

pathy with them and the people of New Zealand in the loss incurred by them in the lamented death of Mr. Seddon. It is unnecessary for me to dwell on the reasons which justify my action: they are known to all and are appreciated by all. Death has removed the foremost figure in Australasian political and social life, and has deprived not merely New Zealand and Australia, but the whole Empire, of the services of one of the most brilliant, most talented, and most patriotic of her children. I beg to move the following resolution:—

That this House places on record its profound regret at the death of the Rt. Honourable R. J. Seddon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and expresses its deep sympathy with his family and the people of New Zealand.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): I second the motion.

HON. M. L. MOSS (West): I hardly like at this late hour to detain the House by making any observations, but as the late Richard John Seddon has been personally known to me since 1882, and for eleven years of that time I lived in the district which he represented in Parliament, and was on terms of great friendliness with himself and family, it is with profound regret I support the motion. Mr. Seddon was for 27 years in public life; for 15 years of that time he was a Minister of the Crown, and for 14 of the 15 years he was Prime Minister of New Zealand. During that period he acquired a reputation wherever the English language is spoken that needs no words of mine to explain to the Chamber, which indicates the very severe loss which the British nation and the English people have suffered by his untimely removal. I regret most profoundly that the necessity has arisen for the motion to be moved in this House. I am sure Mrs. Seddon and her family will appreciate very much the message of sympathy which will go from another place and from this Chamber. It is remarkable that a man whose opportunities were so few should have risen to the wonderful eminence which the Rt. Hon. Richard Seddon rose to in so short a space of time as 27 years. At this late hour it would be unreasonable to say more, therefore I content myself with supporting the motion.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at 4.45 o'clock until 4.30 p.m. the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 21st June, 1906.

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OPENING OF SECOND SESSION.

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Proclamation, which was read by the Clerk.

In obedience to summons, Mr. Speaker (Hon. T. F. Quinlan) and hon. members 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.

ELECTION PETITIONS (2), AND RESULTS.

COOLGARDIE.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a copy of the order of the Supreme Court, declaring the election of the member for Coolgardie (Mr. W. T. Eddy) void.

THE PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore) moved: That in consequence of the decision of the Supreme Court declaring the election void, the seat of the hon. member for Coolgardie be declared vacant.

Question passed.

EAST FREMANTLE.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of a copy of the order of the Court, declaring the return of the member for East Fremantle (Mr. J. J. Holmes) void,

with a notification that the High Court had granted special leave to appeal against such order.

QUESTION AS TO INTENTION.

MR. H. DAGLISH (Subiaco): I should like, by indulgence, to ask the Premier what he proposes to do in regard to the East Fremantle appeal case, in view of the provisions of our Electoral Act. It seems to me that we are allowing, in this matter, control to pass from this State entirely to a Court appointed by another Parliament; and it seems a vital enough question to demand some statement from the Government before proceedings go farther. I therefore ask that the Premier will favour us by stating the intention of the Government in the matter of this appeal.

THE PREMIER: Leave has been given to appeal in the East Fremantle case. In the event of that appeal being successful, and supposing that in such case a writ had been issued and a new election held in the meantime, it would mean that two members would have been elected for the same seat. In regard to the point raised by the member for Subiaco, the Court to which appeal may be made is appointed under the Federal Constitution, and not by the Federal Parliament. I may say that the point has been rather sprung upon me, and I prefer to have a little time to answer the question raised by the hon. member.

MR. HORAN: The local Act says the decision of the Court shall be final.

MR. DAGLISH: By permission, I ask the Premier if he will make a statement on this subject at the next sitting.

THE PREMIER: I will.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the **MINISTER FOR MINES AND RAILWAYS**: Report of Mines Department, 1905; regulations under Mining Act; regulations under Mining Development Act; State Smelting Works, Phillips River; Railway by-law *re* payment to railway officers for leave granted for military duty; Railway by-laws, notice as to penalties; Railways Classification, Rates and General Regulations from 1st March, 1906; Railways reports and returns, annual.

By the **PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR LANDS**: Half-yearly report of Fremantle

Harbour Trust Commissioners; report of Board of Inquiry into the Timber Industry; report on Fishing Industry; report of Meteorological Observations during 1904; report of Inspector General of Insane; report of Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools; report of Forestry Advisory Board, first half-year; by-laws and regulations under Land Act; permits to construct timber trainways; regulations under Agricultural Lands Purchase Act; by-laws under Cemeteries Act; by-laws and regulations *re* Caves Board and King's Park; by-laws, municipal, of Coolgardie, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, Kookynie, North Perth, Perth (2).

By the **MINISTER FOR WORKS**: By-laws of road board for Nelson, Sussex, Lower Gascoyne, Bunbury, Preston, Wagin; by-laws of Bunbury Water Board.

BILL—STOCK DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): In order to maintain the privileges of the House, I move for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Stock Diseases Act 1895.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

QUESTION—AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

MR. T. H. BATH (without notice) asked the Treasurer: Why has the report of the Auditor General for the last financial year not been laid on the table?

THE TREASURER: The report is not quite ready.

QUESTION—AGENT GENERAL, AS TO APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR.

MR. T. H. BATH (without notice) asked the Premier: Is the statement circulated, that the member for Guildford (Mr. Rason) has been appointed Agent General as successor to Mr. Walter James, true? And if it be true, is not the member for Guildford committing a grave breach of the Constitution in retaining his seat in this Assembly after having accepted an office of profit under the Crown?

