

Schedule:

Mr. LATHAM: Can the Minister give the Committee any information about the Crown leases and conditional purchase leases referred to in the Schedule, whether they are or what they are?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE: I have not made inquiries about the property; it is the principle that we are dealing with, not the particular property of the Church. Certain persons have held an interest in these lands, and they have made over their interests in the property to the Church.

Mr. Latham: That is quite all right.

Schedule put and passed.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—SANDALWOOD.

Council's Amendment.

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3.—After "1904" in line 5 of Sub-clause 4, add the words "but shall not include any land granted or demised, subject to the reservation to the Crown of sandalwood thereon."

The PREMIER: The amendment was moved by the Chief Secretary in another place. It was really in the original draft of the Bill, but was somehow omitted in the final draft. Unless the amendment be agreed to, the Bill would have the effect of excluding sandalwood on conditional purchase land. It will be remembered that ever since 1924 sandalwood has been reserved for the Crown when conditional purchase leases have been granted, and that timber belongs to the Crown now. Without the amendment sandalwood on land such as I refer to would be classed as private property wood, and would be taken into consideration when allowing for the ten per cent. quota. That would have the effect of considerably re-

ducing the quantity the private property owners would get. It is necessary to include the amendment, and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I agree that it is right to pass the amendment, otherwise the 10 per cent. quota would be considerably reduced. I thought sandalwood on conditional purchase leased land was reserved before 1924.

The Premier: It was done in your time.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I know it was necessary, because people were able to take up large areas of land in order to take the sandalwood, and then they forfeited the land, leaving the State to pay the survey fees.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [8.53]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 3rd December.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.54 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 28th November, 1929.

Obituary: Hon. A. J. H. Saw, M.L.C. ...

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

OBITUARY—HON. A. J. H. SAW, M.L.C.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.32]: This House is poorer to-day than it was yesterday. West-

ern Australia is also poorer—poorer by reason of the death of one of its most esteemed and respected citizens, Dr. Athelstan John Henton Saw. When we remember that our departed friend was here in this Chamber, only a few days ago, in full mental vigour and apparently in good health, and manifesting the keenest interest in his parliamentary work, it brings home to us all, the sad uncertainty of life. The late Dr. Saw had a notable career. His boyhood foreshadowed the man he was to be. He won his way by scholarship from primary school to High school, and by exhibition from High school to English university. Further honours awaited him there. He gained the M.A. degree, studied medicine, became an M.D., and came back to Western Australia and practised his profession. Needless to say he proved an honour to that profession. He was associated with the movement for the establishment of our University, and, after it was founded, became one of its guides. He was its Chancellor at the time he passed away. The political career of the late Dr. Saw began in 1915, when he entered the Legislative Council, and his connection with it was severed only by the hand of Death. We all agree that he was an ornament to this House. Character, culture, intellect and conduct made him so. I have never known any public man who was more magnanimous or more courteous or more fair-minded than he. He had his own views and expressed them unhesitatingly, but he was always tolerant of the opinions of others and always just to his political opponents. Moreover, he was a man of unquestioned and unquestionable integrity. His ability, professional knowledge and general experience made him an invaluable member of this House. Any legislation, designed for the benefit of suffering humanity or to improve the social conditions of the people, found in him an earnest and a sincere and forceful advocate. We shall miss him. I shall miss him—miss his help and his genial personality, and I can never forget the kindness and consideration he extended to me during the time I have been Leader of the House. I am deeply grieved at the death of one whose talents I appreciated and whose character I admired. The views I have expressed will be the views of every member of the Legislative Council, and all will feel with me that the death of Dr. Saw is not only a loss to Parliament but a loss to Western Australia.

On his widow and relatives a terrible blow has fallen. Our hearts go out to them in sympathy and we shall manifest our feelings in the usual way. I therefore move—

That this House places on record its deep sense of the loss it has sustained by the sudden death of the Hon. Dr. Saw, a member of the House for over 14 years, and expresses its profound sympathy for and condolence with his widow and relatives in their sad bereavement.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [4.37]: As the senior member of this House, in age if not in other ways, I desire to have the privilege of seconding the motion so ably moved by the Chief Secretary. When I heard the news this morning, I was both shocked and surprised. I hasten, therefore, to add my regrets to those already so fittingly expressed by the Chief Secretary at the sudden passing away of our esteemed member. The Chief Secretary has expressed almost everything it was necessary to say about the late Dr. Saw, but at the risk of some repetition I may add one or two words. I knew Dr. Saw from boyhood, and indeed knew his parents before him. He constituted a shining lesson of what a young man can do in Western Australia from small beginnings. He commenced life, as has been shown by the Chief Secretary, in a quiet way, and by sheer ability won a scholarship of £250 a year, which lasted for three years and gave him the opportunity to proceed to a University in England. He made such good use of his time, and devoted himself to the faculty of medicine with such good effect, that he was a success. In contradistinction to many of us, and many Western Australians who have been successful in agricultural or pastoral callings, he proved his worth in the professional line. It is, therefore, well that we should place on record the fact that we have young people, who starting from small beginnings, have been able to achieve success in these particular directions. He pursued his studies so successfully that on his return to Western Australia he was able to commence what proved a most successful career. From time to time he joined various partners, and he continued to succeed until he was looked upon as one eminently suited for consultations, and as a man at the highest point in his profession. Of late years he did not do so much as he did before—owing to failing health. In addition to having achieved success as a

