

and those of us who live in Western Australia can remember a quotation which he himself frequently made: "If a monument is required, look around you."

Hon. J. J. HOLMES (North) [4.44]: As one who has the proud privilege of calling this State "The State of my birth," may I be permitted to say how deeply we regret the death of Lord Forrest. It has been the pride and pleasure of Western Australians to refer to the late Lord Forrest as "One of us," and we sympathise with Lady Forrest to-day, and mourn for the loss of a great man. In order to estimate the true greatness of Lord Forrest, we must look back to 70 years ago, when Lord Forrest was born in the backblocks of this State. There were not then the educational facilities which exist here to-day; and yet Lord Forrest, practically unaided, carved his way from, I believe, axeman to surveyor, and thence to the Peerage which he held at the time of his death. The last speaker referred to the first occasion of his seeing Lord Forrest. May I be permitted to refer to the last time I saw Lord Forrest. He was standing on the platform in front of the Perth railway station, and the Governor General was formally opening the Great Western Railway. Lord Forrest stood there, a monument of ability and patriotism, and my mind ran right back to the beginning of things, to Genesis. We are there told that the Maker of the Universe viewed what he had done and was well pleased. The quotation is, I think, "God saw that it was good, and he was well pleased." I could not help thinking that Lord Forrest saw that it was good and he was well pleased. Lord Forrest has gone from us after having lived a life of which anyone might well be proud, and he has gone without leaving a single enemy on the face of God's earth. In conclusion may I be permitted to say that the Empire has lost one of its greatest men and that Western Australia has lost her best friend.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE (South-West) [4.47]: Words almost fail me to express what I feel in regard to our late friend. Personally I prefer to speak of him as Sir John, for he was Sir John to us, although he went away from here as Lord Forrest. I can claim to have enjoyed a close friendship with Sir John, such as was the privilege of but few men. We had been intimate all our lives. Sir John was not above being a friend to the poorest of women. On one occasion I remember he walked to South Bunbury to see some poor woman who had taken notice of him when he was a small child. It is a pity that we have not more young men rising up after the stamp of Sir John Forrest. He never was an orator, but he was a gentleman and no one can say that he ever did a mean action. He was one of Nature's gentlemen. When I saw him the last time, only a short while before he left, I felt that I was seeing the last of him. Not half an hour before I heard to-day of his death I remarked to a friend that I did not think he would ever reach the Old Country. Words fail me to express what I think is due to Sir John Forrest from this State. He was one who might have been referred to as a rough diamond, but nevertheless, he was one of Nature's gentlemen.

Hon. J. E. DODD (South) [5.48]: May I be permitted to add a word to what has been said in regard to Lord Forrest. The party with which I have been associated in the past, although differing politically from Lord Forrest, have always looked upon him as a builder of Empire, and I hope we shall always remember him as such. We always looked upon Lord Forrest as one who tried to do his best for the State, for the country in which he lived, and for the Empire. We have always associated him with big things, but in my mind he was always associated with small matters also. It has been to me marvellous that he should have had time to evince the interest he did in the smaller public affairs of the State. I remember him principally in connection with the King's Park Board. It was to me wonderful to think that Lord Forrest, whenever he came to this State, could make it his business to attend to such a small matter as that, having regard to the high position he occupied. I desire to add this tribute to his memory.

Question put and passed, members standing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.51]: I desire to move—

That as a further expression of the sorrow of members in the loss they have sustained by the death of Lord Forrest, the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.52 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 4th September, 1918.

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

### OBITUARY—LORD FORREST.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.32]: It is with very great sorrow that I have to communicate to the House the information which I received from the Acting Prime Minister to-day that our old and esteemed friend, Lord Forrest, died yesterday at sea on his way to England. A great man has passed away. Although there may have been many who had differences of opinion with him, at the same time all recognised his honesty of purpose and his great work. He loved his country. This was reciprocated in the hearts of the people. His works will remain as a memorial during the present generation, and in many instances for all time. No member of this House had so close an association with Lord Forrest as it had been my privilege to enjoy. Four years his trusted colleague in the Government of Western Australia, it remains for me, the only surviving member of his last Cabinet, to ask this House to do honour to his memory. We all

