

at Pinjarra. I could not but be struck by the worthy nature of the mission the authorities in charge of these lads were engaged in, and it occurred to me that we could do likewise for many of our boys and even girls. It might be possible for neighbours to devote attention to many of our children, and we might encourage the development of a generous feeling towards the young. For instance, there should not be such a thing as sickness in the house without the neighbours knowing of it and doing something towards alleviating it. I knew of a case of sickness in a house in which no one seemed to be interested. This kind of thing occurs frequently, and there seems to be no one to be made aware of it or even to care. But if a person has the misfortune to lose a dog, then the surrounding community inquires about it and offers sympathy. I think that kindly and charitably disposed ladies could do very good work in this direction by extending towards sufferers the hand of good fellowship. A more generous intercourse amongst neighbours is what I would advocate, and by little acts of kindness many sufferings and much distress would be relieved, and perhaps the health of many restored. Friendship and advice do not cost anything, and when they are freely and generously given are appreciated all the more. I thank hon. members for the patience with which they have listened to my maiden effort, and will conclude by moving the following Address-in-reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor:—

May it please your Excellency, we, the Legislative Council of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Hon. H. STEWART (South-East)
[3.55]: I desire to second the motion.

On motion by Hon. C. Sommers debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.56.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 19th July, 1917.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

RESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER.

The Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant): It is my duty to announce that a vacancy has occurred in the office of Speaker during the recess through the resignation of the Hon. James Gardiner, and with the permission of hon. members I will read the letter he handed to me on accepting the office of Colonial Treasurer:—

Perth, 28th June, 1917.

Dear Mr. Grant,—Having accepted the office of Colonial Treasurer, I hereby tender my resignation as Speaker of the House of Assembly. In doing so I may be permitted to acknowledge the kindly courtesy which was so generously extended to me by the leaders and the members of the House, and also to acknowledge my appreciation of the help of yourself and Mr. Steere. These kindnesses tinge with sincere regret my resignation. Yours faithfully, James Gardiner.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [12.5], addressing the Clerk, said: I have much pleasure in moving—

That Mr. Taylor do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. MULLANY (Menzies) [12.6]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

Mr. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret) [12.7]: I have much pleasure in submitting myself to the will of the House.

The Speaker-Elect was conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER [12.8]: I desire to thank hon. members very sincerely for having elected me to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this Assembly. I realise the importance of the position; my 17 years' experience as a member of this House cannot but make me realise that. I realise also that, no matter what ability I may possess, I will not be able to preside over the deliberations of this Chamber with success unless I have the support of hon. members. I hope hon. members will give me that support, which is so necessary for the conduct of the business of the House. I can assure hon. members that I will extend to them all the assistance required to enable them to place their views before the House with the success they desire. I again thank hon. members for having elected me as Speaker of this Assembly.

Congratulations.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [12.9]: Mr. Speaker, I desire to offer you my very hearty congratulations on your election to the high and honourable position of Speaker of this House. Your 17 years of devoted service in the interests of the State, as a member of this House, make it very proper that you should now preside over its deliberations. The experience which you have stored up will render your task both easy and congenial. The knowledge you have acquired as Chairman of Committees, and the study you have made of Parliamentary practice, together with your sense of impartiality, will, I am confident, be fully exercised in maintaining the best traditions of this Assembly, and at the same time upholding the privileges of hon. members. I desire to assure you that you will have my hearty assistance in the discharge of the important duties you

will be called upon to perform, and I can assure you also, on behalf of hon. members, that they, too, will endeavour to assist you to discharge your duties with honour to yourself and with credit to this honourable House.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [12.11]: I also desire, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you on your appointment to the honourable position to which you have been elected. I may say that, so far as hon. members on this side of the House are concerned, you will receive every assistance in preserving order. We have met the House on this occasion imbued with the one idea of conserving the best interests of Western Australia and Australia as a whole. We are the true national party and consequently, having national ideas, our one object is the advancement of the State. Therefore, every assistance which we can extend to you in the discharge of your duties will be rendered. As one who has been associated with you in a Ministry previously, and as a member of the House for over 13 years, I feel confident in saying that you will carry out your duties with justice and that you will give every member an opportunity of expressing his views in the manner he desires, provided, of course, he keeps within the rules of the House. Though your period of office will, in all probability—according to the statements which have been made—be very short, I trust that the deliberations over which you will have the honour to preside will be of benefit to the State. There is no doubt that you are well qualified for the position to which you have been elected, and that your past experience will guide you to do that which is in the best interests of the State.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [12.13]: I think it is a happy augury that each member who has spoken has claimed to be the true representative of the National party. I thought I was the only survivor of the true National party of Western Australia. Be that as it may, I wish to add my personal congratulations to those which have been extended to you and to express the hope that your continuance of office as Speaker may be productive of good, and that you will uphold the best traditions of

this House; in other words, that you may be supported by every section of the House in maintaining that dignity and honour which is so desirable for the proper carrying out of the business of this Assembly. I regard your appointment as an achievement which you have looked forward to for some years. You have reached the premier position so far as Parliament in this State is concerned or at any rate the premier position so far as the citizens of Western Australia are concerned, and I am satisfied that, notwithstanding your undoubted ability to castigate your enemies on the floor of the House—political enemies I mean—and support your political friends, having now attained the high position you occupy, you will be impartial in your judgment in ruling over the deliberations of hon. members. From what I know of you I am satisfied you will see that the dignity of the House is duly conserved, and that the debates are carried on in an orderly manner, and that, at the same time, the interests of Western Australia are advanced. You have my hearty congratulations.

