

tin, copper, and other things. The hon. member would find minerals all over it. I have been over a large extent of it. When travelling about one cannot shut his eyes to the deposits of mineral wealth which exist in the North-West district. There is not the slightest doubt that goldfields have been a great attraction here, and it is to the interests of all of us to keep them going; but at the same time, if we have other goldfields, let us do all we can to develop them, because the more goldfields we have, the greater and quicker will be the increase of prosperity, population, and wealth, which we all wish for. I apologise to the House for the time I have taken on my first appearance here. I thank members for the kind way they received me when I got up, and I hope we shall all be able to work together for the good of this State. Whatever may crop up, all we are working for is the general advancement of Western Australia and of the people who come to this growing State. (General applause.) I may congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your restoration to health, and I, like the mover of the Address-in-Reply, hope we shall long live to see you still presiding over this House. (General applause.) The Speaker has done lengthy and good service for this State as long as I can remember. I remember his coming to the State first, and almost ever since he has been in the State he has taken a leading part in its politics. I also trust that the Government will be returned to power at the general election stronger than ever, because in my opinion the stronger a Government is the more and the better is the work it can do. Without taking up the time of the House any more, I beg to second the Address-in-reply, and to thank members for the hearing they have given me. (General applause.)

On motion by Mr. PIGOTT, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until the next Wednesday afternoon, at half-past 4 o'clock.

Question put and passed.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned accordingly.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 21st July, 1903.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Regulations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

STANDING ORDERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill) moved:—

That the following Joint Standing Rules and Orders relating to the election of a Senator to the Federal Parliament be adopted, and that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will be pleased to approve of the same. [Six Standing Orders, as printed in Votes and Proceedings.]

He said: In moving the motion I feel that not many words are needed. The object is to provide Rules and Standing Orders for the election of a member to fill a vacancy in the Federal Parliament caused by the resignation of Senator Ewing. The Standing Orders now before the House comply with the requirements of the section of the Commonwealth Constitution Act which provides for the election of a member to fill any vacancy; in the first place, if the House is sitting, by directly exercising the powers of the House regarding the election of such a member; and in the second place, it is provided that if the House is not in session at the time of such resignation, the Government shall in the first instance appoint the member, and that within 14 days of the meeting of Parliament the question shall be referred to a joint sitting of both Houses. The proposed Standing Orders have, I understand, been framed as and are practically a replica of the Standing Orders introduced into the Victorian Parliament on the recent occurrence of the resignation of a Victorian

Senator. They have been scanned and brought into form by the President of the Legislative Council, by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and by the Premier. I think, therefore, that hon. members need have no hesitation in adopting them. One point I desire to emphasise is that these Standing Orders provide that the gentleman, whoever he may be, elected to the vacant senatorship shall be acceptable to both Houses, since the Standing Orders demand that he shall be elected by an absolute majority of both Houses at a joint sitting. I beg to move the motion.

Question put and passed.

Resolved, that the President do present the new Standing Orders to the Governor, for approval.

Ordered, that a message be transmitted to the Assembly, acquainting them with the action taken by the Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

SECOND DAY OF DEBATE.

Resumed from the previous Thursday.
HON. WESLEY MALEY (South-East): I join with the mover and seconder of the Address in expressing gratification at the fact that His Excellency the Governor is pleased with the reception accorded him by the people of the State. I desire, further, to express my personal pleasure at the Colonial Secretary's appointment to the leadership of this House. In dealing with the Speech laid before hon. members I purpose to touch at some length on certain transactions which have taken place in connection with pastoral lands. Since I have had the honour of occupying a seat in this Chamber hardly a session has been held but I have essayed to bring forward a motion dealing with the Lands Department, more particularly with its administration; but unfortunately I have not received from hon. members privately such promises of support as would induce me to pursue the matter farther. I think, however, that I have now sufficient evidence to put before the House to enable me to prove, not only that the administration of the Lands Department is somewhat careless, but also that the Government themselves have gone out of the way, in some instances, to do things

which Parliament has not directed them to do and which in the interests of the State ought not to have been done. I trust that the statements I shall make will be carefully examined by hon. members, especially as my remarks follow in the wake of certain transactions which the present Government had with the Occidental Syndicate. I have already voiced my opinion on those transactions, and there is no need for me to refer to them again. I shall condense my remarks as much as circumstances will allow, more particularly because I desire to refer to a personal matter, to certain transactions with the Lands Department in which I am concerned. I am loth to bring the subject forward at all, but the flippant manner in which the Premier has referred to it and to the injury which has been done the State renders it necessary that a proper statement of the facts should be laid before the House, and that certain strictures should be passed on the Administration which allows such loose things to be done. The facts are these. Up to about 1891 a huge area of land was held in the Eucla division by a syndicate. Certain persons held nearly fifty million acres of pastoral land in that division. I need hardly say that they made no use of their holding, although they paid rent on it for several years. As circumstances have turned out, I venture to say that the syndicate which followed in the footsteps of these persons would have had a similar experience, that its members would not have derived a shilling profit from their outlay. They have merely paid by way of rent something like £1,600, of which amount some £400 or £500 has been returned as representing a half-year's rent. The circumstances in that part of the country are such that it is only reasonable to expect that those who embark in the pastoral industry on the tableland north of Eucla will come to grief. Indeed, I may say that the syndicate I refer to is, as a whole, pleased at the turn things have taken. I am the only member of the syndicate with reason to complain. I do not complain of the refunding of the money, but I do complain that I should have been singled out for such treatment as has never before been meted out, either in this State or in any other, to a person applying

