

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 7th August, 1951.

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

QUESTIONS.

STATE FINANCE.

As to Exchange on Sterling Obligations.

Hon. H. K. WATSON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) What was the total amount of the 25 per cent. exchange paid directly or indirectly from Consolidated Revenue and General Loan Fund or otherwise in meeting all the various sterling obligations of the Government and Government instrumentalities for purchases, services and interest during each of the years ended the 30th June, 1949, 1950 and 1951?

(2) What is the estimated amount for the year ended the 30th June, 1952?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) (a) Rate of exchange for governmental purposes is £25 7s. 6d. per cent.

(b) Amount paid in years ended the 30th June:

	£
1949	608,098
1950	980,526
1951	1,302,042

(2) Estimated amount for 1952—£1,100,000.

AUSTRALIAN POUND REVALUATION. As to Saving on Imported Houses.

Hon. H. K. WATSON asked the Minister for Transport:

If the Australian pound were now revalued and brought to parity with sterling, what would be the consequential saving (expressed in Australian pounds) in the cost—and freight—of the pre-fabricated houses which are being imported from overseas by the State Housing Commission under existing contracts?

The MINISTER replied:

In the event of the Australian pound being revalued and brought to parity with sterling, there would be no consequential saving in the cost of the houses under the existing contract. Freight from Europe has already been chartered for 450 homes and there would be no saving on this shipment. Irrevocable letters of credit have already been established.

Internal fittings are being supplied from England but freight on English components is not yet known. Subsequent shipments will be dependent on charter arrangements.

MINING.

As to Complaints by Prospectors' Association.

Hon. E. M. HEENAN asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has he read the annual report of the president of the Prospectors' Association of Western Australia as appearing in the "Kalgoorlie Miner" of Monday the 30th ultimo, dealing with the parlous position of the prospecting industry?

(2) Will he cause a thorough investigation to be made into the various complaints therein, with a view to giving some further assistance to this industry?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The requests of the Prospectors' Association have already been carefully investigated and in the matter of prospectors' sustenance allowances an increase to £2 10s. per week in the Eastern fields and £3 10s. per week in the North-Western fields has been granted.

Other assistance such as loans for development of mines, loan of prospecting tools, drilling plants, grants of explosives, and the payment of cartage subsidy of a maximum of 12s. 6d. per ton on prospectors' ore to batteries, continues to be granted.

In addition, although the average crushing cost per ton of ore is now over 25s. the crushing charge of 10s. 6d. per ton, which has existed for many years, remains unaltered, the Government bearing the difference as a form of subsidy to the prospectors.

The association's proposal that a spur line be constructed to the Kalgoorlie State Battery is being investigated by the Railway Department.

A comprehensive report regarding treatment facilities for refractory ores has now been received from the Superintendent of State Batteries, and his considered opinion is that the stamp battery is still the most flexible crushing medium for handling the many different types of ore received at State Batteries, and that there is no present warrant for erection of any form of continuous milling process.

Mechanisation of cyanide plants, replacement of gas engines by diesel engines and other improvements at State Batteries are being undertaken at those mills at which the supply of ore indicates some future.

FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

As to Borings at Point Brown.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Do the departmental records show that test bores put down at Point Brown prior to 1929 were discontinued at approximately 80 feet through failure to find a satisfactory bottom, and were transferred to various parts up-stream till a satisfactory bottom was finally found near Bicton?

(2) At what depth did the 1929 test bores strike a satisfactory bottom at Point Brown?

(3) Why were the test bores discontinued when only approximately two-thirds of the water-course had been tested?

(4) Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House the report relating to the 1929 tests at Point Brown?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) From ground line to bottom of bore—80 feet.

(3) Test bores were completed covering the proposed bridge area.

(4) No departmental report extant. Details of borings available on P.W.D. Plan 27058 and Appendix 2, Tydeman Report on Port of Fremantle, 1948.

HOUSING.

As to Spec-building Scheme Safeguards.

Hon. G. FRASER asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) When permits are issued to master builders to build homes under the spec-building scheme, are any safeguards inserted so that they shall be—

(a) sold only to approved applicants; and

(b) sold at a reasonable price?

