

think we should accept the dictum that the settlers of the North and the people who employ these natives are such inhuman brutes as he would try to make people believe. I believe this Bill, with the exception of a little alteration, has been before us previously. It is a measure which, in my opinion, will rectify any evils that may exist; and I am sure it will receive every support from Parliament. We must not be too lenient in the way of pampering the natives. The best thing to do is to encourage a native to work and keep him at work. If this is done, he is kept out of mischief. He should be kept at work, and treated kindly at the same time. The proposal in regard to railways to open up our country to settle our agricultural land is, I think, a wise one. Light lines extending inward from main lines of railway would open up for settlement country which cannot now be reached by railways. I do not know that I will keep members any longer. I simply conclude by seconding the motion.

On motion by Hon. C. SOMMERS, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 4 o'clock, until the next Wednesday afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 23rd November, 1905.

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MEETING OF THE NEW ASSEMBLY.

The General Election having been completed, the elected representatives met in Parliament House pursuant to

proclamation made by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk.

MESSAGE: OPENING BY COMMISSIONERS.

A Message from the two Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of the sixth Parliament was received in the Chamber shortly after 12 o'clock noon, requesting the attendance of members 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 CHIEF JUSTICE STONE, 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 (Mr. C. Lee Steere) produced the election writs, showing the return of 49 members as representatives for the Legislative Assembly (the writ for Kimberley not yet having been returned).

Members present took the oath as required by statute, and signed the roll.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

MR. W. B. GORDON (Caoning), addressing the Clerk, said: I move "That Mr. Quinlan do take the Chair of this House as Speaker," and in doing so I desire to bring to the recollection of members that Mr. Quinlan was one of the members of our first Parliament under Constitutional Government, one of the only two sitting in this House to-day who were members of that Parliament, the other being the member for Kataning (Hon. F. H. Piesse). Mr. Quinlan has occupied the position of Chairman of Committees for some three years past, and I think that his experience as an old parliamentarian, and the honourable and fair way in which he has filled the position of Chairman of Committees, qualify him eminently for the position of Speaker, which I believe he will fill in a manner that will be a credit to the State and an honour to himself.

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont): I second the motion of the member for Canning. With regard to Mr. Quinlan, he is an old resident of the State; as the member for Canning has told us, he is an old member of Parliament; and in both capacities he has rendered great public service to this State. We are all aware that the position of Speaker in this House is one of the most important positions in the State, the gentleman holding that position being practically the first commoner in the land. The fact that this position was so long held by the late Sir James Lee Steere, whose memory will always be held in affectionate regard by this House owing to the manner in which he carried out his duties, has immensely increased the prestige that should attach to the position of Speaker. With regard to Mr. Quinlan, I am satisfied that he will at all times do his utmost to hold an even balance between the two opposing parties or any parties that may exist in this House; and I am also sure that he will at all times do his utmost to maintain the dignity and the credit of this House as a deliberative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. I beg therefore to second the motion of the member for Canning.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN (Toodyay): I am deeply sensible of the honour that it is proposed to confer on me, and I now submit myself to the House.

There being no other nomination, Mr. Quinlan was thus duly elected, and was conducted to the Chair by his proposer and seconder.

THE SPEAKER-ELECT said: Hon. members, I am deeply indebted to you for the confidence you have displayed in electing me to the position of Speaker. I hope to be able to fulfil the duties appertaining to the office, and to, at any rate in some degree, follow in the footsteps of the late Sir James Lee Steere. I am glad of the reference which was made to him, because I served a number of years under his guidance; and although I know I shall be far behind his capabilities in respect to the office of Speaker, nevertheless I will do my best to follow the guidance which he gave to members so long whilst he controlled this Assembly. I thank you most sincerely for the honour you have conferred upon me to-day. [After a pause.] I now purpose to leave

the Chair until ten minutes to three o'clock; and as I have to attend on the Governor as your Speaker-elect at half-past two, I shall be glad if as many members as can make it convenient will accompany me to Government House, for which conveyances will be provided.

[Sitting suspended, and resumed shortly before 3 o'clock p.m.]

MR. SPEAKER, on resuming the Chair, announced that in submitting himself to His Excellency as the Speaker elected by the Legislative Assembly, he had laid claim to its undoubted rights and privileges, and prayed that the most favourable construction be put on all its proceedings. His Excellency had been pleased to express his satisfaction at the choice made by the Assembly, in the following terms:—

It is with much pleasure I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly to the high and honourable position as 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 confirm the constitutional rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly of this State.