The PREMIER: I have to inform you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members that His Excellency the Governor is prepared to receive you and hon. members who may accompany you.

Sitting suspended from 12.15 to 12.40 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER-ELECT.

On resuming,

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. G. Taylor) [12.40]: Hon. members, I beg to inform you that, accompanied by hon. members, I presented myself to His Excellency, who has been pleased to express satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms:—

Mr. Speaker,—It is with much pleasure that I learn you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of the House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner. (Signed), William Grey Ellison-Macartney, Governor, 19th July, 1917.

COMMISSION FOR SWEARING-IN.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor a Commission authorising him to administer to members of the Legislative Assembly who may have to be sworn, the oath or affirmation.

ELECTION RETURNS—GERALDTON, IRWIN.

The SPEAKER announced the return to writs issued for the election of members for Geraldton and for Irwin, showing that Mr. Samuel Richard Lewes Elliott and the Hon. James Gardiner had been duly elected for the respective electorates.

Hon. James Gardiner took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

THE ELECTION OF MR. E. B. JOHNSTON AS SPEAKER.

Apology from the Publisher, Southern Argus.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the late Speaker for presentation to the House the apology of the publisher of the *Southern Argus* pursuant to the resolution of the 22nd March last, and the correspondence relating thereto, and I now direct the clerk to read this to the House.

The Clerk then read the following:—

To Mr. B. L. Innis, Publisher of the *Southern Argus*, Wagin, 23rd March, 1917. Sir, I am directed by the Hon. the Speaker to inform you that the following resolution with regard to yourself was passed by the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 22nd March—"That the printer and publisher of the *Southern Argus* newspaper, Mr. B. L. Innis, by publishing an article in the issue of the said paper on the 17th day of March, 1917, under the headlines 'Mr. Stubbs, M.L.A., and the Speakership,' is guilty of contempt, as is also the member for Williams-Narrogin who made the statement." I am directed by the hon. the Speaker to draw your attention to the fact that though the House has now adjourned pending the

prorogation of Parliament, it will be within its power to order further action to be taken in the matter at the beginning of next session should your subsequent conduct in this connection prove unsatisfactory. I have the honour to be your obedient servant. (Sgd.) A. R. Grant, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

To Mr. B. L. Innis, Publisher *Southern Argus*, Wagin, 3rd April, 1917. Sir, I am directed by the hon. the Speaker to draw your attention to the fact that I have received no reply to my letter of the 23rd March, informing you of the resolution of the Legislative Assembly declaring you guilty of contempt. I am aware that an apology has been published in your paper but I am directed by the Speaker to point out that such publication by itself is insufficient. It is necessary that a satisfactory apology should be addressed to the Speaker, to be by him communicated to the House on the re-assembling of Parliament. I am directed, therefore, to request that you will give the matter your immediate attention. I am, yours faithfully. (Sgd.) A. R. Grant, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

To Mr. James Gardiner, M.L.A., Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, 4th April, 1917. Sir, In reply to your letter of the 23rd March received by me on 25th March, an apology was published by the paper in our next issue (March 31st), as noted by you in your letter of April 3rd. This was amplified in our issue of April 5th. I have refrained from publishing any further matter since March 22nd that may involve us in further explanation or controversy. We published the report of Mr. Johnston's speech on March 17th, believing it was privileged as "contributed," as a correct report of Mr. Johnston's remarks, for which he accepted full responsibility, and in fairness to Mr. Stubbs we offered to publish a summary of his recent remarks in Wagin, written by himself over his signature. We had no desire to be involved in any controversy, and trust the House will accept my apology. Sincerely yours, Basil Lorne Innis, Printer and Publisher *Southern Argus*, Wagin, W.A.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [12.50]: I now move—

That the apology of the printer and publisher of the Southern Argus be accepted, and that the papers do lie on the Table of the House.

Mr. S. STUBBS (Wagin) [12.51]: I second the motion.

Question put and passed.

Sitting suspended from 12.52 to 3 p.m.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council chamber, and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), they returned to the Assembly chamber. Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Land Act, 1898, by-laws. 2, Cemeteries Act, regulations. 3, Education Department, report for year ended 30th June, 1916. 4, Report of Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the conduct of Capt. A. Williamson.

By the Minister for Works: 1, Workers' Homes Board, report and financial statement for the year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, Trading accounts of the State Implement Works for the year ended 30th June, 1916, together with Auditor General's report and comments. 3, By-laws under the Roads Act, 1911: (a) Dalwallinu, (b) Kellerberrin, (c) Belmont, (d) Northampton, (e) Westonia, (f) Greenmount, (g) Gingin, (h) Kanowna, (j) Bridgetown, (k) By-laws relative to goats. 4, By-laws under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1906: (a) Perth, (b) York, (c) Kalgoorlie, (d) Albany, (e) Additional by-laws for the regulation of motor and other traffic.

By the Colonial Treasurer: Audit Act, 1904, transfers under Section 35.

By Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Regulations relating to (a) the Plant Diseases Act, 1914, (b) the Stock Diseases Act, and (c) the Abattoirs Act.