for pastoral lands lying waste and open to selection. If the Government were asleep as regards pastoral lands, if the Government, not knowing the value of those lands, intended to bore on them for water, and intended further to invite the Federal Government to construct a railway through them, then it was the bounden duty of Ministers to make a reserve of those lands and exclude them from pastoral application. However, no such thing was done; and I say it is unfair, indeed I say it is scarcely honest, that people should be allowed to pioneer country like that, should be invited by advertisement to inspect it, and that then, when they come to the Lands Office to lodge their application and deposit their money, they should be told "No; you cannot have the land." The position, I maintain, is just the same as that of a prospector taking up new gold-bearing country. Neither the Premier nor the Minister for Lands would dare to refuse the prospector's application for a lease simply because the land in question was of more value to the State than were other lands held under gold-mining lease. This country has known hundreds of instances where rich patches of gold have been found by prospectors, who have enjoyed the benefit of their discoveries; and I say it should be the same with the pastoralist who discovers new lands, or who proposes to take up surrendered lands which are offered by the Government for occupation. The Government are keeping these four million acres of land as a nursery for rabbits. That is exactly what it is to-day, and so powerful have the rabbits become that a large number of pastoralists have forfeited their runs during the past 12 months since the Premier Downs Syndicate applied for the land. I think no less than 16 blocks have been forfeited during this time. Last January lots were forfeited there, and we have the evidence of Messrs. Kennedy and Magill, or one member of the firm, who says they sold out after 13 years, and were glad to get away to escape the rabbits. The Government tried to sell some of the forfeited leases after refusing the Premier Downs Syndicate in November last year. By the way, the Government kept the money belonging to this syndicate from July to November, and at the end of November

refused the application. We find now that the Government are offering for sale by auction in Perth forfeited leases, pastoral land similar in every respect to that in this vicinity but in a better position, with the result that not a bid has been received for them. The Premier, in the majesty of his position and having no particularly kind feeling towards myself, sees fit to refuse my application, and now wishes to brand me before the State as the biggest "monopolist" in Western Australia. He referred to me in these terms, in an interview with a reporter of the *West Australian*. He has referred to "monopolists" in the Town Hall in Perth, and he has been trotting out this term with a certain personal animus to myself.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Is the hon. member in order in using that term?

HON. W. MALEY: I think I can show that I am in order when I draw attention to the way the Premier has treated other people who have applied for pastoral lands.

THE PRESIDENT: The Colonial Secretary referred to the term "personal animus," which seems rather a strong term.

HON. W. MALEY: I wish to pass a remark or two in reference to that interview. The Premier said that early in last November (in 1902) he became aware that large areas of land had been applied for. As soon as he became aware of the applications, they were referred to Cabinet and at once emphatically refused. That sounds all very well by itself; but when we come to the minute written by Dr. Jameson, which was laid on the table of the House, dated the 29th of September, nearly two months previously, we find that the applications were referred to Cabinet and refused before the 29th of September—two months before the date given by the Premier. Then there is another statement given by the Premier that Mr. Maley used his position in the Legislative Council to ask a series of questions, and then he moved the motion that all the papers be laid on the table of the House. I find *Hansard* also contradicts the Premier, and if members will turn up *Hansard*, page 2532, vol. XXII., they will find that it was another member of the House who moved that the papers be laid on the table. I refer to Dr. Jameson's minute again, dated 29th of

September. He says: "This matter cannot be settled in a hurry." They had the applications in July. Notwithstanding anything the Premier may say, and he has said something to the contrary, the Government were provided with the plans because the syndicate employed a licensed surveyor, and lodged the plans with the application in July. The other applications to which I shall refer later were only lodged three days before those of the Premier Downs Syndicate. But they were dealt with immediately, notwithstanding that there was some overlapping, and the matter had to receive special treatment; but the applications were approved in the following month of August. Then again the Premier stated that the Government were at their own expense testing the water capabilities of the country at the time he first became aware of the application. Now as the applications were put in in July, before the boring party left Perth, I do not need to flatly contradict the Premier and use an unparliamentary expression, as the Colonial Secretary, who is watching so closely, would call me to order for so doing. I think I have given members sufficient particulars of the matter with which I was connected myself, and I proceed now to deal with another question referring to other persons who applied for land in that territory described by the late Minister for Lands (Dr. Jameson) as the "Great Northern country," and which was reported on by Dr. McCrossland. Speaking on the 24th of July, Dr. Jameson referred to the opening up of harbours and the establishment of cold storage, and a fortnight later four persons, named Smith, Gunter, Roscoe Parker, and Frank Johnson, applied for land. These names must all be familiar to members of the House, because the persons seem to have received special treatment at the hands of the Government. Each of these gentlemen applied for a block of land; I think I am correct in saying their blocks overlapped those of other people, and each of these applicants had granted to him 250,000 acres of some of the finest ground in the vicinity of Napier Broome Bay. There is a board which affects to protect the State, and to select the applicants when more than one person applies for land. This board is supposed