THE PREMIER: Notice of the question should be given.

MR. BATH: Then I give notice that I will ask the question at the next sitting of the House.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL INQUIRIES AT FREMANTLE.

MR. G. TAYLOR (without notice) asked the Premier: Will the Government lay on the table the papers called for on the resolution of the Assembly last session, in connection with the electoral departmental inquiries held into the four Fremantle contests during the last general election?

THE PREMIER: Notice of the question should be given.

MR. TAYLOR: In now giving notice that I intend to ask the question at the next sitting, I do so because the Government have failed to carry out the resolution of this Parliament in the matter, and I am within my rights in again moving in connection with it this session, at any rate in giving notice.

NOTICES.

Numerous Notices were given relating to Questions and Motions for the next week.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

FIRST DAY OF DEBATE.

MR. A. C. GULL (Swan) said: Before entering on the more business-like portion of the Address-in-Reply, may I be permitted, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you on your return amongst us; and I trust that your general health does not belie your appearance. May I also tender my congratulations to the member for Bunbury, on his attaining to the high position of Premier of this State, also to the new Ministers on their appointment, and to the Leader of the Opposition on his reappointment to that position. I trust that in view of the recent election of members to the Upper House and of the Fremantle election (return of the new Minister for Works), the demeanour of the Opposition in this session of Parliament will be rather that of generous critics than of factious opponents. [MR. TAYLOR: Time will tell.] I trust so. I trust that after the general blowing off of steam from the Opposition benches, those members will settle down to kindly

criticism rather than factious opposition. With regard to mining—which industry is stated in the Speech to be satisfactory—I have great pleasure in endorsing the action of the Minister for Mines, and I am in full accord with the liberalising regulations which the Minister has introduced. [MR. TROY: What are they?] Liberalising in giving increased security to capitalists, and in matters generally throughout the goldfields by assistance to prospectors, assistance to boring, and various other items. I am also pleased to know that the question of the baser metals, tin and copper, is in a satisfactory position, and that efforts will be made this coming year to increase very largely the production of those metals. I must say without hesitation that the transfer of the Phillips River smelters from the Government to the parties who have bought them is a good riddance to the country, inasmuch as the Minister has wisely provided that at all events for two or three years all existing contracts shall be dealt with by the purchasers. With reference to this sale of smelters and the taking up of a very large number of leases by the copper smelting company, the question of railway connection from Ravensthorpe to the smelters has been dealt with, I think, in a most satisfactory way by Mr. Gregory, the Minister for Mines. If it can be shown that it is to the advantage of this State to build that railway, by all means build it. Then in connection with railways and the mining interest, I wish to bring under the notice of the Government particularly the advisability of doing something in regard to the Pilbarra Railway. This is one of the wealthiest undeveloped districts of our territory, and I feel perfectly sure that serious consideration at all events is due to that proposal. In regard to the position of this country and the Government administering it, I think I am voicing generally the opinion of the country when I say I am with the Minister for Lands as the head of the Government in his land settlement proposals; also his wish to decentralise, because there is no doubt that a great deal of trouble, and a great deal of irritation, has been caused to settlers through the length of time that elapsed before they were able to get on their land and obtain a start. I am also pleased to note that the

Minister has decided to discontinue the sales by auction of workmen's blocks, and I trust he will consider the advisability of including suburban land also. [MR. HORAN: Where is all this taken from?] From the Governor's Speech. Also I approve of this policy of survey before selection, inasmuch as the present system of allowing land to be taken up before survey has entailed on the Survey Department of this country endless expense for surveying lands that are not ultimately gone on with. I also agree with the Premier as Minister for Lands in deciding that half of the survey fees shall be paid on application. I would also rather see the whole of the surveys paid for on application. [HON. F. H. PRESSE: Oh, no.] That is my opinion, because I think the Government at the present time cannot afford to pay out the vast sums every year for surveys which are extended over 20 years' purchase. I would not care, if the State were in a solvent and prosperous condition, but with a deficit facing us I think it would be wise if the cost of the surveys were paid on application.

HON. F. H. PRESSE: The new Act provides that half the survey fees is to be paid in two instalments, half-yearly.

MR. GULL: On the question of the Loan Bill I am pleased to be able to support the Premier to the utmost of my endeavours in carrying the Bill through Parliament this session, because I recognise that the advancement of this country is inseparable from this loan expenditure for the development of agricultural districts. I am quite in accord with the introduction of the railways adopted last session, and I am perfectly satisfied the House will accord a generous support this year to fresh lines also; chief amongst these being the completion of that vexed Jandakot-Armadale railway, the Greenhills extension—perhaps the wish is father to the thought—Newcastle-Bijording, and Narrogin-Wickepin railways. Those are all lines worthy of consideration from this House, and as I said just now, the whole future policy and future success of Western Australia is locked up in this land settlement question. I feel certain that the building of railways and the settlement of land will go hand-in-hand, and that there will be no permanent prosperity in this

