

ing. If one thing would tend to lessen political animosity and political antagonism, it is the fact that our two boys were fighting in the same force. I deeply regret the occasion which has arisen for this motion.

Hon. G. J. G. W. MILES (North) [4.49]: I desire to add a few words, and I fully endorse the remarks which have fallen from the mover and from the other speakers. Personally, I had known the late Mr. Wilson for 26 years. I went to work under him when I was a lad of 19, and I worked under him for seven years; and I can say this of Mr. Wilson, that he was always the same no matter what position a man occupied in life. To one and all, Mr. Wilson was the same good old British gentleman. I consider it an honour to have been one of his pall bearers yesterday—an honour which I shall remember all my life. As to the report published of the funeral, I consider it was a slight oversight to state that a large number of members of both Houses of Parliament also attended. In my opinion, it would have been better had the names of those members been mentioned, more particularly in view of the fact that the whole of the late Mr. Wilson's political opponents were present. A man could not have had a greater tribute than that paid to him by his political opponents. As an old friend of his, I greatly appreciate the eulogy passed on the deceased gentleman by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Collier. Nothing could have come better, and I feel sure the deceased gentleman's relatives greatly appreciate the sentiments expressed by Mr. Collier. While regretting that the names of members of Parliament who attended the funeral have not been published, I support the motion.

Hon. H. J. SAUNDERS (Metropolitan) [4.51]: When the late Mr. Wilson entered public life, I had the honour of being Mayor of Perth; and I fully endorse all the appreciative expressions which have been uttered by members of this House regarding my late friend. Mr. Wilson was of great service to the city when he sat as a councillor, and he has been of still greater service to the State of Western Australia. Indeed, I believe that had it not been for his trouble and anxieties over State affairs, our friend would have been with us to-day. He was a gentleman, and he was a man of his word. If he said he would do a thing, he did it. If he said yes in reply to a request, it was yes; and if he said no, one might as well never speak to him on that subject again. I have had many private transactions with Mr. Wilson, and always found him a man of his word and absolutely a white man. I deeply regret the loss which the State has suffered in the death of our friend, also the loss his family have sustained, and they have my deepest sympathy.

Question put and passed, members standing.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. H. P. Colebatch—East) [4.52]: As a further

mark of the respect of members for the late Mr. Wilson, I move —

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.53 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 10th December, 1918.

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

OBITUARY—HON. FRANK WILSON, C.M.G.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.32]: On Saturday evening last there passed away from us one who had been closely associated with the public life of this country for 20 years. His severance from this world came after a long and painful illness, borne with characteristic fortitude, and, I may say, with cheerfulness. The name of the Hon. Frank Wilson is well known throughout Western Australia. In the course of a long and labourious public life he was one who never spared himself. For a long time he was in the thick of the fight. Perhaps no Government ever had a harder time than the Government over which he presided. He will be remembered by this House as one of its keenest debaters, a man of remarkable tenacity of purpose, and great determination. His courage was characteristic of the man. I may safely say we all missed him when he did not return to this Chamber. I may also safely say that he filled a niche which no one but himself was able to fill. No one possibly had been more closely associated with the political life of this country for many years past, and no one had been more thoroughly through the turmoil and struggles of a political career. There must be turmoil for all who engage in political life, but he surmounted all the difficulties which came before him, and left behind him a distinguished and honourable name. He had many friends, and when the adoption of these friends was tried he grappled them to his soul with hoops of steel. He was a good friend and a loyal friend to all with whom he was associated. He has passed away to the great majority, as we all have to do, and yesterday we laid him to rest from all the trials of this world. It was a fitting tribute to one who had been so actively associated with the life of this country. This House would, I am quite sure, desire to offer a further tribute to the memory of our departed friend, who held such a high and memorable

