

The Second Period of the First Session of the Fourteenth Parliament was commenced on this day.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th May, 1931.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The ACTING CLERK: in view of the absence on leave of the President, it will be necessary for the House to elect one of its members to act as Deputy President during such absence.

The MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES: I move—

That Mr. Cornell act as Deputy President during the absence of the President.

Hon. H. Seddon: I second the motion.

(Question put and passed.)

The Deputy President took the Chair.

MOTIONS (3)—CONDOLENCE.

Late Sir Robert Furse McMillan, K.C.M.G.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.39]: It is with great sorrow and humility that I rise to express my profound regret at the irreparable loss the State has suffered in the death, since our last meeting, of Sir Robert Furse McMillan—a noble gentleman, our most esteemed citizen and the State's most notable Chief Justice. He lived an eloquent life and his worthy service to the community closed just as his eloquence had enriched those privileged to hear his last oration. We shall miss one who was well-affected towards good men, kind to all, injurious to none, and harsh to nobody. He had unbounded sympathy for the sorrows of others, and his generous actions will ever be remembered by those on whom he bestowed them, and they are many. Sir Robert was always the embodiment of courtesy and kindness: always his ideal and his happiness were in the service of humanity, and in consequence his objects were ever outside himself. In versatile service to the State the late Sir

Robert distinguished the Judiciary in his Chief Justiceship, and there remain many treasured recollections of him in that exalted position. On many occasions, when Administrator or Lieut.-Governor, he counselled His Majesty's advisers with rare guidance, and in the present trials of our people we are indeed bereaved by his death. The late Chief Justice was a man of high qualities and personal charm, and was respected and loved by all who knew him. Indeed, we have sustained a sad bereavement in the loss of Sir Robert McMillan. The only privilege we have left to us is to express our deep regret at his unexpected death, and to pay him that last respect a respect due to him for his long service to the State. We all deplore his death, and our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to his widow and relatives. I move—

That this House offers its deepest sympathy to Lady McMillan and the members of her family in the irreparable loss sustained by them, and by the State, in the death of the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice, the Honourable Sir Robert Furse McMillan, K.C.M.G., and desires to place on record its profound sense of the great service rendered to Western Australia by such a distinguished citizen; and that the Deputy President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to Lady McMillan.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM

(North) [4.43]: As the senior member of this House in age, I claim the privilege of seconding and supporting the motion that has been brought forward by the Minister. His remarks have been so wide and so comprehensive that in fact they include almost everything one could say, and so they leave me very little to add, unless I were to indulge in repetition. The death of anybody is sad, and particularly the death of one who has been held in such high respect as was the late Chief Justice. It was my privilege to know him ever since his arrival in Western Australia. Few people earn the reputation that he did. He was well known as one of the most capable judges that ever sat on the Bench, he was one of the kindest men I ever met, and one of the cleverest at entertainments or other functions. Perhaps nobody in the State can claim the same degree of popularity as was enjoyed by the late Chief Justice. Judges and justices cannot indulge in popularity. If they attempted to make themselves popular by the usual means, there would be unfavourable com-

ment. As judges have remarked to me, they hold most difficult positions. They are unable to dispense hospitality lest any of the persons they entertain may appear before them, and an accusation of partiality made in the event of a decision being given in favour of their friends. I endorse entirely the remarks of the Leader of the House, and express my personal regret, as well, I am sure, as the regrets of all members of the House, at the untimely death of the Chief Justice.

Question passed; members standing.

Late Mr. H. A. Stephenson.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.48]: I move—

“That this House desires to place on record its deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of the late H. A. Stephenson, who represented the Metropolitan-Suburban Province for a period of six years, and wishes to express its sincere sympathy and condolence with the members of his family; that the Deputy President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to his family.”

I ask the indulgence of members to refer to the loss the State has sustained by the death, during the adjournment, of our old and esteemed friend, the late Henry Alfred Stephenson. The late gentleman represented the Metropolitan-Suburban Province in this Chamber from 1924 to 1930. In commercial pursuits he at one time occupied the position of President of the Perth Chamber of Commerce, and had the honour to represent that important public body at several inter-State conferences. In his younger days, he was champion sculler of his native State—Tasmania—and later on worthily represented this State in interstate rowing events. The views of the late Mr. Stephenson were always respected by the House when we had the pleasure of his membership. On all matters which engaged his attention he brought to bear a practical knowledge of affairs, and I know that his assistance was highly valued by members. He was deservedly popular both inside and outside the House, and in all his dealings he was straightforward and honourable. We knew him to be a man of sound views and a kind and genial friend. Such men cannot pass away without leaving a big gap in the community. In the late Mr. Stephenson we had not only one of the most estimable of gentlemen, but a useful, independent, and at the same time

broad-minded member. We have lost an earnest-minded and honest friend. Good men and true who have served the State are all too few, and when they depart from us, we part with them with very great regret.