to select the fittest applicant. Four of these gentlemen were selected as the fittest; and I am sorry for the Government and the country that this proved to be such a bad selection. Having paid £250 for a half-year's rent for this million acres of land, the promoters proceeded to finance their cold-storage scheme, which was, I think, first propounded by, or at all events heard of by me in this House from, the Hon. Dr. Jameson. On the 10th January, 1903, five months after the promoters got the land, they registered a company called "The North-West Australian Land and Cold Storage Company, Limited." Though North-West Australia is in Western Australia, I think few hon. members have ever before heard of this company. The signatories to its articles of association are the people who applied in Perth for the land; but the company was not registered in Perth, as a *bona fide* undertaking supported by the Government should be: it was registered, not in England but in Guernsey. Having registered this company in Guernsey and so concealed all tracks, the promoters proceeded to trade off their property. But I must first tell the House that I have read the company's articles of association, which are of tremendous length; and they conclude with a few words stating that one of the objects is "particularly the purchase of land in the Kimberley District of Western Australia." The only properties of the company were the leases numbered as follows: 387/98, 388/98, 389/98, and 390/98. Then a day or two afterwards they proceeded to register their company in London, and subsequently, early in the year, they sold the land for the sum of £50,000. Now the Government are discriminating, and the Premier likes to snap his fingers at Parliament; he likes to select applicants, and refuses the applications of local people who will go out into the wilds where men have been before and failed—the applications of men who have the pluck to embark on such an enterprise, and who have the money available to put into it. The Premier rejects such applicants, and then lets four men come in with apparently not sixpence among them, and take a million acres of some of the finest land in Australia, with a 40-inch rainfall and rivers

of running water—men who, having paid the Government £250 for this property, float it off for £50,000. I do not blame the promoters for making money out of the Government, but that part of the Kimberley country is valuable. Members will recollect a resolution passed last session in this House, suggesting that the attention of the Imperial Government be drawn to the advisableness of breeding their remounts in the Kimberley district. That was on the 18th February, 1902. The Government then proclaimed a reserve of a million acres on the shore of Napier Broome Bay. On the 4th December, 1902, I asked in this House whether the Government intended advertising this property. I noticed that the Brockman country, in Kimberley, had not been advertised in any newspapers either here or in the Eastern States. From the answers to my questions I discovered that this great patrimony of Western Australia, this magnificent country with its heavy rainfall and its running water, was dealt with just like the Eucla country—left open to be taken up by anybody who could get information as to its value. I say no Government in Australia ever had a better chance to make a name for itself than had this Government in dealing with that country in the Kimberley district.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: A report was published.

HON. W. MALEY: The answers to my questions can be seen in *Hansard*, to the effect that the report and the *Gazette* notice were the only advertisements published by the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The report was a pretty fair advertisement.

HON. W. MALEY: Yes; to those who saw it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It appeared in the Press.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: The Government ought to be ashamed of themselves for not advertising more in the Press.

HON. W. MALEY: There may be some humour in this to Dr. Hackett.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: No humour to me. I am one of the victims.

HON. W. MALEY: Perhaps you do not perceive it so distinctly as I do.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I must confess I do not.

HON. W. MALEY: Certainly the Government advertised the reserve; and in

so doing I think they were wise. But what arrangements did the Government make with regard to the minimum area which they allotted? According to our Act, the minimum area for a pastoral lease in Kimberley is, in certain circumstances, 20,000 acres, and in others 50,000. But here we have a reserve thrown open and a minimum area fixed at 250,000 acres! If that be intended to allow the "small man" to come in, and to exclude the monopolist, the plan adopted is most novel. It is very well for the Premier and the Government to pose before the country as opponents of monopolies. But in this instance, at any rate, the Government have favoured monopoly by making the minimum in this reserve 250,000 acres, in spite of the wish of Parliament as shown in our Acts. I cannot say positively, but have been informed on fair authority, that the same syndicate secured a portion of that reserve also, and to all appearance the Government went out of their way to assist these monopolists to get a "cut in." Then we have a third batch of applications received for the Kimberley country. In respect of these there was no reserve; but there again the Government increased the minimum to 80,000 acres, again strengthening the position of the monopolist, again excluding the "small man."

We find that of this reserve one firm, Messrs. Copley & Co., secured 1,387,000 acres; and now those in possession of the blocks are, I believe, urging the Government to provide cold storage. In my opinion, it would have been far better had the Government disposed of that country in such a manner that the monopolists securing those big estates should also provide their own cold storage, and not seek to get from the public purse the means of running their business, after obtaining those huge gifts of land which are worth £50,000 for a million acres.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: We cannot prevent people from seeking to do things of that sort.

HON. W. MALEY: No; but I trust the Government will not encourage them. I do not know how many members take the same view as I; but I consider that in the administration of these big areas this country has sustained a great and incalculable loss. In policing that district

and doing necessary public works therein, practically the same expense must be incurred as if people of moderate means owned the property, with no compensating advantage in the fact that the property, instead of being owned by the State, is in the hands of English investors. I now come to another item in the Speech—the Collie-Narrogin Railway. I believe that is the term a former Minister of Lands applied to this railway from Collie through Narrogin to the goldfields. I notice in the Speech that it is to run from Collie to a point on the Great Southern Railway. I hope that point will be fixed to the satisfaction of the settlers along the line. The broad-gauge railway from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie does not appear to me to be needed at the present time; but probably it will come within the sphere of practical politics during the construction of the Transcontinental Railway, which may commence in a few years. Now I come to the civil service, and the method of dealing with officials. I have ascertained that one officer had his service dispensed with, and received a pension of £50 or £60 a year. He enjoyed this pension for a very short period, when he was called on to resume service at a place called Broome, in the North-West; and I understand that the Government, after practically turning him out of the service and bringing him back again, have now compensated him by paying him a lump sum. As another instance, a clerk of courts was disrated, after about nine years' service. His salary was reduced by some £50 to £100 per annum; yet he has now been selected to fill the vacancy at Broome at £200 a year and £60 allowances. I do not think anyone found fault with that officer's work when he was clerk of courts; and it seems hard that a married man with a family should be reduced to £100 a year, when the fact that he was worth more is proved by the Government taking him back into the service, and giving him £200 a year and £60 allowances. These instances have come under my notice without my going out of my way to seek them; and if they are samples of the method in which our civil servants are treated, we need not wonder that the service is not more efficient; in fact, as regards the railway service particularly, I wonder that it is as efficient

