

tions than he did, if one can take the speech he made on the subject as evidence of the scrutiny he made. I read his speech a second time in "Hansard" to check the impression I received when he was speaking. Obviously, the Royal Commission started out with a rather different view from that held by those who introduced the original Act. If we frame an Act on a certain basis it will, through all its provisions, reflect that basis. If, on the other hand, we take the principal recommendations of this Royal Commission, we should have a major recasting of the Act if it is to be effective in dealing with vermin in the agricultural areas as well as in the North-West. I have sympathy for the people in the outer areas because they are protecting those of us who are in the inner areas by reason of the work they are doing in vermin destruction.

In the outer wheatbelt districts the emu is a severe problem and, but for the work done in the destruction and control of emus in those places, the number of birds penetrating the inner districts would be much greater than it is. There are, of course, a few emus right through the inner wheat districts, but it is comparatively easy to control them, whereas the people in the outer areas have suffered a great deal of damage to their properties. Where a certain number of ratepayers and taxpayers are incurring the lion's share of the expense in controlling some particular kind of vermin, it is only reasonable that they should receive special consideration. I am afraid, however, that under the Vermin Act it is difficult to give that consideration. I intend to support the second reading of the Bill, because I realise that most of what it contains, is necessary.

On motion by the Premier, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.16 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 24th October, 1946.

Assent to Bills	PAGE
Question : Railways, as to delay of goods ex ship at Esperance	1507
Motion : Obituary, the late Hon. V. Hamersley, M.L.C.	1507
Bill : Transfer of Land Act Amendment (No. 2), 1A.	1508
Adjournment	1510

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

- 1, Bulk Handling Act Amendment.
- 2, Feeding Stuffs Act Amendment (No. 2).
- 3, State Transport Co-ordination Act Amendment.
- 4, Electoral (War Time) Act Amendment.

QUESTION.

RAILWAYS.

As to Delay of Goods ex Ship at Esperance.

Hon. H. SEDDON asked the Chief Secretary:

- 1, Is the Minister aware that goods arriving by ship at Esperance are being delayed for a considerable time at that port instead of being railed to their destination?
- 2, Will he have the matter investigated with a view to effecting a remedy?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, No. On completion of discharge from ship all urgent traffic is released and given preference for rail transit. General traffic has to be sorted at goods shed and is given best possible rail transit when ready. The "Mundalla" which discharged at Esperance recently, completed unloading at 3 p.m. on the 4th October. All traffic was sorted by the Railway Department and consigned by the agents, who finalised consigning on the 17th October, the last of the loading being cleared on the 24th October. The discharge from the viewpoint of the shipping company was

good. Special trains were arranged in connection with this shipment, but one on the 6th October had to be cancelled owing to shipping traffic not being available, and on the 2nd October the regular train was lightly loaded from the same cause.

2, Answered by No. 1.

MOTION—OBITUARY.

The Late Hon. V. Hamersley, M.L.C.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.35]: Mr. President, it is with very deep regret that I have to advise the House of the passing of our colleague, the Hon. Vernon Hamersley. I desire to move, without notice, the following motion:—

That this House desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the public services rendered to the State by the late Hon. Vernon Hamersley, who, at the time of his death, was a member for the East Province; and to express its deep sympathy with the members of his family in the irreparable loss that they have sustained by his decease; and that the President be requested to forward the foregoing resolution to the members of the family.

Our late colleague had a remarkable record in the public life of this State. He was a member of one of the pioneer families of Western Australia. He was born in the year 1871, at Guildford, and was therefore 75 years of age at the time of his death. The Hon. Mr. Hamersley completed his education in England where he did a full course at Downton Agricultural College, Salisbury, after having completed his University course at Magdalen College, Oxford. On the death of his father he inherited a property at Toodyay, which he developed until it became one of the show places of Western Australia. He was prominent in the agricultural and pastoral life of this State and took his place, not only in parliamentary affairs, but in the affairs of the district in which he lived. He was a great lover of horses, and was president of the Newcastle Race Club for a long period, Newcastle then being the name of what we now know as Toodyay.

