

work, to know we are adjourning a Parliament belonging to the British Empire. We at least should be proud to know that we are able to adjourn our Parliament to meet again under the Empire.

Question put and passed, members standing.

[At the call of the Premier, members joined in singing "God save the King." Cheers were given for "Our Soldiers," "Our Allies," "The Navy," and "General Foch."]

House adjourned at 9-20 a.m. (Friday.)

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th November, 1918.

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

THE WAR—PEACE ARMISTICE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.31]: With your permission, Sir, I desire to submit two motions, as follow:—

1. That on the occasion of the signing of the peace armistice, signalling the complete and glorious triumph of the allied arms, the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled expresses its profound gratitude to Almighty God; its deep and abiding loyalty to the throne and person of His Majesty the King; and its proud admiration for the soldiers and sailors of the Empire and our allies. That a message be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, desiring him to transmit the foregoing resolution to His Majesty the King.

2. That the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled desires to convey to the Australian Army and Navy abroad the thanks of the people of Western Australia for the magnificent services in the cause of freedom, justice, and righteousness rendered by the soldiers and sailors of Australia, and their heart-felt congratulations on the glorious victory, in the achievement of which the Australian divisions have played so notable a part. That a message be forwarded transmitting this resolution to the Minister for Defence and the Minister for the Navy of the Commonwealth.

I feel that no words of mine are needed to commend these motions to the joyful acceptance of the House. It is difficult to realise all that has happened during the last few days, impossible even to imagine the influence of

those events on the future of the world. [The outstanding fact is that the signing of the armistice by the representatives of Germany completes a glorious victory for the allied arms. (Cheers.) In the common, the frequent acceptance of the term, an armistice is merely the cessation of hostilities pending the negotiations for peace; but in this case the armistice was for the enemy the only alternative to a complete and overwhelming defeat, and, properly, the terms were such as to place it beyond the power of Germany to resume hostilities. (Cheers.) This means that the terms of peace will be determined by the allied nations. In such determination the principles of freedom, of justice, and of righteousness, which have inspired our armies through more than four years of bloodshed, will prevail, and it may be assumed that those who have done violence to those principles will be called upon to make due reparation. History furnishes no parallel for the complete, the sudden, the dramatic collapse of Germany. Six months ago her fortunes ran high. To-day her empire has disappeared, the Kaiser, the Crown Prince, and a long list of the minor monarchs have abdicated and fled from their palaces, the army and the navy have been handed over to the control of the Allies, and the highest hope of the German people to-day is that their country may be spared from the devastation of red revolution. It is too early, in any case it may be invidious, to single out names for special recognition; but there are some who, in the hour of victory, must not be forgotten. There is the heroic General Leman, who at Liege stemmed the first fury of the Huns. (Cheers.) There is Lord Kitchener, who organised the British Army. (Cheers.) There is Lloyd George who organised the British nation. (Cheers.) There are Generals Foch and Haig, who have been, in the main, responsible for directing the fighting. (Cheers.) From first to last the British Navy has played a glorious part. It was the one branch of the Empire's defence forces that was ready, and because of the navy the seas have been free to the Allies and closed against the enemy. Even the most ruthless submarining has not prevented the transport overseas of 22 millions of allied troops, with a total loss of fewer than 5,000. Nor has submarining prevented the rigorous blockade that steadily reduced Germany to starvation. Sir Eric Geddes, who may be assumed to be speaking with knowledge, says that the blockade was the main cause of Germany's collapse. He also declares that, a fortnight ago, the German high command had determined upon a naval armageddon, "But the arm that should have made the last desperate gambling stroke was paralysed"—to the everlasting regret, it safely may be said, of the British Navy. That the enemy should have skulked within the shelter of his forts for practically the whole of the period of the war has annoyed and disappointed the British Navy, from Admiral to cabin boy. Lloyd George describes Germany's collapse as the greatest judgment in history. In 1871 there assembled at Versailles a German council of war consisting of the Emperor William I., the