(2) If the answer to (a) or (b) is "yes," what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the terms of the permit are carried out?

(3) If the answer to (a) or (b) is "no," will the Government take immediate steps to have the abovementioned safeguards inserted in these permits?

The MINISTER replied:

The present system provides for releases of controlled materials under the ready-made house scheme, subject to an undertaking from the builder that he will inform the Commission of the name of the

purchaser and the price received. Should the price be considered excessive, the Commission withholds the issue of material releases to the builder for further building under this scheme.

CHAIRMEN (TEMPORARY) OF COMMITTEES.

On motion by the Minister for Transport (without notice), resolved:

That in accordance with Standing Order 31A, Hon. G. Fraser, Hon. A. L. Loton and Hon. H. S. W. Parker be elected as Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the current session.

MOTIONS—CONDOLENCE.

Late Hon. Sir James Mitchell, G.C.M.G.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland) [5.12]: During the parliamentary recess this State suffered a grievous loss in the death of the ex-Governor, Sir James Mitchell, G.C.M.G., who died suddenly on the 26th July, 1951. This Chamber has also suffered grievous losses by the deaths of Hon. Hobart Tuckey, Hon. William Joseph Mann and the Clerk of Parliaments, Mr. L. L. Leake. It is my intention to move motions of condolence, treating each motion separately, thereby enabling members, if they so desire, to speak in support of each motion as it is presented. I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Sir James Mitchell, past Minister, Premier and Governor, and express its deep sympathy with his son and family in the irreparable loss they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to his son and family.

The late Sir James Mitchell was a Western Australian who was born at Bunbury on the 27th April, 1866, his father being a well-known farmer in the district at that time. Our late Governor commenced work in the Bunbury branch of the Western Australian Bank in 1885 and, after service at Geraldton, was appointed manager of the Northam branch. In 1892, he commenced farming in addition to his work at the bank.

On the 27th October, 1905, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly as member for Northam, and on the 7th May, 1906, was appointed Minister without portfolio in the Moore Government. Then, on the 30th June, 1909, he was appointed Minister for Lands and Agriculture until the resignation of the Moore Government on the 16th September, 1910. During his tenure of these portfolios, the Lands and Surveys Department cleared 32,000 miles of roads,

mostly east of the then settled districts and in the South-West. When severe re-trenchments had to be made in the Public Service, he introduced a civil service land settlement scheme in the far eastern wheatbelt. In 1910, when Western Australia's export of wheat had fallen to practically nothing, he evolved a scheme for settling lumpers near York-rakine and Tammin.

In the first Wilson Government he was appointed Minister for Lands, Agriculture and Industries on the 16th September, 1910, and continued in that office until the Government resigned on the 7th October, 1911. On the 27th July, 1916, he was appointed Minister for Industries, Railways and Water Supplies in the second Wilson Government until the Government resigned on the 28th June, 1917. The Order of the C.M.G. was conferred on him in 1919. He was appointed Minister for Lands and Repatriation in the Colebatch Government, which lasted from the 17th April to the 17th May, 1919, when he was appointed Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Lands and Repatriation. In 1919, he arranged the settlement of 5,040 returned soldiers on the land, which led to a substantial increase in the State's annual wheat yield. In 1921, the Order of the K.C.M.G. was conferred on him, and in February of that same year he inaugurated the Group Settlement Scheme.

In 1922, he prepared a comprehensive migration scheme which he took to England, where he negotiated a satisfactory migration agreement with the British Government, which resulted in a steady flow of migrants to Western Australia for some years. In 1924, he resigned as Premier and continued in Parliament as Leader of the Opposition from 1924 to 1930. He was appointed Premier and Treasurer on the 24th April, 1930. He finally retired from politics in 1933, when he was defeated in the Northam election by Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, at which time the Government was also defeated. On the recommendation of the Labour Government, he was appointed Lieut.-Governor on the 11th July, 1933, and in 1947 the Order of the G.C.M.G. was conferred on him. On the 5th October, 1948, he was appointed Governor, and he resigned that position on the 30th June, 1951.