as we now find it. Members must acknowledge that if civil servants do not know from one day to another what to expect, there is no security for them as regards either their positions or their pay.

HON. J. E. RICHARDSON (North) : I desire to make a few remarks. I will not detain the House very long. With reference to the paragraph stating that His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Sir Frederick Bedford as Governor to this State, I think the State is to be congratulated on that appointment. I also have to congratulate the Colonial Secretary on his appointment as leader of this House. He was previously the member for Pilbarra, and I hope that if anything comes before this House relating to the needs of that district he will not forget those requirements.

HON. J. W. HACKETT : He has deserted them now, you know.

HON. J. E. RICHARDSON : Regarding the paragraph as to the Civil Service Commission, I have read reports by that Commission, and in my opinion a great many of its recommendations are impracticable. I do not think they will suit the circumstances of this State, especially in the outlying districts and the Northern parts. I notice that the Auditor General says that it cost nearly £6,000. In my opinion that is an unnecessary expenditure, for the good the Commission will do. I agree with the mover of the Address-in-reply, the Hon. Mr. Briggs, that the eve of a general election of another House and of part of this House is not the time to deal with the Constitution. The next Parliament ought to be the one to make any reforms that are considered necessary. Paragraphs 13 to 16 are in my opinion important parts of this Speech. Paragraph 15 says : "To meet the increasing needs of the State, further public works are necessary to open up additional areas to population and development," and the next paragraph says : "Developments at Laverton justify the extension to that town of the railway now being built to Morgans." Whilst I was thinking over these remarks it struck me that there was another district badly in want of a railway, but I am sorry to say there is no mention of anything being done there. I allude to the railway from Port

Hedland to Marble Bar. That also would open up additional areas to population and development. I also think that if that were put in hand it would absorb a lot of the unemployed, not only in work on the railway, but by inducing a number to go out prospecting. I myself think that district will turn out as great a gold-producing part of the State as any we have, and that if it had only been situated somewhere near the Eastern Goldfields it would have had a railway long ago, but it is so far away from the centre of civilisation that its wants and capabilities pass unheeded. Mr. Briggs made mention of the Northern parts of the district. I have to thank him for his kindly reference to them, and I regret with him that there was no mention made of the great pastoral industries in the North. I allude to the Gascoyne and the North-West and far North. Before gold was discovered those districts were the mainstay of Western Australia, but gold having come in now, and also the pearling industry, those places have passed out of notice altogether. The hon. member may be considered a disinterested person, and his remarks should, I think, carry some weight. If more members would take a disinterested, broad view of the requirements of the different districts, the State would, in my opinion, be better off. I will not detain the house farther. I support the motion.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan): The mover and seconder of the Address have fully gone into the Governor's Speech, and I am much in agreement with what has been said. Certainly I am with the speakers in their approval of the Speech in general, as well as some of the objections they have taken to certain items in the bill of fare which has been placed before us. I would echo the sentiment which has fallen from every member who has spoken with reference to the arrival of His Excellency the Governor in our midst. I trust that the stay here of His Excellency and his family will be a happy one, and that we shall have cause to speak of him in the same terms as those in which we spoke of the late Governor, Sir Arthur Lawley. I am also very pleased to see the Honourable W. Kingsmill in this House. Considering his experience in

another place and the general knowledge he has had of the business of the country, I may expect, and I hope my expectations will be realised, that he will place before this House the business of the Government in such a manner as will secure the approval of members generally. We shall probably differ on many points, but at the same time I think we have the right to expect that the business of the country shall be placed before the representatives of the people in the best possible manner. I think we may safely assume it will be so, and I am sure that although members may like to pass remarks sometimes upon the representative of the Government in this House, he will be altogether better pleased if the business is transacted in a business-like way. This is almost the first time, I may say the first time, in which a Speech from the Governor has dealt with matters outside our local business and requirements. One of the earliest paragraphs refers to a departure which has apparently been attempted in the old country regarding its relationship with the self-governing colonies of the Empire on the fiscal question. I quite agree with Mr. Briggs that this is a matter upon which we specially need to be careful before expressing ourselves either for or against. I myself think there is a great deal in it. I have always been in favour of giving special privileges to the old country. I think we have a right to do so, but what form it shall assume I am not prepared to say at the present time. That it is receiving the general approval and sanction of the community I am inclined to doubt, although it is said here that it is very pronounced. There have been a few letters in the newspapers, and a few utterances have been given, one of them in one of the other States being very indiscreet. I refer to the utterances of a member of the Federal Parliament, who ventured to telegraph home to England, and who, I think, received very considerable raps over the knuckles for his hastiness in sending that telegram. I believe the matter requires to be considered from every point of view, and although it may perhaps appear at the present time to be to our advantage to support the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the endeavours he is making, yet I think that further consideration is most seriously