Crown Prince (afterwards Emperor Frederick III.), Bismarck, Moltke, von Roon, Blumenthal, and Verdé du Vermois, who in the audience chamber of the old French kings dictated the hard terms for the surrender of Paris. Forty-eight years later a German delegation was escorted to the head-quarters of Field Marshal Foch to receive the Allies' demands for Germany's complete surrender, and to be told in simple words "Those are our terms." It is surely the greatest judgment in history. The crime of half a century ago has been avenged, and in the avenging of it such a bond has been established between the British Empire, France, America and Italy as will ensure the inauguration of an era of international justice such as the world has never before experienced. In this, the greatest war in the world's history, the young Commonwealth of Australia has played a noble and a notable part. It is fitting that our celebrations of victory should be participated in by representatives of France now in Australia and shortly to visit Western Australia; it is fitting we should recall that the leader of that delegation, as a young officer, took part in the campaign of 1870-1, which ended in the defeat and humiliation of his country, and that despite advancing years he was able to bear arms in the early stages of the present campaign. So many of Australia's sons have fallen on the battle-fields of France, so warmly have the French people taken the Australian soldiers to their hearts, that we must rejoice at the opportunity of mingling our jubulations with those of the representatives of the country that has suffered most, and that had the biggest debt of bygone wrongs to pay. After upwards of four years of war the sun of peace shines to-day on a new world; and it shines most brilliantly on that huge monument of sacrifice, towering to high heaven itself and representing the giving, in a great cause, of the lives of the bravest and the best of the youth of half-a-dozen countries—a monument that cannot fail to stimulate into more active life the greatest, the most enduring qualities of the sons of men. (Cheers.) Mr. President, I move the first motion.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan) [4.42]: The man who would not esteem it the greatest possible of all privileges to be allowed to take a part, however humble and inadequate, in the celebrations which attend a day such as to-day, a day which, I think I am right in saying, is the most notable day in the history of the world—would indeed be a cold hearted and a cold blooded individual. When we consider that such a war as this has never before occurred—and we hope it is beyond the bounds of possibility that such a war can ever occur again—when we consider that never before in the history of the world has it fallen to us to see a nation which for 50 years has been steadily and stealthily, but steadfastly, preparing for the domination of the world, only to have those long matured plans at last overthrown, thank God! by the forces of right, then I think it will be agreed that such a day as this the world has never

before seen. And when we in Australia—who, so to speak, only hear the echoes of the turmoil which has been tearing this world to pieces—when we go through our streets to-day and see on the faces of the people the expression of gladness which their hearts can no longer restrain, hear their voices raised in thanksgiving, we can form some idea of what it must mean in the countries more closely associated with the war, especially in those countries devastated by the war. If we in Australia feel the relief it gives to every heart, what must it be in glorious France, in Belgium, in Italy, portions of each of those countries having all been ravaged by the enemy? And may I be allowed to say that I think we men are apt to feel less this relief than are those mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts of the men at the Front. For them, every hour has carried a haunting dread; they have feared to hear news. What a relief it must be to them, who could take no active part in the defence of our country, to know that at last those dear ones far away are in safety. The leader of the House, in what was perhaps the most eloquent of the many eloquent addresses he has delivered in this Chamber, alluded to the share which Australia has played. Let me utter this hope, that as the Australians have so learnt the art of war as to make the name of Australia world-famous, in the same way, when our boys come back—as most of them, thank God, will—they will be able to distinguish themselves in the arts of peace, which will be necessary on the long, uphill track that we have now to essay in order to build up higher than ever the good fortune of the Allies, of the Empire, and of Australia. This has been a war of darkness against light. Hitherto the path of progress for the British Empire, and for all the nations who have been Britain's allies, has been a path whereon every step was fraught with danger, when it was never known to those who traversed that path what moment might disclose a hidden mine, when apparently overhanging the end of the path was a black cloud—the black cloud of that great European war which for years we have been expecting, which we knew was bound to come. The mine has exploded, the cloud has burst, its lightning flashes have fallen on us, and we emerge now, scarred it is true, but with our hearts full of hope, to see over us the bright blue sky of future prosperity. I feel that more words from me are unnecessary. I feel that if I had the tongues, so to speak, of men and angels, I could not express my own feelings; far less the feelings of all loyal Australians—and, thank God, we are all loyal. I will content myself, therefore, with these few words in seconding the motion which the leader of the House has proposed, and with thanking that gentleman, from the bottom of my heart, for giving me the opportunity of so seconding.