By Hon. C. A. Hudson (Honorary Minister): 1, State Ferries, balance sheet and statement of profit and loss account for the year ended 30th June, 1916. 2, Perth Public Hospital, amendment of rules and regulations. 3, Pearling Act, 1912, additional regulations. 4, Fire Brigades Act, 1916, regulations for the election of the first members of the Board. 5, Mental Treatment Act, 1917, regulations. 6, Health Act, 1911/15, By-laws (a) Claremont, (b) Bridgetown, (c) Goomalling, (d) Albany, (e) Amendment of municipal by-laws. 7, Prisons Act, 1903, amendment of regulations. 8, Bunbury Harbour Board, report for the year ended 30th June, 1916. 9, Aborigines Act, 1905, amendment of regulations. 10, West Australian Fire Brigades Act, report for the year ended 31st December, 1916. 12, Regulations made under Education Act, regulations. 13, Government Railways Act, quarterly returns to 31st March, 1917, under Sections 54 and 83. 14, Mines Department report for the year ended 31st December, 1916.

BILL—UNIVERSITY ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) by leave, without notice, by way of asserting privilege, introduced a Bill to amend the University of Western Australia Act.

Bill read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received a copy of His Excellency's Speech and that copies have been distributed among hon. members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. NAIRN (Swan) [3.36]: I move the following Address-in-reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor:—

May it please Your Excellency, We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our

loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

Before entering into the topics of the Speech, I desire to take this early opportunity of offering my congratulations to yourself, Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of your elevation to your high and honourable office. My wish is that you may live long to enjoy your present position. Turning to His Excellency's Speech, I am sure I express the common sentiment of all citizens when I say that we feel intense sorrow at the fact of being again called together under the cloud of the terrible war which has so long overcast us in all our actions. Although a ray of dawn is in sight, yet the road to victory is so long that no one may speculate on the time when the sword may be returned to the scabbard and our heroes come back to their homes, and our people again resume their normal occupations. That fact impresses itself on us in every walk and turn of our lives, either as individuals or as a people. Nowhere, I am sure, does the fact impress itself more strongly than in the case of men holding high and responsible positions. In the midst of the criticism which is so frequent and free, much of it coming from those who do not care to share the responsibility of taking a hand in bringing the State out of its difficulties, it would be well if the fact of the crisis were borne in mind.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: To whom do you refer?

Mr. NAIRN: I refer principally to people outside Parliament. I hope the member for North-East Fremantle is not now so sensitive as he was when we saw him last. I had no intention of casting a reflection upon any member of the House. I realise that every member, whatever shade of politics he may attach himself to, is fully seized of the position in which the State finds itself, and is equally desirous with myself of assisting to bring the State out of its difficulties at the earliest possible moment. My reference was intended for those who, without responsibility, are always free to offer criticism, which on rare occasions is of any value.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Why chafe so much under criticism?

Mr. NAIRN: The hon. member himself chafes under it. I do not know that I am chafing, but I think it is wise always to bear in mind the existence of the crisis. In order to realise the nature of it, we need only cast our minds back three years, when this part of the Commonwealth was enjoying a degree of prosperity equal to that enjoyed in any other part of the British dominions. Our population was increasing rapidly, our industries were expanding, and it was evident that Western Australia was one part of the British Empire in which men found themselves faced with a bright and prosperous future. But suddenly the clang of war was heard, and immediately the whole face of the earth, one might say, was changed. I regret to say that this terrible plight still continues. We are all fully aware of the political changes that have occurred since last we met. I wish to state emphatically that, underlying those changes which have brought about so much criticism, and will undoubtedly bring about a great deal more, the main principle was the consideration of the position in which the State is placed. I for one yield to no man in the endeavour, to the extent of my humble capacity, to bring about in some manner or another a combination of all the elements of this State, of every class of the community, in order that a united resistance may be offered to the common enemy. We shall never get all men to see the light; there will always be a limited number preferring to dwell in darkness. But that is not our fault; we have done our best; and our intention and desire was to present as nearly a united front as we possibly could. I feel that the people are largely behind some movement of this kind. I do not say that they will rush open-armed to embrace nationalism, but I think time will prove that the people of the State, in common with the rest of the British Empire, are sick almost to death of the petty wrangling which has existed during the past two or three years. That feeling has been evident to a considerable extent in this House, particularly during the last 12 months. In my opinion the people of this State are to-day not very much bothered

about the old party cries, or about the lines which divided parties in the past. They do not care very much whether Western Australia has alienation of land, or the leasehold system, or whether Western Australia gets State socialism, or a hundred other schemes which have been purely party in their nature. The average citizen considers that there is a time and a place for all questions. In laying aside the principles which have divided us in the past, we are doing only—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What about the Minister for Railways? He said, on the fields, that he was still sticking to his principles.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is only pending the election.

Mr. NAIRN: Let me remind the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) that in the National Government there is no destruction of individual ideals, nor has any such destruction been attempted. Probably it would please the hon. member better if it were so, if the charge could be laid against old friends and colleagues that they had abandoned their principles. There is no demand that any individual should in any sense abandon those principles which he has held to be true.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Are you going to have party rule?

Mr. NAIRN: This is what I have in mind: Lloyd George recently stated that during the last three years the British Empire had lived a thousand years. If I can interpret that, I say that through the sheer force of circumstances matters which a few years ago appeared important are to-day insignificant. Is there any individual with any sense of imagination who can fail to see that what was right a few years ago seems futile and impotent to-day in the midst of the crisis through which the Empire is passing and which demands the best of every individual and class. It is entirely out of place that we should so far forget our surroundings as to continue to fight the old party fights. I know that deep down in their hearts even my friends of the Opposition feel the same, and that it is only a question of method, a difference of

opinion, as to the best means of bringing about a common understanding.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But we do not think that oil and water will mix.