country until a large and contented population is settled amongst us, because at the present time—as we all very much regret—we are importing a great deal more of those foodstuffs which are our necessities rather than producing them. That is a most unhealthy position, and a position we are justified in coping with assisting to the best of our ability the producers settled on our lands. I have also noticed—every one amongst us, I suppose, has done the same—that immediately there is a cessation of loan expenditure there is a temporary depression. The reason is not far to seek, because directly we cease to import English money into this country we notice the leakage which is going on every day, year in and year out, to the other States, to provide supplies for our people. As regards the Midland Railway Company and the sales that will take place to-morrow, I am pleased indeed that the Government have at last seen their way to assist the company in the unlocking of their lands. [MEMBER: In what way?] They at all events have guaranteed that the purchasers will get their titles, and I trust that principle will also apply to all those men who have held land in the Midland concession for many years, and who up to the present have not been able to receive their titles. I hope this will meet with the consideration of the Government. I am quite with the Government in supporting their Bill for boring for artesian water in the North-West areas, for improving the stock routes, and assisting in every possible way to bring fresh meat down to the goldfields centres. In connection with the agricultural railways I have always felt that it has been a wrong system entirely that the Colonial Treasurer should treat as current revenue the proceeds from the sales of Crown lands; and this applies more particularly to the increased price of those Crown lands which has been brought about by the extension of our spur agricultural railways. The principle, to my mind, should be the survey of those lands before selection, and the revenue derived from the sales of those Crown lands—at all events the enhanced value—should go as a sinking fund for the reduction of the cost of those railways. I do not consider for a moment that the Colonial Treasurer has

the slightest right in the world to consent to the sale of Crown lands for the purpose of current revenue. I throw out this suggestion, which at the proper time others will either accept or leave alone, as they like. I also support the Minister for Lands in his suggestion of partially clearing areas for new settlers; and in connection with this I would suggest to the Minister that it would be a good principle to give the selector himself the contract for clearing that land. He would do it to his own satisfaction, and would clear the land just in those places where it would be of advantage to him. With the idea ahead of him that he can get certain employment in clearing his own land, for which he has ultimately to pay at the end of the term of 20 years, I am perfectly sure that the man will rise to the opportunity and that he will be only too glad to seek it; also that this will in a very large measure dispose of the vexed question of immigration. [MR. SCADDAN: The system has been in existence at Nangeenan for years.] But I want to see that system extended. With regard to the proposed establishment of freezing works in the Kimberley district, I would support any Bill brought forward to the utmost of my ability, because I recognise the extreme danger existing now of infesting the South-Western District with tick. I know that it is the idea of experts that tick will not live here in the South-West; but I say that if the tick will not live here now it will very soon adapt itself to the circumstances. I know that the tick is living here now; but the suggestion of the experts is that the second generation will not, that ticks cannot propagate their species here and inoculate the cattle with fever. Whether this is so or not, I do not propose, at all events for my own part, to take the risk; and I shall be with the Minister for Agriculture right to the hilt in stopping anything of the sort, in stopping all danger of infecting the Southern areas with tick. Regarding the freezing works at Kimberley, I would much prefer that the parties interested in sheep and livestock from Kimberley should take this matter upon themselves. I think I am quite within the mark when I say that every beast shipped from the Kimberley district loses from 1cwt. to 2cwt. before

being put on the market at Perth. This is a dead loss to the man shipping the beast, and a dead loss to the consumer who has to pay an additional price for the loss that nobody gets the benefit of. Not only that, it is a horrible cruelty to the animals themselves. There is a distinct loss to the State also, and to everybody connected with the cattle. I may point out in this connection the horrible state of the existing yards at Frenantle. The other day there was a prosecution for cruelty to animals. I think the Government and not the individual should have been prosecuted. However, I would support the building of the freezing works, as I think the difficulties can be overcome in that way. I would prefer to see the work carried out by private individuals; but in the event of their not doing it, I would support the Government doing it. Coming to what I suppose is the most controversial item in the Governor's Speech, that of the land tax. I must say straight out that for a country seeking a developmental policy it is a bad advertisement. At the same time when I recognise that we deliberately and with our eyes open throw our Customs revenue into the gutter by joining the Federation, I cannot see any alternative but to raise additional revenue by the easiest and handiest method we have; and though I have always had a hesitancy about putting a tax on land, especially in a country which is seeking to induce population, yet I am prepared to accept the proposal of the Government and to advocate and support a tax on unimproved values. I say on unimproved values, because it will tax practically every man in this country, whether tenant or owner, and my friends in the city will pay very much the larger proportion of it. If this land tax were proposed solely with a view to bursting up the larger estates, I would have voted against it without the slightest hesitation; but when I recognise that we are out after revenue, and that we must have revenue, then I am prepared to support the Government in their proposal. I omitted to state that as this is to be a tax for revenue purposes, supported at all events by myself with the idea that it is for revenue purposes, there should be no exemptions—[Several Labour Mem-

bers: Hear, hear]—because I suppose it is a tax in lieu of the Customs revenue we used to receive. Having done away with that revenue, having chucked it into the gutter, as I said just now, we then have to look round for that source of revenue which will draw from everybody in the State; and I am perfectly satisfied to accept this tax on those terms, and on those terms only. I notice a paragraph in the Governor's Speech relating to the Premiers' Conference and to the opinion of the Leader of the Government that he does not fear that the Federal Government will put into practice the ideas that were passed at that conference. I wish I could feel the same amount of trust and faith in the Federal Legislature. Everything up to the present has given us decidedly the other feeling. There has never been a question of trust. We have placed our trust in it, and it has been in every instance shallow. We could not even get a paltry Survey Bill for £20,000 passed for the Transcontinental Railway, which was repeatedly promised and the building of which was made the great inducement to Western Australia to go into the Federation. The Federal Government, no doubt chiefly through the Federal Treasurer have brought the Survey Bill before the Federal Parliament again, and I trust that it may be passed; but I have very great fears that it will not be passed. Also I fear that even should it be passed, South Australia will exercise the veto which she undoubtedly possesses by making the conditions so awkward that they cannot be accepted. Should the Survey Bill be again refused, I think it will behave us to seriously consider whether there is any farther need for Western Australia being made a sort of chopping-block as we have been. [Several Members: Oh!] Why, we cannot get even a paltry telegraph line built under six or seven months, and then we have to guarantee ten per cent. on the cost! It is a ridiculous scandal that these things are perpetrated every day; and I say it behoves us to seriously consider the question of secession. Whether we could ultimately carry out secession is another matter; but I think we are perfectly justified in assuming that attitude, and I think that by assuming that attitude we are more likely to get the fair con-