Members: Hear, hear!

Question put and passed, members standing

[Members joined in singing the National Anthem.]

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.47]: I now move the second motion—

That the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled desires to convey to the Australian Navy and Army abroad the thanks of the people of Western Australia for the magnificent services in the cause of freedom, justice, and righteousness rendered by the sailors and soldiers of Australia, and its heartfelt congratulations on the glorious victory, in the achievement of which the Australian Divisions have played so notable a part. That a message be forwarded transmitting this resolution to the Minister for Defence and the Minister for the Navy of the Commonwealth.

Members: Hear, hear!

The PRESIDENT: Is it intended that this motion should be sent through His Excellency the Governor to the Naval and Military Authorities?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, Sir.

Hon. C. F. BAXTER (Honorary Minister—East) [4.48]: I second the motion.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [4.49]: Before the motion is put, I desire to say a few brief words. The motion is one of thanks to the members of the Australian Imperial Forces and Australian Naval Forces abroad. May I be permitted to pay a small tribute of praise also, in connection with the conduct of the war, to those members of the Australian community who have served in the mercantile marine.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. CORNELL: Further, may I offer a tribute of praise to those members of the Allied nations who have served similarly. As a reader of history, I recognise that, in all probability, when the history of this greatest of wars comes to be written, the mercantile marine of the various Allied countries is not likely to receive its due measure of appreciation. However, if it does not do so, I am satisfied, from what I have seen of the merchant seamen of the Allied countries, that no offence will be taken. Up to now, indeed, the merchant seamen of the Allied nations have not received the appreciation due to them. The British merchant seamen have played their part as only British sailors can. Much could be said regarding what our soldiers have done. I am not in the position to relate all they have done, nor to estimate how many of them have made the supreme sacrifice. But good wine needs no bush, the lily is in no need of painting, and the deeds of the Australian soldiers on the battlefields of the world will stand for ever, and bear the most jealous scrutiny. As one who has done a little soldiering—very little; not as much as I would have liked—

Hon. J. Duffell: You did your part.

Hon. J. Nicholson: You did your duty.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I can say truthfully and feelingly that no one who has not served as a soldier can form any conception of the

disabilities under which a soldier does his duty. To the outsider it appears all right; to the insider it appears all wrong. When donning his uniform, the soldier subordinates all his individuality, and offers the whole of his strength to the service of his country. That is a task for which men of advancing years are hardly fitted. I do not want to be pessimistic, but on behalf of our soldiers who have come back and on behalf of those who are still away I ask that this community should have an eye to the welfare of the warriors whom we sent to bear their part in the greatest achievement of arms in the world's history. I say, and I say it feelingly, that the ushering in of the dawn of the new era is due to the men who have borne arms. It is the men with arms who have won that position which we occupy to-day. We might have had the wealth of Croesus, the riches of the Universe, but without the men at arms these would not have availed. The final arbitrament in this war has been man power and woman power.

Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. CORNELL: That man power and that woman power have sprung from all sections of the community, high and homely, rich and poor, alike, serving side by side in this great war. That power has placed us in the position we now occupy. I say, and I say it advisedly, that in this world people are apt to be forgetful. A time may come when those who have rendered that man power and that woman power may be forgotten. The ushering in of a world at peace brings with it perhaps greater problems, and demands for greater services, than those of the past four years. At all events, I hope that during my life time it will never be possible to point to any section of the community to which we owe the peace and repose of to-day, and truthfully to say that that section has been made to suffer in the economic world for what it did in war. I do not want to be pessimistic, but I urge that we should all put our hands to the plough, that all sections of the community should begin now to create in this glorious country, the best country in the world, such a condition of things that our fighting men will come back to what they expect to return to—namely that they may be enabled to resume their civil life without trouble or difficulty. Let us stimulate our industries to that extent. Let us bring about such a state of prosperity that the soldier who has played his part in this war may feel, on his return, that the field has been tilled while he was away at the Front. I have met many soldiers who, I know, expect on their return to this country to be fit to work, and who will be pleased to work. All they look for, on returning to their dear ones, is to be enabled to get back to their business without any flag flapping or ostentation. I hope that this Parliament, and that the people of this country, will for the future sink that bitterness and that mistrust which have characterised them for the past four years, and that they will unitedly work towards the consummation of an industry so stimulated as to absorb without difficulty the soldiers and sailors who have done so much for us.