Mr. NAIRN: Has the hon. member ever mixed water with something else? At the root bottom of this National movement—I think I am expressing the opinion of all those in it—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are giving your own opinion, and you like to think it is the public opinion.

Mr. NAIRN: Time will tell, and before long the public will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion as to which of us they think right, as to whether they think we should continue along the old party lines or whether we should stand shoulder to shoulder and give the best that is in us to the assistance of the Empire. Although Nationalism is at once an ideal and an essential, in itself it is incapable of working anything magical. It is not a balm to heal all wounds, but it is a force by which we may endeavour to solve the common problems of society. Hon. members who have watched the changes through which the State has passed realise that above all stands the question of finance. It casts a heavy responsibility on those selected to assist us out of our difficulties. To some extent, perhaps to a large extent, our present financial position is ascribable to our own fault. Still, not all the blame is to be laid at the door of any individual or indeed any party. While there has been noticeable in the metropolitan area some outward signs of prosperity, yet it is largely artificial. We have not been able to get as much from the expenditure of war moneys as others living in the sister States. Those of you who have lately been East will realise that there the wheels of industry are going more rapidly than ever before in the history of the Commonwealth. In the production of our soldiers' requirements, all the industries of the Eastern States are kept going at full speed, but we in this State are getting practically nothing out of that war expenditure, notwithstanding that proportionately we have given a greater number of men to the Imperial Forces than has any other State. Our inability to secure a due proportion of the Commonwealth war expenditure is due perhaps to nothing more

than our isolated geographical position, but nevertheless it makes our financial situation all the more difficult. The exact means of bringing about a readjustment of our finances must of course be left to those who have the responsibility, principally the Treasurer. On his shoulders falls a grave burden that none of us envy. Consequently it is for us to assist him in every possible way in his task of balancing the ledger. In this regard we must prepare ourselves to face an inevitable increase in taxation. From this there can be no escape. Another means of helping to square the ledger would be the suspension of the sinking fund, which stands to-day at £270,000 per annum.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: And then borrow the money to pay the interest!

Mr. NAIRN: It would be perfectly justifiable to suspend the sinking fund until the war is over, because the asset that our creditors have in the State is a sufficiently good one. Indeed, there is no better security in the world. The State is rich in great natural resources, and it has the support of both the Commonwealth and the British Empire. There would be no weakening of our bond, for the State offers a security a thousand-fold greater than our indebtedness. Out of our total revenue of £4,570,000 no less a sum than £1,770,000 is used up in interest and sinking fund. In other words 38 per cent. of the total revenue, including our returns from the Commonwealth and the whole of the earnings of our State enterprises, vanishes in interest and sinking fund. Therefore, it would not be a business proposal to endeavour to extract from those enterprises sufficient to make up the inevitable leeway; there is no escaping the fact that until the war is over and our State enterprises resume their normal undertakings, it would not be practicable to attempt to make up in that way the difference between our expenditure and our revenue. It is equally impracticable that we should ask the people to supply that difference. Plainly, therefore, apart from taxation there must be some serious attempt made to straighten out the financial position. Of course, before taxation comes the question of economy, the rigorous practice of which is the only justification for taxation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you think you are going to cut down expenses by much?

Mr. NAIRN: I do not know by how much, because I realise that during the past two years an honest endeavour has been made to live within our means. Even so, I believe there is still opportunity for the practice of economy. Until economy has been practised to the fullest extent, we cannot know how far the imposition of taxation can be justly carried.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They have been economising in the departments for years past.

Mr. NAIRN: I believe that economy has been seriously undertaken during the last two years. But with our interest and sinking fund bill increasing, it was inevitable that we should have a serious deficit. There is no reason to suppose that we cannot save further considerable sums by the practice of economy in all departments.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You might have saved £15,000 last year if you had taken my advice.

Mr. NAIRN: Another question to the importance of which the Ministry are fully alive, is that of repatriation. It may seem that the subject is being worn thread-bare, but I have not yet seen evidence of any serious grappling with the problem, and I would urge that this question be not left until the time when the soldiers are returning in large numbers, and when the carrying out of any useful scheme would be almost impossible.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is it not in the hands of the Federal Government?

Mr. NAIRN: Yes, but we have our responsibilities here, and we must urge on the Federal Government that they do the right thing at the right time. Every soldier as he returns should be classified in point of his former employment, so that we might know what we have to deal with. Not all of them will wish to go on the land.

Mr. Griffiths: A lot of them went off the land to go to the war.

Mr. NAIRN: On their return they may be induced to go back to the land. We should know what class of men the repatriation committee have to deal with, what employment they were previously in, and what likelihood there is of putting

them in their right places in order that they may quickly become useful citizens. Another matter which is of very great importance is that regarding the soldiers' widows. I regret to say that from what information I have been able to gather very little, if anything, appears to have been done to establish the principle upon which the widows of our soldiers are to be treated. I understand that certain donations or gifts, if they may be so termed, have been made to the widows of returned soldiers. That, however, is only a paltry way in which to deal with this important question. It is a matter which must be laid hold upon and dealt with in a serious manner. It would not perhaps be practicable for a soldier's widow to go with her family on to the land into the remote parts of the State, and other means should be found by which she should receive assistance equal to that given to the returned soldier himself. If there is anything in this world which is a sad and brave spectacle, it is the struggle of the widows of our soldiers who are no longer alive to support them, and the young children who have lost the protective arm of their father, and are battling away against adversity and trying to live upon the pension that is allowed to them by the Federal Parliament. The very least that should be done in the direction of helping these deserving people is to see that the women are provided with a home for their children, and that they have a place in which to live that is free and protected against rack-renters and others in the community who are so frequently harrassing them. We should lay it down as a established principle that every soldier's widow, who has not already a home, should at least be given an opportunity of getting one for herself, in order that she may bring up her children and make useful and valuable citizens of the Commonwealth. Another matter of importance which is found in the platform of the National party—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is anything off it?

