

continue to support the medical services of the North, as they have done already to the extent of £500. This has proved a wonderful asset to that part of the State. The Government are to be complimented upon what they have done. Reference was made in the House the other night to the road grant of £28,000 to various north-west road boards. These subsidies are always very acceptable. At times the road boards find it exceedingly difficult to keep their roads in order, and the only means they have of doing so is through these grants. As the member for Roebourne (Mr. Rodoreda) said the other night, the grants are not nearly big enough. The only way to get goods transported through the North-West is along the roads, but in many instances these are roads in name only. The amount of petrol consumed in the North-West in transport services should provide a reason for further grants being given for road construction. A good deal of revenue is derived from the tax on petrol. I must say the Government have been very sympathetic in this regard to the North-West, and their assistance has been very acceptable. Without appearing to be greedy, we would appreciate further grants in this direction, and I know they would not be turned down if they were offered. The roads are frequently knocked about by heavy summer rains. Unfortunately, we have not recently had any summer rains, and the roads are not in as bad a state as they usually are. Generally speaking, however, they are in a pretty bad condition all the year round. We all know the straits to which the pastoral industry in the North has been reduced. In many instances in my electorate pastoralists have lost practically half their stock, and many young fellows who started not long ago in the industry have now been reduced to where they were when they made their start. I do not want at this stage to ask for any assistance on their behalf, because we usually prefer to paddle our own canoe, but the time has arrived when assistance might well be asked for. When the request is made, I hope the Government will see their way to grant it.

Mr. Marshall: On this occasion the Government will have to give some consideration to these people.

Mr. WELSH: I hope the Government will take into consideration the remarks I have made concerning the shipping facilities for the North-West and the appointment of a warden for the Pilbara mining district.

On motion by Mr. Doust, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 27th August, 1936.

	PAGE
Adjournment, Leadership of the Council, resignation of Hon. J. M. Drew	190

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

ADJOURNMENT—LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

Resignation of Hon. J. M. Drew.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [4.36]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 8th September.

As I have decided to resign my portfolio as Chief Secretary, which involves my resignation as Leader of the House, I wish to say a few parting words to hon. members. I shall soon be leaving this old seat which I first filled 32 years ago, and which I can never hope to fill again. The solemnity of the occasion brings up old memories, revives in my mind very old associations. I think of the men who sat in this Chamber down a long range of years. I think of their discussions, their different attributes, and the diversity of their views. From time to time there have been mighty debates in this Chamber. A score or more verbal batteries have been brought into action; and the Leader of the House, no matter what his politics might be, has often been obliged to

plumb the depths of his ingenuity, in an effort to discover material to meet the attack or to coax the temporary enemy into a reasonable degree of subjection. There has often been fighting, but the fighting has been fair. We have been able, on all occasions, to battle for our respective principles, and, outside the Chamber, meet and talk together as friends. The great thing in political life is to recognise that the honest opinions of others are entitled to respect; that their opinions, in certain circumstances, may be due to a misapprehension, and that very often the best way to subdue an opponent, and enlist his support, is to give him the facts and satisfy him that they are facts.

I have been treated with a great deal of consideration by the House. The members have been extraordinarily generous to me: they have made my path easier than I could have hoped it to be. I have always thought that the reason why it has been so, is that I have grown up with the House; that I am a link between the old and the new; that I am looked upon as the patriarch of this Chamber, and that, without regard to my merits, I have been accorded a tolerance which reverence for antiquity might excuse but which reason could not justify. It seems to me that I have been sheltered by the protecting mantle of the long procession of distinguished men who have gone before. For 15 years, all told, I have been your Leader, and I can look back on the past and say that, although from first to last my party was in a hopeless minority, and that although in most cases the principles I held and voiced were not in keeping with the sentiments of many of the members, yet there was always extended to me the greatest courtesy and kindness. And I must say—and I think this is undeniable—that I have seen some excellent legislation in the interests of Labour passed by this House.

To you, Mr. President, I owe much. I have always had the benefit of your sound judgment and good advice. The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Cornell), who, I regret, is absent through illness, has also been of much assistance to me. To all the officers of the House, including the "Hansard" staff, I owe a sincere acknowledgment of the willing services they have rendered to me over a long course of years.