The death of Sir James Mitchell, so soon after his retirement as Governor came as a shock to the whole State. All of us remember with pride and gratitude the service which he rendered to the State over a long period of years. These accomplishments will serve as a monument to the memory of a great Western Australian, who was born in this State and who, throughout his life, served it with zeal and distinction. He has a link with this House inasmuch as, for a number of years, he performed the opening

ceremony of Parliament more frequently than any other Governor has ever done. Two members of this House, Hon. Sir Charles Latham and Hon. Hubert Parker served under Sir James in another place. I feel sure that members would desire this appreciation of his services to be recorded in the proceedings of this Chamber.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. G. B. Wood—Central) [5.18]: As one associated with agriculture for many years, I should like to support the motion. I look upon Sir James as a man who did more for the furtherance of agriculture in Western Australia than anyone else of whom I know. I can think of nobody else who was so sincere in his desire to settle the outback of this country. I well remember that in 1906, against tremendous criticism, he set out to develop the country further and further eastwards, just as far, in fact, as money, men and material would allow. I know many men who are good agriculturalists and who are responsible men but who severely criticised Sir James for the drastic steps they said he was taking and which they thought would lead to disaster. It must have been very gratifying to him to know, before he passed on, that through all the ups and downs, the dry seasons and the low prices, most of those people who stayed on the wheatbelt and had faith in the country achieved a state of high prosperity. It must have been a considerable gratification to him to know that

I should like to refer to his efforts in the South-West in connection with what is known as the Group Settlement. That also evoked a lot of criticism. Although that scheme was not successful at first, principally through low prices and through some wrong types of settlers going there, his policy bore considerable fruit and, generally speaking the people there are also fairly prosperous. There are, of course, some who are not; but, generally speaking, they are quite happy. Therefore I say with every justification that we should mourn the passing of this man, the greatest agriculturist Western Australia has ever known.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.20]: I desire to support the motion. As far back as 1910, I first saw the literature that was sent out from Western Australia by Sir James Mitchell advocating his agricultural policy in Western Australia. As a result of that strenuous propaganda, I came to Western Australia to take up farming. I admit I was not a very successful farmer. Through the years, Sir James had a remarkable memory. Unlike most of us, he was able to remember something good about every public man or woman he met in this State. He made a great impression upon the people. Our weakness, of course, is that we very vividly remember anyone who tries to do us an injury. Sir James, on the other hand, tried to remember the

good things the men, women and children of Western Australia endeavoured to do.

I was brought into close contact with Sir James during the years of the depression. Sir Charles Latham was a Minister at that time, and we all had to work together. I remember I always received from Sir James very great consideration as a representative of the big army of unemployed in Fremantle; and despite the tremendous financial difficulties, he gave as much encouragement and help as was possible. Therefore, as a citizen of Western Australia, I think I am expressing the view of every man, woman and child when I say we regret his passing.

HON. SIR CHARLES LATHAM (Central) [5.23]: I would like to associate myself with the motion. Western Australia has produced two very great men, and I suppose their work will live for many years. One of these great men was Sir John Forrest, and to his memory we have erected a monument in King's Park. Any one who passes through King's Park today or in the future will see that monument and will learn from it why it was placed there. Sir James Mitchell was the second great man, and it may be necessary for us to erect something to his memory. I think both these men were divinely inspired. It seems to me most extraordinary that we should have men with very little knowledge to guide them able to establish the great works that have built the foundations upon which we are working today. I would not like to say everything has been accomplished that can be accomplished, but the late Lord Forrest must have had a great deal of determination and confidence when he pioneered overland routes and did exploratory work in this State, subsequently installing a pipeline to convey water to the Goldfields, which did so much to help us to build up our population.

I can picture the position in 1909 and 1910 in what is now our extensive wheat-belt. When I first went into that country in 1910, I saw miles and miles of survey lines, and the only tracks were those which were used by sandalwood-getters travelling from rock to rock. At that time I wondered how it was possible for any man lacking any idea of its productive value, to visualise what to do with that heavily timbered country. The wealth that has been produced from it since can be closely associated with the great ideas and the vision Sir James Mitchell had when he advocated its settlement. I like to take people through that territory and show them what has been accomplished in such a short period and the foundation that was laid by Sir James, for the men who went out into that territory, and who became great workers under him and on the advice he tendered have turned that country into one of the greatest wheat lands in Australia.