He was past chairman of the Toodyay Road Board and past president of the Toodyay Agricultural Society. He was chairman of the Producers' Union, which later became

the Western Australian Farmers Co-operative. He was a member of the Honorary Agricultural Advisory Board from 1902 until 1908. He was vice president of the Merino Stud Sheep Breeders' Association, until his resignation last year, and for many years he was an active member of the W.A. Historical Society. In his Parliamentary career he held rather a unique record, in that he was the father not only of this House, but of Parliament. He was elected in August, 1904, and had therefore completed 42 years unbroken parliamentary service. I think it can be said of our late colleague that he played his part, not only in the every-day life of his district and his State, but also a prominent part, for many years, in the public life of this State.

To those of us who have had the privilege of knowing him over the years he appeared as being a man of very fine character, one who could not make an enemy. Though he might have differed from us on public matters, we could never take umbrage or offence on that account. He was also courteous and anxious to help. If he did not agree with our point of view, he was quite prepared to disagree. I am sure Mr. Hamersley will be missed, more particularly by the older members of the House. We will miss him, but his family will miss him still more. In bringing forward this motion, I feel that I am paying but a very small tribute to one entitled to the respect of all sections of the community. I hope his family will find some solace in the fact that during a long life he played a most important part in the affairs of Western Australia.

HON. C. F. BAXTER (East) [4.41]: I second the Chief Secretary's motion. The late hon. gentleman will be greatly missed in this Chamber. His long and honourable period of service educated him to respect the opinions of others. As we all know, we have differences of opinion, but Mr. Hamersley was always respectful of the other person's viewpoint and prepared to meet it. He would not make up his mind on any matter until he was quite sure of his facts, but once he had made up his mind he would not alter his opinion. He and I were the closest of friends for the greater part of my lifetime. For over 32

years he and I have worked assiduously for the East Province. I personally will miss him very greatly; but greater still will be the loss to his family. The Chief Secretary has said that the late Mr. Hamersley's people were pioneers. That is so. He comes of the old stock that opened up Western Australia.

When our late colleague took over the property which he inherited from his father, it was then only used for grazing purposes; but the way in which Mr. Hamersley developed it proved that he was one of the pioneer stock that made Western Australia what it is today. He saw the opportunities and was quick to grasp them. His interest in the land never flagged until his death. He was at the time of his death interested in the Haseldene property and in another property further on. He was the father of the Western Australian Parliament. His 42 years of service is a wonderful achievement—42 years of honourable service and integrity. He was noble to the last degree. His achievements are a record of which his relatives can well be proud. I join with the Chief Secretary in extending my deepest sympathy to his son and two daughters. They have lost a good father. Personally, I deeply mourn the loss of one of my best and closest friends.

HON. J. M. DREW (Central) [4.45]: I cannot remain silent on this occasion. When I entered Parliament first, it met in the old Council Chambers in St. George's-terrace and I quickly learnt to appreciate the advice and assistance of two members, the late Mr. Hamersley and the late Mr. Throssell. My friendship with Mr. Hamersley has endured to the very end and no-one regrets more than I do his passing. I had been elected for the Central Province and had then no previous experience as a politician, except in connection with newspapers, where I had a free hand. Right up to his death Mr. Hamersley discharged his duties in an honourable and competent manner. He was never vindictive; there were no traces of animosity in his speeches. When it was necessary for him to take a firm stand he did so, but no objection could be taken to it. I was greatly upset when I read of his death and I assure members that I deeply deplore his passing. He took a great interest in me when I was a young man

