

Question passed, and the Council's amenement agreed to.

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message returned to the Council accordingly.

[Sitting suspended for 15 minutes, awaiting messages from the Council.]

PROROGATION ARRANGEMENTS.

THE PREMIER: I purpose that the prorogation shall take place at half-past three o'clock to-morrow, therefore I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until three o'clock to-morrow. I am sure I express the opinion of the leader of the Opposition and the leader of the Labour party as well as of myself when I say I hope to-morrow at three o'clock there will be as full attendance as possible, for I am glad to say we shall then have the presence of our esteemed Speaker (general applause) to witness the prorogation, and I hope there will be a large attendance of members in their seats to welcome him again and to express the hope that he will next session come back quite restored. Therefore I hope members will make it a personal duty to be in their places at three o'clock, that we may welcome back our Speaker to witness the prorogation after a somewhat arduous session. After moving the adjournment, I shall to-morrow have another opportunity of making a few remarks; but I express a personal wish, and know I re-echo the wish of the member for Northampton and the member for Kanowna, that there will be a full attendance of members to-morrow to welcome back our Speaker.

Question passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 11-30 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Saturday, 20th December, 1902.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 8 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS, CLOSE OF SESSION.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. A. Jameson): Mr. President, this being the last occasion of our meeting during the present session, the desire of every member is that I should express to you our high appreciation of the admirable manner in which you have presided over our deliberations. [MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] In paying this tribute of regard, we are especially conscious of the strict impartiality you have invariably shown towards every member, thus securing that efficiency of debate which is indispensable to the proceedings of so important a body as this House. We fully recognise, moreover, that you have so carefully studied and are so thoroughly versed in those great constitutional principles on which our procedure and our Standing Orders are based as to justify unreservedly the confidence and reliance with which your rulings are received. May I offer, sir, my congratulations on the long term of valuable service you have in many important offices given to this State; and may I urge you, as one born in this State, to consider that your duty still lies in the guidance of the public affairs of Western Australia? It is the most earnest wish of every member that you may have long life, and that you may be granted a very long term of enjoyment of the honourable position which you hold. Your position, sir, is honourable not only in that you preside over such a House as this, but in that you hold a high place in the goodwill, the confidence, and the esteem of every member. [MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] I have to convey the thanks of members also to our Chairman of Committees (Hon. H. Briggs), our Clerk (Mr. Hillman), and our Usher of the Black Rod (Mr.

Hickling), who have always shown the utmost readiness to assist us in the many difficult matters we have had to deal with during a long session. I am sure all of us recognise that we have received every possible consideration and courtesy at the hands of our officers. I must not resume my seat without referring to my honourable friend and colleague Mr. Moss. Not only do I feel personally grateful to him for what he has done on my behalf, but I feel sure that every member recognises how valuable and important to the State is the work which our honourable friend has done during this session. [MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] Not only has that work been done in connection with legal matters, but also in connection with those broad, general matters of which Mr. Moss has such wide knowledge. My colleague's assistance has been such as to lessen materially the labours of members in general. It is certain that but for his assistance debates necessarily would have been frequently adjourned in order to allow of my acquiring farther information. Mr. Moss's information on legal and constitutional questions has been placed at the service of the House entirely without fee or consideration. I am indeed grateful for what Mr. Moss has done, and I am sure every member considers that he has acted nobly. His services, I have no doubt, are appreciated throughout the length and breadth of the State. I cannot express all I feel. Doubtless it has struck many members that Mr. Moss has done more than the leader of the House, and I believe such is the fact. I assure hon. members that this has resulted not from any indolence on my part, but from my recognition of the circumstance that many measures could be more efficiently dealt with by Mr. Moss than by myself. In the interests of the House and of the State, I deemed it advisable that many measures should be carried through by him. I thank you all, honourable members, for the kindness and thoughtfulness you have displayed through a long, difficult, and arduous session, and I wish you, with my whole heart, all the joys of this bright season of peace and goodwill. I hope you may carry the full feeling of comfort which springs from the Christmas season in your souls and to your

homes, so that when another session comes you may be revived and recreated, and ready to take up the work in the same spirit as you have shown in the past. Again I thank you most sincerely for the kindness you have shown towards myself.