I remember coming back from the war in 1919 feeling very disconsolate because of the difficulties which existed during the drought period of 1914 and seeing the condition of the farm I had left three years before. I wondered whether it was possible for me to go back to that life. I met Sir James, and he asked me how I was getting on. I told him I was trying to make up my mind whether to stay on the land. The word of encouragement he gave to so many he gave to me, and he asked me whether I wanted help. I said I would require a great deal of financial help. He then suggested that I should make an application for a loan. I did so, and to my great surprise the Agricultural Bank approved it. What Sir James did for me, he did for others.

I shall not forget the criticism with which he was faced; nor shall I forget the critics in the newspapers. Men were sent out into the desert and that desert produced. It must stand to his credit and will live long after the memory of him has faded. He then turned his attention to the South-West. I will not agree with the Minister for Agriculture, though he is entitled to his views, that the failure was caused by unsuitable migrants. The failure was caused not through any lack of knowledge on the part of Sir James or the ideals he advocated; it was not because men failed in their work or were dissatisfied, but because we were far too impatient. We tried to produce from land that would not yield the production that we wanted.

But we have made great progress and science has assisted us by way of fertilisers, and I think many will say, "Thank God that this part of the State had the assistance of so great a man as Sir James!" If we had not settled that country, where would our population have been, what would we have had left and what would have been the prospect? We would have been holding this territory with a very small population. Sir James believed in this great country. But he knew that unless we developed it fully, we would not be able to hold it very long; that although our people were very great workers there were other parts of the world that could live on much less and could work longer hours and make much greater use of it.

I want to pay a compliment to the new member of this House, Mr. Henning, who referred to the work done by Sir James Mitchell in the South-West, because he has a thorough knowledge of the subject, having been closely associated with the activities of that district. I believe Sir James was divinely inspired and I know of no fitter end for a man than was his. He served this country continuously almost from his boyhood, as a statesman and as Governor of Western Australia, and just when he was laying down the cares of office his Almighty Maker called him to his eternal rest. That was a wonderful finish for a very great man. I am proud

that I had an opportunity of serving under him for three years at a time when this State, together with the rest of Australia, was experiencing difficult times. His knowledge and his determination helped this State materially to pass through those years of depression, during which I was closely associated with him. I am grateful for the friendship he showed me, and I shall never forget that what I have achieved in public life is due to what he did for me in the way of help and advice. I associate myself with the motion so ably moved by the Minister.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Suburban) [5.32]: I desire to associate myself with the motion and endorse all the remarks that have been made. I feel that I have lost a personal friend with the passing of Sir James Mitchell, who assisted and advised me considerably over the years. As far back as 1927 he helped me at an election, and when I was a member in another place he was extraordinarily helpful and kind. He was a man of very great vision and of tremendous capacity for work; and, furthermore, he was a man who could not be balked in his desires and wishes merely by adverse criticism. He ignored criticism if he thought he was right, and he proved he was correct. The vast wealth that is coming to us from the South-West and from the eastern wheatbelt is a proof of the correctness of his beliefs.

His land settlement scheme was something very dear to his heart. Western Australia as a whole was especially dear to him, and I think I am right in saying that from the time of his appointment as Lieut.-Governor in 1933 he never left this State. His whole interest was here and he travelled the State far and wide on many occasions. Nothing was too much to ask him to do. When he became Premier in 1930, we were entering the first year of the depression. At that time there was no money at all in the Treasury and there was a tremendous number of unemployed. He had to set about feeding the people and seeing that they had sufficient to eat. On account of his success in providing them with work and sustenance, he succeeded in bringing Western Australia out of the depression before any other country in the world. That in itself is a tremendous tribute to him.

The Premier who succeeded Sir James—I refer to the late Phil. Collier—appreciated the wonderful work his predecessor had done and recommended his appointment as Lieut.-Governor instead of having a new Governor selected for this State. That was a tremendous tribute to Sir James and one that was well deserved. I feel that in his passing I have suffered a personal loss, and I think that feeling is shared by every citizen of Western Australia.

