

cause of freedom, members will avail themselves of that opportunity and go out in greater numbers this time than they did on the occasion of the last referendum, and so make this final effort to bring about the consummation of conscription, which I regard as absolutely necessary in this, our deep anxiety. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. H. Carson, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 4.10 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 20th November, 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).

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber; and hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour the Chief Justice (Sir Robert Furse McMillan, Kt.), having been commissioned by the Governor, appeared in the Assembly Chamber to administer to members the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The Clerk produced election writs showing the return of 49 members.

With the following exceptions all the members elected were present and took and subscribed the oath as required by Statute, and signed the roll:—Mr. J. B. Holman (Murchison), Mr. H. Robinson (Albany), Mr. A. A. Wilson (Collie).

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) [12.31], addressing the Clerk, said: Mr. Grant, the House being duly constituted, I now move—

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara) [12.32]: I second the motion.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [12.33]: Is it open to submit further nominations?

The Clerk: Yes.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Then I have much pleasure in nominating Mr. E. B. Johnston to take the Chair. During his previous occupancy of the Chair the hon. member gave promise of developing into a very capable Speaker. Consequently I now nominate him for the high and honourable office of Speaker.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [12.34]: In view of the quarter from which the nomination proceeds, I refuse to accept the proposed honour.

Mr. TAYLOR (Mt. Margaret) [12.35]: Mr. Grant, and hon. members, I submit myself to the will of the House.

The SPEAKER-ELECT, having been conducted to the Chair by the mover and seconder of the motion, said [12.36]: I desire to thank hon. members for having placed me in the high and honourable position of Speaker-to-day, and I can only hope that I shall be able to fulfil hon. members' expectations in that position. I realise the importance of the Speakership in rela-

tion to the deliberations and decisions of this House, and I assure hon. members that I will endeavour to the very utmost of my ability to allow that freedom of speech which is necessary to the conduct of the business of the House and in keeping with its decorum. I again thank hon. members for having placed me in this position.

#### *Congratulations.*

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy-Moore) [12.37]: Mr. Speaker, I offer you my very hearty congratulations on your re-election to the high and honourable office of Speaker of this House. I trust that the problems which will arise during the forthcoming session will be no greater than those with which you had to contend during the late Parliament. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that you will have the loyal support of hon. members of this House, who equally with yourself are anxious to uphold the traditions of the Legislative Assembly of this State. I am certain all hon. members will support you in your desire to ensure that the conduct of business in this House shall be such as will be, not only a credit to hon. members themselves, but an honour to you, Sir.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [12.39]: Mr. Speaker, I desire to add my congratulations to those of the Premier upon your elevation to the Chair of this House. Your lengthy Parliamentary experience—I believe, Sir, you are now the father of the House—should enable you to guide our deliberations with satisfaction not only to yourself but to members generally. I congratulate you, Sir.

#### PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER-ELECT.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy-Moore) [12.40]: Mr. Speaker, I have to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has intimated that he will be pleased to receive you together with hon. members who may desire to accompany you.

*Sitting suspended from 12.41 to 1.5 p.m.*

On resuming,

MR. SPEAKER said: I have to report that I have submitted myself to His Excellency, and that His Excellency has been

pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice of the Assembly in the following terms:—

The Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly,—It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been again elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable office of Speaker of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner, and I have the honour to affirm the constitutional rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly of this State. (Sgd.) William Ellison-Macartney, Governor.

*Sitting suspended from 1.8 to 2.50 p.m.*

#### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*), and, having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

#### OBITUARY—MR. B. J. STUBBS.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy-Moore) [3.16]: I desire to move a motion without notice. The late Lieut. Stubbs was elected to this House in 1914, and I am sure members desire to offer an expression of sympathy with those whom he has left behind. The hon. gentleman sat opposite to me in the House for some years, but I have never allowed the feeling of party allegiance to weigh with me in considering the personal qualifications of those with whom I am associated in the House. We all recognise the zealous manner in which the late Lieut. Stubbs attended to his duties in the House: but he heard a call that was greater than the call of party, he heard the call of King and country, and he left us to take up arms in defence of our hearths and homes. I am sure hon. members honour him for that: honour him for the feeling which prompted him to go forth. He has lost his life in the interests of home and country. For what greater thing could man lay down his life? But there are those who have been left behind to mourn his loss, and