A word on behalf of my successor. He is known to you. He has been a tower of strength to me. No colleague could have been more loyal to me than he. I have no

doubt that you will recognise his responsibilities and help to make his path smoother for him. Mr. Gray, as Honorary Minister, may be expected to bring to bear on his duties, both in Cabinet and in the House, that varied experience of men and things which is helpful to success.

Although I shall no longer be your Leader, I will still be a member; and I hope that I may be able to continue for some time to render service to my Party, to my Province, and to the State whose welfare is dear to my heart.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.42]: It is with feelings of deep regret that I rise to express myself concerning Mr. Drew's resignation of the Leadership of the Legislative Council and the portfolio of Chief Secretary. Mr. Drew has stated two or three reasons for his success in this Chamber, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that I do not regard those reasons as vital. Mr. Drew's ability, his integrity, and his honesty of purpose have carried him through many battles here and have endeared him to every member. The hon. gentleman has set a standard which has been adopted by many members, and all who have adopted it have gained enormously by doing so. Mr. Drew's role has not been an easy one; nor can that role be easy for any leader of the Council, for he finds himself situated quite differently from the leader of another place. There a Minister of the Crown has the advantage of the solid vote of the party sitting behind him. In this Chamber it frequently remains with the leader of the House to influence the vote of practically every member in order to secure the passage of Bills and the carrying of motions. Let me say also that the Labour Governments which have been in power in Western Australia have been most fortunate in having the advantage of a judgment of the calibre of that possessed by Mr. Drew, a man who is so highly esteemed that he has been successful in securing the passage of measures which would not have been passed in the same good order by many other leaders. There are always difficulties which beset Parliamentarians generally, and especially a leader of this Chamber; but in Mr. Drew we found a man who if at any time through inadvertency—as must happen to any leader of the Council—he made a misstatement, no matter how slight, was always burning to seize the first opportunity to correct the wrong impression created and let

hon. members know the exact position. We know, again, that Mr. Drew is of a very fine type, a man who would not diverge by a hair's breadth from proper conduct in life nor lend his countenance to anything of which he did not approve. I am pleased indeed that Mr. Drew will be remaining with us as a member of the Chamber to aid us with his wise counsels. During the 22 years I have been here, Mr. Drew has been of very great assistance to members of the House and a stalwart for the preservation of the traditions of the House. It is of immense importance that we should have members of the type of Mr. Drew when we consider that not infrequently the whole of the responsibility for the passing of legislation is thrown on this Chamber. Therefore men of the character of Mr. Drew, with his experience, his probity and his genial way are invaluable, and I hope he will be spared for long years to grace this Chamber with his presence. Mr. Drew's successor, Mr. Kitson, has been very fortunate in having a leader such as Mr. Drew to understudy. Personally, I think that Mr. Kitson in understudying Mr. Drew has fortified himself to occupy his new position with honour to himself and to the Government, in addition to rendering valuable service to the State. I trust he will be entirely successful in his new post. The Legislative Council has always been fair and reasonable; in fact, I may say that members were more than reasonable to me from time to time when I was occupying the position of Leader. I feel sure the same consideration will be extended to Mr. Kitson in his new role. I regret very much that Mr. Drew has seen fit to retire, but I hope that retirement will mean a long continuance of his good health, that he may remain with us in the Council for years to come.

HON. H. SEDDON (North-East) [4.48]: Mr. Baxter, I think, has fittingly expressed the wishes actuating every member of the House, all of whom regret that we should have lost a Leader who has set so high a standard of conduct in this House, a standard which has been largely responsible for the esteem in which he is held to-day, not only in the Chamber, but in the minds of the public. I can well understand the motives underlying Mr. Drew's determination to sever the long period he has spent in office. He has established a reputation here that will last long after he leaves the Chamber in which he has worthily upheld the