CONGRATULATIONS.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. C. H. Rason): Before we proceed with the business of the day, may I be permitted to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your having attained the high office to which you have been unanimously elected by this House? You were good enough to say that you intended to adopt as your ideal the worthy example of a previous Speaker of this House, Sir James Lee Steere. I know of no higher ideal that you can set up. I hope—and I am sure that I am expressing the wish of every member of this House—that you will long be spared to live up to that high ideal. I am sure every member of the House feels certain that you will conduct its business with impartiality; and may I be permitted to assure you on behalf of the House that you may at all times count on receiving the loyal support which Speakers always have received from every member of this House in the past? I beg leave to congratulate you most sincerely.

MR. T. H. BATH (Brown Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in con-

gratulating you on your elevation to the Chair of this House. What I know of you as a member of the Legislature renders me confident that you will perform your duties with that high-mindedness which you displayed when acting as Chairman of Committees. I believe that you will conduct our proceedings with dignity, and with credit both to Parliament and to the State. I hope that all members of the House will as far as possible endeavour to reflect that dignity in their conduct. I have much pleasure indeed in congratulating you on the position which you now occupy.

MR. F. ILLINGWORTH (West Perth): Mr. Speaker, may I also have the privilege of extending my congratulations to you in your elevated position. I may, in defending a remark I made at an earlier stage (as to procedure), refer members to Standing Order No. 15, which will be sufficient for the purpose. I am quite sure that you, sir, will conduct the business of the House with that clearness and that impartiality which will command the respect of hon. members. Of course we all know that only in so far as the Speaker is supported by the House itself can the business of the House be properly conducted; and I am sure we are unanimously determined to support the Chair at all times, and that you may rely on having the support which your position demands. May your portion be long life and prosperity.

IN REPLY.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for West Perth (Mr. Illingworth), and hon. members generally: I am deeply touched by the kind remarks which have just been made, and sincerely hope that I shall be able to follow, to some extent at any rate, the footsteps of the late Speaker, Sir James Lee Steere. I am confident that I shall certainly not be able to fill this position as he filled it; nevertheless, I shall endeavour to follow one who, throughout Australasia, was acknowledged to be an ideal Speaker. I recognise, too, that in bearing the responsibilities of this office I must in a large measure seek the assistance of hon. members to retain for this House the reputation it has held so long and so worthily, that of a well-conducted

Assembly. I shall probably have occasion at times to give opinions on questions other than those relating to the ordinary rules of debate; and I may here remark that I shall not do so hastily, but before coming to any definite conclusion shall refer to the authorities obtainable in the House. The proper conduct of the business of this Assembly depends, I think, on adherence to the Standing Orders, tempered with common sense; and I rely on the Standing Orders for being able to conduct business as it ought to be conducted. So that in giving opinions on points other than those which arise in ordinary debate, I shall avail myself of the proper recognised authorities, and therefore will not venture to offer an opinion on any point so soon after being made Speaker. I require at least some little time to gain a fuller acquaintance with parliamentary procedure than I have been able to gain while occupying the position of Deputy Speaker. I thank you all for the confidence which you have reposed in me. That confidence gives me double pleasure, knowing as I do that it is by the unanimous vote of the House that I have been chosen Speaker. The confidence which you have placed in me I shall endeavour to retain. (General applause.)

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

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; and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, the Speaker reported what had been done.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

Papers were laid on the table, by leave, as follow:—

By the PREMIER: Report of Museum and Art Gallery for 1904-5; Report of Manager of Post Office Savings Bank for year ended 30th June, 1905; By-laws of Municipalities of Bunbury, Coolgardie, Fremantle, Midland Junction, North Fremantle, North Perth; Report and Returns under Government Railways Act, 1904.

By the MINISTER FOR WORKS: Report of Metropolitan Waterworks Board for 1904-5; By-laws of Albany Roads Board.

By the MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND LABOUR: Report of proceedings under Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902.

By the MINISTER FOR LANDS: By-laws under Cemeteries Acts, Yundamindera and Pinjarra; Regulations under Agricultural Lands Purchase Act, 1896; By-law (amended) of Carnarvon Common; Regulations under Land Act, 1898; Permits to construct timber tramways (W.A. Jarrah Sawmills, Limited, and Kalgoorlie and Boulder Firewood Company); Notices under Permanent Reserves Act, 1899; Report of Agricultural Department, 1904-5.