I trust they may be to some extent compensated by the feelings which I am sure are imbuing the minds of hon. members. I am quite sure hon. members will agree with me that we should express a feeling of condolence for the bereaved family of the gallant officer who has lost his life in the services of our country. I therefore beg to move—

*That the House desires to place on record its deep regret at the death in action of Second Lieut. B. J. Stubbs, member for Subiaco, and tenders to his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained; and that the terms of this resolution be communicated to his widow and family by Mr. Speaker.*

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [3.20]: I rise with feelings of deep regret to second the motion. The late Lieut. Stubbs was a resident of this State for over 20 years, and throughout the whole of that period he displayed a keen interest in all matters of public concern regarding the welfare of the people of the State. Lieut. Stubbs was a member of this House for six years, a period covering two Parliaments. Those who had the privilege of his acquaintance can say that he at all times displayed zeal in the discharge of the duties appertaining to his office, and that he was highly esteemed and respected by every member, irrespective of party differences. The late hon. member had reached a stage in life at which he fairly might have claimed to be exempt from military duties, but nevertheless he heard the call of his country. It is nearly two years since first he joined the Australian Imperial Forces, and we can only hope that the sorrow of the widow and relatives will be somewhat lessened by the knowledge that Lieut. Stubbs died as he had lived, a resolute, courageous fighter for all that he believed to be right and just. I second the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Reports of Inspector General of Insane, State Labour Bureau. Chief Harbour Master, Perth Public Hospital. By-laws—Health Act, Municipalities of Albany, Broome, Busselton, Cottesloe, and Northam, roads boards of Claremont,

Cottesloe Beach, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Melbourne, Peppermint Grove, Warren, West Arthur, and West Guildford, local health authorities of Dowerin and Meekatharra. Regulations under the Prisons Act, State Children Act, Jetties Regulation Act, Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act, Police Benefit Fund, Broome Jetty, Pearl-ling Act. Public Service List. Dismissal of J. Flood from Gwalia State Hotel.

By the Minister for Works: By-laws—Harvey Drainage board, Katanning, Bridgetown, and Brookton water areas, Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Department, roads boards of Claremont, Cottesloe Beach, Dalwallinu, Dumbleyung, Geraldton, Katanning, Melville, Morawa, Mullewa, Northam, Perenjori, Perth, and Westonia, municipalities of Broome, Kalgoorlie, Northam, North Fremantle, and Perth. Regulations under the Dog Act adopted by all municipalities and road districts. Accounts of Boya Quarry.

By the Attorney General: Reports of Woods and Forests Department, and Department of Land Titles. Rules under the Local Courts Act. Timber regulations under the Land Act. Arbitration Court award—Metropolitan Timber Yard and Sawmill Employees' Union and Amalgamated Timber Union of Workers.

By the Colonial Treasurer: Public Accounts—Reports of Workers' Homes Board, Government Savings Bank, Auditor General; report under Public Education Endowment Act. Statement under Life Assurance Companies Act. Regulations under Workers' Homes Board Act Amendment Act.

By the Minister for Mines and Railways: 1, Western Australian Government Tramways, returns of receipts and expenditure for quarters ended 30th June and 30th September, 1917. 2, Government Railways Act, returns for quarters ended 30th June and 30th September, 1917. 3, Western Australian Government Electric Works, returns of receipts and expenditure for quarters ended 30th June and 30th September, 1917. 4, Regulations under (a) Mining Act, (b) Mines Regulation Act, and (c) Coal Mines Regulation Act. 5, Mining Development Vote, return of receipts and expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1917.

# BILL—BROOME LOCAL COURT, ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

The PREMIER (Hon. H. B. Lefroy—Moore) by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege) introduced a Bill for the conferring of Admiralty jurisdiction upon the local court at Broome, and for other relative purposes.

Bill read a first time.

## GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER announced that copies of the Governor's Opening Speech had been distributed to members.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

### First Day.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [3.56]: I move—

*That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been so graciously pleased to deliver to Parliament:—"May it please your Excellency—We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australian in Parliament assembled beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament."*

Whilst it gives me great pleasure to move this motion, I wish it understood that as a Nationalist I reserve to myself freedom of speech and action during my occupancy of the Gascoyne seat. I was returned as a Nationalist, and one of the planks of that party stipulates that we shall have freedom of speech and action, and shall be responsible to only our electors. There have been phases of Government action in the past which I could not support, and utterances of certain Ministers as to their intentions in the future which I cannot endorse without obtaining further information. It is, however, my desire as a Nationalist to give to the Government general support, and to assist them in every possible way in their desire to promote the welfare of the State and the people. As

long as they do this, I will do my utmost to support them, but if they go beyond this and bring in legislative proposals which I cannot agree to, they must expect my criticism. In view of the expressed desire of the Government to give members of both Houses an opportunity of participating in the forthcoming Reinforcements Referendum, I do not propose to detain the House at any length. I shall reserve to myself the right to speak on the Government's parliamentary policy at some more fitting occasion. The results of the recent elections, in which 35 Nationalists were returned to the House, afford, I think, convincing evidence—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are wrong; you are forgetting the Country party members.

Mr. ANGELO: Well, we are all united on this side. All 35 members were returned as Nationalists, or, shall I say, as Government supporters. I think the Government have acted wisely in listening to the voice of the people, and for the time being putting aside party politics in the interests of national obligations. The Government are doing quite right in supporting the proposals of the Prime Minister, which are aimed at securing adequate reinforcements for our brave boys at the Front. Let us redeem the promise made at the commencement of the war, that until victory is assured the State will stand with the Empire to the last man and the last shilling.

Hon. P. Collier: Where is the last shilling in this appeal?

Mr. ANGELO: I have at various times heard the opinion expressed that the War is a Federal matter, and one with which the State Parliament should not interfere. In my opinion, there should be only one win-the-war policy in the Imperial Parliament and in the Commonwealth Parliament and also in the State Parliament, and, further, in every municipality and in every roads board and in every private house. That is the only way in which we shall win the war, and I think I can safely say that it is a way which is being followed by 99 out of every 100 households in this State. We have only to see the wonderful work the ladies are doing, in order to recognise that

it is not only the men who are trying to win the war, but that the ladies also are assisting. Everywhere we see ladies, even when they attend public meetings, knitting socks and otherwise doing all in their power for the comfort of our boys at the Front. That, I think, is the spirit that is going to help to win the war; not the spirit which asks where the last shilling comes in. I note with pleasure the reference in the Speech to the visit of the Governor General and the completion of the Great Western Railway. The completion of that work will largely help to break down the isolation of this State from the rest of the Commonwealth. I think we can all hope that it will have a great effect in bringing about a more genuine Federal spirit than we have experienced in the past. Easy and regular communication between this and the Eastern States will help the people of Australia to become better acquainted with each other, and will also help in the development of the great resources of Western Australia. I have been returned as the representative of a North-Western constituency, and I desire to speak about something with which I am intimately acquainted. In exactly the same way as Western Australia has suffered through isolation from the other States and through its distance from the seat of Federal Government, has the North-West, in the opinion of its residents, suffered through the distance which separates it from Perth and owing to the irregular communication which it has had to put up with. The irregularity of communication has, in especial, exercised a highly detrimental effect on the development of that most important part of Western Australia. Previous Governments have not, I claim, given to the North-West that attention which it undoubtedly deserves. Ministers of the Crown and other distinguished visitors have at times travelled along the North-West coast, but they have very seldom proceeded inland. They have merely been able to see what the North-Western ports are like, and for their knowledge of the inland country they have relied on hearsay. We need better arrangements for governing the North. On that subject several suggestions have been made. One suggestion, which in fact was put forward by my opponent at the last election, is that the

