

express our deep sympathy with them, and trust that while their loss may be a very severe one, the knowledge that Mr. Heron was always looked upon as a loyal and true man will be some solace to the family in their severe trial.

THE PRESIDENT [4.42]: In putting the motion, I should like to say we were all too shocked yesterday at the sudden demise of Mr. Heron to express our appreciation of his many high qualities. In the lobbies he was well liked, and deservedly so. I, as a goldfields member with him, knew him for a great many years. I can say he was a man whom it was ever pleasant to meet; a man whom the more one knew of him, the more one appreciated him. He was possessed of many fine attributes, was one of nature's gentlemen, a man who never harboured animosity and who always saw only what was best in those with whom he came into contact. To his constituency of Mt. Leonora his death will be a severe loss. Just now, the mining industry, especially at Gwalia, needs all the attention its representatives can give it. In Mr. Heron it had an able and vigilant champion during the eight years he was in Parliament. His name was not always prominently before the public, but nevertheless whilst preferring to work unostentatiously, he rendered valuable service as a legislator and in helping to meet the requirements of an outback mining electorate, and the goldfields generally of the State. In submitting this motion, I ask hon. members to carry it in the usual way by rising in their places.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 4th October, 1928.

Obituary, Mr. T. J. Heron, M.L.A. ... PAGE 1093

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

OBITUARY—MR. T. J. HERON, M.L.A.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.32]: It came, I am sure, as a great shock to every member of the House when it was learned last evening that our friend and colleague, Mr. Heron, had passed suddenly away within the precincts of the House. His passing, I think, was in a manner in keeping with his whole life, for he was a man that lived at peace with everybody. I am sure that during the eight years he was in this House, no member ever heard him give expression to a wrong or offensive word to any other member. We know, too, that he was a man that never entertained an ill thought of anybody. He was a big, genial, good-hearted, generous man. He had given much of his time to the service of the country, and was most conscientious in the discharge of his duties, not only in this House but in carrying out the work and responsibilities that he felt he owed to his constituents. He was a most loyal colleague and a friend of everybody. If he could have wished it, I believe it would have been his manner of passing. He died working in the service of the country and for the people that he loved so well. His death will be a very great blow to his family, and we can only offer at this stage our sincere sympathy and respect to those who are left to mourn his loss. I am sure his burly, manly form will be remembered by members of this House for many years to come. I move—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Thomas John Heron, M.L.A., and tenders to his widow and the members of his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires the terms of this resolution to be communicated to them by Mr. Speaker.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [4.35]: I join with the Premier in expressing to the widow and family of the late Mr. Heron the sympathy we feel for them in the tremendous loss they have sustained. The Premier has rightly said that

Mr. Heron was a friend of all of us and of everyone with whom he came into contact. A large-hearted, good-natured, good-tempered man, he thought only well of people, and never ill of them. We cannot afford the loss of such a man. He was with us for the past eight years, and during the whole of that time he invariably displayed the utmost good-temper in the most trying circumstances. This occasion, I believe, is the first on which anything of the kind has happened within the precincts of Parliament in this State, although it has happened many times in other States. I do not know what there is in public life that takes so much out of members, but there is something—perhaps suppressed excitement or irritation—that is harmful to some natures. I agree with the Premier that we shall miss Mr. Heron, and that we shall all remember him for a very long time. He did his duty loyally by this country and the people of this country. We mourn his loss, and we deeply sympathise with his family.

MR. THOMSON (Katanning) [4.37]: It is my sorrowful duty also to support the motion moved by the Premier. The sudden death of our highly respected colleague should remind us all of our inevitable destiny. Tom Heron in his passing from us, might be said to have died at his post. We all desire to extend to his loved ones our sincerest and deepest sympathy and trust for consolation they will be able to lift their eyes above to Him in whose hands alone are the issues of life and death, and to whose mercy the bereaved can look for help and consolation.

MR. SPEAKER [4.38]: Hon. members will pardon me if I add briefly to the kindly words uttered by the Leaders of the parties in this Chamber. I feel that personally I have suffered a loss by the decease of the hon. member. From what has been said and from what we all know, the deceased was a loyal comrade to all his fellow-legislators in this Assembly. He was an earnest citizen and, may I say, a conscientious politician, a kindly father, an affectionate husband, a man amongst men. We all feel his loss, and if we feel it so keenly, what must they feel who mourn for him to-night? I ask members to carry the motion by standing in their places.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 9th October, 1928.

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

QUESTION—MINING, CRANE AT COMET VALE.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS asked the Chief Secretary: 1, On what date was a crane erected at the Comet Vale railway station? 2, As the Gladstone and Sand Queen Gold Mines Limited recently re-organised, issued fresh capital, and resumed mining operations at Comet Vale, what prompted the Government to remove the only crane available at that centre? 3, What is the estimated cost of damage to the crane by the explosives used in dismantling it? 4, Is it proposed to re-erect it after effecting the necessary repairs? If so, where?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: 1, 11th November, 1912. 2, There is no use for the crane at Comet Vale. 3, The cost of damage, if any, is not yet known. 4 (a) Yes. (b) Salmon Gums.

QUESTION—LEAD ORE, RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

Hon. E. H. HALL asked the Chief Secretary: 1, Having regard for the low price of lead, and in an effort to assist lead mining operations throughout the Northampton mining areas, will the Government favourably consider the desirability of reducing the railway rates on lead ore from Ajana and other stations to Fremantle? 2, Is the Chief Secretary aware that the present rate charged is 26s. 10d. per ton from Ajana, whereas if departmental regulations were complied with, and ore were sent in trucks which would otherwise return empty, the rate would be 16s. per ton?