HON. H. HEARN (Metropolitan) [5.35]: I desire to associate myself with the motion so movingly submitted by the Minister for Transport. Speaking as a representative of a city constituency, I want to refer to another side of the late Sir James Mitchell's activities. All that has been said regarding his ability in building up the rural industries of this State is quite true. Notwithstanding that, he was also definitely interested in business activities.

I am not sure, but I believe that for at least 33 years he never missed an annual meeting of the Perth Chamber of Commerce. Certainly for a very long period he always graced the annual Association Day celebration of the Commercial Travelers' Association. He was very interested in the secondary industries of Western Australia, and I think it is just as well to pay a tribute to him for that interest. He was a man of vision and, in the words of the poet, he felt that—

The common problem, yours, mine, everyone's,
Is not to fancy what were fair in life
Provided it could be—but, finding first
What may be, then find how to make it fair
Up to our means.

That, I believe, was the late Sir James Mitchell's creed.

HON. E. M. HEENAN (North-East) [5.37]: Although the late Sir James Mitchell's greatest work for this State was in connection with land settlement, he was very well known on the Goldfields and was very widely respected from Wiluna in the north to Esperance in the south. No section of the people of Western Australia held him in higher esteem and respected him more than did the people of the Eastern Goldfields. He regularly attended the annual racing carnival there. That carnival attracts people from all Goldfields centres and is a great occasion, and Sir James invariably attended. He had accepted an invitation to be present this year and he will be greatly missed.

Until recently, I was president of the Fresh Air League, which established a home at Esperance to which we send many hundreds of little children of the underprivileged classes for holidays. When that lovely home was opened a few years ago, Sir James attended the function. He was not well at the time and I think Lady Mitchell was also ill; but because of his love for little children, Sir James travelled all the way to Esperance in order to be present. That was a gesture which was greatly appreciated by our organisation and by the little children themselves. It also exemplified a part of his nature which caused him to be loved so much by all the children of this State.

Sir James lived to make a great name for himself, and the men and women of Western Australia came to respect and admire him. He saw the State he had served so well achieve prosperity, and he

was universally loved by little ones. I am sure this last fact was the one he appreciated most of all. I support the motion, as a representative of the Eastern Goldfields.

HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [5.41]: I support the motion, because I had known the late Sir James for many a year. I link him with many of the stalwart pioneers of the State who have passed on. In particular, I link him with the late Phil. Collier and with Paddy Hannan and Bailey and others, whom I as a child knew, who did so much for the goldmining industry. Only last week I travelled the road from Kalgoorlie to Southern Cross and other mining centres. One has only to make that trip and realise over what country those earlier pioneers had to walk in their search for gold to realise what sort of people they were.

Sir James was well loved throughout my district, the South-East Province. He moved amongst the people in that area and always attended school functions whenever he could. He was a great lover of racing and, as Mr. Heenan has said, was a regular visitor at our cup carnival on the goldfields. Throughout the State children liked to see him and were appreciative of the holiday which he granted them on the day after his visit.

THE PRESIDENT [5.43]: Before putting the motion, I want to say that I cannot express the feelings I had for the late Sir James Mitchell more fittingly than they have been expressed by members who have spoken to the motion. The epitaph which I think would best describe him would be that he was a man of high courage, of great confidence and of great vision, whose love for his State will always be remembered. Particularly was he known as a friend of little children; and that, I think, is the highest encomium that could be given to any man.

Question put and passed; members standing.

Late Hon. H. Tuckey, M.L.C.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland) [5.44]: I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Hobart Tuckey who, at the time of his passing, was a member for the South-West Province, and express its deep sympathy with his widow and the members of his family in the irreparable loss they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to his widow and family.

The late Mr. Tuckey was elected member for the South-West Province in May, 1934, and he died on the 10th of March, 1951, after some months of ill-health. He was born at Mandurah 64 years ago, and began his working life as a telegraphist at the old Fremantle post office. Later, he was postmaster at Narrogin and, following that, at Wagin. He resigned from the P.M.G.'s Department to assist his father, Captain Charles Tuckey, in a fish-canning enterprise. He always took a great interest in local government affairs and was chairman of the Murray Road Board for 30 years, and a member of that board for 35 years.