needed, and that we shall require all the discussion we can get in the public Press of the State and by members of the Legislatures of the different colonies before we come to the conclusion that the proposals of the Secretary of State will be for the well-being of the Empire at large. Although these States are self-governing, they are bound up in the destinies of the Empire and its advancement, and therefore the more reason is there why we should carefully consider such a step as this which is proposed to be taken, and which is, in some respects at any rate, against the traditions of the old country for the last 60 years. With regard to the clause which deals with the Transcontinental Railway, I must confess I am not quite so optimistic as the expressions in the Speech would lead one to believe the Government are with regard to the early inception of that line. However, I am in perfect accord with the proposal that the gauge should be widened between Fremantle and Kalgoorlie, even apart from the fact that we secure a transcontinental line. I think it is a very important business, and I cannot consider we shall be in any degree federated as we ought to be until such time as we have that overland communication with the Eastern States of the Commonwealth. I regret that some of my friends were so anxious to have Federation, and that they pushed it on and did not take the securities which reasonable men would take in the transaction of their own private business in order to insure some possible good in the future. Possibly the friends to whom I allude would not have been able to stop Federation. I do not think they would.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: They did the best they could for this country.

HON. G. RANDELL: I think, however, that they might have had a little stronger backbone. It is too late now to say so, and I do not think we can retrace our steps, but it would have been better for this State, I think—judging from the reports we get from time to time of the doings of the present Federal Ministry and the Parliament of the Commonwealth—to have waited a little while and so have secured our own terms. Arising out of this, I counsel the Government of this State, whoever may be in power, to be very watchful—I have uttered that

sentiment before, and I do so again—to be very watchful over the action of the Federal Government, especially with the present Federal Government, in whom, I may say, I have not the slightest confidence, with the exception of one or two members, because I consider they are entirely under the control of a body of men whose selfish interests predominate, and who are not looking to the well-being of the Commonwealth at large, but to the advancement of their own class in the community. They ignore the fact that they are dealing with a much larger number of persons, who are as deeply interested in the welfare of the Commonwealth as they are, and who regard that welfare from a broader, higher, and nobler point of view. However, the Government, to my mind, do quite right in taking every possible opportunity of pushing the matter to the front and demanding it as a right. If any of the other States stand in the way, there is all the more need for greater, more urgent, and more earnest effort to obtain that to which, in my opinion, we have a right. I am not sure that the attitude of the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government is of such a gratifying nature as represented by one of the paragraphs of the Speech. So far as I have been able to ascertain the views of the Prime Minister, if he have any views on this question they are very vague. I saw the other day, in a newspaper, the statement that for the first time since the assembling of Parliament the Prime Minister had spoken out in such a manner that he could be understood by those who heard him. I thought the fact of such a statement appearing in a newspaper circulating here as well as in other States was a severe condemnation of and a striking comment on the attitude which the Federal Government have taken on this question, or rather, I should say, they have not taken, because I have seen no definite promise. Federal Ministers shelter themselves behind the plea that until the States pass legislation, nothing can be done by the Federal authorities. A word of sympathy would be most encouraging to those who are fighting a battle as we are fighting it in this State. I trust that the Federal Ministers may see the error of their ways before it is too late and they

are superseded. I am glad to note that the Government, on the assembling of Parliament, are able to announce the fact that the Coolgardie Water Scheme has been completed—completed, that is, so far as regards taking the water to the Kalgoorlie goldfields. The reticulation, of course, is not yet completed. The main work, however, is a great one, and has entailed huge expenditure on the State. It is, therefore, one which ought to have been pushed on; and I am indeed pleased to give credit to the present Government for the manner in which they have pushed the work forward to completion. One can but express the hope that the water will prove a boon to the inhabitants of the Kalgoorlie goldfields and to the owners of mines in those localities, and that as a result we shall see the gold output increasing by leaps and bounds in the near future. From the *Statistical Abstract* I find that in 1902 there was sent to the Mint a quantity of gold equal to four and three-quarter million ounces. The record is splendid indeed; it is considerably in advance of the figures of the previous year, three million ounces, and represents an enormous increase on the records of the two or three years previous to that. The figures give us confidence that the output of gold will continue to increase, and, therefore, that the prosperity of the State will increase also. Mr. Richardson spoke of encouraging the agricultural and pastoral industries, and I certainly hold it to be the duty of the Government of this State, or of any other State which hopes to be progressive and to grow in population and in resources, to assist its industries in every possible way, without, however, sapping the independence and self-reliance of those embarked on them. The Government, in my opinion, should assist not only the agricultural and pastoral interests and the gold-mining industry, but also manufactures and other branches of commerce; for each and every one in its particular sphere contributes to the advancement of the State and to the good of the community at large by opening up avenues for employment and so for increase of population. I consider the recent growth of population in this State highly satisfactory. An augmentation of something like

15,000 represents a large percentage, seeing that our total numbers now amount to approximately 225,000. The increase is a considerable one, even in comparison with that obtaining in New South Wales. Victoria, I believe, has lost population to the extent of some five or six thousand during the course of the year; I am not sure that South Australia has gained; Queensland probably has. At all events, these are statements of fact which will help to give heart to those whose interests are bound up with the interests of Western Australia; and I feel sure that the interests of every member of this House are bound up with the progress and advancement of the land in which we live. I trust that our meeting on this occasion may result in the adoption of such measures as will be for the more rapid advancement, if possible, of the State, as regards legislative enactments. Mr. Richardson made certain remarks with respect to the Royal Commission on the Public Service. I desire to say that I shall be pleased to see the end of that commission. Its members have been at work for a long time, and their labours are costing the country a considerable sum. One can only hope—though such a result is not apparent yet—that their labours may eventually bring about considerable economies. However, that the commission should be so long-drawn-out is somewhat trying to the patience of hon. members and of the public generally. I am pleased to see that the Government express a belief that the commission will soon have completed its work. No doubt the hint will be taken as a command.