sideration that it is argued exists. I trust that if this Survey Bill that is again before the Federal Parliament is again refused—[MR. DAGLISH: What has that to do with the Speech?—the Government will take into their hands the matter of moving in the direction of secession. If they do not, I shall be only too pleased to have a cut at it myself. In conclusion I trust that this session of Parliament will be a happy one, that at any rate the bickerings that seem to be attendant on parliamentary life will exist in a modified form, that with the large and solid party sitting behind them the Ministry will be able to carry through their reforms, and that a fair measure of just criticism will come from the Opposition benches. I hope there will be no huckstering opposition, and that it will be unnecessary to call for a return of the cost of printing speeches made in this House. I beg to move the adoption of the following Address in reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor:—

We, 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 address to Parliament.

MR. J. EWING (Collie): Seeing the impatience of hon. members on the Opposition side of the House, I rise to second the motion with considerable diffidence; and knowing the desire of members opposite to end these proceedings, I promise that if I get their patience for a few moments I will not delay them at any great length. Before dealing with the Address-in-Reply, I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to tender you my congratulations on seeing you in such excellent health. I would also like to tender my congratulations to the Government on their great success during the late elections which they had to fight. There can be no doubt that the feeling of the people of the State has not undergone any material change during the last few months. [MR. BOLTON: Give us a chance at East Fremantle.] It is a matter of congratulation to the members on the Government side of the House that in such a constituency as Fremantle there should be such a glorious victory for the Government and for their principles. I am simply placing stern, solemn facts before you, and we have a right to

rejoice that at any rate at the present time we on this side of the House have the confidence of the people of this State. I must not forget to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Brown Hill (Mr. Bath), upon again attaining that position, and I feel, from my experience during last session, that he will carry out those duties in a manner becoming to this House. We have heard a considerable amount in regard to the affairs of this State; but what is wanted at the present time is confidence in the country, and unless we have a Government in power prepared to show such confidence it will be a bad thing for the country.

MR. DAGLISH: That is a different tale from what was told at the elections. It was then said the Labour Government was the cause of the depression.

MR. EWING: If things are worse now, it is a matter for congratulation that we as members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia have met to-day to see if it is not possible to remove that unfortunate condition of things. What is the cause of things being so bad? What is the cause of the depression at the present time? I am not here to lay the fault at the door of any party or any Government of this State, but we have to remember that the cause is our having joined Federation. I am not one of those who are going to talk "secession." I am not going to say anything detrimental to the Commonwealth Parliament, but I do say that we have very seriously jeopardised the financial position of Western Australia by joining that Federation. If members will take the trouble to go through the figures they will find that from the sliding scale alone we have lost practically £200,000 per annum of income. In 1901-2 we received back from the Commonwealth Customs £201,000. To-day the position is this, that we receive for this the last year in which the sliding scale is in existence—its operation terminates in October next—£78,000. [MR. DAGLISH: It was not Federation, at election time, but the Labour Government.] I am simply trying to draw the attention of members of this House to the serious financial position of Western Australia to-day, not wishing to lay the blame on one side of the House

or the other. [MR. DAGLISH: You laid the blame on one side before.] Federation has cost us practically £200,000 of income. What is going to be the position at the end of this financial year? In 1903-4 we had a surplus of £83,000, in 1904-5 a deficit of £45,000. The expenditure during that period exceeded the revenue by £129,000 in round numbers. We have this year an estimated deficit of £128,000. I think the Premier, when lately speaking at Bunbury, estimated it would be reduced to £100,000. I would like to point out in passing, this really shows that the Rasop Government while in power got the better of things to the extent of about £30,000—the difference between £130,000 and £100,000. We find now it is absolutely necessary that something should be done by which revenue shall be brought to the coffers of the State. We are placed in this position, that £78,000 added to the £100,000 will give us a very huge deficit next year. Therefore the Government have taken what is perhaps a very unpopular position. They propose to go in for increased taxation, and that increased taxation in their opinion should take the form of taxation on the unimproved value of land. In the Governor's Speech there is mention of this, and the manner in which they are going to impose taxation, but the general principles on which they are going to impose the tax have not been placed before us. I feel sure it will fall very largely upon the cities, and it will of course be opposed by a very considerable number of members in this House; but we must endeavour to see that an equitable and fair system of taxation is brought into existence so as to recoup the coffers of the State at the present time. In connection with taxation of unimproved values, I would like to say I never would be a party to a taxation of those who have settled for many years upon our agricultural lands and those who are encouraged to settle upon them by the Government bringing emigrants to this State. Those who have travelled through the State of Western Australia and know the hardships and trials these people have to put up with will not, at the present time at any rate, injure them by having any farther taxation, and from a revenue point of view it would be almost