NOTICES—BILLS AND MOTIONS.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

THE PREMIER, after giving notice of motion in reference to sifting days and hours, said: I should like to say here that the necessity for adding another day to the usual sitting days of the House and the desirability for sitting an hour earlier will be at once apparent to hon. members, and I hope they will agree with it. When the motion comes on for consideration, or before it comes on, I hope to have an opportunity of consulting with the Leader of the Opposition on the matter. I regret my not having been able to do so before giving notice of the motion.

Numerous other notices of Bills and Motions were given.

QUESTION—FACTORIES LEGISLATION, PAPERS.

MR. A. A. HORAN asked the Premier, by leave without notice: When will he be prepared to make a statement to the House with reference to the correspondence which has taken place between himself and the Imperial Government, in reference to the Factories Act?

THE PREMIER: I must ask the hon. member to give the usual notice of the question.

BILL—ROADS AND STREETS CLOSURE.

THE PREMIER, by leave without notice (by way of asserting privilege), introduced a Bill for the closing of certain roads and streets.

Bill read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO THE OPENING SPEECH.

MR. J. PRICE (Fremantle) said: I beg to move the adoption of an Address in reply to the opening speech of His Excellency the Governor, which Address I will read at the conclusion of my remarks. May I take this opportunity of offering to you, Mr. Speaker, my sincere felicitations upon the high honour that has fallen on you to-day. It must indeed be gratifying to you and your friends that through your extended parliamentary experience the confidence of the House has been reposed in you, and to-day you have been installed in the high and dignified office which you now hold. I trust that you may long continue to hold the office, with credit to yourself and with advantage to this Assembly. I do not propose to indulge in a long speech. The general feeling throughout Australia is that in all our Legislatures there is a great deal too much talk and too little action; and it would ill become me, sympathising with that view, to make a long and diffuse speech in moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. All members of the House will doubtless agree that, as so great a portion of the year has already elapsed, the Government are justified in bringing before Parliament a short Legislative programme. Within the past year or two the people of this country have had a great deal too much legislation; at all events, the results of the recent general elections have shown that the electors hold that opinion. [LABOUR MEMBER: On what ground?] Because nearly all members who have been returned expressed that opinion when seeking the suffrages of the electors. That opinion found favour with the people we addressed, and to-day we find ourselves with seats in this House. I venture to say that our opinion has thereby been endorsed; and I think that the people of the country will endorse the action of the Government in determining to give great attention to administration. The mere fact that in this State we pay in administrative expenses nearly twice as much *per capita* as is paid in any other Australasian State shows that there is plenty of room for improvement; not necessarily for cheeseparing, but for effecting great economies by careful administration. I venture to think that when the present

Government returned to power with so large a majority, this was one of the first duties which the people believed these Ministers would perform.

LABOUR MEMBER: Do they still believe it?

MR. PRICE: Yes; and moreover I believe that when the term of office of the present Government is finished, the people will be perfectly satisfied that the duty has been well and honourably performed.

MR. HEITMANN: There will be a big crowd on this side (Opposition).

MR. PRICE: Possibly — I am no prophet; you may be. I am pleased to see that in the Speech considerable stress is laid on the desirableness of encouraging land settlement. I fully endorse the opinion that it is desirable to construct railways from our existing lines into agricultural areas, thereby opening up new country; but, though because of the lateness of the session the time may not now be ripe, it is nevertheless worthy of consideration whether in the next session of this Parliament the Government should, by an unimproved land tax on lands adjacent to our existing railways, open up much land that is now idle. At all events, I am glad that the Government recognise the desirability of such action, and that we find in the Speech an intention to secure parliamentary authority for the construction of certain agricultural railways. All of us who have had municipal experience, especially in the metropolitan area, will agree as to the eminent desirableness of doing something to improve our present water supply, and to give us an up-to-date sewerage system. Any man who has been connected with municipal life knows well that this is one of the things which every metropolitan and suburban municipality desires; and I trust that the Government will with all expedition push forward the scheme. It appears to me that the conditions under which we at present labour in respect of one or perhaps both of these matters are hardly worthy of a civilised people. The health of the people should receive from the Government the first consideration; and unless we have a proper and decent system of deep drainage, things are not as they ought to be in a civilised community. For that reason I endorse most heartily the proposal of the Government

