

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

*The Parliament was prorogued on the 9th December, 1927, to the 17th January, 1928.
It was further prorogued to the 28th February, then to the 10th April, 1928, then
to the 17th May and again to the 7th June, when it met for the despatch of business.
Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Deputy Governor.*

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 7th June, 1928.

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OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 2.45 p.m..

The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members, elected since the prorogation, took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll:—Hon. J. T. Franklin (Metropolitan), Hon. A. J. H. Saw (Metropolitan-Suburban), Hon. G. Fraser (West), Hon. V. Hamersley (East), Hon. C. B. Williams (South), Hon. Sir Edward H. Wittenoom (North), Hon. E. H. H. Hall (Central), Hon. E. Rose (South-West), Hon. C. H. Wittenoom (South-East).

PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. Bernard Parker) read the proclamation summoning the second session of Parliament.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

His Excellency the Deputy Governor (Sir Robert Furse McMillan) entered the Council Chamber at 3 p.m. and the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have summoned you specially in order that you may consider the question of the financial relationship of the Commonwealth and the States.

Arising out of the decision of the Commonwealth Government to abolish the *per capita* payments to the States, the State Governments were invited by the Commonwealth Government to consider proposals for a new basis of payments to the States.

The terms of an agreement reached by the representatives of the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments have been embodied in a Bill which will be presented for your consideration and approval.

It is not proposed to submit any other business to you during this special session, as you will be called together for the transaction of the ordinary business of Parliament during the month of July.

I now declare this session open.

[The Deputy Governor then retired and the President resumed the Chair.]

BILL—MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF COLLIE VALIDATION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon J. M. Drew—Central) [3.15]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to render valid certain acts done by the Municipal Council of Collie otherwise than in its correct corporate name."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

CONDOLENCE—LATE HON. J. E. DODD.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon J. M. Drew—Central) [3.16]: A mournful duty devolves upon me to-day. Since we last met a member of this House, an old personal friend of mine and, I may add, a personal friend of the older members of this Chamber, Mr. Jabez Edward Dodd, has passed away. I had known him ever since he entered the Legislative Council 18 years ago and was closely associated with him for five years. He was a Ministerial colleague of mine during the time the Scaddan Government was in power. He assisted me not only in the administration of my department but in my capacity of Leader of this House. As an administrator he brought to bear on his duties a sound judgment, a constant vigilance and a strict conscientiousness. As Honorary Minister he was most helpful to me, taking charge of all industrial and health legislation. His grasp of Bills, his lucidity of exposition, and his earnestness of purpose gave him many successes. Throughout those five years I realised that I had an able and loyal lieutenant, and I can look back on the term of our Ministerial companionship with the most consoling reflections. And my experience of the late Mr. Dodd was the experience of everyone else who had become acquainted with him. He won the respect and esteem of all. For many years he had been suffering from a continuous and painful illness, which he bore with Christian resignation. Hon. members will recollect that despite the nerve-racking strain of his affliction his temper was always even, and that in the strongest of discussions he preserved unruffled the tranquility of his mind. When I came back to the House

in 1924 as Leader again, I found my old friend, Mr. Dodd, still one of my most valued colleagues. He supported me in every measure which aimed at uplifting or improving the condition of the great mass of humanity; and so earnest and anxious was he to assist in this that he often asked me to so arrange the Notice Paper that he could speak on a Bill and vote on the second reading. He was frequently present in this Chamber when a man of less strength of character would have been at home on a bed of sickness. He set an example to all of fortitude in extreme suffering, of heroic devotion to duty, and of service to his fellow-men. It is needless to speak of him as a husband and father. Those whom I am addressing to-day realise the severity of the blow that has fallen on his family. The State has suffered a great loss, but his family's loss is the greater, and our hearts go out to them in their grief. It is only fitting that we should place among the records of this House a tribute to the memory of the departed one and a message of condolence to the bereaved. I therefore move—

That this House do place on record the eminent public services rendered to the State by the late Jabez Edward Dodd, as a Minister and also as a member of this Council for 18 years. This House further expresses its sympathy with his widow and family in the irreparable loss which they have sustained by his decease.