immaterial whether they were included or not, because the bulk of the revenue will come certainly from the tax against the cities. Objection may be taken to that, but as far as I can see it is a fair and reasonable thing to tax those who have the property. And also it is worthy of the consideration of this House whether it would not be better at the present time to introduce an income tax as well as a land tax. [MR. TROY: Both.] The hon. member says "both." I am inclined to think he is right, for there will be such a serious falling-off in the revenue; because we shall want more and more income, at any rate more than we shall get from the tax on unimproved land values. There are many other matters I desire to touch upon, because I shall not have another opportunity of speaking on the Address-in-Reply. I would like to refer to the mining industry of this State and its wonderful magnitude, and also the legislation which it is proposed to introduce by the Minister for Mines. It is proposed to introduce legislation to facilitate the greater acquiring of the leases and give greater security of tenure to those who have acquired leases; also to safeguard the interests of the worker. The production of gold has been of enormous importance to Western Australia, and the dividends last year amounted to over £2,000,000, which is very satisfactory to those who have invested their money in Western Australia. I say, long may it continue as long as those working in the industry are getting a fair deal. [MR. TAYLOR: I thought you did not believe in dividends.] I would like to get some. I have no doubt the hon. member would like some of them to come his way. With reference to the tinfields, we find they are vastly important. I would like to mention the Collie industry, which was, when I became a member of this House recently, in a very bad position; and I must here tender my sincere thanks to the Rason Government for the manner in which they dealt with that very important question. The position taken up by the Daglish Ministry and the decision arrived at by them meant absolute ruin and the annihilation of the whole of the mining at the Collie. I make that full recognition of the seriousness of the position. [MR. DAGLISH: They dealt with it on its

merits.] I said, God help the Collie people, if they had been left in the hands of the then Labour Ministry! The Rason Government came into power: they listened to my representations with regard to this industry. [MR. HOLMAN: They gave 1s. 6d. a ton.] They gave nothing more in the way of price. I think the price was reduced because I believe the late Government were giving 9s., and the only difference now is this—it is 8s. 9d., and the royalty has been taken off. At this stage I wish to point out to this House and through you, sir, to the country the stand taken by the Rason Government and the great benefit conferred on the Collie Coalfield and the State of Western Australia. The coal industry is only third in importance in the State to-day. The gold-mining industry is first. In its magnitude it is unparalleled. We know that this is the greatest gold-mining country in the world. Then next, of course, we have the tin. Fortunately for those engaged in securing tin, it is now at a splendid price; and it is the second industry so far as my opinion is concerned. The third industry is coal-mining. We have produced 834,000 tons of coal, of a value of nearly half a million of money. From January to March in 1905 we produced 51,150 tons of coal. During the same period in 1906, this year, we produced 58,000 or nearly 59,000 tons, an increase of 7,000 tons in those few months, the outcome of the action taken by the Government I supported last session and whose successors I am here to support to-day.

MR. TAYLOR: What has it cost to produce that tonnage you speak of.

MR. EWING: It is just as well for me to tell the hon. member that the State is getting a very excellent deal.

MEMBER: From the sellers' point of view.

MR. EWING: The sellers' point of view is practically of no importance to me, because I have never received any advantage from it—I may perhaps some day; but I am afraid that day is far distant. However, it will keep the industry going and improve the place; and I tender my thanks as member for Collie to the Rason Government for the manner in which they dealt with the position as compared with the attitude of the Daglish Government.

MR. DAGLISH: Give us some particulars.

MR. EWING: I remember that it was intended by the Daglish Government to close down three of the collieries and to give the whole of the work to one colliery; but now we have four going in good working order, and everything is smiling there. [MR. HOLMAN: The Government are paying an extra £5,000 a year.] The Government are not paying more, and it is a good industry; and that is what the Labour Government never did for the Collie coalfield. I intend to move for the adoption of the report made by Dr. Jack on the coal-mining industry, a report which became the property of the State through the instrumentality of the member for Subiaco, but which at present is mere waste paper; and it is my intention to see that the money spent in obtaining that report is not lost to the State. What is the use of paying away thousands of pounds on royal commissions and treating the reports as so much waste paper? We should act on the recommendations in the report made by Dr. Jack; and if I am able to induce hon. members to adopt the recommendations in that splendid report, I shall do so. It is framed in good sense, justice, and right, and will have the effect that in years to come—if it should be the case, which I trust it will not, that another Labour Government is in power with perhaps the same inexperience as that in power previously and with perhaps the same feelings—there will be no injustice done, but there will be a mandate from the Parliament of the State that the recommendations in Dr. Jack's report should be carried out by whatever Government is in power. I wish to go farther and congratulate the Government on having the courage to go in for a loan policy. When elected this last time as member for Collie, I looked forward with great pleasure and hope, at any rate, to a loan policy from the Rason Government. We did not get that, but we got two or three agricultural railways for which we did not have the money to provide, and for which we have to provide to-day. [MEMBER: You supported them.] Certainly; but we must remember that last session was a very short one though a very important one. We have in this session to do the business

of the sixth Parliament of Western Australia. There certainly was not very much done in the first session. Their loan policy is a matter on which I congratulate the Government. I know that the belief of the gentlemen sitting opposite and of many people in the State is that it is not a wise thing to borrow money, and that we should be careful not to hand down debts and trouble to posterity; but I do not hold that opinion, because I take a common-sense view I hope of the affairs of life, and I am satisfied that no member could carry on a business in an ordinary way at all times without borrowing other people's money and paying interest for it, thus increasing his business and through that increase being in a position to repay the money in years to come, which position he never could attain if he did not borrow the money. We know the position of the State with its great potentialities and with industries practically lying dormant. We must borrow money to encourage the development of those industries, and to bring prosperity to the State. Members opposite were not prepared to support three wretched agricultural railways—[MEMBER: Wretched?]—passing through magnificent country and proving that country as an advantage to the State. [Interjections from Opposition members.] Hon. members claim that there was not time for discussion. I say they did not support those agricultural railways, and I judge men by their actions.