The late Mr. Tuckey was a Justice of the Peace for Western Australia and South Australia. He was an original member and on two occasions president of the Justices' Association. During his term of service in this Chamber, he was active in advancing the interests of those whom he represented. He was a good friend to all and contributed a great deal to the discussions on matters brought before this House. His wealth of experience in local government affairs was of great value during debates in this Chamber. Mr. Tuckey led a busy and active life and was held in high regard and affection by members of this House.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.47]: I desire to associate myself with the motion. We are all sorry to have lost from our midst the late Hon. Hobart Tuckey. He was a most conscientious gentleman and one who did a remarkable job in local government. I had a great deal to do with him while I was Honorary Minister, and I know that he was held in the very highest respect in the South-West Province and particularly in the Mandurah district. The people of the State and members of Parliament have lost a valued friend. The late Mr. Tuckey at all times set us an example, in that he was completely fair in debate. Though one might hold views opposing his, he was absolutely just; and he never took a mean advantage of anyone. We will all miss him greatly. I support the motion.

HON. L. CRAIG (South-West) [5.49]: I, also, wish to pay my respects and deep tribute to my late colleague, Mr. Hobart Tuckey. Mr. Tuckey was elected to this Chamber three months after I was, though I had known him before then and was aware of the great work he did in the local government sphere. I was associated with him in a great deal of work and found him to be always a man of the highest integrity. I do not remember his ever saying or doing a mean thing, and, in my view, that is the highest praise I can bestow on any man, particularly in politics. The late Mr. Tuckey was extremely popular in the South-West. He came of one of the oldest families in

this State, and I know many of his relatives. I deeply regret his having gone from among us in this Chamber.

HON. R. M. FORREST (North) [5.50]: I desire to support the motion. During the short time that I have been in this Chamber, I got to know the late Mr. Tuckey intimately. He travelled to the North with me two years ago and stayed at my home, out from Onslow. When a person stays in one's home, one gets to know him very well. The late Mr. Tuckey was a man of the highest principles and, having been a road board member myself for 33 or 34 years, I had a great deal in common with him, especially as he represented the South and I the North. It is with deep feeling that I support the motion.

THE PRESIDENT [5.51]: The late Hon. Hobart Tuckey was a friend of every member of this House. As members have pointed out, he had a very high standard of integrity and was an example to the community through the faithful way in which he carried out his duties. During and towards the end of last session, when it was obvious that Mr. Tuckey was very ill, he felt that his duty impelled him to take an even more active part than usual in the affairs of this Chamber and the work that devolved on him as a representative of the South-West Province. By his passing we have lost a most valued member and a good friend.

Question put and passed; members standing.

Late Hon. W. J. Mann, M.L.C.

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
(Hon. C. H. Simpson—Midland) [5.53]: I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered to the State by the late Hon. William Joseph Mann who, at the time of his passing, was a member for the South-West Province, and express its deep sympathy with his widow and the members of his family in the irreparable loss they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be asked to convey the foregoing to his widow and family.

The late Hon. William Joseph Mann was born at Ballarat on the 17th October, 1875. He was a member for the South-West Province for 25 years, from May, 1926. He completed his apprenticeship to the printing trade at Ballarat, and was then attracted to Western Australia by the goldmining boom in 1896. After living at Perth, Fremantle and Kalgoorlie, he went to Busselton in 1903. There he established and became editor of "The South-Western News". For the years 1920 to 1926 he was president of the Provincial Press of W.A. and for the years 1923 to 1925, president of the Australian

Provincial Press. In 1930, the late Mr. Mann represented the Australian Provincial Press at the Empire Press Union Conference in London, following which he made a world tour.

