

His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows :—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I am pleased to be able to release you at the conclusion of a session from which so much good work has resulted owing to your long and arduous labour.

The Coronation of His Majesty the King on the 9th August, and his complete restoration to health, caused profound pleasure throughout the State.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I thank you, in the name of His Majesty, for the liberal supplies that you have voted.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

The prospects of the State are still buoyant, and though temporary difficulties are being experienced in absorbing the surplus labour now available, it is confidently hoped that the prosecution of the works authorised by Parliament, and the natural progress of the industries of the State, will within a few months overcome the difficulty. In the meantime any accession to the number of those in search of employment is to be deprecated.

On the 26th January next the Right Honourable Sir John Forrest, G.C.M.G., will turn on the water and perform the opening ceremony in connection with the Goldfields Water Scheme. The members of the Federal Parliament and other distinguished public men have been invited from the Eastern States to attend the ceremony. It is the confident anticipation of my Ministers, and will, I am sure, be the heartfelt wish of every other member of the community, that this great scheme will justify the hopes of its originators and be the precursor of other similar attempts to solve the problem of developing the arid interior of the continent.

I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 19th May next.

*The session the closed.*

## Legislative Assembly,

Saturday, 20th December, 1902.

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THE SPEAKER (Sir Jas. G. Lee Steere) took the Chair at 3 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MR. SPEAKER—CONGRATULATION.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Walter James): Before we proceed to the business of the day, may I seize this opportunity of expressing to you, Mr. Speaker, the pleasure of every member in the House to see you back occupying that Chair which for so many years you have filled. We feel, sir, with you in the Chair—and I say this without the least disrespect to those who have so kindly taken your place during your illness—that the House is itself again when you are in the Chair. During the whole period of your illness, hon. members have watched with sympathetic interest the progress you were making towards recovery, and everyone individually and collectively are glad to see you again in our midst. We do hope most sincerely, sir, that during the course of the recess you will be entirely restored to health, and at the beginning of the next session will come back strong and vigorous, and that for many years we shall still have the privilege of having you as our distinguished head and Speaker. (General applause.)

MR. J. L. NANSON (Murchison): I join with great pleasure, on behalf of members of this (Opposition) side of the House, in congratulating you, sir, on your return

to the seat which you have occupied for so very many years. I can but say that it is the heartfelt wish of us all, as has been indicated by the Premier, that you may long be spared to occupy the position which you have filled with such lustre to yourself and such credit to parliamentary institutions in Western Australia.

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): On behalf of the leader of the Labour party I should like, speaking for that party, simply to indorse the remarks which have been made by the Premier and the leader of the Opposition.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. members, I feel deeply moved by the words of those who have already spoken in welcoming me back to this Chair. Of course I need not tell you it has been a very great grief to me that I have so long been obliged to absent myself from the Chair by the orders of my medical adviser; otherwise I can assure you I should have been here sooner than to-day. My thanks are due to all the members of the Legislative Assembly for the great consideration they have shown me in granting me leave of absence from time to time when it was impossible for me to be here; and my thanks are especially due to the Deputy Speakers and the Chairmen of Committees who have undertaken my work during my absence. I can scarcely hope to look forward to occupying, for many more years at any rate, my present position; because it is probable that with my advancing years my health will not be good enough to enable me to fulfil a Speaker's duties. I do not think that anyone who has not occupied the position of Speaker is aware of the strain, both mental and bodily, which the occupancy of the Chair involves. I believe that in the House of Commons no Speaker is able to do the work for more than two Parliaments. He then becomes worn out, one may say, in the service of the House,

and has to retire. But so long as I have health and strength given me sufficient for the position I now hold, I can only say that my services will be at the disposal of the Legislative Assembly. (General applause.)

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: (1.) Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the charges made against Mr. Justice Parker. (2.) By-laws under the Parks and Reserves Act made by the Parks Reserves Board.

Ordered: To lie on the table.

#### COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

THE PREMIER: I am certain I shall have the concurrence of the leader of the Opposition in expressing our thanks to those who acted for you, Mr. Speaker, during your absence; and also in wishing to you, to them, and to our official staff the compliments of the season, and in hoping that they will have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

At 3-10, the SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 3-25, Chair resumed.

#### SUMMONS TO MEMBERS— PROROGATION.

BLACK ROD appeared at the Bar (38 minutes past 3 o'clock), and summoned members of the Legislative Assembly to attend His Excellency the Administrator in the Legislative Council Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER and hon. members proceeded accordingly to the Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to give assent to Bills of the Session; and His Excellency also delivered an address proroguing Parliament. [*Vide* Council proceedings, *ante*.]

*The Session then closed.*