

The Premier: Sir John Forrest put it into the gold reserve.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I think the amount was £200,000. The Premier was called upon to pay his just debts, and on behalf of the people of Western Australia he raised objection.

On motion by Mr. Lewis debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 12.7 a.m. (Friday).*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 14th July, 1914.*

	Page
Bills: Workers' Compensation Amendment, 1R.	
Bread Act Amendment, 1R.	352
Obituary: Hon. R. W. Pennefather, Letter in reply	352
Hon. C. A. Piesse .. .. .	352

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

### BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

1. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment.

2. Bread Act Amendment.

Introduced by Hon. J. E. Dodd (Honorary Minister).

### OBITUARY—HON. R. W. PENNEFATHER, LETTER IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT: I have received the following letter from Mrs. Pennefather:—

"Oakham," Shenton-road, Claremont.

To the President of the Legislative Council.

Dear Sir,—Would you kindly convey to the Colonial Secretary and members of Parliament my sincere thanks for their kind expressions of

sympathy on the death of my late beloved husband. At the same time I ask you to accept the same. Sincerely yours (Signed) F. E. Pennefather.

### OBITUARY—HON. C. A. PIESSE.

The PRESIDENT: I have received the following letter:—

Government House, 13th July.

The Hon. the President of the Legislative Council.

Sir,—I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to express his sincere sympathy with the President and members of the Legislative Council in the irreparable loss sustained by them through the death of one of their oldest members, the Hon. C. A. Piesse. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, (Signed) H. F. Wilkinson. Major, Private Secretary.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew): On the occasion of the opening of the present session of Parliament the sad duty devolved upon me of moving that a message of condolence be sent to the widow and relatives of a late member and ex-Minister of the Crown. To-day, unfortunately, I am called upon to perform a similar task. The Hon. Charles Austin Piesse, for many years a member of this House, and also an ex-Minister, is no more. Ever since the Legislative Council became an elective body—on 16th July, 1894—20 years ago, Mr. Piesse has been uninterruptedly a member of this House, and he was an Honorary Minister in the Moore Cabinet. Few public men in this State have been held in such high general esteem; few rendered greater, and none more conscientious, service to their country. In this Chamber, over the long period of time covered by one-fifth of a century, members had the benefit of his shrewd judgment and practical experience in the consideration of all matters relating to the development of Western Australia. Outside the House his energies and ability were directed towards encouraging by word and example, and assisting in tangible form those engaged in building up an industry which is bringing permanent

prosperity to the State. The district with which the late Mr. Piesse was associated was the Great Southern, not only in name, but in actuality; and with him and his late brother, the hon. F. H. Piesse, rests the credit of bringing its splendid resources into prominence and promoting successful settlement. We differed from our late lamented friend at times, but we always gave him credit for honesty of purpose, purity of aim, and integrity of principle. Mr. Piesse was an honourable man. Even in the angry strife of political warfare he handled only clean weapons. And he was a humane man. He was full of sympathy for the poor and distressed, and for those beset with sorrow and misfortune. To many he extended a helping hand. His death at the comparatively early age of 58 years is a distinct loss to his native State. And, outside his bereaved widow and relatives, by none will his untimely demise be more deeply regretted than by those who were in close fellowship with him in this Chamber, and who, under varying conditions, and in the course of many vicissitudes, found in him a combination of all the elements that go to enrich and ennoble the human character. I beg to move—

*That out of respect to the memory of the late Hon. Charles Austin Piesse, a member for the South-East province in this House, the House at its rising adjourn until Thursday next; and that a message of condolence be sent by the Hon. the President to the widow and family.*

Hon. J. F. CULLEN (South-East): I desire to second the motion so fittingly and so feelingly placed before the House by its leader, the Colonial Secretary. This State has lost one of its greatest and best men. It is no light test of a man's character that he should live in the middle of his constituency, and compete with its leading men in business avocations, and yet hold for 20 years the confidence and good-will of all around him. I wish to say, on behalf of his immediate relatives, how greatly they appreciated the graceful action of the Labour party at the last election. In spite of the keen-

ness of party strife in the country and in another place, the honour of a walk-over, so far as that strong party in the country is concerned, was freely and willingly accorded to the late Mr. Piesse. At his first contest, in 1894, Mr. Piesse was elected as one of the three members to represent the South-East province, but his seat becoming vacant through effluxion of time, he was obliged to stand for it again two years later, when he was once more returned to Parliament. In 1902, and again in 1908, Mr. Piesse had the great honour of an unopposed re-election, and, as I have mentioned, the Labour party gracefully accorded him the same freedom from turmoil at the last contest. Now, Sir, I, as his colleague, and one of his closest friends, knew him well, but I could not adequately express my own regard for his great character. Up to his last days he had the heart of a boy, combined with the wisdom brought by manhood's work and experience. How greatly he will be missed we cannot appreciate to-day, but we shall do so as time goes on. Whatever doubts there may be in some minds about the ideal of a non-party House on general questions, on this question, at all events, we are all one united and sympathetic party. He will be missed in his province, for every man and every woman respected him, and most of them regarded him with deep affection. As for the children, wherever he went, they hailed him in the streets as their friend. And the most of all, he will be missed in his family circle, where harmony and happiness always reigned—an ideal home with an ideal citizen at its head. In seconding this motion from the House, I want to express, not only my own sympathy, but the sympathy of our province, for the bereaved widow and sons and daughters of the late hon. gentleman. To-morrow, Sir, Katanning is hiring a special train in order that its people may go up to Wagin. I may mention that at the last election they gave him practically a solid vote, although for many years his interests had been in Wagin and not in Katanning. In expressing this sympathy for the widow and sons and daughters of the late Mr. Piesse, I would like to say that, in addition to