position within and without this Chamber. An honourable and distinguished public man, twice Premier of this State, a devoted husband, and a good father, has gone to his rest. A man cannot depart from this world with a better tribute from those who know his private life than one which voices the opinion that his life was one that we would all desire to follow. Our sympathies go out to those he has left behind. I think these occasions are such upon which one cannot dwell at great length, but I do desire to express my regret that our friend has passed away—passed away after so much suffering and tribulation. We all agree that he has left behind him an honourable name, and the marks of a career which has been unique in the history of Western Australia. With these few words I move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the Hon. Frank Wilson, and to express its deepest sympathy with his family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by his decease; and that Mr. Speaker be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to the widow of the deceased gentleman.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [4.40]: I desire to second the motion, but I must admit that words fail me. I knew Mr. Wilson in public life for 20 years, and feel confident that members will agree with me that his death has caused a great loss to this State, especially at this particular time when his services would be so valuable. As a political opponent, I would say that he always acted fairly and justly, believing that his ideas were in the best interests of Western Australia. As a man he was respected and esteemed by hon. members, no matter on which side of the House they sat. Members will indeed have difficulty in finding another who was so fearless in his actions, and who at all times, no matter whether the wishes of members opposed to him were suited or not did what he thought was in the best interests of the State, and did it with a striking tenacity of purpose. I agree with the Premier that the deepest sympathy of the people of the State goes out to Mrs. Wilson and her family in the loss they have sustained. I feel certain that this resolution will have the tendency to some extent of assisting the widow in bearing her deep trouble.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [4.40]: As the member representing the constituency which was formerly represented by the late Hon. Frank Wilson, it is my privilege to be able to voice the sympathy of all the people in the Sussex electorate. In the issues of the "West Australian" of yesterday and to-day there is evidence of the true sense of sympathy felt by the people of Busselton and the surrounding districts by the action which they took when the news reached them of the sad death of Mr. Wilson. For 13 years the late gentleman represented the Sussex electorate. His first election for Sussex synchronised with my advent there, and during the greater

portion of the time he was the member for that constituency, I was intimately associated with him on his committees and in many other respects. All the electors there will, I am sure, express a full measure of heartfelt sympathy, indeed sympathy such that I find words inadequately express. Since it has been my privilege to be in Parliament, I have learned that a true bond of brotherhood exists between members on both sides, and I regret exceedingly that it was not my privilege to share in the bond which existed between the late Hon. Frank Wilson and members of this House. I do not think people outside are cognisant of the extent of that bond which exists amongst members, and therefore it will be appreciated that the sympathy which goes forward from this Chamber will indeed be heartfelt. The friends of the late Hon. Frank Wilson made in the electorate of Sussex on the occasion of his first entering Parliament as the member for that district, were his friends to the moment of his death. I feel it is indeed an honour to be representing a constituency now which had formerly such capable representation as that which has been referred to by hon. members this afternoon. I am voicing to the fullest the feelings of my constituents when I say that their deep sympathy goes out to the relatives of the deceased gentleman.

Mr. SPEAKER [4.45]: Before putting the motion, I would like, as Speaker of this Assembly, to add a few words. The late Hon. Frank Wilson was for a long time leader of this House and I as a private member was long associated with him, though we sat on opposite sides. It has been remarked by the Premier that the late gentleman was a keen debater and a man of forceful character. Hon. members will readily recognise that in conflicts in this Chamber, on certain principles, feeling at times runs very high. The late Hon. Frank Wilson and myself on the floor of this House, and also in the old Chamber in Hay-street, had many fierce encounters, but no matter how strongly we opposed each other, or to what extent our views were divergent, whatever transpired in the House never impaired our personal friendship. After we left the Chamber no open wound ever remained. I, too, want to add, before putting the motion, that I feel that all those who knew the late Hon. Frank Wilson, in his public or private life, will agree that his wife has lost a good husband, his children a good father, and the State a good citizen. I would ask hon. members to rise while I put the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [4.48]: As a further tribute to the memory of the late Hon. Frank Wilson, I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.48 p.m.