North-West should have autonomy. In my opinion, however, it is ridiculous to propose that 5,000 or 6,000 people should set up a Government of their own. Another proposal was that the North-West should be tacked on to the Northern Territory, and administered by the Federal Government. To that I say, God forbid! Administration by the Federal authorities has not been altogether satisfactory so far as it has been experienced in connection with the North-West. A third proposal is one which I have advocated for some considerable time, namely that a North-Western department should be established in the State Government, that there should be an Honorary Minister in control of the destinies of the North-West. Let me ask hon. members to call to mind the map of Australia which hangs in the next room. That map divides this continent into practically three sections. The central section, which was originally the colony of South Australia, is now governed by two Administrations; South Australia is administered by its State Government, and the Northern Territory is controlled by the Federal authorities. When recently visiting Port Darwin, I was surprised to find what a number of departments are considered necessary to control the development of the Northern Territory. Let us now refer to the Eastern third of Australia. There we find it is considered necessary to administer by means of three Governments, namely the Governments of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. Turning now to our own third of Australia, the largest third, we find that one Government, domiciled in the Southern portion, is administering the entire third, and controlling the destinies of the far North-West. In my opinion it is high time for the creation of a department such as I have suggested, a department to look after the Northern portion of this State. I may be told that such a scheme is without precedent; but in these days we have Ministers for Repatriation and all sorts of other Ministers created as necessity arises. Let me assure hon. members that necessity has now arisen for the creation of a department of the North-West. The present seems a peculiarly opportune time for doing something of the sort. An Honorary Minister's portfolio is now vacant, and I

claim that the North-West is entitled to that portfolio.

Hon. P. Collier: Yours is geographical Nationalism.

Mr. ANGELO: This House has now four North-Western members. For the first time since its establishment this House contains four men who have spent most of their lives in the North-West and know its requirements. Unfortunately, however, unless the North-West obtains direct representation in the Cabinet, those four members will not be able to achieve very much. Therefore I wish to ask the House, or the Government, or whoever appoints the Honorary Minister—

Hon. P. Collier: He is appointed by Caucus.

Mr. ANGELO: To seek around for a man who has had Parliamentary experience—

Hon. P. Collier: He is the man.

Mr. ANGELO: Who has already held a portfolio, and who in a time of stress has proved his loyalty to the country.

Mr. O'Loughlen: And who told the farmers to get work.

Mr. ANGELO: When that member is found—and he should not be hard to find—he should be appointed. I make this request on behalf of the North-West, and I trust that the justice of the claim will be recognised.

Hon. P. Collier: Is the Caucus listening?

Mr. ANGELO: I desire to refer briefly to the industries which particularly affect the North-West. The first I desire to touch on is the pastoral industry, the principal industry of that part of the State. I am glad to say that the industry is now in a flourishing condition. But there is danger ahead. Before the war the shipping requirements of the North-West were met by four Singapore steamers, three cattle steamers, and a mail boat. That tonnage has now been reduced by approximately 50 per cent. There are now only two Singapore boats on that coast, and only one cattle boat, because I understand the "Moira" has been definitely withdrawn. The one mail boat runs only occasionally. Hon. members will see that North-Western tonnage has been reduced by 50 per cent. But, on top of that, the effectiveness of the remaining tonnage has

been further reduced by reason of the fact that before the war the wool went north and the stock came south, whereas now both wool and stock have to come south. Up to the present no difficulty has been experienced from this fact, because the seasons have been good and the stock routes have been open. The records of the pastoral industry, however, show that after a cycle of good seasons we must expect bad seasons. We have had three good seasons, and may reasonably expect a bad season to follow. What is going to happen to our produce and our stock if a bad season comes along next year, closing the stock routes, with the shipping tonnage fallen away as it has? The question is not one which affects the North-West only. The people of the metropolitan area are to eat the meat of the North-West, and they will suffer if that meat cannot be brought down—the cost of living must in such circumstances increase materially. As regards the State Steamship Service, I am opposed to State enterprise unless the enterprise be of such a character that it is impossible for any individual or body of individuals to carry it on. The railway service is an instance in point; and I consider it to the interest of the State as a whole to develop the North-West by steamer communication in the same way as our Governments have developed the southern portion of the State by railway communication. At the present time, unfortunately, the requirements of the North-West are supplied by two old, obsolete boats. Both vessels are too slow for the exacting conditions of the North-Western service. I consider the Government would be acting wisely in immediately ordering two new steamers to run on the North-West coast.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You are a Nationalist.

Hon. P. Collier: Come over here.

Hon. W. C. Anwgin: What about the money?