MR. TAYLOR: Is the hon. member in order in attributing to members of this House actions last session which they were not guilty of? As *Hansard* will prove, members on this side of the House did not oppose the construction of agricultural railway lines; but we objected to the mode of procedure in galloping a large expenditure through within the last few moments of the session.

MR. EWING: It is idle for the hon. member to worry about these things now. He will have an opportunity of refuting any statement I make, and I have no doubt he will do so. The fact remains that opposition to these railways did come from that side of the House; and not only in Parliament, but throughout the State, the Leader of the Opposition has stated that great care should be

exercised in building these agricultural railways.

MR. COLLIER: Opposition also came from the Government side of the House. There was the Attorney General.

MR. EWING: We have to-day to congratulate the officers of the Public Works Department upon having tendered to build these railways at about £1,000 a mile.

MR. TAYLOR: The Labour Government introduced that principle.

MR. EWING: I think Mr. Teesdale Smith is largely responsible for it by placing certain facts before the country and by showing that he could do certain things; and the Ministry said that what could be done by an outsider must be done by the department. The officers of the department have now gone into the matter and find that they can build these railways cheaper than Mr. Smith or any outside party. That is a matter for congratulation. The present position is that we have a Government in power that has decided it is going to do a certain thing which they believe can be done and which is going to be done; and we are going to get agricultural railways built for the development of the State at just the same price as we get our main roads constructed for. Is not that a matter for congratulation? We have great numbers of these railways which must be constructed. The member for Swan (Mr. Gull) has enumerated a few, and I could enumerate a few. I notice he did not mention any in the Great Southern District, and I am not going to mention any. There are some there, and we hope that all parts of the State will get the full benefit of the wisdom of the Ministry at present in power. The people of the State have to be thankful that such care has been exercised by the Rason Government while in office. We have not yet had opportunity of seeing what the present Government can do, but the Rason Government are responsible for the position of affairs to-day. In passing, I will just refer to the Collic-Narrogin line; another mistake, or not altogether a mistake, of the Daglish Government. [MR. DAGLISH: Say "crime," just to go on with.] Almost a crime. The House of which I was a member, and I was largely instrumental in getting that legislation passed—[MR.

DAGLISH: More shame to you]—Parliament authorised the construction of a railway from Collic to Narrogin. The Daglish Government then came into power, altered the name to "Narrogin-Collic," and built two-thirds of the line. Now we want to build the other third. No special mention is made with regard to this line. I appeal to the Government at present in power not to forget the promise which has been made. It was resolved by Parliament that this light line should be constructed, and yet we found the hon. member (Mr. Daglish) going in direct opposition to the mandate of Parliament. The Labour Government, however, did good service in having started the line at all. I appeal to the present Premier to see that the construction of this line is carried out forthwith, from where it was originally intended to start, that is from the township of Collic; and let those people who have for many years worked in that district, and are dependent upon the good faith of the word of this Parliament, know that the promise will be carried into effect, so that it may not be said it is no use passing legislation. The member for Swan mentioned the Pilbarra Railway, and I would certainly join with him in asking the Government to give very serious consideration to the building of that railway. We in this House owe a debt of gratitude to those members who went up to the Pilbarra district and so exhaustively examined the country. From my knowledge of going about the country and the trouble of camping out, I feel they must have undergone great hardships. I think the time has come when the mineral resources of that portion of the State should be opened up, and I am not in favour of again going into the question of private enterprise. In my opinion, it would be far better for the Government to get the £200,000, if necessary, to build that line, and let us have the best and latest means available to develop the resources of Western Australia. That course will have my support. I hope that during this session the Government will be able to borrow sufficient money and to place such statistics before members as will compel one and all to vote for the building of the Pilbarra Railway. At the risk of detaining the House a few

moments longer, I would like to refer to the timber industry, and say that my sympathy in connection with that industry is entirely with the member for Forrest (Mr. A. J. Wilson). I know the responsibility I am taking in connection with this matter, and I would like to point out that after the arbitration award was given, which was favourable to the Combine and other companies which joined in seeking that award, Mr. Teesdale Smith made an agreement, which I think the member for Forrest was largely responsible for bringing into effect. That was signed, sealed, and delivered, and it is binding upon all reasonable men. The time will soon arrive when that will cease, and either one thing or the other is going to happen. Either the men's wages are going to be reduced, or the Government must come quickly to the relief of the industry by the reduction of freights.

MR. TAYLOR: You cannot touch the Combine. You must touch the Government or the workers.

MR. EWING: I have no desire to prolong my speech, but I am going to deal with this matter. In my own constituency, where I have the honour to represent a considerable number of those engaged in the timber industry—[MR. BOLTON: Not of the Combine]—excuse me, they are in the Combine, and I surely know my own constituency: at Kirup a large number of men were engaged in the industry and were employed by the Combine; and they are now constituents of mine.

MR. BOLTON: You know they are not there now. The place is closed down.

