

have the land brought under proper cultivation.

The Premier: I inquire into every case reported to me, whether or not the report is anonymous.

Mr. ANGWIN: I notice that when the Honorary Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture was in the district he made use of these words: "It was a thousand pities that such valuable country close to railway facilities and a port should be given over to the maintenance of a few sheep." I think it is necessary that the Minister should get some information in regard to the areas I have mentioned. I refer to the Bowes area, and to Appertarra, where, I have been informed on the best authority, the land has been dummied, and no improvement conditions have been carried out. I have also been told that in various parts of the State these conditions have never been fulfilled. Land has been held on condition that £1 an acre should be expended on improvements, whereas not sixpence has been expended.

The Premier: Give one instance, so that we may inquire. What is the use of vague statements? As a matter of fact, I was, two years ago, travelling over the area you mention, and it struck me the holders were not fulfilling the conditions. On my return I instructed Mr. Thompson, the Inspector of Conditional Purchases, to make a full examination and to see whether the conditions had been fulfilled. But under the conditions existing up to the new amending Land Act, a man need effect no improvements for the first eight years, except to put a ring fence round his holding.

Mr. ANGWIN: Some of this land has not even been fenced since it was subdivided. No money whatever has been expended on it. I am pleased to hear the Premier say that he will take steps.

The Premier: I have taken them.

Mr. ANGWIN: I hope they will be successful, and that a large area now lying idle adjacent to our railways will be thrown open for settlement. There will then be no necessity to place our

immigrants on land 30 or 40 miles from our railways, when we have unused land such as I have mentioned. I do not think it necessary to take up more time. I trust that the Government will at once table their new Electoral Bill, so that we may carefully study it, and I trust also that one of the first measures introduced will be a Bill for the construction of the Fremantle Dock.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at three minutes to 10 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

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

Prayers.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY, PRESENTATION.

Mr PRESIDENT: In accordance with the resolution of July 11th, I presented the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor, and have received this reply:—

"I thank you for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament, and for your expression of loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty the King.

F. G. D. BEDFORD, Governor."

OBITUARY—C. E. DEMPSTER, M.L.C.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) : I very much regret to say that, since last we met, we have lost one of the old members of this Council in the person of the Hon. C. E. Dempster. I think I would be wanting in my duty as Leader of this House if I did not ask the House to adjourn out of respect to the memory of that hon. gentleman. I intend, in concluding these remarks, to move that the House adjourn out of respect to the memory of the late hon. member, and that you, Mr. President, should convey a message of sympathy to his widow and family. I feel some diffidence in speaking on this occasion in the presence of other hon. members who have known the deceased gentleman for very many years longer than I have. I have known him long enough, however, during the last five or six years while I have been a member of this House, to be able to appreciate his sterling qualities. I move :—

That out of respect to the memory of the late Hon. Charles Edward Dempster, a member for the East Province, the House do now adjourn, and that a message of condolence be sent by the President to his widow and family.

Hon. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan) : I beg to second the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I am sure we all deplore the loss of a man who was distinguished for his good, practical ability, his earnestness and his disinterestedness. His experience was helpful to the House in many directions, and I am sure we all held him in the highest regard and esteem. I have known the late Mr. Dempster for a great many years myself, and there are those in this House who have perhaps known him more intimately and longer than I, but I always appreciated his presence in the Chamber. I looked upon him as a good type of a country gentleman, and one who had the determination to devote his best energies to the welfare of the State in which he lived and, I believe, was born, and especially that of the district which he represented in

this House. The interests of those localities were safe in his hands, and I am sure we all realise that we have lost an able and excellent member of this Chamber, of this community, and especially of the district to which he belonged.

Hon. M. L. MOSS (West) : It is a matter of profound regret to me that the necessity has arisen to move this resolution. It is one I very sincerely support. I am sure that Mrs. Dempster will appreciate the vote that this House will carry and the adjournment that will take place as a result of the motion, and more particularly the letter which will convey that resolution from the House to her. When one thinks of the late hon. member, or rather when I think of him, I associate with him two other departed members of this House who represented the same province when I entered the Legislative Council; they are the late Hon. R. Burges and the late Hon. H. Lakin. They, with Mr. Dempster, may be regarded as three sterling representatives of the Parliament of this country. All of them were honourable and upright men. As to Mr. Dempster, with whom I have been acquainted and friendly for a much longer period than the other two gentlemen I have mentioned, I may say I have always been able to fully appreciate his work. He was always punctual in his attendance in this House even when his health barely permitted him to attend to his public duties; he was always ready to express his opinion on every question as it came up; he never hesitated to give his vote, as every member of Parliament should on all questions coming before the Council after due deliberation. In that he has set an example during the course of his parliamentary life which it might be well for others to endeavour to emulate. I know of no more honourable gentleman who has sat in this Chamber than he, and we can ill afford to lose men of that calibre. It is a matter of profound regret that the necessity has arisen to move the resolution which has my support; but it is only fitting to a gentleman who has

