as my views have already been given, I need not dilate on them. I think the proposed reduction of salaries, as mentioned in the Speech, is a matter that redounds to the credit of the present Government. They have decided to reduce their salaries. I have reason to believe, though I do not know it definitely or authentically, they are going to reduce their salaries by £300 per annum. I think that move on their part deserves great praise indeed. We are told there is to be a Bill for the purpose of dealing with veterinary surgeons. I do not know much about this, but I know there are many veterinary surgeons operating in this State who have established businesses here. They are good men, with good practices, but from what I can gather they are not qualified through some technical matter according to Acts prevailing in America and England. They are not qualified strictly to be veterinary surgeons, yet they have established businesses and have proved themselves capable and able men in the past; so I trust that the provisions of the Bill to be brought forward by the Government will not press too harshly on them, but that they will perhaps provide that men who have been in practice for 10 or 15 years in the State will get consideration and be brought under the Bill. I throw this out as a hint which I hope the Minister in this House will take a note of. I do not think I will weary hon. members further. I am sure that the wish expressed by His Excellency in the last paragraph of the Speech is the wish of every good citizen of this State, and I now conclude by formally moving the motion I have submitted to the House.*

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): It is with very great pleasure that I rise to second the motion for the pre-

sensation of an address to His Excellency. The Governor's Speech refers to the Imperial Conference which has just been held in London, and I think that we should congratulate Mr. Fisher on the able manner in which he represented the Commonwealth. No doubt measures will be brought before this Chamber which are the outcome of the deliberations of the Conference, and it will be our duty to pass them in order to fall into line with the other States of the Commonwealth. I regret that the Speech refers to the scarcity of rainfall in the Eastern districts. This dryness is the more regrettable because the country is so young and its people have so recently entered into the agricultural industry. I feel, however, that we should have every confidence in the Minister for Lands (Mr. Bath), who, I think, is fully capable of taking hold of that department and will soon get the settlers out of their difficulties. He has a farm in the Eastern districts, and I notice that already the Government have taken steps to relieve the distress that has been caused there. Reference is made to undue speculation in connection with the Lands Department. I trust that these practices will be stopped. There is no doubt in my mind that legitimate settlement is what is wanted, and I do not think there has been enough care and caution exercised by past administrators in getting the right class of selectors on the land. Land has been selected, bought, and sold, indiscriminately and money made in much the same way as it was years ago in connection with the lands in the Eastern States. I was very pleased to notice that the Speech contained a word about the Transcontinental Railway. There is no doubt that when we voted for Federation, some eleven years ago, we were all led to believe that the building of this line was part of the contract under which we joined the Commonwealth, and it will be a matter of very great satisfaction to all the residents of Western Australia when that great work is consummated. The Speech contains a reference also to the decline of the gold yield. As one of the mining representatives in this Chamber, I regret that that industry has been almost

entirely neglected by the past Government; in fact, when Mr. Gregory was contesting the electorate of Menzies recently, he had the greatest difficulty in showing what he had done in the Mines Department during the last three years.

Hon. C. Sommers: Nonsense.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Certainly the Government treated the industry liberally prior to that time, but of recent years they have done very little for it.

Hon. Sir J. W. Hackett: What about the Bullfinch railway?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Perhaps it is just as well that very little should be said about the Bullfinch railway; it might not be pleasant for some of the members of the old Cabinet. At any rate, I have the greatest confidence in Mr. Collier as Minister for Mines. He is a gentleman with a thorough acquaintance of the mining industry, and I notice that he is going in for a very essential system of boring the country with a view to locating lodes. The Government Geologist, and also that great expert (Dr. McLaren) who visited us some months ago, have both declared that the mineral area is very large and only requires planning out by a mineral geologist so that the prospector can go to the localities and work the lodes. I am very glad to see that the Government intend to push on with the policy of constructing agricultural spur railways. They intend to follow up the principle of serving the agricultural areas, and in doing so I trust they will bring forward a Bill as soon as they can to serve the agricultural areas around Esperance. I am pleased to know that in the Assembly today there is a majority in favour of that very much longed-for railway, and I think once that line is built we will have settlement in the southern part of Western Australia that the people will be proud of. There is no doubt that this line will go a long way towards cheapening provisions on the goldfields, as well as affording easier means of transit to and from the Eastern States. The building of the Esperance railway need cause no concern amongst the residents of Perth and Fremantle; because they are both old and well established settlements and they have

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-