

Question passed.

THE PREMIER: In moving the adjournment of the House, one cannot help being conscious of the fact that we meet to-day in new premises and new surroundings; and the thoughts of members naturally are somewhat mixed. We look with sympathy towards the past and also with confidence towards the future; and these two dominant features are more present than the thoughts that are immediate to-day. It is perhaps inevitable that new surroundings feel for the moment strange: the old atmosphere of the old home is gone, and we have yet to acquire for our new premises those associations which for thirty odd years were gradually growing and accumulating around the premises which we have left. It is a consolation and comfort we have that the future rests with us. If we can but gather experience from the teachings of the past, if we can but learn those lessons with which the past always rewards its students, we then can have no fear for the future. I believe then, under these circumstances, not lightly disregarding the past, though we can cut ourselves entirely apart from it, if we have regard for the lessons which that past teaches us, we can move forward in resolute confidence in the State and its people. Disaster is only possible in Western Australia if, being narrow-minded and self-sufficient, we think that within our own individual lives the world has taught all the lessons worth learning, that the history of the past is a barren study, its experience and lessons of no value, and its teachings of no present-day application. Throughout all our experience we know there is a constant struggle towards improvement, towards advancement. Our privileges to-day depend upon past efforts, and if I may say so with respect, if we be wise we should realise that advance must be continuous, must spring from the past while striving for the future, and that no progress is real which attempts to entirely sever the roots of the past from the growth of to-day. Now there is one custom, as we pass from this House, we can never forget. I do not believe we ever shall. Under no circumstances should the motion I now move mean any more or less in our new premises than it meant in our old home. It was always welcome, always accepted. It was the motion that commanded us to

cease political strife and renew personal friendships, a motion that divided the political struggles and political turmoil of this Chamber from the good fellowship of personal intercourse that followed directly we passed through its door. May I, on behalf of every member of this House, express the hope that it always may be so? May I repeat the hope? I am certain that every individual member of this House will look forward to the future, and feel, whenever this motion is moved, that we shall know, however bitter our contests and our struggles have been in this Chamber, that directly we pass from it we can renew our personal friendships, the retention of which is worth more than any position Parliament can give us. It is because I believe and feel that very strongly, in moving this motion I want to make these few remarks, hoping that we may never allow our political battles, however strong, to temper our political friendships; and may we always take to heart the good old lesson, that while we strive mightily, there is no reason why we should not eat and drink as friends. (General applause.)

Question passed.

The House adjourned at six minutes past five o'clock, until the next Tuesday afternoon.

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 2nd of August, 1904.

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THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: I, Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the

Department of Land Titles for the Year 1903. 2, Report of the Inspector General of the Insane for the Year 1903. 3, The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1902. Amendments of Regulations 9 and 10 relating to the Coal Miners' Accident Relief Fund. 4, The Mining Development Act, 1902. Regulations for crushing stone and treating tailings at the State Batteries. 5, Regulations under the Mining Act, 1904. 6, Regulations under the Co-operative and Provident Societies Act, 1903. 7, Reports of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act and in connection with Trade Unions. 8, Amendment to the Supreme Court Orders.

#### SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill) moved without notice (portion of the Standing Orders having been suspended) :

That unless otherwise ordered the House do meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 4.30 p.m., and sit until 6.30 p.m. if necessary, and if requisite from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

Question passed.

#### COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

On motions by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, sessional committees were appointed as follow:—

**STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.**—The President, Hon. H. Briggs, and the mover; with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority to confer on matters of mutual concernment with any committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Assembly.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE.**—The President, Hon. W. T. Loton, Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom, Hon. R. F. Sholl, and the mover; with power to act during the recess, and to confer with any similar Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE.**—The President, Hon. J. W. Hackett, and the mover; with leave to sit during any adjournment and during the recess, and authority to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

**PRINTING COMMITTEE.**—The President, Hon. Geo. Randell, and the mover.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### SECOND DAY OF DEBATE.

Resumed from the previous Thursday.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): In rising to continue the debate on the motion that has been moved by the Hon. R. D. McKenzie, I intend to touch briefly upon some of the points which have been brought out in the Governor's Speech. In the first paragraph we are reminded that we meet for the first time in a new Parliament House; and although opposed to extravagance in any direction, I should like to say how much I appreciate the foresight of those gentlemen who selected this site for the whole of our Parliament—a site which I think is beyond compare with any Parliament Houses in the Australian States. It might have been said that we could have done efficient work in the old Chambers for many years to come; but the very fact of our being separated from one another by a fourth of a mile tended to put us at a distance, if I may say it in that way, apart in spirit and in name. We need, I think, to come into closer touch with the other Chamber: and not only so, but I think, when we put the capital value of the two sites together, the site of the old Legislative Council in St. George's Terrace and of the Legislative Assembly in Hay-street, as an off-set against the expenditure here, it will be found that we have not done so badly. Already, I understand, the old Assembly buildings are being made available for carrying on the purposes of the Savings Bank; and we need to put the asset, or the buildings that are set free for the purposes of the Government, against the expense that is being incurred here. I hope that as funds are available this building, especially on the city side and on the north and south sides, will present a better appearance. The appearance, at any rate from the city side, is like an unfinished prison, and it strikes terror into the heart of a young legislator climbing up the hill. Therefore, I hope, as money becomes available for this purpose, a finish—not extravagant—will be given to the front and sides of the building. We are also reminded that the advance in the agricultural, mining, and pastoral industries continues. This is a