rendered such signal services to the country and to the district he represented that we should adjourn out of respect to his memory.

Hon. C. A. PIESSE (South-East): I desire to say a few words on this motion. The hon. gentleman was always a personal friend of mine, and I have had, in my political life, many opportunities of meeting him owing to his interests in agricultural pursuits. Probably I have seen more of him in his private capacity than most members, not only since I have become associated with him in this Chamber, but from my boyhood days. He was 12 or 14 years older than I, and we as boys always looked up to him as one whose example we should follow. In fact, the name of "Edward Dempster" was continuously held before us by our superiors as that of a man whose example we should as far as possible emulate. To come to more recent years, it seems to me that this State can scarcely realise the extent of the loss which it sustains by Mr. Dempster's death. Hon. members will agree with me when I say that he formed one of the links in the chain which held the old and the new people of Western Australia together. To new comers he was ever anxious and ready to explain the difficulties which would beset their paths and which had been experienced by the old settlers, and was always ready to give them his advice and assistance. By his words and deeds he brought about a very much warmer feeling between the new settlers and the old. On that account alone he will be a loss to the State. He was always one of Western Australia's best sons; he was one of the first born—having been born at Northam, I think, in the early days of the State—he was always an example of what a man could accomplish, a brave man in every sense of the word, and one of his most marked characteristics was his considerate attitude towards the feelings of others. He never said a thing in this Chamber—and I defy a member to quote an instance to the contrary—which would be hurtful to the feelings of any member. I have said these few words be-

cause I looked upon the late Mr. Dempster as an old and personal friend, and thought it my duty to pay my tribute to his memory. He was a good father and an honourable and trusted citizen of this State, as has been pointed out by other speakers, and he was true and good in all he took in hand. I feel somewhat deeply on this matter, and I trust members will pardon my disjointed sentences; but I cannot allow the opportunity to pass without expressing my deep regret at the loss the State has sustained and that his family have sustained also. I may sum up in a few words what I wish to say; he was one of nature's gentlemen.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (East): I also would like to add a few words on this occasion, out of respect to the memory of the Hon. C. E. Dempster. I regret exceedingly that it is necessary. I have known the hon. gentleman ever since my childhood, and as stated by Mr. Piesse, I have always looked upon him as one of those sterling characters whom we could with advantage well emulate. I know that throughout the districts in which he has lived he will be mourned. He has identified himself with the State right from the southern portion to the north, and he has been connected with various industries or businesses throughout the length and breadth of our land. In his early days he did noble work in pioneering some of our eastern country, and whenever he could not go himself he took a lively interest in all that was likely to lead to the opening up of new country, or in giving a helping hand to anyone going into the interior to seek either for minerals or stock country. It was always with the idea that he was helping forward the interests of our country. His home of course is well known, the place where he lived in the early days, the home of his family "Buckland"; and more recently his homestead at Northam, "Springfield," are I suppose known from one end of the country to another and outside the country, as places that could not be surpassed for hospitality to everyone who came from far or near. Everyone was

received with the utmost kindness, and nothing was too great trouble to the Hon. Mr. Dempster or his family in inducing people to take a lively interest in all the affairs of the State. It is well known to all that he took a lively interest in agricultural matters, also in sporting matters he has undoubtedly been of great service in helping to lay the foundation of some of the best sport, and to place it on a good footing in this country. Whenever his name has been identified with sport, one could rely on the utmost honour and integrity. I think the best tribute I can pay to the late member is to say that I have always felt that he was the very essence of a gentleman and that his word was his bond. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (South) : As one of the members of the Eastern Goldfields Province, I rise on this occasion to express my deepest regret at the loss of so able a gentleman as Mr. Dempster. He was one of the fearless members of the House, and on many occasions when opinions have been divided on critical questions pertaining to the goldfields he has always expressed his opinion fearlessly and straightforwardly, and as a citizen of the goldfields I say that we have had to thank him on more than one occasion for his help, especially in his assistance in opening up the Norseman country, and we are now deriving benefit, no doubt, from some of his energy. We on the goldfields mourn his loss, equally with our fellow citizens in the district in which the hon. member lived so long, and I can assure members that it was with the utmost sorrow that we heard of his death. I trust that all the comforts that can be given to his family will be given to them, and I can assure them that the sympathy of the citizens of the Eastern Goldfields is with them in their hour of trial.