traditions of high debate and fair play. In that regard the Minister has achieved a record that will be very difficult for anyone else to surpass. On more than one occasion Mr. Drew has materially assisted the House in positions extremely difficult and delicate, and on those occasions members have readily followed him, in the confident knowledge that their trust would not be abused. The Chief Secretary's efforts in that direction have been fully appreciated by members in times when the relationship between the two Houses was strained and the position acute. Members also have been highly appreciative of the way in which Mr. Drew has ever been ready to supply information required. In the course of a debate the Minister has spared no pains in obtaining information in order that the House should fully appreciate the position. I am sure that such traditions as the Chief Secretary has established will be worthily followed by his successor, Mr. Kitson. I have watched the progress of the Honorary Minister in this House and I am confident he will follow worthily in the steps of his Leader. I wish to express my personal regret that Mr. Drew should be leaving office, but I look forward to many years during which I hope he will be here to assist us in the capacity of a private member.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [4.50]: We all feel profound regret at the announcement made by Mr. Drew, a regret that has been clearly and emphatically expressed by those who have preceded me. I know that every member here has held the Leader of the House in the greatest and highest respect. That gentleman could never have been so successful in his position had he not possessed those qualities of character which directed him in every action of his life. We can feel for him on his decision to retire from a position which he has occupied for longer years than any other man has ever held it, and I venture to say Mr. Drew has held it throughout all that time with the highest esteem of everybody. That he should have won that esteem can be, I think, explained by his parting words, delivered so eloquently this afternoon. He reminded us of the fact that he was regarded perhaps as the patriarch of the House. We certainly do regard him in that light and as he stated, he was looked upon as a link between the old and the new. But in expressing those words,

he has also conveyed the impression that the high standard which actuated those members with whom he laboured in the early years has been perpetuated by him and passed on, I hope for his successor to follow. These are the qualities which have won for Mr. Drew that esteem of his fellow members, and I can realise that his successor in following him has someone to look up to, someone to whom he can look as guide; and if he follows in Mr. Drew's footsteps, then the same admiration and kindly feelings and expressions will be used towards him when his turn comes. I join with the previous speakers also in the wishes that have been expressed towards Mr. Kitson, who will succeed the Chief Secretary. I trust that in occupying that position Mr. Kitson will bear in mind those fine qualities that won for Mr. Drew the esteem which has been felt towards him, not only in the House but throughout the length and breadth of the State. I admit that he has set a standard and an ideal of conduct that are high indeed. To Mr. Gray also may I express the hope that in assuming office as Honorary Minister he will be guided by the same wisdom and thoroughness and ability which has characterised Mr. Kitson whilst filling that position. I quite realise, if I may add one word in conclusion, how difficult it will be for our friend Mr. Drew when he enters this Chamber not to falter for a moment as he passes the seat he has occupied with such distinction for so many years. He may feel almost that it is his accustomed seat, as indeed it has been through all those long years. And one may well pardon him if some day in a spirit of forgetfulness he may actually resume his seat, or in passing it he may see there some member whom he might momentarily regard as a stranger. I trust that many years remain to Mr. Drew to help us in the Council and that, as he himself would have it, the debates will always be something to look forward to. My best wishes go out to Mr. Drew.

HON. J. J. HOLMES (North) [4.56]: I can only say that nobody regrets more than I do the retirement of the Chief Secretary from the position he has held in this House for so many years and with such distinction. He has been an example to one and all of us, for he has faithfully carried out his duties in a manner that we could always admire. This afternoon he referred to the kindness of members and to what members have allowed him to do. But it is only be-

cause members had implicit confidence in him that he has been able to accomplish so much in the way of moulding legislation in this country on fairly decent lines. But, to use a sporting phrase, he never once attempted to hit below the belt; although on occasions members have given him opportunity to retaliate, he never took advantage of it, nor has he ever attempted to get away with anything in this House. He brought Bills down here, he explained the position, he showed the pitfalls and dealt exhaustively with every clause in each Bill. Having done that he had done his job as Leader of the House, after which he stood up to accomplish the passing of the legislation, and in a fair and equitable way informed the House and the country what his views were. So, as I say, he never attempted to get away with anything in this Chamber without members knowing exactly what they were doing. He has been the soul of honour and has set a high standard for other members to follow. He has been described as one of nature's gentlemen. I repeat that no one will regret more than I do Mr. Drew's retirement from the Leadership. Happily, however, we shall have his presence and wise counsel and marked ability at our disposal, which is something we can congratulate ourselves upon. I wish to endorse every word of what the previous speakers have said. As far as Mr. Kitson is concerned, I am bound to say that he has already profited by the experience he has gained in this Chamber. I have told him that he is a much better man now than before. If Mr. Kitson and Mr. Gray follow on the same lines, and adhere to the strict principles adopted by the retiring Leader, Mr. Drew, they will at the end of their term have done well for their party, for this House, and for the country. Mr. Drew has set a high standard for them to live up to, and, although I will not promise not to criticise, if there is anything I can do to help forward legislation introduced by them for the general good of this country, they will have my whole-hearted support. Once more let me express my regret at Mr. Drew's retirement from the position of Chief Secretary, which he has held for so many years with such distinction.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [5.3]: Many predictions were made prior to the assembling of Parliament as to what would happen as a result of the elections, but it