to deal with this matter practically forthwith. I note with pleasure that the Government intend to bring in an Aborigines Bill. Years ago the question was asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" And in this matter, those of us who have dispossessed of their land the poor unfortunate natives must recognise that upon us devolves the great responsibility of seeing that the natives are properly treated and that their welfare is assured. I express no opinion as to the report published some time ago by Dr. Roth; but I do hold that it contained sufficient evidence to show that the utmost need exists for an improvement in the present methods of dealing with the aborigines. I notice that the Government propose to obtain from the Assembly a loan authorisation. I recognise that this is absolutely necessary in the interests of the country; but I trust that the money when it is obtained will be expended on purely reproductive works. The time has gone by for fostering in this State an artificial prosperity by the wasteful expenditure of loan moneys on unproductive works. I think we should rather seek, by judicious administration, by carefully husbanding our resources, by opening up land for settlement, to induce a feeling of stability and security in the whole country. These are the means by which we can bring prosperity to the State; but prosperity will not result from an unlimited expenditure of money on works which will not pay a fair interest on the cost of construction. I notice that the Government propose to deal with any offers they may receive to build the Port Hedland to Nullagine Railway; and I have not the slightest doubt that the route has been settled after consultation with engineering authorities. But if at some future date it be thought desirable to change that route, I reserve to myself the right to support a change. I am not at this moment satisfied that Port Hedland is the best starting-point for that railway. It may be, or it may not. At all events, at present I have on this question an open mind. We have heard that in Australasia, and especially in Western Australia, political purity is to be found almost entirely in one section of the community. I beg leave to doubt that. We heard much of it during the past

general election; and therefore I am pleased that the Government intend to bring in a Secret Commission Bill. We know that the measure had its origin in the scandals connected with the butter bonuses in certain Eastern States; and all business men, at some time in their careers, have felt the ill effects of secret commissions. It is shameful that an agent employed to do business for his principal should take a commission not only from his principal but from the other party, and that the only redress available to the principal is to sue the agent in a civil court for damages. In my opinion, the taking of a secret commission ought to be a criminal offence. It is high time that the law recognised it as a criminal offence; so I welcome the Bill which the Government promise to introduce. At the present moment the Government have a big majority.

MR. A. J. WILSON: A brutal majority.

MR. PRICE: I am a young member, and this being my first speech, I think it offers a fair opportunity for members to exhibit some magnanimity. The big majority which the Government have at the present moment entails on them a big responsibility. Undoubtedly the country expects much from the Government. A serious responsibility rests on their shoulders; and did I not believe that they are prepared to give us fearless, straightforward, and honourable administration and legislation, I should not be found sitting on this side of the House. While the Government legislate without regard to class distinctions, my vote will be recorded in their favour. I trust that they will neither pander to the capitalist nor to the trades-hall party, that they will deal fearlessly with all classes of the community; and if they do, then when they again appeal to the electors the Government will be returned with as big a majority as they now enjoy. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply:—

To His Excellency Admiral Sir Frederick George Denham Bedford, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

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.

(General applause.)

MR. W. T. EDDY (Coolgardie): I rise to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, on the opening of this the first session of the sixth Parliament of Western Australia. I may be allowed to endorse the remarks of the member for Fremantle in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the Chair. From that hon. member's speech it was clear that your election is welcomed by the people of the city and of the coast generally; and I may be allowed, on behalf of the people of distant parts, to add my congratulations. In my position as seconder of the Address-in-Reply, I feel that I should like, if it were in order, to make a sort of personal explanation, if only because I feel that this task should have been placed in better and abler hands than mine. I thank the Premier for placing me in so flattering a position; and I feel that a still greater compliment has been paid to my electorate, the mother-city of the goldfields, Coolgardie. It is doubtless with great pleasure that the House receives the greeting accorded to us (the elected majority) in His Excellency's Speech. As stated therein, the late election held throughout the State has resulted in the return of such a majority that stability of government should now be assured. The late three successive Governments, unfortunately for the welfare of the State, were unable to command sufficient working majorities for successful administration. Our credit has greatly suffered in the eyes of the world; and financiers have shut their pockets against us, closed their books against us, and stopped our credit, owing to the unsettled and unsatisfactory state of our affairs. An Opposition member interjects "Thank God." Well, if that is the feeling of the hon. member and his friends, to say the least of it the circumstance is regrettable. But to-day let us hope we are on the eve of an awakening, that confidence has been restored and progress and prosperity will be with us to such extent that we may take our place side by side with the Eastern States; aye, higher yet, take our stand and be one of the finest States in the world. Our mineral wealth