Mr. NAIRN: Is that of the development of the research work. Possibly the hon. member does not understand what that means, as I should judge from his remarks. I am taking him at his own valuation. At all events this is a simple statement, but

it means a great deal to the future of the State. It will be fully realised when the war is over, and when we attempt to again restore our shattered fortunes, that it is essential, if we are going to succeed in the great race and the great fight which will be facing us, that we must be as well equipped as other parts of the world. Unless we have the scientist and his laboratory to develop our national industries and extend the resources of this great Commonwealth we are going to run second to any country that is equipped in that respect.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This was dealt with before the National party came into existence.

Mr. NAIRN: We do not pretend to take any credit for originating the principle, but apparently the hon. member had never heard of it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I say it is nothing new.

Mr. NAIRN: I do not say it is new, but I only want to point out what an important plank this is in the platform of the National party.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There has been a board in existence for three years.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Why put a plank into the platform of the National party about something which is already in operation?

Mr. NAIRN: It should form a part of the platform.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It is only kite flying; it is already established.

Mr. NAIRN: It is one of the most serious problems we have before us to-day. I have in mind the mallet bark industry, which was one of the natural industries of the State. Owing to the discoveries made by scientists and chemists it was learned that in this State we had a valuable industry. This discovery was not made by scientists in this State, but by those in the laboratories of Germany. As a result of these discoveries upwards of a million pounds' worth of this valuable commodity has left the country.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you not aware that a board has been in existence for three years?

Mr. NAIRN: Then we will assist the board. Apparently the hon. member is not

over-enthusiastic in the matter, because this is the first occasion upon which he has mentioned it. If we are going to succeed in the future and hold our own, we must develop and extend every resource that is at the command of the Commonwealth. The matter is undoubtedly a serious and important one.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We appointed representatives to the board three years ago.

Mr. NAIRN: We will see what the hon. member will do in three years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We will do more than you, because you will not be here.

Mr. NAIRN: No doubt the wish is father to the thought. Standing before the people as nationalists we have to take into account one or two important positions. We had in this House, and in the State, various elements the component parts of which apparently found it difficult at all times to know exactly where they were. I am speaking, of course, of our political position. No doubt some people were forced into the positions in which they found themselves. This national movement has been an attempt to weld together all these elements. What else could have been done under the circumstances? Would it be reasonable in the face of the crisis which the country now has to face that it should still be torn asunder by petty and conflicting disturbances which have wrought so much havoc in the past? Whether we succeed in our attempt or not this has been an honest attempt to bring together all the individuals of the State who are prepared for the time being at least, to lay aside these petty, small considerations in order that we may work for the common interests of the State and the interests of the Commonwealth and the Empire. That at all events is what we are hopeful of doing.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [4.7]: I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply with a great amount of pleasure. That pleasure, however, is not, I may say, increased by the thought that the associations I have had during the whole course of my political life have been broken with. When one breaks with associations which have been lifelong one does not do so without a great deal of thought. I have broken with these associations of my own part because I be-

lieved that the time had come when I had to put country before party, and I put country first. By this I do not wish to suggest that there is one atom of disloyalty in the minds of the hon. members sitting around me—far from it. I do say, however, that when one is forced to take up a position, because of holding strong views on any subject, and is not allowed to give vent to those views, one has to seek an asylum wherein one can give expression to them. I intend to give utterance to my thoughts, uninfluenced by any body whatsoever, within the walls of this Chamber so long as I am a member of it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have always done so.

Mr. FOLEY: I wish to congratulate you, Sir, upon your election to the high and honourable position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I trust you will live long to enjoy the position and have good health, and that your occupancy of that high post will be of benefit to yourself and the State. Whilst doing this, and taking into consideration the differences amongst the parties as they exist in the House now, I wish to express my belief that all hon. members irrespective of what portion of politics they belong to, or what the party is to which they are adherents, will work together for the common good of the State. At all events it is my sincere hope that we shall all do so. Since the beginning of the war I have from my seat in this Chamber persistently advocated a party truce, as the records in *Hansard* will show. I have always criticised any hon. member, whether he has been a Minister or a private member, if at any time he brought forward any controversial subject. Such subjects have been brought forward and I have always criticised them. I believe that as the outcome of many of these controversial subjects we have these parties in the House to-day. So far as that is concerned I do not think that this spirit is altogether dead, but I think that we shall have these measures brought up, and that some hon. members, at all events, will give full vent to their feelings irrespective of whether they belong to one party or another. We have been criticised for taking unto ourselves the name of a party, the Nationalist party, but I hold that there is something

more in it than the mere name. The Federal Government certainly have to provide ships and to equip the troops who travel on those ships, but the rest of the organisation necessary for the upkeep of our troops devolves upon the State, as well as the organisation connected with the upkeep of the industries necessary for the maintenance and well-being of these troops, and of the people who are dependant upon them in the State. I believe close on 80 per cent. of what constitutes war measures, administration, and other war matters has to be dealt with by the States apart altogether from the Commonwealth.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Price List Bill, for the first thing.