is safe to say that no one could have foreseen the surprises that have from day to day startled us. The most momentous and perhaps the greatest surprise of all is that which we have had to-day in learning of the resignation of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Drew, our trusted and dear friend. I think I can claim him to be that, on my own behalf and on behalf of all members. During the whole of the period I have had the pleasure of being in this House, I have had close association with Mr. Drew. I have followed his career right through with the greatest interest and have the fullest appreciation of the admirable manner in which he has carried out his duties since he took office as Chief Secretary. Without wishing to cast any reflection on his successor, I would say that Labour's loss in this case is our loss. I should have been sorry to think that Mr. Drew intended to retire from politics altogether, and it is good to have his assurance that he intends to continue as a private member. I hope he will long be spared to give this Chamber the benefit of his many years of experience. It will readily be recognised that, to a man of his temperament, the strain of office after such a strenuous period of years must be great, for he has been a very important member of the Ministry with which he has been associated. It will be a great relief to him to have the cares of office taken off his shoulders. In closing, I wish to endorse all the kind wishes extended by other members to Mr. Kitson and Mr. Gray.

HON. W. J. MANN (South-West) [5.6]: I desire to join in the expressions of regret which have been uttered this afternoon concerning the resignation of the Leader of this House. I am sure those of us who are comparatively new to this Chamber have a great deal for which to thank Mr. Drew. His unfailing courtesy to the younger members has been outstanding, and his readiness at all times to assist members has been wonderful in the extreme. It has been my privilege to have been associated with Mr. Drew for many more years than I have been in Parliament. Some years ago he laid down the pen in his profession which he left carrying with him the greatest respect of all its members, many of whom looked up to him as one of

the most, if not the most, outstanding men in that profession. In that sphere, also, he lived a strenuous life and laid down high principles for his own guidance and the guidance of others. There, as in this House, he displayed wonderful judgment, and extreme kindness, smoothing down, with his graciousness, any resentment which may have been occasioned in the Press world. And, just as he retired from active work in that profession carrying with him the appreciation and affection of all who knew him, so to-day he lays down the reins of leadership in this Chamber. It is encouraging and comforting to know that we will have his presence here and will still be able to secure the benefit of his wide knowledge and calm judgment, and I trust that as long as he is spared on this earth he will be associated with this Chamber. To Mr. Kitson and Mr. Gray I extend my congratulations and hope that at the end of their term of office, they will enjoy the same regard of all the members that has been won by Mr. Drew.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [5.8]: Notwithstanding the very high regard which has been expressed towards the Chief Secretary this afternoon I ask the indulgence of the House to pay my tribute to him as one of his colleagues in the Central Province and one who, I think I am safe in saying, can claim a longer acquaintance and friendship with him than any member in this Chamber. Mr. Drew has known me since I was a boy and I hope that he will not mind my saying that at this moment my thoughts go back to his courtship days. It was my very great pleasure to work in the Geraldton post office with the good lady who to-day is his wife and I can well remember, as a boy, coming from the office and seeing our honourable friend, J.M., on beat outside, waiting for his lady. I was a civil servant then and little thought that the time would come when we would meet in a Chamber such as this. It is a great regret to me that I could not see my way clear to be allied with him in politics. But we all have our opinions and that is a thing which Fate decides. As is well known to many members, since I have been here, I have felt it my duty to say certain things which have caused me to receive a severe verbal thrashing from our friend. I have no reason to doubt that every word uttered here this afternoon has