HON. J. W. WRIGHT: The commission will last another six months yet.

HON. G. RANDELL: The general election which is at hand does not make much difference to this House; but nevertheless, I shall humbly express the hope that no such measure dealing with the Constitution as was introduced last year will be brought into this Chamber during the present session. If it should be so, then, without prejudging the question, I think my vote will be cast in opposition. I trust the Government will be better advised, if they do bring in such a measure during this session. I do not see the necessity for the measure. I quite agree with the expression of opinion

which fell from Mr. Briggs. To my mind, no reason exists for interfering with the Constitution at present. I have expressed myself in this House as in favour of a reduction in the number of members, but in view of the comparatively rapid increase of our population, and in view of the farther circumstance that although some of our Government departments have been taken over by the Federal Parliament, nevertheless measures of great importance remain to be dealt with by the State Parliament; and, moreover, in view of the fact that a larger House commands more weight than a smaller House, I am not now in favour of reduction of members. The expenditure incurred by reason of the increase in membership, some six or eight, made a little time ago—I believe it is not intended by the Government to propose to reduce the membership of this House below 24 or 20—is of little account in this connection. I may observe that I consider a membership of 20 altogether inadequate for the safe and proper discharge of the duties of a revising Chamber. A House which is designed to revise legislation emanating from another place, and which numbers only 20 members, would be altogether too small to receive that consideration and respect which one would like the Legislative Council to enjoy in the public estimation. I observed that recently expression was given to a feeling that the Legislative Council should be abolished, but I hope that such a thing will not occur. Neither do I hold with the view that the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly should sit together. I consider that the functions of this House are most important, and that its character is to a large extent judicial. Elected as it is on a franchise different from that of the Legislative Assembly, this House is able to deal in a more dispassionate manner and from a broader outlook with all the questions which may come before it, than another place is able to do; generally speaking, at any rate. I am pleased to learn that two or three public works are enjoying the attention of the Government. I am heartily in accord with the continuation of the railway from Morgans to Laverton. The little knowledge I have gained of that district from hearsay and

from official information which came before me during my term of office leads me to believe that we have in it a magnificent country as regards gold production, and that in the near neighbourhood there is a farther tract of country which also may in certain circumstances prove of great use and help in the advancement of the State generally. Therefore I am quite in accord with the proposed extension. Again, I am pleased to see that the line from Woodmans Point is to be extended towards—I should be much better pleased if I could say to—the South-Western Railway. I hold that in the interests of Fremantle, and in those of the timber industry as regards shipping, the Woodmans Point line ought to be extended to the South-Western Railway. The timber industry is entitled to the nearest access to the sea for the shipment of its product. The full extension of the line will be helpful to the town of Fremantle in other respects. Farther, so far as I am able to gather, the district of Jandakot, which I have not visited for the last 52 years, is deserving of consideration. I was in that country nearly 53 years ago. I may mention that on the 20th day of this month I shall have been in Western Australia 53 years. One of the first visits I paid on my arrival here was to Bibra Lake. I hold that the Government, having declared an agricultural area in that neighbourhood and having sold land to a considerable number of people who have been encouraged to settle there, ought to do the best possible for the district, and to encourage the people in their enterprise, so that these may enlarge the scope of their operations. I shall, therefore, be most willing to support the extension of the line from Woodmans Point to Armadale. That, I think, is the direction which the railway should take; and my vote will, I am sure, be cast in favour of such a proposal, unless some element utterly different from those now before me is brought to my attention. This carries me to another point, on which I am sorry to see the Government waver. I have been pleased to know that from the first the present Government have set their minds determinedly against borrowing. I think it would be most unfortunate to go to the London money

market for a loan at present. It may be necessary to approach that market in order to secure the amount needed to complete works which have been authorised; but I trust that the Government will pause, and that Parliament will pause, before again embarking on a borrowing and spending policy for the purpose of new works. In my opinion, the State has had enough of that policy, and the day of reckoning will come. However long we may put it from us by fresh borrowings, the day must come. Although we have a sinking fund, for which I believe Mr. Loton fought strenuously in another place, yet to my mind we ought not to heap up debt on this country and so in a large measure hinder its eventual progress, although providing, it may be, for the time being employment for persons who will rush to Western Australia from the other States and from various parts of the world. I do not think we are called on to borrow and spend money for the sake of finding employment for such people. I trust the Government will seriously consider the position before embarking again on a loan policy. I am quite sure we can carry out a great many works from our ordinary revenue. Although we have a huge revenue now, I do not believe there is anyone in the country who feels the pressure of taxation. If most of the works are paid for at the time they are carried out, and there is nothing remaining behind to be liquidated at some future date, that is the best thing for the country. I have always advocated the policy both here and in another place, when Sir John Forrest was the Premier of this country, that all buildings of every kind and description should be constructed out of revenue. It is not safe, in fact I think it utterly unsafe, to construct public buildings which are not of a reproductive character, out of loan moneys. It is justifiable under certain circumstances to give communication to help to develop the country, but at the present time if we are able to construct works out of the resources of the country without going to the British market, we should do it. And, for the credit of the country, and to prevent receiving a rebuff, it is better to avoid as long as we possibly can, embarking on a loan policy again.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: You have brought in some big loans yourself, in this House.