and gave me advice of a valuable nature, notwithstanding that I thought I was a person who could not be dictated to. He also gave me valuable advice when it was necessary to appoint a Minister representing the Labour Government. I listened with great respect to him every time he spoke, as I am sure other members did. I cannot say more.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [4.48]: As one who was closely associated with the late Mr. Vernon Hamersley, I feel that I must add my tribute of respect to a man whom I learnt to love and whose good qualities I greatly appreciated. The Chief Secretary has referred to his years of public service. It can be said with truth that Mr. Hamersley played his part in the development and progress of Western Australia. He proved himself to be a good citizen. I recall an occasion when we were travelling around the group settlements, which at that time were causing much dissatisfaction. The settlers thought they were very hardly done by. Mr. Hamersley listened to their complaints and then said, "I have come down here to say a few words to you. I do not think I can do better than give you my own experience and the experience of my father and mother." He tendered those people who were so gravely dissatisfied a few home truths in a very nice, kindly and friendly way. I give those people this credit, that in supporting a vote of thanks they said they appreciated his coming, and the knowledge he imparted to them, and they came to the conclusion that they were not so badly off after all. I join with other members in extending our deepest sympathy to the late Mr. Hamersley's loved ones who are left behind.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [4.51]: I wish to add a few words to those that have been spoken this afternoon. I doubt whether any member of the Chamber was more consistently opposed to the ideals for which I stand than the late Mr. Hamersley, but, notwithstanding that, I held him in the very highest respect. His integrity was undoubted. He fought for what he considered best, and he fought fairly. I do not think I can pay a greater compliment to any man than that. I regret his passing. It was on rare occasions only that he and I were on the same side of the House when a vote was taken,

but nevertheless I shall miss him greatly, and I join in the message of condolence to the late hon. member's relatives.

HON. G. W. MILES (North) [4.53]: I join with other members in expressing my profound sorrow and regret at the death of our dear and esteemed friend, Vernon Hamersley. I cannot talk on a subject of this kind, but, on behalf of my two colleagues, I wish it to be known that we join with other members in expressing our deepest sorrow and sympathy to the members of his family.

The PRESIDENT: On an occasion such as this, words are a poor substitute to convey one's sentiment towards a full-sized man such as was the late Mr. Vernon Hamersley. For over 34 years I was associated continuously in this House with the late hon. gentleman. All I have to say in that regard is that he was all that a good parliamentarian ought to be. We have this consolation, as have also his sorrowing relatives, that he had lived his allotted span and more, and that he died in harness, as I am sure he would have wished to do when he responded to the call we must all answer. He was everything that a good father, a good husband and a good citizen ought to be. I am sure that when people come to look back in retrospect on his life, they will be satisfied that he did not live in vain, however much we may miss him. The question will be put in the usual manner.

Question put and passed; members standing.

BILL—TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Received from the Assembly and, on motion by Hon. H. S. W. Parker, read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): As a mark of respect to our late colleague, Mr. Hamersley, I move—
That the House do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 24th October, 1946.

	PAGE
Questions: Drunken drivers, as to taking fingerprints on arrest	1510
Noxious weeds, as to experiments for eradication	1510
Coal deposits, Eradu and Irwin, as to progress of tests	1511
Country hospitals, as to number closed and staff shortage	1511
Assent to Bills	1511
Bills: Transfer of Land Act Amendment (No. 2), 2a	1511
Plant Diseases Act Amendment, 2a, Com., report	1511
Land Alienation Restriction Act Continuance, 2a	1517
State Housing, Com.	1518
Country Areas Water Supply, 2a	1521
Comprehensive Agricultural Areas and Goldfields Water Supply, 2a	1534
Annual Estimates: Votes and Items discussed	1534

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

QUESTIONS.

DRUNKEN DRIVERS.

As to Taking Fingerprints on Arrest.

Mr. **DONEY** asked the Minister representing the Chief Secretary: Is there a regulation drawn under the Police Act or any other Act which permits a constable to arrest a person for alleged drunken driving and, thereafter, to take that person's fingerprints before the trying of the case before a Magistrate's Court?

The **PREMIER** replied: Yes.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

As to Experiments for Eradication.

Mr. **BRAND** asked the Minister for Agriculture:

1, In a Press report of the field day activities at Merredin Research Station, it was stated that complete success had been obtained in eradicating heavily growing double-gees from an experimental plot. Could he say what method was used in this experiment?

2, What was the result of experiments made with sprays as a means of eradicating *Rapistrum* weed at Nangetty Station?

3, As a result of the experiment, was it possible to assess the cost per acre of using such sprays?

The **MINISTER** replied:

1, A commercial chemical spray "Dinoc," has proved very effective in destroying