been voiced with absolute sincerity and I know Mr. Drew will believe me, if every other member does not, when I say that despite our differences of opinion, nobody holds him in higher esteem than I. Only a couple of months ago I was at Dalwallinu, which I was visiting in connection with the performance of my duties as a member for the province. Mr. Drew was there at the time prosecuting his campaign for re-election. I do not know whether the occasion was unique or not but I attended his meeting and at the conclusion of his speech I was able, amongst our own people, in our own province, to get up and say what I thought of him. I can pay no higher compliment to him this afternoon than I paid to him there. Just as the House regrets the Chief Secretary's retirement, so throughout the whole of the province will that regret be shared by every man and woman. I venture to suggest that if Mr. Drew had entered the Legislative Assembly as member for Geraldton, his ability would ultimately have earned him the distinction of being head of the Government in this State. It is simply because he entered this Chamber and has remained here that he has been robbed of that great honour.

HON. T. MOORE (Central) [5.11]: In a few words I should like to concur in all that has been said by hon. members on the retirement of our Leader. It is certainly with mixed feelings that I speak at this juncture because I realise what a great severance it is to the country such as ours to lose the leadership of a man like Mr. Drew. It has been said that he has been a link between the old and the new. As a matter of fact he is one of those men who never grow old. He has never grown conservative and while he has been growing old in years he has always remained young in his desire to see the country progress and to push things along so as to make matters better for everyone. This has been his aim since the first day he came to this Chamber. The respect in which he is held is really remarkable. From end to end of the State, wherever one might go, all will hear J. M. Drew spoken of in terms of endearment; and so it will be right along the many years he will be with us yet. It is not really appreciated what the leadership of this House actually means. In the Legislative Assembly there are five and sometimes six Ministers who handle the Bills that subsequently have to be dealt with

solely by the Leader of the House in this Chamber, for we must realise that most of the big and important Bills have to be handled by the portfolioed Minister here. When we recognise that Mr. Drew has not been accustomed to dealing with the departments from which most of those Bills have emanated, it is really remarkable to think that he has been able to concentrate upon them for a few hours and then place the contents of the measures before us, as Mr. Holmes said, in a perfectly plain statement of the facts. Mr. Drew has a remarkable achievement to his credit in that respect. I do not think the outside public realise how the Minister in charge of legislation in this House has to concentrate upon his work in order to place legislation before members to enable them to deal with the subject matter of the measures. Mr. Drew has a very enviable record. Although he is vacating his high office—and we are indeed sorry to lose him as our Leader—we are glad that he is to have an easier time after his long and splendid career. I hope he will be spared for many years to grace this Chamber and to give us the benefit of his advice upon legislation that will be brought before us during the sessions to come. As to his successor, Mr. Kitson, I believe that hon. gentleman will be able to handle the business quite satisfactorily. As I said when speaking at a meeting of our Party yesterday, Mr. Kitson has made great progress in his work, and he has done very well. While at first members may have been inclined to think he was—

Hon. G. W. Miles: A bit of a radical.

Hon. T. MOORE: No; that he was unused to handling Bills, he has overcome that difficulty. It is indeed an ordeal for the man who first rises to place a Bill before members for their acceptance. We can look forward with every confidence to our new Leader carrying out his work satisfactorily. The new Honorary Minister, Mr. Gray, has yet to develop as Mr. Kitson has already done, but I know members of this Chamber will extend to him the same kindly help that they meted out to others in like circumstances. I am quite satisfied that Mr. Gray will improve in that direction as time goes on. There is no question that he will act with the greatest honesty of purpose, and we can all wish him well. I regret the circumstances that have necessitated a change in the leadership, and I am very pleased to think that after the many years Mr. Drew

has been associated with the public life of the State, no one can say a word against him. We will all agree that Mr. Drew is one of the finest men this State has ever known.