HON. G. RANDELL: Yes; and I have regretted it. The leader of the House will bear me out when I say that when one takes office he is not quite his own master. You have to give and take, and you have to take if you get an opportunity of taking, but sometimes the Premier does not give you that opportunity. I am afraid I did introduce some measures in which I was not particularly interested, and of which I should not have approved if I had been a private member. [HON. J. W. HACKETT: Oh, oh!] I am bound to confess that. I believe every Minister has done the same thing. I have stated the general principle on which I have gone. I do not say there are exceptions. For instance, the railway to Kalgoorlie was an exception. That work was perfectly justified from loan, but having arrived at the position we are now in, and having the enormous gold yield, also finding the agricultural and pastoral industries are in such a flourishing condition, I think we can seriously consider our position and refrain from going to the loan market. I think I have said enough on this subject. I am quite in accord with the proposal for a water supply for the city of Perth, and for water supplies for various towns when they may be needed and are urgent. I am not prepared at the present time to say that we want an expensive sanitary system established. If an inexpensive system, such as the septic system, can be adopted, it may be wise to carry it out. If the laws relating to health are carried out in their entirety, not oppressively, as I am a little afraid the Central Board of Health are inclined to do from what I read in the Press—I hope the board will mete out to every individual what is right, and keep the local boards of health up to their work and carry out the work which they are appointed to do—we have all that is necessary. The laws which we have are of a very stringent nature, and with the organisations established under the law we ought to have a good deal of health in the country without going to the enormous expenditure of an underground drainage system. If the underground system is to take the refuse into the sea, it is a waste of money and

of a useful product. I need scarcely say that anything with reference to education has my most hearty sympathy. Until the details are placed before us we do not know how far the Government intend to go in regard to secondary education; but I am decidedly in favour of having a University established at the earliest possible date, and in the direction urged by Dr. Hackett—technical, scientific, and useful subjects being taught rather than classics and so forth. I trust the subject will be thought out carefully, and we shall establish here a system of education starting from the primary schools, which deserve consideration at the hands of members, and going right to the University: thus I think we shall be able to equip the young persons of the country for their future duties, whatever rank or calling they may have to enter on later on. It is absolutely necessary that we should educate our young people. The great necessity of the present age is to keep pace with other nations, therefore it is right that our young people should be trained with a knowledge of all that is likely to be useful, and that they should be made acquainted with technical knowledge which is necessary in any country. I am glad to see this is engaging the attention of the Government, and as we have the Minister for Education in this House, and as I believe he is a university man we may reasonably assume that he is taking a deep interest in this matter, and will be able to place before us from time to time his views on this very important subject. With reference to the promised legislation, I would like to whisper in the ear of the Government my opinion that we have almost legislative enactments enough, and I hope the Government will be careful what they add to the statute book.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is a lot to be wiped off, this time.

HON. G. RANDELL: I believe in consolidation, but after the experience we have had and the mistakes made in the Criminal Code, we must be careful in the consolidation of Acts, especially when new provisions are inserted which may prejudicially affect the useful legislation of the past. I hope the Government will be advised to do as little in the way of legislation as they possibly can. I am quite opposed to a Factories Act. The

time has not come when such a measure is necessary, and I am glad the Government have separated the Early Closing Bill from the Factories Bill. The Early Closing Bill, as far as I have been able to read it, I am fairly well pleased with. There are one or two provisions in it which I shall take an opportunity, when the time comes, of speaking in opposition to, especially the lengthening of the hours to 12 o'clock at night. I can hardly see the necessity for that. The other Bills, as far as they are indicated in the Speech, are measures which are needful and helpful to the advancement of the country. I have much pleasure in saying that generally I agree with the Speech which has been placed before members in this House, and I feel quite sure the Colonial Secretary will receive that consideration which has always been extended in this House to the leader of the Government in carrying on the business in this chamber.

HON. S. J. HAYNES (South-East): I join with the mover and seconder and with other speakers in the kindly words of welcome to His Excellency Sir Frederick Bedford, and also in congratulating Mr. Kingsmill on his appointment as leader of this House. Generally, I am in accord with the Speech as delivered by His Excellency, and I am sure it is a matter for congratulation to know that the main sources of industry and wealth, the mining, the agricultural, and pastoral industries, are in a satisfactory state. The Address says that the State is in a high state of prosperity, and it is also satisfactory to know that our finances are in their present good state, and that we shall wind up the financial year with a considerable surplus. I am in accord with what has fallen from Mr. Randell in regard to the Transcontinental Railway, but it will be some time before we see the undertaking an accomplished fact. Unless South Australia is satisfied that its commercial interests are not affected, we shall have opposition shown in that quarter, but I think South Australia will ultimately take a broad view of the matter and pass a Bill, with qualifications that will be accepted. The great opposition to a Bill for the construction of this railway will be from the people in the Eastern States. Though the States generally will be in entire sympathy with