During his years in this Chamber, the late Mr. Mann served as temporary Chairman of Committees, and Deputy President, as well as giving service on a number of Select Committees. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1923. Mr. Mann was an active figure in the political and journalistic life of this State, having a wide experience of men and affairs not only in Western Australia but also in the other States of the Commonwealth and abroad. He was a sincere friend of all members of this House, and took particular pains to encourage and help new members. Despite advancing years, he maintained a youthful attitude towards life, was a cheery companion and a very real source of help and encouragement to us all. We sincerely mourn his passing.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.55]: The late Hon. W. J. Mann and I were close personal friends, though I do not think we agreed on any political question. During my association with him, I received from him a lot of valuable advice. He knew Fremantle well, as he had lived and worked there. Through my association with him, as well as from the records, I know that he was held in high esteem by both the Press and pressmen as a journalist and printer. During the war years he went out of his way to assist returned men. I do not think many people are aware of that but, due to my position as Honorary Minister and liaison Minister with the Services, I know what the late Mr. Mann did to assist the returned men of this State. Throughout the years, he was a good friend to every member in this House. His death was a grievous loss to the State and to this Chamber. I feel certain that it is the wish of all members to express their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Mann and members of her family.

HON. L. CRAIG (South-West) [5.56]: It was with the deepest regret that I heard of the death of the late Hon. W. J. Mann. It came as a great shock to me and, I believe, to all who knew him, as he appeared to be in such obviously good health. Although he had attained a considerable age, I do not think anyone expected his death to occur so suddenly. It came, as I have said, as a great shock to me, as I had been associated with him ever since I entered Parliament. He was a man of great wisdom and extraordinarily good judgment. He advanced in life solely by his own efforts. Starting in a very humble way, he made his mark throughout the State. I was amazed at the number of people in all part of Western Australia who seemed to be acquainted

with him. It may have been due to his association with the newspaper business but, at all events, I think he was as well known as any member of this House. The late Mr. Mann helped me, personally, on many occasions, and I greatly regret the passing of a friend and colleague.

HON. A. L. LOTON (South) [5.57]: I also, Mr. President, desire to express my regret at the passing of the late Hon. W. J. Mann. When I first entered this Chamber he was one of those who went out of their way to extend to me a warm welcome. During the years in which I was associated with him as a member here, we always got on wonderfully well together. In debate, Mr. Mann might have occasion to tell one that one's views were wrong, but he still remained a warm friend. I regret that he never really recovered from the serious accident that befell him. He made light of it, but those who knew him best realised that he suffered considerable pain all the time. It is indeed unfortunate that we should have had to lose two valuable members from this Chamber within such a short time. I deeply regret the passing of our late friend and colleague, Mr. Mann.

HON. J. MURRAY (South-West) [5.58]: I wish to associate myself with the motion for two reasons in particular. Firstly, I feel that I have suffered a great personal loss in the passing of the late Hon. W. J. Mann. For 30 years I have been associated with the South-West portion of this State, and I thought I knew it; but it was not until I met Mr. Mann that I came thoroughly to appreciate the potentialities of our great South-West. The second reason why I wish particularly to associate myself with this motion is that I have had the honour to be elected to represent the South-West Province for the unexpired portion of the late hon. member's term in this Chamber.

HON. SIR FRANK GIBSON (Suburban) [5.59]: It is with a deep sense of personal loss that I associate myself with this motion and the expressions of regret uttered by members in speaking to it. The late Mr. Mann and I had many things in common, the principal of which was that we were both born in Ballarat and that Mr. Mann, in his early life, worked in Fremantle. I know of his wonderful efforts on behalf of the South-West and how he gained the confidence and appreciation of the people with whom he came in contact. He was at all times ready to give, to those who needed it, the benefit of his experience; and in the representation he gave his district he set a standard that will be hard for his successor to maintain.

HON. H. HEARN (Metropolitan) [6.0]: As one who is a comparative newcomer to the House, I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by

the Minister in his motion. It was my privilege to sit by the side of Hon. W. J. Mann during last session. I will always remember him for the extremely warm welcome and the words of encouragement he gave to new members. I well recall the first time I addressed the Chamber. Within two minutes of resuming my seat I received a cheery note from Mr. Mann. He himself was a cheery soul and men who enjoyed his friendship felt it was something rare, refreshing and worthwhile.