Question put and passed, members standing.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.57]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th November, 1918.

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

THE WAR—PEACE ARMISTICE.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.32]. This, I think all members will agree, is the most glorious day in the history of the British Empire, and the most glorious day in the history of Australia. I am going to ask the House to agree to two motions this afternoon, and will then ask the House to agree to adjourn. The first motion which I shall submit to the House is as follows:—

That on the occasion of the signing of the peace armistice, signalling the complete and glorious triumph of the Allied armies, the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, expresses its profound gratitude to Almighty God, its deep and abiding loyalty to the throne and person of His Majesty the King, and its proud admiration of the sailors and soldiers of the Empire and the Allies, and that a message be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor desiring him to transmit the foregoing resolution to His Majesty the King. I think, as representatives of the people of Western Australia assembled here in the people's House of Western Australia, it is certainly our duty on this occasion to express not only our loyalty to the throne, but also our admiration of the great part the sailors and soldiers of the Empire have taken in this great war, as well as to express our gratitude to a Higher Power, the God of Victory, who has brought about, by means of our arms, this great victory we are now celebrating. In expressing our loyalty to His Majesty the King we are expressing not only our loyalty to the individual, but we are expressing our loyalty to our own country, Australia, and the Empire. The King is the symbol of nationhood. The King is the power above all others which expresses the greatness of the Empire, and he is also the head not only

of the Government of Great Britain, but the head of the Governments of all his great Dominions throughout the length and breadth of the world. No doubt we approach this subject with a certain amount of solemnity—certainly I do. I am quite sure that all hon. members of this House approach the subject not only in a spirit of rejoicing, but also in a spirit of sadness on behalf of those who have suffered in the cause of freedom and liberty. There are few hon. members of this House who have not had relatives and friends at the Front. There are many hon. members who, like myself, have had sons at the Front, and there are also those in this House whose sons have made the supreme sacrifice. Consequently, although we may rejoice at the great victory which we have obtained, still I think it is our duty to consider those who have suffered, and whilst rejoicing show our sympathy with those who have given of their best in the cause of Empire. This war has been the greatest war since the world began. Wars, since the foundation of the world, have always been going on, from the time when the Philistines fought in the earlier days of history, and in the times of Hannibal and Caesar. Later, we had the great Napoleonic wars which lasted for so long, when the world, or Great Britain, at any rate, was engaged in a great struggle for liberty. This war, which I hope has just been brought to a close, transcends all wars which have ever taken place, not only in its magnitude but in the greatness of the sacrifices which have been made. Over four years ago we found the German Empire imbued with the ambition to rule the world, and possessed of a great ambition to own Mittel Europa. They had made up their minds that they would start forth on this great struggle. They commenced the war by breaking an honourable understanding, and by overrunning little Belgium. If it had not been for the splendid stand which Belgium made on that occasion, who knows but that the northern shores of France would all have been in the hands of Germany. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Belgium for the great and noble stand which she took in the earlier days of the war, when we were unprepared, as Great Britain has always been unprepared, for such an event. Great Britain has never desired war, and although she may not be prepared at any time, nevertheless, she has always seen that a war in which she is engaged is brought to a final and satisfactory conclusion. One of the events which I so much deplore, and I am sure hon. members deplore, is that the man who took charge of the great work of organising our army, Lord Kitchener, should have lost his life. I would indeed have liked to have seen Lord Kitchener at the head of our Army to-day, so that he might view the result of the work of that great army which he loved so well. He told the nation that we had to prepare for a war of at least three years. Many people laughed at the idea, and thought it impossible in these days for a war to last such a length of time. It has now lasted not three years, but well-nigh four years and a half. And, Mr. Speaker, Germany, although always waiting for 'the