HON. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [3.22]: I have been asked to associate myself with the motion moved by the Leader of the House, and am pleased to be given the opportunity to second the motion of condolence to the widow and family of the late Mr. Dodd. We recognise that the public services rendered by that gentleman were most valuable, and we know that we could always rely upon his good, sound, sane judgment. He was an inspiration to every member of this Chamber. I realise that his early training had been an arduous one, and that his work during his younger days brought upon him the trials which rendered his later life so painful. In all that he undertook here his life was a valuable guide, because of the patient endurance with which he carried out his duties and moulded his career. I repeat, the House could always depend upon him for good, sound judgment. Although possibly some of us may not have felt that

we could see things in the same light with him at all times, yet we knew that his views were ripe and seasoned. His long course of reading and careful thought on all subjects which came before the Chamber assured members that they would obtain from him the considered results of a long experience. The late Mr. Dodd moulded his life towards the end of upraising the lives of the whole of the people. All his life and all his work were, I am sure, aimed in that direction; and he strove not so much by honeyed words and phrases pleasing to the ears of the people, but through sound judgment. His constant thought was so to mould legislation as to help those of his compatriots who led rather an arduous existence in the backblocks and in various walks of life. The one great idea in his mind as a legislator was to improve the legislation which had to be passed here from time to time. His example is a high one, and represents a heritage of which his relatives can always be proud. I sincerely hope that all of us, when passing the barrier through which Mr. Dodd has gone, may have it said of us that we did as well as our late fellow-member.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [3.25]: It is with feelings of regret that I submit my meed of consolation to the relatives of the late Mr. Dodd, and my measure of appreciation of the noble work done by him while he was with us on this earth. In Mr. Dodd I lost my best friend and my closest confidant. I had known him intimately for more than a quarter of a century, and the longer I knew him the greater was my respect for him. In the years that went by the late Mr. Dodd and I differed materially at times, and I consider that the greatest and noblest characteristic of the deceased gentleman was that while differing he could always recognise that there were two sides to a question. He was also not unwilling to recognise the possibility that the man with whom he differed had probably a greater measure of right on his side. That, I think, was the salient feature which contributed towards the great respect in which Mr. Dodd was held throughout his life by all sections of the community—a respect which will grow so long as his memory endures. I cannot but make one passing reference to the lesson taught by the life and the activities of the late Mr. Dodd. That

lesson, inculcated in the whirligig of industrial trouble and turmoil, was that men like Mr. Dodd can urge and strongly advocate the claims of those they champion, while still remaining friends with those who differ from them. Mr. Drew has made a reference to Mr. Dodd's Ministerial term of five years, and I venture to say that no Minister in the history of Western Australia—which has had many good Ministers—has laid down the keys of office and left his department with so large a measure of goodwill from all associated with him. I cannot refrain from paying a closing tribute to the widow of the late Mr. Dodd. I consider that Mrs. Dodd during her long nursing and tending of the late Mr. Dodd in the weary years of his illness set a splendid example of devotion. To her I extend my sympathy publicly, and to her sons I extend a similar condolence. I consider that so long as the Parliamentary institutions of Western Australia continued, no man will have a more honoured record than that which attaches to the name of our late friend Mr. Dodd.

HON. SIR EDWARD WITTENOOM (North) [3.30]: As the senior member of the House I should like to place on record my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the late Mr. Dodd, and to say how much we regret that he should have been taken from us. I always looked upon the late Mr. Dodd as a very reasonable man. He was one of those who combined the views of industry and labour with the requirements of the employer, and he never failed to take a reasonable view. I can only add that we admired the way in which he gave attention to details connected with matters that came before this House, and we shall miss him very much. I desire to add my regrets to those already expressed at his having been removed from amongst us.