Mr. FOLEY: That certainly is a very good thing. Realising that the State has to do so much I contend that our watchword should be "Economy and efficiency." By economy I do not mean that wastage in any State, or in any public works, or the actions of any State, lie with the man who uses the pick and shovel. After all, if there were 20 pick and shovel men engaged in a job they would only get 9s. a day, and if they only did half the work which was considered a fair thing for a day, there would not be a great deal of loss. Where the real wastage lies, and where the finger point should really rest when we are speaking of economy, is in connection with the men who are practically managing the business of this State from a departmental point of view, and it is there that we expect the best work to be given to the State. I contend that if there is any work to do in the State, and the State is to pay for it, it should be the duty of the men at the head of the various departments of the State to submit their estimate of the cost of the job, and if the job does not run out at the estimated cost these men should be called to book and be made to toe the carpet for the purpose of showing some reason why the work had exceeded their estimate. And if a satisfactory reason cannot be given by them, then it should be the duty of the Government to get rid of those men and put in their places men who can and will do the work satisfactorily. By this means, instead of saving a few shillings a day, which

might be done in the case of pick and shovel men, there would be a saving of pounds instead of pence. Economy of that class would be of advantage to the State in connection with our public works. One aspect of the question has been brought vividly to my mind recently. We were told in this House that the railway officers had decided that it would be wise to divert the Hay-street tramway down Havelock-street into Murray-street. That work was done at a cost of several thousands of pounds; and I wish now to know whether it is those same officers who a few months later, say that it is right that the trams should be returned to Hay-street at a cost of a further several thousand pounds, which could, if properly utilised, have been spent in productive work. There must be something wrong with the officers, and if a finger could be placed on the officer who is at fault, greater economy would be achieved than would be by the sacking of a few men who do not do as much work as it might be thought they should do.

The Minister for Works: Do you not know that that change has been brought about by public opinion?

Mr. FOLEY: That is another aspect. If this change has been brought about by public opinion, as the Minister says, I contend that whilst we have this war with us, and whilst the men in the trenches are suffering as they are and the men outback are putting up with disadvantages, because of the war, it is a poor argument to say that public opinion in one small portion of the State is responsible for the spending of so many thousands of pounds, as has undoubtedly happened in this case. That is a glaring instance in which economy might have been practised. If in future we are to have instances of public opinion forcing changes of this character, then I am afraid we shall not get that good which we had hoped for by the alteration of the system. I believe that, with the combined brains of those in the Government and those sitting behind them, public opinion will have to be much stronger than it has been in this case before an expenditure of so many thousands of pounds will be given consideration. There is another matter connected with this question of economy. We have lately had two royal

commissions, one of which, I believe, has sat for close on two years at a cost of £5,000 to the State—I refer to the Agricultural Commission. What good has it done? It has to be remembered that conditions are not normal. In connection with that commission, there has been no attempt at scientific research, although it has spent £5,000. Then there has been the other, the Esperance Lands Commission, which has cost about £1,600—another economic waste to the State, because, after all, the railway would not have been in now anyhow. In my opinion, royal commissions in this State should be a thing of the past. The Government should convey an intimation to members of the royal commissions that if they are sufficiently patriotic and loyal to do their work from a spirit of loyalty, well and good; but that the Government intends not to supply any more money. Much of this class of work could and should be done by members of Parliament. I have always contended that sufficient use is not being made of the members of this Parliament. If members who form the Ministry have to work, as some of them have, day and night—I say that irrespective of the party to which the Ministers belong—then I contend they should make use of those men who sit on the floor of the House to a greater extent than has been done in the past. If that were done we would not have the spectacle of Parliament being derided through the columns of the Press and in other ways for doing nothing. If we get the greatest amount of work out of members, then we shall have got the greatest economy for the State. If a saving of a few thousand pounds can be made in any direction, it is better than to spend many thousands of pounds in directions of economic waste. Regarding the question of repatriation, I think this should have the first consideration of the Government. It is alarming to note from the Governor's Speech that in respect of the loan which was obtained by the State from the Commonwealth in 1914, in the belief that it would not have to be paid back for some years except under certain conditions, the Commonwealth bill has been practically put in, and some portion of the loan will have to be paid back immediately unless other arrangements are made quickly. It is to be hoped, if the financial

adviser to the Government has to go to the Eastern States in connection with this matter, that amicable arrangements will be entered into whereby the compact originally made by the Commonwealth Government will be adhered to. We want that compact continued so long as there is necessity for it, as there is undoubtedly at the present time. We must do something in regard to repatriation. Many of our soldiers on return will doubtless re-enter the avocations which they left, and for such it will scarcely be necessary for the Government to do anything. Some employers have been sufficiently loyal and patriotic to give those men their positions back when they return. But there are other employers who, immediately a returned man asks for reinstatement, inquire of him as to the amount of his pension, and endeavour to induce him to accept employment at his former rate of wages minus the amount of the pension. If it be that a returned soldier is not so efficient as before he left, I contend that his employer, who remained behind and reaped the benefit of the freedom for which the soldier has fought, might easily forego any little inefficiency on the part of the man until such time as he has become again used to the work. The State, too, must get its secondary industries into such a condition as will invite men from other parts of the world to come here when the war is over. In this the Government can and should assist by ensuring the manufacture of every article possible within the State. Recently a tender was announced in which it was stipulated that the required article should be made in Western Australia, but later on the stipulation was altered to a State within the Commonwealth. I am an Australian and try to be a good Australian, but I hold that whilst we, in Western Australia, ask the people of this State to provide money by taxation, we should do all we possibly can, as the managers of their affairs, to see that as much as possible of that money remains in this State to help pay back borrowed money and to lighten the burden of taxation. If we give attention to our secondary industries we may reasonably expect that after the war numbers of men will come here. But at the present time it is, in my opinion, almost a criminal offence for the authorities of this