story that we have been accustomed to hear for the last 10 or 12 years; and it is a tale which to a very large extent is losing its charm. It means that we are overtaking, to a degree, the vast territory that we have. We are often boasting about the vast territory that we have. That in itself does not constitute greatness; but it gives us an opportunity for development, and if we seize the opportunity, we must then be a great people. The advance continues. Our revenue is assuming normal proportions. We know, at least I think, that for many years past the revenue we have been deriving has been altogether abnormal. We are now coming down to normal proportions, and we must be careful so that our expenditure will be within our means. If we always live within our means we have nothing to fear. I propose very briefly to touch upon two or three matters mentioned in the Governor's Speech. We are all pleased, I am sure, with the satisfactory nature of the work done by the Fremantle Harbour Board. The placing of that great work, the Fremantle Harbour Works, under an independent board, seems to have been amply justified; and the proposal to place the Coolgardie Water Scheme under a board which will carry on the work on a business basis, has much to commend it. I think, with the Hon. R. D. McKenzie, that a representative of the goldfields must justly be placed upon that board, although I do not know that those on the fields have a monopoly of efficient men. What we want to do is to get the best men, whether they live on the coast or on the fields. The only chord of a minor description which has been struck in the course of this Speech refers to the growth of population. "The population has grown from 194,000 to 237,977. This growth, however, is not entirely satisfactory." Now I am of the opinion that this growth is entirely satisfactory. I am not anxious to see multitudes come into this country unless we have something for them to do, unless we can place them on our lands or give them employment in some direction or other. They are coming in now at the rate of 20,000 a year. From 20,000 to 35,000 should be a normal growth in the immigration and population increase in this State. The mention which is made of

education I heartily support. We have in the hearts and brains of our boys and girls a vast asset; and those who are developing that asset deserve as much credit as those who are developing our mineral, pastoral, and agricultural resources. The money that is spent on education is well spent. The steps which have already been taken to begin a University and to set apart lands for educational purposes will be, at any rate, one thing for which the present Government will be remembered as the years go on. In regard to the proposed new legislation, it is desired that legislation should be introduced extending the franchise of the Legislative Council. Now, I am of opinion that, while we recognise the true functions of this Chamber as a revising Chamber, and keep our feet firmly placed upon that rock, we may safely and wisely extend the franchise of this House.

HON. M. L. MOSS: The biggest mistake in the world if we do it.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: I maintain that it would strengthen this House in the affections of the people.

HON. M. L. MOSS: The hon. member would make it the same as another place.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: I am not in favour of having, as the hon. member indicates, the same franchise for this Chamber as for the Legislative Assembly, because there would then be no need for this Chamber.

HON. M. L. MOSS: Every little we give way is a little more they ask for.

HON. J. W. LANGSFORD: In connection with the amendment of the liquor laws, should they come up for consideration, I am always in favour of moving in legislation by equal steps with public opinion. Unless we have public opinion outside the House to support us in our legislation, its value will be nil; and I am of opinion that the public generally desire more direct interest in the liquor question than they have at present. There is also need for placing the civil service on a more satisfactory basis. Appointments to be made by a civil service commissioner after an examination would obviate the necessity of Ministers and members of Parliament being appealed to to use their influence to obtain Government appointments. I cannot say of my own knowledge that this has been abused in any sense or direction; but I

am sure the civil servants would be more satisfied if they had an independent board controlling the appointments. One omission, I think, was pointed out by Mr. Oats. No reference has been made to the Transcontinental Railway. I think, until that is an accomplished fact, it should always be one item in the Governor's Speech, because it would tend to keep the question thoroughly alive. We have no new argument at present to adduce in favour of that railway. The old arguments, we think, are quite sufficient; but if we had, at any rate every six months when Parliament opened, or every 12 months when the sessions begin, a reference to this union in his Excellency's Speech, it would bring the matter fresh again before the House and before the people of the country. Before I sit down, I should like to express my regret, and I am sure the regret of all hon. members, at the death of the Hon. Edward Keane. His presence here, and his experience, would have been very helpful to this House. I have pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the Hon. R. D. McKenzie.

On motion by Hon. M. L. Moss, debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at eight minutes past five o'clock, until the next day.

### Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 2nd August, 1904.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1, Regulations under "The Co-operative and Provident Societies Act, 1903." 2, Proceedings under "The Trustees Act (Supreme Court Order 52A), 1900." 3, Rottneast Native Prison—Report for 1903. 4, Inspector General of the Insane—Report for 1903. 5, Land Titles Department—Report for 1903.

By the MINISTER FOR MINES: 1, Regulations under "The Mining Act, 1904." 2, Amended Regulations under "The Coal Mines Regulations Act, 1902." 3, Regulations under "The Mining Development Act, 1902."

By the TREASURER: 1, Railways working accounts, in accordance with Section 54 of "The Government Railways Act, 1904," for two quarters ended 31st March and 30th June, 1904. 2, Reports on Government Railways for the quarters ended 31st December, 1903, and 31st March and 30th June, 1904. 3, Copy of alterations to Railway Classification and Rate Book.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### MEMBERS SWORN, ADDITIONAL.

Commission from the Governor, read by the CLERK, authorised the Speaker to administer the oath to members not already sworn.

Mr. T. H. Bath (Brown Hill), Mr. C. H. Layman (Nelson), took the oath and subscribed the roll.

#### SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James) moved:

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 3:30 p.m., and shall sit until 6:30 p.m. if necessary, and if requisite from 7:30 p.m. onwards.

The days remained the same as for last session, while the hour of meeting was changed from 4:30 to 3:30.

MR. C. J. MORAN (West Perth): Surely we might have started this session by sitting four days a week. The time had come to discontinue the practice of meeting in desultory fashion for two or three days a week early in the session, and of rushing everything through at the end of the session, in the heat of summer, when members were tired. The serious business of legislation demanded that we