MR. EWING: The mill is in my constituency, and there are a hundred men working there now.

MR. DAGLISH: But they are not working for the Combine.

MR. EWING: I am not dealing with the Combine. I am dealing with the timber industry generally. In my opinion, which may be right or wrong, but I have faced the matter in my own constituency when people were advocating an opposite course, we should have a reduction in freights. I met Messrs. Cusack and Cooke who are so anxious, and I believe earnest, in their efforts to settle this vexed question in the interests of the State and for the benefit of the men; I put the thing

before them in a nutshell exactly in the manner the member for Forrest did, and I told them that the only hope was that we must have a reduction in freights. [MR. SCADDAN: Then we must have a general reduction.] I would do that. The hon. member knows my views in regard to railway freights. Those living on the goldfields and in other portions of the State should receive every consideration from the Railway Department. Since Federation and being in an unfortunate position which we cannot rectify, we have no other weapon to help the industries of Western Australia; and if we cannot get the Commissioner of Railways to believe in the policy of reducing freights to a minimum so that we can give the benefit to the people on the goldfields and to those engaged in the timber industry and in pastoral districts—a policy which I hope we, as members of Parliament, believe in—then it is necessary for the question to come before Parliament; and it is the most important that could come before this House.

MR. DAGLISH: Is that how you get over your deficit, by reducing your revenue?

MR. EWING: The hon. member knows that I advocate certain avenues for getting revenue. If we open up these industries and enable the people engaged in them to get things cheaper, we will so increase the traffic on the railways that we will get a *quid pro quo*.

MR. DAGLISH: It is a question of cost price.

MR. EWING: It is a question of trade. We know that one can sell a thousand loads of timber at a much lower price than ten loads; and if the Commissioner of Railways carries a larger traffic and manages the railways well, it will pay him better.

MEMBER: What about the Commissioner of Railways?

MR. EWING: I have the greatest respect for the Commissioner so far as he is personally concerned, but not for him as Commissioner. I think the time has arrived when it is the duty of whatever Government may be in power to tell the country what they are going to do with the Commissioner when his time of office has expired. The member for Mt. Margaret knows that there are plenty of people who make mistakes; but there

are very few who acknowledge that they have made mistakes. I made a mistake on one occasion with reference to this matter, and I fully admit it. I admit to-day that it would have been better if the Commissioner of Railways had never been appointed. I do not go behind the door to say things. I do not say a thing in a miserable sneaking manner, but I say it before the House. I do not cast any personal reflection upon the Commissioner of Railways, who in my opinion is certainly in every respect worthy of the consideration of members of this House; but I want to make the member for Bunbury, who is the leader of the Government, in a very short time tell the House what they are going to do. Are they going to appoint three commissioners or leave it in the hands of Mr. George for another five years? If the Government are going to do that, I am going to vote dead against it. I say that the greatest consideration should be shown. Mr. George has done excellent work in regard to the railways of Western Australia from the travelling point of view, and the roads compare very favourably with those in any portion of Australia. [MR. TAYLOR: More than favourably.] The hon. member has been in New Zealand, and knows all about them there. He knows that what I say is true. [MR. TAYLOR: That is right.] I give the Commissioner full credit for that, but I say his work is out of sympathy with the policy of Western Australia. If Mr. George came into line with that and we told him distinctly he had to do certain things, that we wanted our industries developed and did not look to him for large profits from the railways, little harm would be done. He is rather a hard man to deal with. When he takes up ideas it is hard to make him get rid of them. We as a Parliament should take the responsibility of the State, revert to the old system, and let the Minister for Railways take charge. I believe it will be better. I think the country is far too young for anything of this kind. We should give full consideration to the wishes of this House, and I believe the matter will be a great success. Another vexed question is that of the Public Service Commissioner. I

am not going to criticise him, because I have not read his report. There are lots of people who have read it and who criticise it. We have to consider whether it is good for us to take the full responsibility of our position as members of this House and do away with the Commissioner of Railways and the Public Service Commissioner. I say, safeguard the interests of those who are in the civil service. [MR. HOLMAN: Adopt the Commissioner's report.] I have not read his report. He is a man of whom I have the very highest opinion, but we have to consider whether it is not right, in the interests of Western Australia, that the Government from their executive positions shall take responsibility, and that the responsibility shall ultimately rest with the House, and that we shall settle once and for all what is to be done with our railways, the civil servants, and everything. [MR. TAYLOR: They had that responsibility for ten years.] I object most strongly to delegating our powers to any one person. [MR. HORAN: That is the policy, not the details.] We cannot be worried with details. We have lots of details of our own private business to look after. We want to look after the general policy of the State. I do not intend to encroach any farther upon your time, but in conclusion I would say this. [Interjection.] The member for Mount Margaret (Mr. Taylor) wanted me to go on. [MR. TAYLOR: Farther on the Commissioner of Railways.] I have been very gentle to-day. I think I have spoken fairly as far as that is concerned, and that if the Commissioner himself were here he could not take exception to what I have said. I should be sorry indeed to think he could take exception. I would urge upon the Government that they are now in power apparently with a strong majority behind them. I say as a member of this House—not as a servile supporter of any Government; I never was one and never will be one; the Government do not want servile supporters—the Government have responsibility, and have to formulate a policy and look after the affairs of the State; and if we on the Government side of the House think they do it well, they will have our generous support. Make no mistake about it, we are a pretty solid party here, and we are

a party which has so lately been indorsed by the electors of the State. We feel sure that we have the confidence of those electors. I can only add that I hope the Government, now that they are in a strong position, and being composed of men of ability well fitted for their positions and with a general knowledge of the requirements of the State, will act fearlessly, caring neither for trades unionists nor for capitalists, and that they will do their duty to every section of the State. As long as they do that they need not fear. Let them do their duty, and they will have the confidence not only of members of this House, but of the people of the State of Western Australia. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

On the motion of Mr. TROY, debate adjourned.