HON. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM (South-East) [6.2]: My feelings at the passing of our late colleague are very personal ones. I did not enjoy the pleasure of knowing the late Hon. W. J. Mann for very long after I had entered this Chamber. However, when I was conducting my campaign on the Goldfields he approached me in Kalgoorlie. That was the first time I had ever spoken to him or knew of him; but I believe that the assistance and advice which he gave to me at that time helped to make it possible for me to share with him the honour of being a member of this House. He was a man capable of great depths of kindness and gentleness. Any new member of this House seemed to throw out a challenge to Mr. Mann to help and advise him, and no-one had to ask him for his guidance. He tendered advice and assistance in such a way that one could not but realise the depth of affection that he felt for any man to whom the breaking-in period was hard. I believe that those of us who knew him cannot help feeling that we have lost someone extremely great, and members of this House who have not had the pleasure of sitting with him and partaking of his assistance and hospitality are the poorer.

HON. H. S. W. PARKER (Suburban) [6.4]: The passing of Hon. W. J. Mann is a great loss to this Chamber. He was a most kind and gentle person, and a man of great ability, who had a keen desire to know as much as he could about the country. I remember that on one occasion he went far North under rather trying circumstances purely for the purpose of improving his knowledge of recent developments in those parts. During my parliamentary career I have had various duties to perform in his province, and he always proved of great assistance to me in taking me round his constituency, especially at Collie. He seemed to be known by everybody as a true man and one who showed both tolerance and ability. His death is indeed a great loss, not only to this Chamber but also, I feel sure, to the members of his province and particularly to the members of the volunteer fire brigades. He showed extreme interest in their work and attended all their large demonstrations and meetings;

and, again, at those gatherings he seemed to be known by all and sundry. I trust that this motion and the expressions that have been made concerning our late colleague will assist in some way in lightening the burden of bereavement of his widow and family.

HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [6.7]: I feel that even though so many have spoken to the motion and associated themselves with the remarks made by the Minister, I cannot let pass this opportunity of adding my remarks, because when I entered this Chamber last year I enjoyed the same friendliness and received the same help from Hon. W. J. Mann as other members did when they first came here. As the Minister said, he came from Ballarat. My people also belonged to that city and were friends of Mr. Mann. Because of that I considered that possibly he had singled me out for more attention and advice than he had given other members. However, it appears that what he did for me was the same as he did for all who entered this House. The motion is a fitting tribute and homage to this great man. By giving sympathetic consideration to new members on their first appearance here he has set an example which I hope will be followed by every member in this Chamber. I wish to associate myself with the motion.

HON. R. M. FORREST (North) [6.8]: I cannot let this motion pass without paying my tribute. I feel I have lost a very dear friend in the death of Joe Mann. He and I were great friends. In the past I travelled extensively with him throughout the South-West and I stayed at his home in Busselton on many occasions. He was a man of extremely high principles and he had a keen sense of humour. He was kind and he ably assisted most of us in this Chamber. I am most grieved at his passing.

THE PRESIDENT [6.9]: I, too, wish to associate myself with the expressions of regret that have been voiced by the Minister and members at the loss of our dear friend, Hon. W. J. Mann. He was a personal friend of every member in this House. He was sympathetic of nature, had a very wide knowledge of affairs, and was generous in his attitude towards all those to whom he spoke, and particularly to those whom he loved. Joe Mann was a person of extreme tolerance, whose passing is regretted by all of us. Death has taken heavy toll recently in this Chamber, and I know we all feel that in the passing of Hon. W. J. Mann we have lost a colleague whose work and knowledge will be greatly missed by the whole of the State.

Question put and passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 7th August, 1951.

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

MOTIONS—CONDOLENCE.

Late Hon. Sir James Mitchell, G.C.M.G.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray) [4.32]: I move—

That this House place on record its sincere appreciation of the long and devoted public service rendered to this State by the late Sir James Mitchell and that an expression of sincere sympathy of all members at his passing be conveyed to his family by Mr. Speaker.

I am sure that this motion will receive the approval of all members. The late Sir James Mitchell, whose term of office as Governor of Western Australia expired on the 30th June last, had a long and distinguished public career. Sir James devoted a lifetime of service to Western Australia. He entered Parliament in 1905 and represented the constituency of Northam continuously until 1933—a very long period of representation of one constituency. He served as Minister of the Crown for over 14 years, administering during that time a number of major portfolios. He was appointed Premier of the State in 1919 and held that office for eight years. For six years he acted as Leader of the Opposition.