remember his great personality, his fund of human sympathy, and his vigour of mind and body now gone to rest. The British Dominions have given us great men, Empire builders like many of those who have gone before him, but none more typically true to the best and highest traditions of the British race than John Forrest. He was known from the highest to the humblest always as John Forrest, and the name will remain enshrined in the hearts of the people of this country. I was at all times in close communion with him. I was at the station to see him off when he left for Albany a little over five weeks ago, and I felt then, as many of his old friends felt, that we would never see him again. At the same time, we desired to cheer him up. I bade him adieu on the platform at Perth. Just as the train was moving off he called me and said, "I have a charge for you: look after our native land." Those were the last words to me of this great man with whom I have been in communion for so many years, "Look after our native land." It will be my duty as far as I possibly can to carry out the charge which he gave to me. I felt that the people of Western Australia, knowing the condition of health he was in, would like me to send him a message as coming from them before he left these shores to which he might never return. When at Albany I sent a telegram to him, and I know at this time that hon. members and the people of this country will be pleased that I did send that message in their name. I addressed him in these words—

In the name of your beloved country and her people I wish you a prosperous voyage. Au revoir, but not good-bye. Best wishes to yourself and Lady Forrest.

The voyage may not have been prosperous: at the same time the great voyage of his life is over. That voyage has been a prosperous one. Some only arrive at the age that he reached—the span allotted to man, 70 years, having celebrated his 71st birthday on the 22nd of last month—who have been privileged to do so much as the late Lord Forrest did. In his earlier days, working in the interests of this country as a surveyor, he went forth to explore the vast territories of Australia: he was the first to cross Australia with horses and to traverse that vast country which is now spanned by the iron horse. His name then became well known throughout the world, and at the time of his death that name was honoured throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. We all remember that great statesman, Joseph Chamberlain, who might have been called an Empire builder, and who did so much in the interests of the British Dominions. Mr. Chamberlain once said to me in conversation, alluding to Lord Forrest, "I love that man." That was the feeling of regard which British statesmen had for Lord Forrest at that time. His nature was a lovable one. He was full of human sympathy, full of all that natural kindness which goes to build up a great character. In reply to my farewell message to him at Albany he sent these words—

Your generous and most friendly telegram just received; very grateful to you personally and to the people for their interest conveyed through you. We wish you all an affectionate good-bye.

Before he left Western Australia he wished an affectionate good-bye to all the people of this State. I am quite sure the people of Western Australia will appreciate the fact that even though he was departing from these shores in such an unfortunate condition of health, he still felt an affectionate

feeling not only towards his country, but towards the people he was leaving behind. Panegyrics may be uttered, panegyrics may be written with regard to the late Lord Forrest; it is not my desire to enter upon such at the present moment. On this occasion I merely wish to ask the House to accept a motion which I intend to submit to do honour to the memory of a great man and one who did so much in the interests of his country. In the words of the poet—

We must all die!  
All leave ourselves, It matters not where, when,  
Nor how, so we die well; and can that man that does so  
Need lamentation for him?

We need not lament. To seek his monuments we look around: we find his memory enshrined in the hearts of the people. With these few words I desire to present to the House a motion which I trust hon. members will be pleased to pass as a mark of their appreciation of the services of a great man who has gone to his last home, who has gone on his last voyage, and who has gone to that bourne whence no traveller returns. We will remember him; his memory will always remain fresh with us and we need not lament, feeling that he has done well and filled the part which was given him to fill in this country and in this world of ours. I beg to move—

That this House places on record its profound regret at the death of the Rt. Hon. Lord Forrest, and desires to express the highest appreciation of his great devotion to his native land and his untiring labours in the interests of her people.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4-45]: It remains for me to second the motion which has been moved by the Premier, and to express my entire endorsement of the sentiments to which he has given utterance. There will, I am sure, be a feeling of universal regret, not only in this, the deceased gentleman's native State, but also throughout the wide range of this continent at the passing of one who has occupied such a prominent position in the public and political life of the country of his birth. There will, too, be a note of sadness in the fact that Lord Forrest was not permitted by fate to pass the remaining few days of his life in the country which he loved so well. It would be superfluous to say that the late Lord Forrest has been a figure in the life of this country for the past half century. I suppose it is nearly 30 years since he assumed the responsibility of guiding the infant footsteps of his native State, that is politically, a work in which he also shared during the early days of the Commonwealth. Whatever difference of opinion may have existed between Lord Forrest and those of us engaged in political life, there will, I am sure, be a common feeling of deep regret that he has passed away. As we know, he has been foremost in the strenuous political arena during the past 18 years. I think it can be truthfully said of him that throughout all these strenuous years of party politics he ever remained above and superior to the sordid and petty strife of political life. His, indeed, was a great character. As one of those of the younger generation to come West from the Eastern States during the past decade, I, in common with thousands of others, have been privileged to enjoy the conditions in this State which have been brought about largely by the earlier efforts of the deceased statesman. Great indeed as his political record has been, I doubt not that posterity will know him best as a great explorer. When we recollect that over 45 years ago, indeed at a period before