this State in wishing the railway made, they will, I think, be influenced by the fact that there is not any great prospect in the near future of the line paying. In nearly all the States and at home the leaders and those holding capital will be very watchful of our expenditure, and unless it is clearly shown that the expenditure is on profitable works, there will be considerable opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament, and this great work will be postponed for a considerable time. I think it well that the proposed alteration of the railway gauge between Perth and Kalgoorlie should be mentioned in the Speech, for this shows at all events that Western Australia is prepared to do its share in carrying out the Transcontinental Railway; and although it has been suggested in the Press that the Transcontinental Railway might be built on the narrow gauge, that to my mind is absolutely absurd, for to make the line attractive one of the chief requisites is speed, and without the broad gauge we cannot get speed combined with safety. I trust that the labours of the Royal Commission on the Public Service, which have extended over so long a period, will be fraught with benefit to the State; but I have grave doubts whether much good will result from their report, and the expense of the Commission will be heavy before their labours are concluded. As to constitutional and electoral reform, I am in entire accord with what has fallen from Mr. Randell. No doubt anomalies in representation do at present exist. Some electorates have very few electors as compared with others, but I think such anomalies will ever occur in this State, and should occur. The pastoral interests in the North are highly important, though they do not carry with them a large population. Improvements may be made in the distribution of seats: at the same time these anomalies should exist for the good of the State. Residents in the populous goldfields centres say that their representatives are few in the extreme in proportion to population. My reply is, in proportion to population their representation does seem unreasonable; but it seems to me that the mining interests have a helper and representative in every member of the Legislature. I do not think there is one member in this or in the other House who is not prepared

when the exigency arrives to vote liberally in the interests of our great gold-mining industry. At all events, when the Electoral Bill comes before the House, I trust it will be more acceptable than the Bill of last session. When that Bill was thrown out by this House, every member felt perfectly certain that the vote of the House was but a reflection of public opinion; and we know well that although a few persons grumbled at our action, none of the leading newspapers of the State condemned it, nor were any meetings convened for that purpose. I therefore trust that the new Bill will be one which this House can reasonably accept. At the same time, I am against continually tinkering with our Constitution Act; and considering how the State is progressing and how the population of certain districts fluctuates, I doubt whether it will not be as well to leave the constituencies as they are. However, when the Bill is brought in, I am sure my fellow members will give it earnest consideration. If I think it an improvement on existing conditions, I as a conscientious man shall certainly vote for it; but if not, I shall have no hesitation in assisting to throw it out. As to the railways mentioned in the Speech, I think their construction is justified. From what I can learn of Laverton, the railway to that place is needed, and will have my support. As to the railway from Collie to a point on the Great Southern Railway, I think that is justified in the interests of agriculture and of the coal industry, provided the point selected on the Great Southern line be satisfactory. With respect to the works mentioned at Fremantle and Bunbury, I feel that in the matter of a dock the great harbour of the State—and I wish it every success—has been quite overlooked; and though I have in the past drawn attention to the large expenditure on that harbour, I have nevertheless admitted that it will never be complete until the dock is an accomplished fact. As to the improvements at the port of Bunbury, I think every port in the State should, with due regard to the public finances, be the subject of fair expenditure. When the first Bill for the improvement of that harbour was considered here, I, if I remember rightly, supported it, at the same time expressing

doubt as to whether the sum provided would be sufficient to make the harbour safe and commodious. Apparently, expenditure has not achieved what was anticipated. [The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It has.] I am glad to hear it. I trust there will be a reasonable expenditure for the extension of that harbour, considering the trade done there now and the trade likely to be done. Having due regard to our finances, I will support any expenditure for the improvement of any harbour the trade of which is sufficient to warrant the undertaking. I am pleased to see in the Speech references to legislation on other important matters, such as hospitals, factories, public health, early closing, and railways, and am farther pleased that the promised Bills are not numerous. I should prefer fewer Bills, and those few threshed out thoroughly, to the multiplicity of Bills we have had in past sessions. I am in accord with the views of the preceding speaker on the Factories Bill. At the present time a Factories Act is premature. We have not the factories; when we have them will, I think, be the time to deal with them. In conclusion, whatever Bills come before us shall have my earnest consideration, and I trust during this session to see Acts placed on the statute book which will promote the welfare of this great country. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion, and in agreeing generally with the Government policy, subject to the details of promised legislation being to my satisfaction.

On motion by HON. T. F. O. BRIMAGE, debate adjourned until the next sitting.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at 6.15 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 22nd July, 1903.

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The Council met at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

The CLERK announced that, owing to illness, the President was unable to be present; and, on motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Hon. H. Briggs took the Chair as Acting President.

PRAYERS.

OBITUARY—THE POPE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill): I wish to make a very few remarks upon a subject regarding which most members will agree with me, and express regret at the removal by death of one of the most prominent persons in the world. I allude to the death of the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope. I feel sure that whatever the shades of opinion in men's minds may be, we must all recognise that in the loss which the Roman Catholic Church has sustained, the whole world is also involved. We have lost an intellectual gentleman whose influence was always on the side of enlightenment and progress; and I feel certain that while those persons in the community who perhaps came more directly into contact with him through belonging to the Roman Catholic faith, feel the loss more keenly, still the whole world must feel that loss also. I do not propose to make any formal motion, but simply to place upon record an expression of the regret which must be felt throughout the civilised world at the loss of such an eminent citizen.

QUESTION—POISON LEASE FORFEITURE.

HON. W. MALEY asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, The date on which Poison