leaving them the fruits of his industry and thrift, he has left them the highest bequest of all—the bequest of an honoured name.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL (Metropolitan): As one of the officers of this Chamber, perhaps I may be allowed to add my little tribute of condolence to the widow and children of the late Mr. C. A. Piesse, and to give my support to the motion which is before the House. I have known the late hon. gentleman since my advent into Parliament in 1897, and the longer I knew him the more highly I esteemed him. Other hon. members have most eloquently expressed some of his good qualities, but, Sir, may I add, the good quality which perhaps struck me most about the late Mr. Piesse was the fact that he had ever a kindly heart for those in subjection, that it only needed a mere hint of some oppression that was taking place to ruffle a nature that was otherwise sweet and kind. He was particularly a friend of the oppressed, and that strict and strong sense of justice which was innate in him only failed in these instances, when his justice became tempered with the most kindly mercy. With heartfelt feelings I beg to support the vote of condolence and sympathy with the widow and children of the late Mr. Piesse, and on the floor of this House beg to pay this tribute of respect to, and may I say affection for, the late hon. gentleman.

Hon. C. SOMMERS (Metropolitan): We have indeed sustained a great loss in the death of our late member. I had the honour of knowing him for the last 14 years in Parliament, and altogether some 20 years besides. I can only say that to know him was to revere and honour him. Western Australia can ill-afford to lose such a man. He was unselfish, patriotic, and, as the hon. Mr. Cullen has said, he leaves behind him a good and honoured name. By his life he has earned the deepest respect of everyone, and the warmest sympathy of all must go out to the widow and family. I support the motion.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South): As one of the younger members of this House, I desire to say a few words in support of the motion. Almost on my entering this

Chamber, the late Mr. C. A. Piesse appealed to me strongly, and found a warm corner in my heart by his rugged manliness, his kindly feeling, his display of good fellowship towards myself, and the guidance he so readily extended to a new member. There is, perhaps, no member whose death I could regret more, in fact no individual whose demise I could more deeply deplore than that of the late hon. gentleman. He has gone all too soon. In losing the late hon. gentleman I feel that I have lost one who, in the course of my two short years of life in this Chamber, has appealed to me in every way, and of whom I had the greatest respect. I join with hon. members in condoling with the widow and the family of the late Mr. Piesse. These bereaved persons can, however, lay this unction to their souls, that though he has gone he is none the less remembered and respected in our midst.

Hon. E. McLARTY (South-West): I can add little to what has already been said by the Colonial Secretary and other members with respect to the death of the Hon. C. A. Piesse. I feel, however, that I should like to endorse the remarks which have been made by those gentlemen. The late gentleman and myself were elected to the Legislative Council at the same time, and I was closely associated with him ever afterwards. I also knew him personally for some years previously to that time. I wish to support all that has been so feelingly and so well expressed by the Colonial Secretary. I realise that, not only has the Legislative Council lost a very able and valuable member, whose experience was always of value to the country generally, but the State has also lost one of the most enterprising settlers it possessed. The late Mr. Piesse was so well known throughout the Great Southern districts and so highly respected, that I feel sure wherever the news of his death is heard there will be the one feeling of deep sorrow and regret. Throughout his illness I have had a very anxious time. I felt that I was losing, not only a personal and kind friend, but a man for whom I had the greatest respect and, I might also say, affection. I am sure that the feeling of regret will be extended

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 14th July, 1914.

Obituary: Hon. C. A. Piesse	..	..	..	Page.
Adjournment, special	..	..	..	355
				357

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

## OBITUARY—HON. C. A. PIESSE, M.L.C.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan): It is with extreme regret that I submit the following motion:—

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

In submitting this motion, may I explain that this is the second occasion during the last two years on which we have had the painful duty of passing a similar motion affecting the one family. It is just two years this month since the Attorney General, representing me in my absence, submitted a motion on the loss of a former valued member of this Chamber in the person of the Hon. F. H. Piesse, C.M.G., a brother to Mr. Charles Austin Piesse whose loss to another Chamber we now regret. Both of these gentlemen had distinguished careers in Western Australia, and took prominent positions in the public life of the State. Both of them held positions in connection with roads boards and municipalities, and eventually became members of either one or other branch of the Legislature. Mr. Charles A. Piesse was born in the year 1855 at Northam, and it is a remarkable coincidence, just two years after his elder brother, who died two years before him. Within something like two months, their sojourns on this earth were alike. Mr. Charles A. Piesse, like his brother, was

throughout the whole State to the sorrowing widow and family. There is no doubt the late Mr. Piesse has left a mark by reason of the great achievements which he undertook, and, as has been stated by Mr. Cullen, he has also left behind him a good name, of which his family may well be proud. I need say no more, except to endorse every word which has been spoken and to add that everyone will regret the loss which the State has sustained.

Hon. E. M. CLARKE (South-West): I have only to say that everyone who knew the late Mr. Piesse looked upon him as one of nature's gentlemen. He was natural, and he was genuine, and he had all the qualities that went to make a good and useful citizen. There are really no words which can express one's feelings when one recognises that, as in this case, the loss is as great to the State as it is to the late gentleman's family. I sat alongside the late Mr. Piesse for a long time, and, as one hon. member has stated, he was a man with whom you could not come into contact without feeling you were drawn towards him. In endorsing everything that has been said, I can only repeat that this House and the country have lost one of nature's white gentlemen.

Question passed; members standing.

*Reply to Governor's Letter of Sympathy.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew) moved—

*That the President be requested, on behalf of this House, to thank His Excellency the Governor for his kind letter of sympathy on the death of the Hon. C. A. Piesse.*

Question passed.

*House adjourned at 4.55 p.m.*