Hon. S. J. HAYNES (South-East) : I desire to add my few words of respect for the late hon. gentleman. I have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing the late Mr. Dempster for 20 years, and of that time I sat with him in this House

for about 13 years. I can only say that on all occasions I have found Mr. Dempster a high-minded, conscientious, straightforward gentleman; painstaking, and one who never stinted his time for his country or his friends. He is one of the old band, I may say, of West Australians, which is getting very small indeed. He was a native of this State as Mr. Randell has said, and I believe he was one of the earliest Western Australian children born here, and his life has been, from what I have read and what I have known of him, one of usefulness to the State and to those around him. I know, indeed we all know, that we not only regret for the sake of his family, his decease; we also regret it for the sake of the country in which we reside. His loss is not only a private loss but a public loss. I with others join in mourning with his family, and I am sure he has left behind him a good memory and one that is likely to be of use for others to follow his good example. While many of us on occasions differed from the hon. gentleman, or he from us, I do not know anyone in the House who has said fewer things in debate without any sting, and that is saying a good deal, because the House is so free from that kind of thing. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion, and I deeply regret the hon. member's removal.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs) : Before putting the motion, it may not be unfitting for me to join in the tribute of respect to the memory of our old friend and fellow member. His high principles, his wisdom, and his courtesy showed the fine character of a Christian gentleman; and he was always loyal to his standard in every relation of life, and always had the reputation of running straight. Such characters sweeten political life. Clean hands, chastened lips, a bold heart, and a lofty spirit enabled politics to become with him the means of noble public service. Though a man of decided opinions, our friend, as a man of honour, was ever careful to respect the opinions of others: sincere in his own views, he credited others with like sincerity. His work as a member

for the East Province since 1894 proves that where there is the harmony of a common motive, a common allegiance to conscience, and a common love of country, personal respect and esteem will survive all differences as to the means of fulfilling a common end. May that harmony long continue to adorn the proceedings of this Council. This Council has sustained a heavy loss, and the sympathy of every member will go out to the bereaved home.

Question passed, members rising.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.59 o'clock, until the next day.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Treasurer: 1, By-laws of the Municipalities of Perth and Mt. Morgans. 2, Amended Regulations and Schedule of Charges for the Broome, Carnarvon, and Port Hedland Jetties. 3, Return of Members of Industrial Unions, etc.

QUESTION—FACTORIES REPORT.

Mr. BATH (for Mr. Troy) asked the Premier: Why has not the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1906 been published?

The TREASURER (for the Premier) replied: The report is not yet completed, but will be presented to Parliament as soon as received from the Chief Inspector.

QUESTION—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION, NORTH PERTH.

Mr. VERYARD asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is he aware of the overcrowded condition of the School at Hawthorn, North Perth, in consequence of which a number of children are unable to be received in that school? 2, If so, does he propose to provide suitable accommodation, and when?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. F. Wilson) replied: 1, Yes. 2, Approval was given some weeks ago to the anticipation of an item to be provided on the draft Estimates for the erection of a school, and the Public Works Department has been asked to prepare the plans and estimates so that the work may be put in hand at an early date. It has been impossible to proceed before as a site had to be purchased, and considerable delay was caused by the impossibility of finding the owner of the land required. The land in question is now being resumed.

QUESTION—PERTH FORESHORE RECLAMATION.

Mr. HARDWICK asked the Minister for Works: Has the Minister any intention of continuing the reclamation works along the river frontage? If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The work referred to will be continued when Parliament has granted the necessary monetary authorisation.

OBITUARY—C. E. DEMPSTER, M.L.C.

The TREASURER (Hon. F. Wilson): It is my very sorrowful duty to call the attention of the House to the fact that Western Australia has lost one of her most esteemed citizens in the