HON. G. RANDELL: I have much pleasure in indorsing the opinions which have been expressed by the leader of the House, especially in regard to yourself, Mr. President. It is a great source of satisfaction and pleasure to members to know that in you we have one who will always maintain the rights and privileges of this House—from your knowledge and experience you are well able to do so. There have not been wanting occasions on which rights and privileges have had to be maintained, and I for one am pleased to observe your readiness to take a firm stand. I join also in the expression of the wish that you will long live to preside over the deliberations of this honourable House, and that its deliberations may be attended with benefit to the country in which we live. I think I may say that during this session there have been afforded plain and distinct proofs of how necessary a Legislative Council is in this State; otherwise we may have laws thrown upon us which may not be for the benefit of the community at large. I join also with the hon. gentleman in expressing thanks to the officers of the House who have so courteously and ably assisted in the labours of the Legislative Council; and I echo the expression of the wish that they all may enjoy a happy and pleasant season at this time of the year.

THE PRESIDENT: I thank Dr. Jameson very sincerely for his kind expressions as to the manner in which I have conducted the high and responsible duties intrusted to me. To one occupying the position I have the honour to hold, the privileges of this House are intrusted. It has always been my endeavour during the term of ten years which I have now held this office to maintain the rights and privileges of the Legislative Council, and I think that in no session have more occasions arisen than in the present one where the Legislative Council have exercised their rights as to the amendment of the different measures brought before them. I thank Dr. Jameson also in the name of the

Chairman of Committees, the Clerk, and the Usher of the Black Rod. I am sure they are actuated only by the same feelings as myself. We wish to do everything in our power to maintain the rights and privileges of the House, and also to maintain the dignity of this the first Parliamentary Chamber in the State. Having spoken on behalf of the officers of Parliament, I wish now to pay my tribute to the Honourable Dr. Jameson, the leader of our House, for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of his position during the past session. It is no easy task to fill that office. I, as you know, had the honour of being the leader of the House for two years, and the responsibilities cast upon one holding that position are very urgent indeed. I am sure you will agree with me that Dr. Jameson has carried out those duties not only to the satisfaction of this House, but also to the satisfaction of the Ministry which he represents. In past years not only myself when leader of the House, but my successor, Mr. Parker, and also Sir Edward Wittenoom, felt the inconvenience occasioned through there being no one to assist in the duties; but during the past session Dr. Jameson has had the privilege of having an honorary Minister to aid him. I wish to convey our thanks to Dr. Jameson, the leader of the House, and also to the honorary Minister, Mr. Moss, for the able manner in which they have carried out the important duties which have been intrusted to them.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I may say I very highly appreciate the kindly remarks that you, Mr. President, have made with regard to the duties I have attended to here, and also the goodwill of all the members of this House. At the same time I may say that the position is not an easy one by any means.

We seem to have, particularly in a session like this, comparatively little work to do at the earlier period of the session, and then we have a vast amount, a congested paper, towards the latter end, so that the position of Minister is a very difficult one, and I think I owe to members of this House in some measure an apology for not having always had the materials at command which I ought to have had; but when another member comes to take my place, I think you will find he will

have greater sympathy perhaps for me than he has to-day. I can assure you the difficulty is very great, when one has a large department to administer, to get up all the details in regard to the great variety of Bills that come to this House; and, as I say, had I not had the assistance of my honourable friend, Mr. Moss, I really do not know how I could have got through the work of the session. I do hope that in future sessions of Parliament here an effort will be made to have the important measures brought up at an earlier period in the session, so that full time will be given to the deliberation of these important measures. I think that a great deal of sympathy is due to this House from the general community in regard to the way we had to consider measures of vast importance at the very last moment of the session. Although it has been my duty to bring these measures before you and carry them through as rapidly as possible, I have often felt sympathy with those who have, perhaps, been opposing me on account of the very short time they have had for consideration, and I have often thought that if I had been in their shoes I should have taken exactly a similar line. However, that is all over now, and we have got through our work I think very satisfactorily. I can only say, in so far as I am concerned, my endeavour has always been to bring before you measures to deal with the rights and liberties of the people as clearly as possible, showing all sides of the question; not from any party point of view. I have always insisted—if I should not have the opportunity of insisting here again—that a party spirit is a very undesirable spirit in this Chamber. If party spirit enters into this Chamber, the work must be retarded, and it cannot be such good work as it would otherwise be. There is plenty of party in the other place. Here we have to criticise measures and take them deliberately, letting no personal feeling enter into questions that come before us, so that we may come to a substantial and rational conclusion. I thank you for the kindly expressions you have made in reference to myself, and whatever one's future may be in regard to this House, I feel that I shall look back to the time I have spent in this Chamber with very great pleasure. I have now

been some two or three years taking an active part in its affairs, and it may be that I shall not be here much longer. However, that is a matter which I am not quite convinced of yet, but whatever part of the Empire my work may lie in it shall always be my endeavour to assist the great ends of justice and liberty among British people. I am one of those who believe that the destiny and mission of the British race is to carry justice and righteousness into every nation of the earth, and whether it be in this State or any other State, or in any of our great colonies, still the object is always the same, to bring about justice among all our people. That has been the great function of the British nation, and I hope it is a view which will always be upheld in this Chamber, which has done so much good work for this State. Again, I thank you, sir, for the very kindly tribute brought before me to-day, and I thank every member of this House.