Mr. ANGELO: Of course the question of money comes in, but I understand that really no money would be required to obtain the two steamers. They can be purchased on the same conditions as the "Kangaroo" was purchased. One of them, a passenger boat, would cost about £170,000, and the other, a cattle boat, about £130,000. If handled on the same lines as resulted in the

freight bookings made for the "Kangaroo," these two steamers could earn something like £100,000 or £120,000 on their way out; so that, after deducting the cost of running them, they would not cost the State more than £50,000 or £60,000 each. The old "Kwinana" which cost the Government some £17,000, could, I believe, be sold to-day for £50,000. The matter is one which the Government should take into their serious consideration in view of the difficulty threatening the North-West as regards the getting away of its stock and produce. It may surprise some hon. members to learn that the "Kangaroo" up to the 30th June last, had earned a net profit of over £116,000. Again, the bookings already made for the current financial year should result in a further net profit of £180,000, after which the "Kangaroo" will have paid for herself twice over. These facts should be specially borne in mind by the Government, having regard to the danger to which I have alluded. Another danger threatening the North-West arises from the development—the pleasing development I will say—of the South-West. The North-West will be faced with the question of the disposal of its stock. Stock raising is increasing so rapidly in the South-West that the North-West will have to look for other markets. Freezing and canning works are absolutely necessary for the provision of that other market which North-Western pastoralists will require. In the Gascoyne district there are enterprising men. All they want the Government to do is the initial work, the obtaining of a report and the preparing of plans and estimates. Let those be submitted to the people of the Gascoyne, and they themselves will carry out the work. They are going to ask the Government to do this initial work, and I trust the request will not be refused. Further, there is a little stock route from Hamelin Pool to Ajana which the Gascoyne people wish the Government to assist them in placing in order. It may mean the putting down of three bores at a cost of £2,000 or £3,000; but, if the bores are successful—and in the opinion of the Government Geologist they should be successful—it will be the means of opening up three million acres of sheep country, which in rents will pay for the cost of the work in two years. I must

make a brief reference to the pearling industry. Owing to the war and the consequent difficulty of getting the produce away, the pearling industry is in rather a critical condition. If, however, the Government will assist the pearlers on business lines, by advances against their stocks of shell, the continuance of the pearling industry can be assured. It is not reasonable to start new industries while allowing old ones to go by the board, and I feel confident that the Government will assist the pearling industry. I do not propose to say anything in regard to mining, because the members for Pilbara and for Roebourne are more fully acquainted with that subject than am I. In respect to fishing, hon. members should know that in Shark Bay we have one of the greatest assets, not only in the State, but in the Commonwealth. The erection of the contemplated freezing works in Carnarvon would enable us to get over the present difficulty confronting the fishing industry, because those works could be used for fish as well as for stock. There are other matters connected with the development of the North-West which, although I do not intend to touch upon to-day, I hope to deal fully with on a subsequent occasion. One thing, however, which I must mention concerns intensive culture in the North-West. Recently we had at Carnarvon one of the Government experts. He inspected both banks of the river for 60 or 70 miles to the eastward, and in the course of an interview in which he was asked about the possibilities of intensive culture in that district, he said—

I may state candidly that I know of no better soil conditions for this purpose in Australia, and I believe that sufficient of the abundant supplies of water running to waste can be conserved for the purpose of settling a fairly large community.

To say I am pleased with my visit is to put it mildly. I am more than that; I am considerably surprised, for I had no idea of the fine quality of the country along this river, and the possibilities it offers for intensive cultivation. I had no idea that such fine country existed in Western Australia as is to be seen along the Gascoyne. The land is similar to that along the river Murray in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia, which is

utilised for the very numerous irrigation settlements, and for the huge Yanco schemes in New South Wales; but in my opinion it is of higher quality and more suitable for intensive cultivation.