HON. C. H. WITTENOOM (South-East) [5.19]: As one who has known Mr. Drew almost as long as anyone else in this House, I also desire to express my very deep regret that he has ceased to be the Leader of this House. His courtesy to all, and more particularly to new members, has always been recognised and appreciated. I join with other members in the sincere hope that he will be spared for many years to give the House the benefit of the experience he has gained during the 32 years he has been a member of this Chamber, 15 years of which were spent in Ministerial office. We all appreciate the work Mr. Drew has done for the State. As to the new Leader, Mr. Kitson, and the new Honorary Minister, Mr. Gray, all I can say is that we hope we shall be able to get on as well with them as we did with Mr. Drew. We will extend to them all the assistance we possibly can, but I regret very sincerely that we are losing the services of Mr. Drew as Leader of the House.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [5.20]: As one of the members sitting on the Government back bench, I desire to associate myself with the many kindly remarks that have been made this afternoon regarding the retirement of our Leader. To me this is one of the saddest occasions I have known in this Chamber. For so many years have we been accustomed to look to Mr. Drew for guidance and advice, that it will indeed be strange to have to turn to a new Leader. During the years I have been a member of this House, Mr. Drew has been, in every sense of the word, a true Leader. On not one occasion when I have sought advice from him has it not been most willingly given. Mr. Drew has had a career such as few men in Australia can lay claim to. We have clung to him for many years as our Leader and we have come to regard him as something in the nature of Tennyson's "Brook," as one who would go on for ever. We realise that we have had more than our share of service from Mr. Drew, and that the time has arrived when we

must accord him a little recreation, or at least a little relief from the arduous task he has shouldered for so many years. I know of no other man in the public life of Australia who is more deserving of a rest from his labours than Mr. Drew. I can only hope that for very many years to come we shall have the advantages of his services and advice. I suppose I shall shortly have an opportunity to welcome Mr. Drew as one of my colleagues on the back bench. It will be a new experience for him, one that I trust Mr. Drew will enjoy. We can promise our new Leader a continuance of the loyalty we have given to Mr. Drew in the past.

HON. E. H. GRAY (West) [5.23]: I wish to associate myself with the expressions of sincere regret that members have uttered this afternoon respecting Mr. Drew's retirement. The fact that every member has spoken in such high terms of Mr. Drew's services in this Chamber gives the occasion a wider application, to my mind. Mr. Drew is held in high regard throughout the Labour movement.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Not only throughout the Labour movement, but by all sections of the community.

Hon. E. H. GRAY: He is one of the founders of the Labour movement, and when he was personally conducting his newspaper, he wielded a mighty pen on behalf of the move for social justice. He is an outstanding figure illustrative of the type that made the Australian Labour movement, and it is not too much to say that the expressions of high regard for Mr. Drew as Leader of the House mean, if anything, a tribute of high regard for the principles that underlie the Labour movement, which he has represented for so many years. Mr. Drew would not be associated with anything dishonourable, or with anything that was not for the good of the country. He would not be associated with anything that did not aim at helping and uplifting the whole of the people. The Labour movement owes a very heavy debt to Mr. Drew, whose influence has extended, as Mr. Miles indicated, far beyond the Labour movement itself. He is held everywhere in high regard and respect, and his name is a household word in the homes of the people. It will indeed appear strange to see Mr. Drew in a seat other than that which he has occupied for so many years. We can take consolation from the fact that

he will be with us and still be available to give us the benefit of his advice and assistance. I hope he will live for very many years to enjoy comparative tranquillity as a private member. No doubt, as occasion demands he will castigate us when we deserve it. I thank members for their kindly references to myself. It will certainly be an ordeal for me when I leave the back bench where, with the joyful abandon of a school-boy, I have been able to hurl verbal bombs about, and on the front bench assume a responsibility that will be altogether different. I shall endeavour to follow in the footsteps of our past Leader, although it will be very difficult. I shall endeavour to live up to the high standard set by Mr. Drew and by so doing strive to earn the confidence, if not the support, of members. I shall have an advantage in that I have worked with our new Leader before. He was my general when I commenced my political career. He understands my weaknesses and I understand his methods. We have always got on well together and I sincerely trust I shall be of great assistance to him in this Chamber.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [5.27]: I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without adding my few words of sincere regret at Mr. Drew's retirement from the high and honourable position he has occupied with such credit to himself over a period of many years. I congratulate Mr. Kitson upon his appointment to the Leadership and I feel sure he will carry out the duties of the office with credit to himself. I know he will receive every assistance possible from members generally. I knew Mr. Gray long before he entered Parliament and I feel sure he will win his spurs and do his best to serve the State and those he represents. While I cannot go back as far as Mr. Hall and refer to Mr. Drew's courtship, I know that ever since I have been in public life I have learnt to appreciate the manner in which he has carried out his duties since he assumed the responsibilities of public office in 1911. During the period I was a member of the Legislative Assembly and occupied a partially responsible position there, I frequently came in contact with Mr. Drew and on every occasion found him to be extremely courteous, kind and helpful. Since I have been a member of this Cham-

ber my respect has grown to a greater extent. It must be very gratifying indeed to him to hear the many expressions of sincere regret by members, and I would like to quote just a few lines that seem to me to fit in with the occasion.

Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am or am not, and keep ever burning before my wandering steps the kindly light of hope; and though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not in sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life and times' old memories that are good and sweet; and may the evening twilight find me gentle still.

Those lines typify the hon. gentleman, who, after having served the State for 32 years, has seen fit to lay down the responsibilities of office. We are all very pleased that Mr. Drew intends to remain with us as a member, and I hope he will be spared many years to occupy that position. It must be gratifying to him, and also to his wife and family, that so many genuine expressions of regret should have been voiced that the weight of years has compelled him to lay aside the arduous duties of Minister of the Crown. One of the sweetest assurances that Mr. Drew has in handing over the position he has occupied with so much dignity is that of carrying with him the genuine esteem and affection of his fellow members.

HON. H. V. PIESSE (South-East) [5.32]: I should like to add my quota to the expressions of appreciation and regret regarding Mr. Drew. As one of the younger members of the House, I have to thank him for assistance always readily given me and the courteous manner in which he has always dealt with any request I have placed before him. As a Western Australian-born man, I am very proud that Mr. Drew was also born in this great State, and has carried out his duties in such an able manner that it has been a pleasure to be associated with him. I wish my friend Mr. Kitson everything of the best for the future. If he would only gain a little more avoirdupois, he might be able to fill his seat a little better, but he will have the support of many friends in this House, because we appreciate his honesty of purpose and the able manner in which he has carried out his duties while Mr. Drew was his chief. Having known Mr. Gray in the province I represent, I am afraid Mr. Holmes will be telling us, when

Mr. Gray moves to the front bench, that we have another representative of Katanning in the House. We know that we shall receive nothing but courteous treatment from him, as we have done in the past. I offer the best of good wishes and the best of good luck to Mr. Drew, and hope he may be spared for many years to continue his great work to assist this State.

THE HONORARY MINISTER (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [5.34]: There are times when one finds it difficult to express one's feelings. For me this is one of those occasions. I hope I shall not be misunderstood when I say that I rise with very mixed feelings indeed, after listening to all the highly eulogistic remarks regarding my chief, my colleague and my friend, to express my sentiments. It is with the deepest regret that I realise Mr. Drew has reached the stage when he thinks it time to retire from the cares of office. As members know, I have been closely associated with him for some years, and have at all times endeavoured to assist him in the many arduous duties he has had to perform. He has set a very high standard which, I think, is unsurpassed in the political history of Australia. The position now is somewhat changed. While it is with the deepest regret that I view his retirement, still I am afforded a certain amount of pleasure in the knowledge that I have been chosen to succeed him. While we must recognise that sooner or later the time must come when one has to retire from a position held over many years, I find some compensation in the knowledge that I shall not lose the valuable advice and assistance that I have received in the past from Mr. Drew. The fact that he will be retaining his seat in this Chamber is a consolation to me, because I know his interest is such that he will still be able and willing to give me advice in the future as he has done in the past. I fully endorse the remarks of other members. It will be my constant endeavour to emulate Mr. Drew while I occupy the position of Leader of the House. If, when the time comes for me to retire from the position, I can feel that I have earned one-half of the respect that has been won by Mr. Drew, I shall feel that I have really achieved something. It will be very difficult to follow in Mr. Drew's footsteps, he having set such a high standard, but I shall do my utmost to be a worthy successor, and more than that I cannot do.