PROROGATION—ASSENT TO BILLS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR entered the Chamber at half-past three o'clock, and commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, who accordingly arrived with their Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER presented the Appropriation Bill, to which his Excellency assented.

HIS EXCELLENCY also gave assent to the following Bills, in addition to Bills assented to previously :—

"An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from Moneys to Credit of the General Loan Fund and from Loan Suspense Account to the Services of the Year ending the last day of June, One thousand nine hundred and three, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament."

"An Act for the Closing of certain Roads and Streets."

"An Act to enable the purpose of portions of Permanent Reserves No. 5691A and No. 5183A to be changed."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Tramway from Broome Townsite to the head of Broome Jetty."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Tramway from the head of Derby Jetty to Derby Townsite."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Tramway from Ashburton Townsite to the head of Ashburton Jetty."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the Construction of a Tramway in the Municipality of Leonora."

"An Act to amend the Criminal Code."

"An Act to regulate the Droving of Travelling Stock."

"An Act to further amend 'The Police Act, 1892.'"

"An Act to impose Duties in respect of Dividends or Profits of Incorporated Companies."

"An Act to constitute the Goldfields Water Supply Board, and to define the Powers and Duties of the Board, and for other purposes incidental thereto."

"An Act to deal with the Rabbit Pest."

"An Act to amend the Railways Acts."

"An Act to further amend 'The Health Act, 1898.'"

"An Act to determine the rates of Salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court."

"An Act to confirm a Further Provisional Order to amend, extend, and vary certain Provisional Orders authorising the Construction of Tramways in the City of Perth."

"An Act to further amend 'The Municipal Institutions Act, 1900.'"

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Robb's Jetty to Woodman's Point."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Malcolm to Laverton."

"An Act to further amend 'The Cemeteries Act, 1897.'"

"An Act to amend 'The Fisheries Act, 1899.'"

"An Act to further amend 'The Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1880.'"

"An Act to authorise the Grant of a Special Lease to the Kalgoorlie Electric Power and Lighting Corporation, Limited."

"An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Collie to Collie-Boulder."

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Public Works."

"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Road Boards."

His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I am pleased to be able to release you at the conclusion of a session from which so much good work has resulted owing to your long and arduous labour.

The Coronation of His Majesty the King on the 9th August, and his complete restoration to health, caused profound pleasure throughout the State.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I thank you, in the name of His Majesty, for the liberal supplies that you have voted.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

The prospects of the State are still buoyant, and though temporary difficulties are being experienced in absorbing the surplus labour now available, it is confidently hoped that the prosecution of the works authorised by Parliament, and the natural progress of the industries of the State, will within a few months overcome the difficulty. In the meantime any accession to the number of those in search of employment is to be deprecated.

On the 26th January next the Right Honourable Sir John Forrest, G.C.M.G., will turn on the water and perform the opening ceremony in connection with the Goldfields Water Scheme. The members of the Federal Parliament and other distinguished public men have been invited from the Eastern States to attend the ceremony. It is the confident anticipation of my Ministers, and will, I am sure, be the heartfelt wish of every other member of the community, that this great scheme will justify the hopes of its originators and be the precursor of other similar attempts to solve the problem of developing the arid interior of the continent.

I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 19th May next.

The session the closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Saturday, 20th December, 1902.

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THE SPEAKER (Sir Jas. G. Lee Steere) took the Chair at 3 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MR. SPEAKER—CONGRATULATION.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): Before we proceed to the business of the day, may I seize this opportunity of expressing to you, Mr. Speaker, the pleasure of every member in the House to see you back occupying that Chair which for so many years you have filled. We feel, sir, with you in the Chair—and I say this without the least disrespect to those who have so kindly taken your place during your illness—that the House is itself again when you are in the Chair. During the whole period of your illness, hon. members have watched with sympathetic interest the progress you were making towards recovery, and everyone individually and collectively are glad to see you again in our midst. We do hope most sincerely, sir, that during the course of the recess you will be entirely restored to health, and at the beginning of the next session will come back strong and vigorous, and that for many years we shall still have the privilege of having you as our distinguished head and Speaker. (General applause.)

MR. J. L. NANSON (Murchison): I join with great pleasure, on behalf of members of this (Opposition) side of the House, in congratulating you, sir, on your return