HON. SIR WILLIAM LATHLAIN (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.51]: As a colleague of the late Mr. Stephenson in the Metropolitan-Suburban Province I desire to second the motion. I do this with very great regret. Having been associated with him for a very long time I, as well as others, had the opportunity to appreciate his many sterling qualities, and it was with sincere regret that we heard of his demise. Those of us who knew him had a deep regard for him, and were aware how earnestly he undertook his duties in this House. I feel that the Leader of the House has expressed all that one would desire to say on this sad occasion, and I shall, therefore, content myself with thus seconding the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

Late Mr. A. R. Richardson.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.53]: I move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the late Alexander Robert Richardson, who represented the North Districts in the Legislative Council from 1887 to 1890, and to express its sincere sympathy in the loss sustained by his family; and that the Deputy President be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing resolution to his relatives.

It is with sincere regret that I move a motion of sympathy respecting the late Mr. Alexander Robert Richardson, who passed away on the 2nd instant. Mr. Richardson was a pioneer pastoralist, and he will also be well remembered as a notable Commissioner of Crown Lands, and as a colleague of the Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom in the historic Forrest Cabinet. Mr. Richardson came to Western Australia when quite a boy in 1865, in the days of stern and bitter disappointments. He went in for sheep raising in the Cossack district, and in the ensuing years he was a foremost figure in the development of the pastoral industry of Western Australia. He was possessed of rare energy, ability, and determination. Those qualities ultimately brought him to this Chamber on the 14th June, 1887, as a representative for

the North Districts. He remained in this House until 1890, when, on the Council becoming wholly elective, he ceased to be a member. He was then elected to another place in the first Parliament as the member for De Grey, and eventually, on the 4th December, 1894, was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands, which office he resigned on the 13th March, 1897. The late Mr. Richardson was one of those hardy settlers who have done so much for the advancement of land settlement in Western Australia, and for the good of Western Australia as a whole. Most of us knew him well, and esteemed very highly his sterling qualities. By his own energy, and by the good grasp that he always obtained of everything he undertook, he raised himself to eminence in the Forrest Administration. In that able Government he revealed himself as a man of sound judgment, and one who ever did his duty courteously and comprehensively. Mr. Richardson's death removes from the State one of the best of its pioneers. His life was an example of what a man can accomplish. He was a fearless man in every sense of the word, and one of his most marked characteristics was his considerate attitude towards the feelings of others. In his early days he did noble work in venturing into the then unknown parts of Western Australia, and by his death a warm link with the sixties has been severed.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [4.56]: I desire the privilege of seconding this motion. I knew the late Mr. Richardson for a great many years, longer I think than anyone in this House. When we come to reflect upon the matter, it seems exceedingly sad that we should to-day be called upon to deal with the deaths of three of our friends. I suppose as long as we are in this world, such things are inevitable, and we must put up with them as best we can and become reconciled to them as soon as possible. The Leader of the House has said so much about Mr. Richardson that there is little left for me to add. I knew him well. He was a co-Minister of mine under responsible Government in the regime of the late Lord Forrest. He had the distinction of serving under two Constitutions. The first was the Constitution when the State was a Crown colony, and the next was when we were enjoying responsible Government. He left the Forrest Government, very much to our regret. He was a man

who gave all his time and ability to his work, and carried it out most conscientiously. Apart from his political work, he was a great pioneer and a great pastoralist. He spent a good deal of his time in developing the outblocks, and in an endeavour to turn what may be termed the wilderness into a flowering garden. He was very successful. Almost up to the time of his death he was taking active steps in looking after stock and such-like matters. I feel we have lost a most valuable citizen. We can only say how sorry we are. I am glad to have had the privilege of seconding the motion so ably moved by the Leader of the House.

Question passed; members standing.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE MINISTER FOR COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES (Hon. C. F. Baxter—East) [4.57]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 19th May.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

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

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.

Mr. Teesdale (Roebourne) took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.