medical man, he became Chancellor of the University. This position he worked up to, and it is a by no means unimportant honour and distinction for anyone to achieve. I fully endorse every word said by the Chief Secretary with regard to the loss which the community and this House have sustained. Dr. Saw's debating was forcible, his mind was logical, and he was able to place before us his views on any subject he wished to handle, in a manner that was thoroughly understandable. I therefore reiterate that he will be a great loss to the Chamber. I take this opportunity of conveying to his relatives and his bereaved wife my sincere sympathy.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [4.42]: May I cast a stone on the cairn of respect and appreciation that has been raised by the Chief Secretary and Sir Edward Wittenoom to the memory of our late colleague Dr. Saw. In the little I have to say, I desire to dissociate the late Dr. Saw from his activities in this House, and to bring him into the wider sphere of the furnace of war. When the need came for men of the talent and standing of Dr. Saw, he did not hesitate. At that time he occupied a position here as a Minister of the Crown. That he put aside. Home he put aside. He put his wife and family aside. He entered into the great struggle. And as he had distinguished himself in the civil life of this community, so did he distinguish himself in the larger sphere created by the furnace of war. All the ex-service men of this State revered Dr. Saw. The down-and-out digger always had a friend in the late doctor. May the widow and relatives find some consolation in the fact that every man whom Dr. Saw met when serving with the colours held him in the highest esteem and regard.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [4.44]: The shock to which allusion has been made by previous speakers as having been caused by the sudden demise of our fellow member, came to me with an intensity which I find it difficult to express. Recently I undertook to interview the late Dr. Saw on a matter in which he was deeply interested, and it was necessary for me to see him so lately as yesterday. When the news of his death came this morning, I could scarcely believe it, because when I saw him yesterday, he was looking forward to once more taking his place in this Cham-

ber. The well-merited eulogies which have been paid to his memory remind me of an epitaph, if I may so describe it, to the memory of another late dear friend of mine: "He was a good man." Everything that has been said by the Leader of the House, Sir Edward Wittenoom and Mr. Cornell bears out in an amazing degree what a fine character Dr. Saw's was. Invariably there is associated with men of that calibre a nobility of mind which wins for them the highest place in the community. It won for Dr. Saw an extraordinary place in the affections and the esteem of every section of this large and growing community of Western Australia. Allied with that wonderful quality, we also invariably find, such men are possessed of marvellously wide sympathies. We all know that whenever there was anything worthwhile doing in the way of promoting the welfare of the people, no readier sympathiser and no more ardent helper was to be found than the late Dr. Saw in any cause he espoused. I mourn his loss deeply. I regret him as a lost companion and friend. I know that all members of this House will regard his memory as a source of inspiration for trying to follow in his footsteps.

HON. E. ROSE (South-West) [4.48]: As one who had known the late Dr. Saw from boyhood, I mourn his loss deeply. The late hon. member and I were boys together. He was accustomed to spend his holidays with us, and a fairer sportsman I have never met. He was one of those who from boyhood set a good example to their fellows. Not only was he a playmate of mine, but for many years he was my family physician. I invariably found him a most straightforward and honourable adviser, one who could be thoroughly depended upon in any advice he gave. I feel sure that every member of the Chamber will agree that a more honourable or more useful man never took a seat in the Legislative Council. I extend my deepest sympathy to his widow and his relatives. I have no intention of speaking at length, although I could say a great deal about the late Dr. Saw, who was like a brother to me ever since boyhood's days.

HON. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.50]: When Dr. Saw last occupied his seat in this Chamber, I passed a note to him containing something like these words, "You look as if you are in great pain; can

I do anything?" He replied that he was in some pain but "must see it through." The "it" was the Mental Deficiency Bill. On the following morning I received a telephone message from his wife to the effect that the doctor was in bed and would so remain until he was better, and that he had asked her to request me to look after the amendments he had placed on the Notice Paper. Hon. members will remember that, although I had given notice of similar amendments, I put up to the Committee those standing in the name of Dr. Saw. Yesterday I made inquiries concerning him and was advised that he was still in bed and unable to attend the House. Early this morning I was shocked by the receipt of a telephone message informing me that, at 6 o'clock, the hon. gentleman, our esteemed fellow member, had passed away. The immediate cause of his absence from the House was a severe attack of lumbago, from which, as late as yesterday, he was reported to be convalescing. Hon. members will recollect that, some time ago, the doctor was unable to attend the House over a considerable period. This was due to an arterial strain caused by an attempt to lift too heavy a weight at his country home in the hills. Last night he complained of a supervening pain, which was a recurrence from the effect of the previous strain. Internal hæmorrhage set up later on, and led to the result we have been made aware of to our deep sorrow. The news brought to my mind the declaration of Bacon that "old men go to death, but death comes to young men." Born on the 16th July, 1868, Dr. Saw was nearly 10 years my junior in age. He has gone; I am here. He has peace; I sorrow. What has happened so suddenly, however, must make us all realise the truth as Ovid wrote it. "All the affairs of men," he sang, "are hanging by a slender thread. Those who have become of worth, fall with a sudden crash." No two members have engaged in more tilts in this Chamber than the late Dr. Saw and myself; but we ever fought with the swords of warriors, and not with the daggers of assassins. Outside, we were the greatest of friends, and did not hesitate to consult with one another, notwithstanding our differences on many points. Some months ago he came to see me on a subject which was dear to his heart—one which is now before the House—the Mental Deficiency Bill. From time to time we discussed the subject in all