THE PRESIDENT [3.32]: Before putting the motion I should like to endorse all that has been said regarding the late Mr. Dodd. I knew him intimately for a great many years. In what are known as the early days of the goldfields, Mr. Dodd was the secretary of the leading Labour union then on the fields, and his views were always on the side of reason and industrial peace. Both mine managers, and men, however they may have dif-

ferred in other respects at that time, always spoke regarding Mr. Dodd with great respect. I believe that the fact that the goldfields have been free from any of those great industrial upheavals that have done so much to attract attention to Australia—upheavals as have been witnessed in the other States—was largely due to the wonderfully good influence of Mr. Dodd. He and I represented the same Province for a great many years and our political acquaintance extended in all over a quarter of a century. There were few men for whom I had formed deeper respect. Everyone who knew the late Mr. Dodd admired his transparent honesty of purpose, his clarity of thought and diction and general soundness of judgment. His death is a loss to this Chamber. Whenever he spoke it was to assist and to throw fresh light on the subject under discussion. His influence for good will long remain in this Chamber, especially amongst the older members. He was ever an example worthy of imitation by all members aspiring to be true representatives of the people. He was faithful to the high trust reposed in him by the electors and a credit not only to himself but also to the wisdom of those who sent him to participate in the work of this Chamber and to bear its heavy responsibilities.

Question put and passed, members standing.

On motion by Chief Secretary, resolved, "That the President be requested to forward a copy of the resolution to the widow of the late Mr. Dodd."

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

The **PRESIDENT**: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Deputy-Governor copies of the Speech that he has been pleased to deliver. These will be distributed amongst members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [3.35]:
I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Deputy Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—May it please Your Excellency. We the members of 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 deliver to Parliament.

I desire to support what has been said with regard to the late Mr. Dodd. I followed in his footsteps at Boulder and for years I occupied the position that he filled. It seems strange now that I should again follow in his footsteps in this House. I sincerely trust that I shall be able to render to the State similarly valuable services. I wish also to congratulate the Hon. Charles Wittenoom on his election to represent the South-East Province and also the Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom on again being elected to represent the North Province. I think it is unique in Parliamentary history that the son should be a member not only of the same Parliament as the father but that both should be members of the same House. I trust that the Hon. Charles Wittenoom will have a career in this House as successful as that of his father. The session has been called together solely for the purpose of considering the Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and this State, and therefore at this stage I do not propose to say anything further on the Address-in-Reply. I have much pleasure in submitting the motion.

HON. G. FRASER (West) [3.37]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. A. Lovekin debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.38]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 19th June.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.39 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 7th June, 1928.

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MEETING OF ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m. pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

SUMMONS FROM DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

The 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.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a return of writs issued for the election of members to serve for the electoral districts of Kalgoorlie and Leederville, and from the returns endorsed thereon it appears that the Hon. James Cunningham and the Hon. Harold Millington have been duly elected for the respective districts. I am prepared to swear the hon. members.

The members elected were present, and took and subscribed the oath as provided by statute, and signed the roll.

BILL—WORKERS' HOMES ACT AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [3.15]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation. I move, without notice, for leave to intro-

duce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Workers' Homes Act."

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

MR. SPEAKER: In company with hon. members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Deputy Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the speech His Excellency was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy I have had printed copies of the Speech distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

MR. PANTON (Menzies) [3.17]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Deputy Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please Your Excellency. We, the members of 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."

MR. CLYDESDALE (Canning) [3.18]: I second the motion.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [3.19]: The Speech delivered to us by His Excellency is certainly the shortest we have ever listened to from any Governor, and must also be regarded as one of the most important. May I congratulate the two hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the adoption of the Address-in-Reply on the excellent speeches they made? They have not done better since they have been members of this House.

Mr. Panton: We set you a good example.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I do not intend to delay the House for more than a few minutes. I would not even delay the proceedings to that extent, were it not desirable to correct some wrong impressions that are abroad. I know it is useless to discuss the Financial Agreement at the present juncture, because we shall have an oppor-