OBITUARY—RIGHT HON. RICHARD J. SEDDON.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. J. Moore): Before moving the adjournment of the House, I should like to give members of this Legislative Assembly an opportunity of placing on record the deep regret that we, in common with so many thousands of British subjects, feel at the removal by death of the late Right Hon. Richard Seddon, who for so many years presided over the political destinies of New Zealand in the capacity of Prime Minister, with such pronounced success. Our most gifted orators have borne eloquent testimony to his many sterling qualities, which had the effect of placing the deceased statesman in such a high place in the esteem of his country. A Liberal of the Liberals, with the most patriotic ideals, his manly sincerity and simplicity endeared him to all; and it cannot be wondered at that men of all shades of political opinion unite in paying their token of respect to the memory of one whose name will ever be emblazoned on the roll of the empire-makers of our race. I beg to move—

That this House places on record its profound regret at the death of the late Right Hon. Richard Seddon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and expresses its deep sympathy with his wife and the people of New Zealand.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): I beg to second the resolution moved by

the Premier, though I regret exceedingly the necessity which arises for moving such a motion as this. The universal expressions of regret which have been heard at least from every portion of the British Empire testify to the esteem and love which were shown to Mr. Seddon by those who came into contact with him, by the people of New Zealand, and indicate that as a statesman the late Mr. Seddon was essentially a man of the people and one whose sympathies were attuned to those of the people. With unbounded energy, with great mental capacity, and with strong democratic sympathies, he did much to lighten their burdens and to confer incalculable advantage on the people of New Zealand. Those undoubted benefits which they have derived from his energy will not only be felt in New Zealand itself, but will also be felt in Australia and over the world where the name of Seddon is known. We can have no greater tribute to his ability and statesmanlike qualities than the fact that so great a man as the President of the United States has heard so much and thinks so much of the work accomplished by Mr. Seddon, that at the termination of his presidential career he intends to visit New Zealand so that he may examine the work accomplished there and so that he may become acquainted with the results. I think that we can pay no better tribute to the memory of Mr. Seddon than that we in Western Australia, charged as we are with the duty of legislating for the people, should endeavour as far as possible to inculcate in the minds of the people and the Legislature of the State those humanitarian sympathies which have done so much for the people over whom Mr. Seddon reigned as Premier for so long. I beg to second the motion moved by the honourable the Premier.

MR. F. ILLINGWORTH (West Perth): I hope I may be permitted to support this motion. It was my happiness on behalf of the people of Western Australia to welcome Mr. Richard Seddon on his only visit to this State. At that time, as you know I was a member of the Leake Government, and the Premier, being unable to go to Albany, deputed me on behalf of the Government and people of this State to welcome Mr. Seddon to Western Australia. I felt it

to be an honour then, and I feel it more so now, that on the only occasion on which this great man visited these shores it was my privilege to welcome him on behalf of the people of Western Australia. It is a matter of very deep regret to me that he was unable to carry out his purpose of coming to Perth and still farther making himself acquainted with the people of this State, as he promised to do on his next visit. However, He who rules all things has ordered otherwise, and now we have to mourn the loss of one of the greatest men the Empire has ever known. I think he may very rightly be bracketed with Cecil Rhodes, the great empire-builder, and I am certain his genial character, his deep earnestness, his sincere desire for the welfare of the people not only of New Zealand but of the whole of Australasia, link him to us with bonds that will long be felt and long can be trusted and tried. I have very great pleasure—a melancholy pleasure, I admit—in supporting the motion which has been moved.

Question put and passed, the members standing.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER moved "That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday next, 26th June, at 4.30 o'clock p.m."

Question passed.

The House adjourned accordingly at 5.14 until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 26th June, 1906.

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THE PRESIDENT (Hon. H. Briggs) took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PRESIDENT: Public Accounts for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 1905, accompanied by the Fifteenth Report of the Auditor General.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, The Mining Act, 1904—Amendments of and Additions to Regulations. 2, The Mining Development Act, 1902—Regulations for the purchase of Auriferous Copper Ores at Phillips River. 3, Fisheries Act, 1905—Regulations. 4, Goldfields Water Supply Administration—By-laws.

MOTION—LATE PRESIDENT'S RETIREMENT.

RECORD OF APPRECIATION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) said: It is with a feeling of considerable regret in one sense that I have to move the following motion:—

That this House desires to place on record its regret at the retirement of Sir George Shenton from the Legislative Council and from the office of President, and expresses the hope that his health may again permit him to give his valuable services to the State.

I think members will agree with me that our late President, Sir George Shenton, deserves well of his country, having devoted the best days and hours of his life to occupying public positions. We can hardly hope—I think it is rather too much to expect—that the last part of the motion, namely that his health may so improve that he will come back into public life, will be realised. However, I feel glad that Sir George Shenton has decided to retire, for this reason, that it is very hard for a public man, after he has long occupied a public position, and particularly the public positions Sir George Shenton has occupied for some thirty odd years, to continue actively in the work. We generally find that a man