I was born, he crossed this great continent from west to east, through country which even to-day, after the lapse of all these years, is still described as a desert, we must all agree that his life has been a unique one, in that he was privileged to return to his native State by the first overland train that crossed the continent. Further, when we have regard to the great difficulties that confronted anyone who undertook the exploration of this continent nearly half a century ago, I believe that his work in this direction will remain the most important factor in his life. I can say no more except to add that, although I was not on the same side politically with him, Lord Forrest was a man of whom I always had the greatest admiration. He was a big man in every sense of the word, and throughout his long and great career he was ever a good Australian. I hope that in the circumstances those who remain behind will be comforted by the knowledge that his passing away is the cause of universal regret throughout our great continent.

Mr. PIESSE (Toodyay) [4.50]: On behalf of the Country party I should like to express our sincere sorrow at the news of the death of Lord Forrest. We recognise in the death of our great friend that we have indeed lost a noble son of the Empire. When we look back over the life of the late hon. gentleman we recognise his courage and determination in blazing the track, and that his splendid work as a pioneer has been a fine example and great inducement to the settlement of the land in Western Australia. We feel that his great work as a pioneer, as an explorer and as a statesman, is so interwoven with the progress of this State that it will live long in the memory of the people.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.52]: As a rule I do not intrude myself upon the House in matters of this sort, but, with the exception of the Premier, I am the only member of this Chamber who sat under the late Lord Forrest. I therefore would not like this occasion to pass without saying a few words. I differed from the late hon. gentleman at times as I differ from many people, but I say unhesitatingly that during the whole of my time in Western Australia, covering a period of 30 years, Jack Forrest, as we knew him then, and later Sir John Forrest, and in his last days Lord Forrest, always appealed to me as being a man to whom his country ever came first; and when he entered the larger spheres of political life he became a worthy son of the British Empire. I hope that Lady Forrest, and the relatives of the family, will accept this expression of opinion from the members of this House as coming from our hearts, and as indicative of a sincere feeling of sorrow at the loss of so noble a son of the Empire, and of our sympathy for those who have been left behind.

Question put and passed, members standing.

THE PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.54]: Out of respect for the memory of the man to whom we have just been offering our tribute, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 4.56 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 5th September, 1918.

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

### QUESTION—FRUIT CANNING INDUSTRY.

Hon. A. SANDERSON (without notice) asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Is he prepared to make a statement to the House, which he is reported to have refused to make in to-day's issue of the "West Australian," with regard to the action of the Government in appointing a receiver to take charge of the A.F.L. Company's business? 2, Will he undertake to postpone any final action until Parliament has had an opportunity of dealing with the whole situation?

Hon. C. F. BAXTER (Honorary Minister): I am not prepared to make a statement to-day.

The PRESIDENT: It is not allowable to make a statement to-day.

[For "Questions on Notice" and "Papers Presented" see "Minutes of Proceedings."]

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

#### Fifth Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the 3rd September.

Hon. H. MILLINGTON (North-East) [4.35]: In addressing myself to the question before the House I do so with a certain amount of diffidence, on account of the advice or suggestion that we should either not speak to the Address-in-reply or that we should at least do so briefly. The Speech which has been presented appears to be a report of what the Government have done, and if we accept it without any remark I want to know how we are to justify ourselves when we are asked what we did in connection with the matter? We have been sent here to state our views on the political situation. If we are not satisfied with the way in which the affairs of the country are carried on it is our duty to say so. There may be complaints afterwards about the manner in which the Government performed their duties, and we may be asked why we raised no protest. I support the motion that the address of thanks be presented to His Excellency for reading the Speech. I am in accord with the motion that he be thanked for performing one of his duties. It is not always that I find myself in accord with the actions of State Governors. For instance, recently in New South Wales the Governor of that State took it upon himself to go right outside what were his functions. He suggested that the eight-hours system should be scrapped and that the worker in Australia should adopt a ten-hours a day system. Advice of this description, coming from a representative of the Imperial Government, is in execrable taste. As a matter of fact, if State Governors do interfere in matters of this description it will lead to a revision of the whole position, and the people will begin to realise that perhaps the