Association with Mr. Drew has proved very valuable to me. As one member expressed it, I found there was quite a lot to learn in this House on assuming responsibilities here, and association with Mr. Drew has helped me to any success I may have achieved as Honorary Minister. That association, too, will be responsible for any success I may achieve as Leader of the House. I thank Mr. Drew for his kindly words this afternoon. I take his place with the most sincere regret, and I say publicly what I have already told Mr. Drew, that so long as he desired to retain the position, I for one would never be desirous of displacing him. I would be quite content to carry on as his assistant. However, he very definitely determined that the time to relinquish the position had arrived. I hope Mr. Drew will be spared for many years in the enjoyment of good health so that he might realise, in the closing years of his life, that tranquillity to which reference has been made. I hope he will continue to occupy a seat in this House for many years as a representative of Central Province, and while he occupies a seat, both I and the House will receive the benefit of his great knowledge and experience. Again I express regret at his retirement; again I acknowledge the very great assistance I have received from him in the past. If I can succeed in doing as well as he has done, I shall not only give satisfaction to the party to which I belong, but also to the State.

THE PRESIDENT [5.43]: Before putting the motion, may I say that it is 28 years since I first became a member of this House, and when Mr. Drew spoke of the past and of the men who had been in the House and had passed away, he awoke many recollections in my mind. I can say that this Chamber has never had a better leader than Mr. Drew or a leader who has had so difficult a task. I endorse every word of what has been said in appreciation of him. It is not difficult to find reasons for Mr. Drew's great success. No one who knows Mr. Drew could fail to recognise his transparent honesty of purpose. He has always shown himself conscientious to an extreme degree. He has been very industrious, and whenever he has addressed the Chamber has shown himself a thorough master of the subject. Furthermore, in addressing this House he has never irritated it. He has been tolerant in his views

towards others, and kindly and considerate towards those who differ from him. He has ever endeavoured to win people to his way by persuading them that the course he pursued was in the best interests of the country. I thank him for his kind references to myself. What I have done to help him in any way I will be extremely pleased to do for his successors. I wish them successful Ministerial careers, and hope that the same consideration will be shown by them towards me as was always exhibited by Mr. Drew. There is one other characteristic of Mr. Drew that was most marked. I think it helped very much towards his effectiveness as a Parliamentarian. He never interjected. Over and over again I have listened to speeches when his opponents were distinctly wrong. He allowed them to go on, and to commit themselves fully without correcting them. But when he came to reply, his reply for that reason was the more effective. I do think that Mr. Drew's Parliamentary skill helped him very materially in his successes. His skill was shown by always keeping his knowledge well up his sleeve until the time came to answer his political critics.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central—in reply) [5.50]: I should like to make a brief reply. It is really impossible for me adequately to reply. I cannot say how deeply I appreciate the very valuable sentiments which have been expressed in my regard. I know very well that they will be highly valued by my wife and family. They will be a standing testimony in my favour, a certificate of character coming from those with whom I have worked in amity for so many years. I have never had such a tribute paid to me during my life, and it would not be possible for me to receive another such tribute. Kind things have been said in this House before, very kind things which have been a great help to me in many ways. Members of the Council have excelled themselves to-night. I will treasure the records of the speeches that have been made here by those who are ranged on a side of politics contrary to that which I occupy. I expected this, knowing members here, and that they do not allow political bias to govern them on occasions like the present. I knew very well they would have something to say about me, but I scarcely expected that they could possibly have gone as far as they

did this afternoon. I hope members will accept my good intentions, which cannot possibly be conveyed in words. I say goodbye to every member, and can with truth state that I regard everyone present, and those who are absent, not only as my political friends, but my friends in every respect.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.52 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 27th August, 1936.

	PAGE
Electoral: Brown Hill-Ivanhoe Constituency, seat declared vacant	199
Questions: Taxation, financial emergency	200
Mining reservations	200
Nurses from Eastern States	200
Leave of absence	200
Address-in-reply, seventh day	200

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

ELECTORAL—BROWNHILL-IVANHOE CONSTITUENCY.

Seat Declared Vacant.

Mr. **SPEAKER**: I have received the following communication from the Deputy Premier:—

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. F. C. L. Smith, member in the Legislative Assembly for the Brownhill-Ivanhoe electoral district, has accepted an office of profit under the Crown, to wit, the office of Minister for Justice and Railways. Would you be good enough, therefore, to issue your warrant for the vacancy thus created.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. M. F. Troy—Mt. Magnet) [4.35]: I move—

That, owing to the acceptance of an office of profit under the Crown, the seat of the member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe be declared vacant.

Question put and passed.