or any other State to ask eligible emigrants from Great Britain to come here. What would be thought by us if immigration agents came from other countries and asked Australian emigrants to go elsewhere? In the first place, such emigrants would not be given passports out of the country. Again, the class of men who would be available for emigration to Australia at the present time would not be of great advantage to us. We want robust, fit and strong men here. Emigration is wanted to France and other countries from Britain just now. It must be remembered, too, that we shall not get all the emigrants we expect immediately the war is over. It will probably take 18 months for us to get our own men back, and while this is being done we should be getting our secondary industries gradually into order so that they may absorb the men as they come back. Then, too, after the war those countries now being devastated will have to be built up, and there will be as great inducements for people to go to those countries from the British Isles as there will be for them to come here. Therefore, I say we shall have to dress our own windows, and make an effort to attract the proper class of immigrant. I hope the Government will do something in the way of organising our industries and of assisting those who control industries to develop them with a view to keeping the money in the State. The other States are acting along those lines. Speaking of immigrants, our own Australians now absent from the Commonwealth should have first consideration. We cannot thank those men, cannot give them full value in kind for what they have done; but their work is appreciated in the hearts of the Australian people. As part of their wage, it is our duty to provide means of employment for them and to provide for their welfare when they return. I trust that when word does come from the Commonwealth Government as to their full intentions in this respect, Ministers of this State will get down to business and make the matter their first consideration. I trust that then the Premier of Western Australia will be able to tell Parliament what is this State's portion of the repatriation scheme. Up to the present, much as we have wished to do something, we have been in the dark, except for the

fact that some members of this Chamber desire returned soldiers to be placed in the far South-West. These members think it would be a good thing, but I do not think so. There are many other avenues in which the energies of the returned soldiers can be employed to better advantage. Primary industries, I consider, should receive every encouragement. Farming has been mentioned by the mover, and I wish to point out that there is at the present time great necessity to do something for the mining industry, which has benefited Western Australia so largely in the past, and will again benefit it, and much more largely, if it receives that sympathetic administration which undoubtedly it deserves. There are two points on which I wish to compliment the member for Canning (Hon. R. T. Robinson) who has just relinquished the Mines portfolio. With regard to prospecting, if a man goes into the wilderness and takes up a show, the question of the charge for crushing has always been a hard one. The late Minister for Mines decided, and wisely decided, that the trial crushing should be put through free. The State may lose immediately an amount of £25 over the transaction, but very great benefit results to the State if a good mining show is obtained. After all, the £25 is given to the real trier and the real battler. It is matter for regret that past Ministers for Mines have not seen their way to work the State battery system more in the interests of prospecting.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is economy.

Mr. FOLEY: It is false economy.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Economy is the watchword to-day.

Mr. FOLEY: Yes; and the hon. member cannot tell me anything against a policy of economy so far as it includes the putting through of trial crushings for nothing.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It helps to build up the deficit; that is all.

The Attorney General: It produces wealth for the country.

Mr. FOLEY: Another aspect of the matter is that, throughout the mining districts of this State, there are abandoned shows over which the Government have had liens in the past. The embargo placed upon these shows has kept many good men from pros-

pecting them. In almost every mining town one will find an old inhabitant to tell one that a certain abandoned show in the vicinity is the best mine in the world. However, discounting all that one hears, yet there are abandoned shows in Western Australia which would make good if the opportunity were given, if the embargo were lifted off them by the Minister for Mines. I trust the National Government will take that step, which will be something done for the advancement of mining that no other Government of Western Australia has done. As regards mining research, the day of the dish and pick prospector in this State has gone. The chemist is going to do prospecting, in the laboratory. Again, the Mines Department have recently made the way easier for the prospector of the laboratory, and for the men obtaining different ores from the various parts of this State. Of course, it will cost the State a few shillings, but the community will reap the benefit of the expenditure. If an economic saving can be made by the expenditure of a few pounds, that expenditure is well justified. As regards the mining position itself, the Federal Government recently displayed a desire to impose an undue tax on mining. I was sorry to observe that many men representing mining constituencies in Western Australia had very little to say on that subject. On the other hand, I am glad to have been the one who brought the matter forward in this Chamber; and the effect of the telegraphic report of the discussion was to induce the Federal Government to repeal the tax.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The tax was never imposed, so that it could not be repealed. It was dropped.

Mr. FOLEY: Very well; it was dropped. In my opinion, the mines should pay just taxation, but I do not think the industry should be taxed to a greater extent than other industries. The question of mining supplies will have to be considered, and I hope the National Government will at an early date decide to give short shrift to any exploiters of these supplies. With regard to assistance to mining, the mining regulations have provided that the Government will subsidise local expenditure on boring to the extent of £2 for every £1 provided locally. If it is good policy to provide a

diamond drill and then to subsidise every £1 of private money with £2 of public money, then I contend that the State is even more justified in subsidising to the extent of pound for pound any syndicate or company, or party of men, who, in the opinion of an officer of the Mining Department, have a chance of bringing into existence, or of resuscitating, a mine which would produce something if given a fair trial.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That has been done for years. It was done when Mr. Gregory was Minister for Mines.