I think it is the duty of the Government to make further inquiries into this question, and to form a small demonstration farm for the time being. Then, when money is available, they could go into the matter more thoroughly. In the meantime, however, in that same area there are suitable tracts for the settlement of returned soldiers. The climate is very fine, and the cost of farming would be very small indeed. It would be ridiculous to send our returned soldiers who have lived in the northern parts of the State to milk cows down around Denmark, where neither the climate nor the work would suit them. Expert opinion tells us that clearing and grading along the Gasroyne River would cost only 15s. per acre. I do not intend to speak to-day at any length upon the serious subject of finance: at a later opportunity I will go more fully into it. Hon. members must realise the grave danger that faces Western Australia at the present time. I was returned on the one qualification of having been a business man for 30 years, of which 17 were spent in a financial institution. I wish to tell the Treasurer that if at any time I can do anything to assist him, or if my knowledge and experience of finance will be of any use to him, he can claim my services whenever he chooses. I shall be only too pleased to assist the Government in putting their finances in a better position. I ask the Government to seriously consider one aspect of taxation: I strongly recommend that an extra levy be imposed for the purpose of replenishing charitable and patriotic funds, after which we could disallow any further street or house-to-house collections for this purpose. At the present time the generous man is called upon every day to contribute to one or another fund, and in many instances the man who can afford to pay is not doing so. If extra taxation were imposed for this purpose we could dispense with the haphazard collections now being made. This taxation proposal would be far more equitable than the existing arrangements. Repatriation is de-

manded by the country, and there must be no further delay or procrastination in the meeting of this demand. We must carry out the promises made to the brave soldiers when they went to the Front. There is a danger that the work may not be carried on in the proper way. It is of no use asking men unaccustomed to certain walks of life to embark upon the earning of a living in those channels. For instance, boys from Sharks Bay have gone to the Front. What would be the use of sending them to milk cows or chase broody hens in the South-West? They should be allowed to resume the avocations they have known in the past. We should assist them to buy luggers—I do not say we should give them luggers—as a business proposition. Then there are teamsters and drovers who have gone to the Front. Of what use would it be to ask them to grow wheat or vegetables? Let us rather assist them to acquire teams and re-enter upon the line of life with which they have been so familiar. I wish to thank hon. members for the kind attention they have given me in the making of this, my maiden effort in Parliament.

Mr. MALEY (Greenough) [4.22]: I second the motion. I must confess to the feeling of embarrassment which attends a new member speaking in the House for the first time, and I ask the kindly indulgence and consideration of hon. members. First of all I wish to thank the Premier for the compliment he paid to my electorate in asking me to second the motion this afternoon. I regard it also as a compliment to the Perth High School that the Premier himself and the mover and the seconder of the motion should in common claim it as their Alma Mater. I also wish to congratulate the Premier upon the splendid record of his gallant son and his comrades in their effort to assist the troops fighting in Eastern Europe. I hope they will have an enjoyable home-coming, that they will leave here strengthened in health, and that their example in reinforcing the men on the eastern fronts of Europe will be an inspiring story during the referendum campaign to be conducted throughout the Commonwealth. I have no difficulty in supporting the domestic economy proposals outlined in the Speech. For some reason or other we



maintain throughout the Commonwealth 656 paid legislators to legislate for a population of four millions. Taking our sister State of South Australia in comparison with ourselves, we find that she requires 66 legislators, whereas we require 80 for a considerably smaller population.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But a considerably larger area.

Mr. MALEY: There is much room for economy in this direction alone. I have been returned pledged to support a reduction of members of both Houses, together with a reduction in their salaries. As one representing constituents some of whom have received a considerable measure of Government relief, I do not expect, nor do my constituents think it just that the public service should suffer undue hardship at this critical time by being subjected to anything in the nature of a Black Wednesday. We think that, until times again become normal, the pruning knife should be exercised most judiciously, and that no undue hardship should be inflicted. Referring to that portion of the Speech in which it is stated that one way out of the present financial difficulty lies through increased production, I may say that the greatest stimulus that could be given to production would be to make production profitable to the producer under average conditions. I come to you fresh from the soil, from mixing with men who are absolutely discouraged and wearied with unrequited toil, and whose wives and families are suffering undue discomfort and hardship. I ask members to take their minds back to the shop-window display of the State, the Royal Agricultural Show. There we had gazing around the prize animals some 30,000 people, a proportion of whom were conveyed to the ground in luxurious motor cars. You people in the City are taking too great a pound of flesh out of the toil and drudgery of your fellow-men in the bush. One thing that caused amazement at the Royal Show was the sight of a group of masqueraders, got up as nigger minstrels, seeking charity at the farmers' festival for the aristocrats of industry, the Fremantle lumpers. You city representatives go down to your offices in comfort, and your recreation is