its phases. At his instance I obtained quite a mass of reports and literature on the subject, as well as the latest legislation from the United States, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, together with the British Committee's report. The evidence which he gave before the select committee, therefore, was well considered, and was not lacking on the informative side. I venture to say it was a valuable contribution towards the elucidation of so complex a problem. Not only did our late member prove himself an acquisition to our Legislature; but he was also our chief exponent in the cause of education. He realised, as did Frederick the Great, that whilst an educated people is easily governed, an illiterate democracy must connote disaster. The work which he did for our University will live after him. Our only regret can be that he did not live to witness the completion of his task. But, as Seneca wrote, "No one is anxious about how well he may live, but about how long; whilst it is nevertheless possible for all to ensure good life, none can ensure long life." There is, however, this consolation, as Sancho Panza said, "Death opens the gate of Fame, and shuts the gate of Envy after it." It is with regret and sorrow that an occasion has arisen that impels me to support the motion of the Chief Secretary.

HON. J. J. HOLMES (North) [4.55]: I wish to say a few words only, about a friend whom I knew for 45 years. I knew Dr. Saw as a boy, and as a man amongst men. I knew him professionally; I knew him politically; I knew him in almost every walk of life. Having followed his career right through, I am bound to say that if any one of us even attempts to pursue the high standard Dr. Saw set in every walk of life, he will have at least accomplished something. He was the friend of everyone; he was the friend of the people; he was my friend. Although not my medical adviser, within the last day or two, when standing on the floor of the Chamber, he gave me, without fee or reward, advice I would do well to follow. The community as a whole will miss Dr. Saw; the medical profession will miss him. Many will miss his sound advice, his abundant knowledge and his desire to do at all times the right thing in the right way. We will miss him in this Chamber. Within the last 48 hours, an important Bill was held up in order that Dr. Saw might be in attendance to help us frame the measure

along right lines. Still, those who will miss him most will be his widow and relatives. I am sure they will find comfort in the fact that they can look back over a life that has been well spent. They will find comfort from the example he has set, and that will go a long way towards consoling them in the deep grief they face to-day. I support the motion.

THE PRESIDENT [4.58]: In putting this motion, I would like to endorse everything that has been said regarding the late Dr. Saw—a man high of purpose, zealous in public welfare, a clear thinker, a lucid speaker, and one of the brightest brains in the public life of our State. It was but in accordance with his high public spirit that immediately there was a call to arms, he unselfishly, as Mr. Cornell has pointed out, sacrificed his home life, his position as Minister for Health, and his lucrative profession, in order to serve his country. My earliest association with him in public work was as a member of the first Senate of our University. That was early in 1912. He applied himself with great zeal to the immense difficulty of starting the University on correct lines. It is only those of us who were associated with him in that work who know how great those difficulties were and what invaluable service he rendered. In 1921 his fellow senators elected him Chancellor, a position for which as a graduate of Cambridge and as the possessor of high educational and professional attainments, he was well suited, and which he adorned. He will be much missed, because far too few professional men of his standing are prepared to make the sacrifices and endure the unpleasantness that public work entails. Too few of them are ready to enter the hurly-burly of elections and politics, and engage in the thankless work of spending long hours in Parliament and out of it studying Bills, investigating administrative work and attending to countless other duties of which the public have no knowledge. We all knew that Dr. Saw was seriously ill. No one knew it better than himself, and I feel that his determination to keep on working for the public, despite warnings to the contrary, must have had much to do towards hastening his end. Only a few days ago, as Mr. Lovekin has said, he delivered in this Chamber a most informative speech, a speech that bore evidence of having occasion him considerable thought, and for the

production of which he must have engaged in a great deal of research. He has left behind an impression of devotion to duty and useful public service that from the minds of us who knew him well will never be effaced. I ask members to pass the motion by rising in their places.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 5.4 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 3rd December, 1929.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

- 1, Dried Fruits Act Continuance.
- 2, Industries Assistance.
- 3, Agricultural Products.

METROPOLITAN-SUBURBAN PROVINCE.

Seat Declared Vacant.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.34]: I move—

That this House resolves that owing to the death of the Hon. Athelstan John Henton Saw late member for the Metropolitan-Suburban Province, the seat be declared vacant.