Mr. FOLEY: It was done as regards diamond drilling, but not in the other respect. I commend my suggestion to the National Government. If the Government have an assurance that a sum of, say, £1,000 is going to be spent by a party in this way, they can rest assured that the party will have at their head someone who will see that the money is spent judiciously. It would pay the State to back up such a party.

The Attorney General: That has been done under my regime.

Mr. FOLEY: I have never known of a case where it was done. Very little of the money advanced to mining has not been repaid.

The Attorney General: Only about 25 per cent. of it is paid back.

Mr. FOLEY: That is, since the hon. gentleman was Minister for Mines?

The Attorney General: No; all told. I gave a summary of it some time ago.

Mr. FOLEY: My opinion is that my suggestion affords the best means of assisting mining development. There is one plank of the National platform which I especially believe in, and I trust the Government will act up to it. I may be reminded by the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) that the plank is an old one. I refer to industrial arbitration. I have seen the time when hon. members sitting on the other side of the Chamber were very ardent advocates of arbitration. I have seen those hon. members, when sitting on this side of the Chamber, by no means strong in their advocacy of arbitration outside these walls, when they were among men who wanted something else. In connection with the recent tramway trouble, I wanted the difficulty settled by arbitration and not

by brawn. I told the meeting of tramway employees that I believed in arbitration, and I was instrumental in convincing their executive, and the union of tramway employees still retains arbitration for the settlement of industrial troubles. The Premier will bear me out in what I say. My personal opinion is that no industrial trouble would be settled in this State if it were not for arbitration. If that plank of the platform is old, yet it is good; and, if a man knows a thing is good, no matter how old it may be he should be manly enough and courageous enough, inside or outside of Parliament, to back it up, irrespective of whether he is talking to employees or employers. I trust this will be done by all members, no matter what side of the House they may sit on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: So far as the platform is concerned, every one can support that.

Mr. FOLEY: But when it comes to putting a platform into effect, there are men who lack moral courage. I hope that ere long the war will be over and peace within our land, and I trust that the peace will be a lasting one, brought about by the victory of ourselves and our Allies over the enemy countries.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, debate adjourned.

QUESTION—FREEZING WORKS, WYNDHAM.

Royal Commission's Report.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Seeing that the Royal Commission on the Wyndham Freezing Works has just finished its deliberations, in which various members are personally interested to a considerable extent, I should like to know, Mr. Speaker, whether, as a matter of privilege, you will allow me to ask the Premier if he will lay the Royal Commission's report on the Table of the House?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not the time for questions, but as the hon. member has stated his question the Premier may reply if he thinks fit.

The PREMIER: The report has been handed to the Government printer, and it is my intention to lay it on the Table of the House at the earliest possible moment.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We should see it as early as possible. We are entitled to see it.

The PREMIER: The House will be in possession of the report almost immediately.

House adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

Library: Hon. W. Kingsmill, Hon.* H. Millington, Hon. J. F. Allen.

House: Hon. W. Kingsmill, Hon. J. Duffell, Hon. R. J. Lynn, Hon. H. Millington, Hon. H. Boan.

Printing: Hon. Sir E. H. Wittenoom, Hon. R. G. Ardagh, Hon. A. Sanderson.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Second Day.

Debate resumed from the 19th July.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan) [4.38]: It was only to be expected that with the limited time at our disposal the Speech of His Excellency the Governor would be short, and that it is not proposed to introduce any new measures, but I cannot help feeling a sense of disappointment that, even with the little time at our disposal, the Government have not indicated a remedy for any of the disabilities under which we are now suffering. In dealing with the all-important question of repatriation, the Government proposals are mainly directed to placing our returned heroes on the land irrespective of whether these men will be capable of carrying out the employment which would thus be involved, or whether they will be willing to put up with the hardships and isolation which follow that avocation. In the past, owing to the mistaken policy of State enterprises, in the conduct of which labour Governments have been unsuccessful, private capital which would otherwise have been invested in similar concerns has been driven out of the State. While we have suffered a heavy loss owing to the establishment of these enterprises by the State, we have also succeeded in causing the disappearance of many of our secondary industries and no capital has come to this country from the Eastern States. We should make an effort now to re-establish some of these secondary industries, and if it is possible for the Government to bind themselves and their successors for a given term—though I do not know whether it will be possible for them to bind any of their successors—not to interfere, I am confident that many new industries will spring up and the giving of such a guarantee will cause the re-investment of money in our

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Tuesday, 24th July, 1917.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Report of Royal Commission on the Nevanas Contract. 2, Perth Electric Tramways Employees' Union, Arbitration Court Award. 3, Copies of rules under the Service and Execution of Process Act, 1901-1912 (Federal). 4, Amendment to Local Court Rules, 1905-1912. 5, Report of the Royal Commission into charges made against Dr. Innes-Stephen. 6, Royal Commission on Agricultural Industries—Interim report, 30th May, 1917. 7, Stock Diseases Act, 1895—Regulations. 8, Plant Diseases Act, 1914—Regulations. 9, Abattoirs Act, 1909—Amended regulation. 10, Arbitration award. Federated Engine Drivers and Firemen.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

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

Standing Orders: The President, the Chairman of Committees, Hon. J. M. Drew, Hon. A. Sanderson, and the mover.