provided on a lavish scale. You have your horse-racing and other forms of amusement. Recently a deputation waited on a Minister of the Crown asking for assistance in the building up of Scarborough beach as a seaside resort. Too much is thought of seaside resorts and picture palaces, and, in addition to this, when a globe-trotter arrives on the scene and points out some defect in your landscape you at once initiate a movement for the city beautiful, while, if that globe-trotter should sustain an extra bump in his motor car ride from Fremantle to Perth, the Government at once set about macadamising the whole length of the road. What a difference do we find in getting our produce to the railway sidings in the country! The city people are taking too great a pound of flesh out of the producer, and they are putting in no re-fertilising agent. If the country people place before the city people the prospectus of a butter and bacon factory, or of a freezing works, it is not favourably viewed. The fascination exercised by the prospectus of a picture palace, on the other hand, is very strong. This is probably a result of the pernicious doctrine expounded by previous Governments that a living should be made by growing wheat alone. Let me describe the conditions under which the farmers of my electorate have been working during the past four years; and I take it that my electorate represents a fair average of the farming districts of Western Australia. In 1914 we had almost a complete drought, but, thanks to the law of supply and demand, we got a good return for the little crop that we had, and thus we did not come out entirely impoverished. In 1915 the yield, owing to rust and blight, in many cases was not as much as a bag of fowl feed to the acre. During 1916 we had six weeks of absolutely dry weather in the early spring, when the crops require rain in order to mature the grain. Then, in 1917, on an average annual rainfall of 18 inches we have had to date 34 inches. The roads were practically impassable, and yet the Government, in outlining their measures of economy, propose a reduction of roads board subsidies. The way in which business is carried on under modern conditions in the cities cannot be compared with the conditions of business in the

country. There is absolutely no parallel between the two. If city business is to be conducted on scientific methods, then I say let us have scientific research for the benefit of the men who are producing for the city. Ever since 1915 the capital of the men who are engaged in production has been tied up in the wheat pools. The present position is that the farmers have had 3s. from the last pool to repay them the cost of putting in the crop and taking it off and waiting 12 months.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The farmers are lucky. The wheat is here still.

Mr. MALEY: There are many ways in which the Government can assist the primary producers of the State. It is up to the financial people of the city to assist in the flotation of butter and bacon factories and freezing works. In my district we are endeavouring to float a company of our own. The unbusinesslike methods of the Government in rendering assistance to the farmers have made us absolutely sick and tired of Government ways. The proposals of the last Ministry for establishing butter and bacon factories throughout the country were absolutely useless. The last Ministry wanted to erect the works under Government control and then run them under Government control. So tired have the electors of my district become of Government control of industries that they have decided, all impoverished as they are, to raise the necessary funds themselves. But I contend the townspeople should subscribe to these projects as well as the country people. One direction in which especially the Government should assist is in providing stud stock for the establishment of herds. The farmers do require assistance towards the purchase of sires to establish herds. The herds will not be established in one or two or three years. Systematic help should be furnished by the Government in that direction. Next, I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the vast mineral resources of the Northampton district. We have enough undeveloped lead around Northampton to fill up the Kaiser and every German to the neck. But the roads to our prospectors' shows from the rail head to the Geraldine area are in a deplorable condition, and the

prospectors cannot get their product transported to the Fremantle works. In that connection assistance is required, and it is also needed in order to allow of quicker returns being made to the prospectors. They have now to wait too long before they receive a return in the form of a cheque from the ore which is treated by the Fremantle Trading Company. Although there has been much doleful talk about the financial condition of the State, I think we should look forward. I consider it is the duty of the Government to look forward to the future and bend all the energies of the people to prepare for the markets which will come into existence immediately on the cessation of hostilities for every scrap of raw material that Western Australia can possibly produce, whether it be meat or wheat or minerals or timber. It will all be required to repair the terrible devastation that has been caused throughout Europe. We should struggle to prepare ourselves for that period; we should make provision for that time, when all our difficulties will be overcome and when the State itself will retrieve its deficit and become prosperous once more. We can attain that end only through the hearty co-operation of all sections of the community. In conclusion, I wish to express the pleasure that I feel in seconding the motion of the member for Carnarvon.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 1.39 p.m.*