is proved, and in this respect there can be no doubt. A clause of the Speech states that the gold export for the ten months ended 31st October amounts to 1,629,000 odd ounces of gold; and the amount of dividends paid by Western Australian mining companies during the same period amounts to £1,887,533, and the total dividends paid to the 31st October amount to no less than £13,459,000 odd. Surely these figures alone would warrant, without any farther debate or argument, the building of the Esperance and Transcontinental Railways. In reference to our agricultural industries, I am somewhat sorry to say that I cannot congratulate our friends to the extent I would like; for with the very large areas of land taken up and the inducements held out to obtain land cheaply, it is a matter of regret that still an enormous amount of money is paid by the State for the requirements of the people by way of such every-day foodstuffs as bacon, butter, and cheese. I mention these three items, and we may well ask our agricultural friends the question, where are our bacon and butter and cheese factories? Although they are not in existence to-day to the extent they ought to be, let us hope the day is not far distant when our State will be loading ships from Fremantle to English and foreign ports. [MEMBER: And Albany.] And Albany too. And farther than that, loading our ships from the port of Esperance. It is pleasing and satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the criticism of many *re* our agricultural efforts, a marked improvement is noticeable day by day. Our land settlement goes steadily forward. We notice it is the intention of the Government to seek consent to build light lines of railway to assist the settlers on the land, and to encourage additional settlement, and quite right too. There are one or two remarks I would like to make here in reference to the feeling that has existed in past years throughout the whole of the State of Western Australia. There has been, much to our regret, a little bitterness of feeling between the coastal and agricultural members and the goldfields members. ["No."] I say that feeling does exist, but I believe the feeling now is being quietly and slowly

obliterated, and will be in a short time swept entirely away. I would just like to ask our coastal and agricultural friends, when some of the questions with reference to the building of railways on the goldfields are brought forward that they will not forget us. The question of the building of railways must be introduced sooner or later, and I feel sure the common sense of the House will give us every fair and just consideration. There has been a cry during the late election that we have adopted the principle that it is our duty to guard and protect the future welfare of the State first, and our electorate and constituents afterwards. Quite right. But I say again I hope when these questions come forward—there are many little matters which require attention more probably on the goldfields—we will get fair and just consideration. We come now to the question of immigration. This matter is touched upon in the Speech. I think this question may be passed lightly over for the moment; but we must be careful, for the poor we have always with us, and we must be very careful indeed not to add to our poverty list and not lay aside the principle of a white Australia. The finances, as His Excellency's Speech suggests, require close and careful attention. It will be our duty to see there is careful and just administration. A measure is suggested for the imposition of a tax on totalisator receipts. This brings us in contact with the question that engages the serious attention of all right-thinking people in the States—it brings us face to face with the gambling evil. I am sure that in our life we can never hope to eradicate the gambling evil, but it is our duty as legislators to reduce it considerably. My friend who moved the Address-in-Reply referred to some of the questions relating to coastal districts, and I submit it is my duty just to mention one or two matters in reference to the goldfields. The measures already outlined by the Premier—not very many certainly—are of vital importance. We are told we are to get increased water supply for the goldfields. This is a matter to which I am sure no objection can be taken. The success of the Coolgardie Water Scheme stands out to-day as one of the world's greatest and most

successful works, and it is almost impossible to conceive what chaos and disaster there would be to-day were it not for this big scheme. We have just passed through a season which I suppose cannot be equalled for the last 10 or 12 years, and we can hardly imagine what would happen on the goldfields if the people had not the privileges of the water from this scheme. The Minister for Mines, or rather the Premier, in his speech told us we are to take steps to farther advertise the resources of our State, more particularly regarding its mineral wealth. Matters of this kind will add to our advancement, and later on, instead of the average monthly output of about 170,000 ozs. of gold, I believe the years are not far distant when the State of Western Australia will produce half a million pounds' worth of gold monthly. We come to a point touched on in the Premier's policy speech with reference to aid to prospectors. This is one of the most important and valuable features of the Government policy. We agree to help and assist the farmers and agriculturists, and so we should extend help and assistance to the prospectors, the men who have struck out and are ready to strike out again in our interests, the men who have tackled the burning bush and blazed the tracks that are now beaten roads leading us to settled fields and golden cities, the men who have taken their double share of toil; yet to-day we find only bleached bones in distant parts where many of those good old battlers have fallen by the way. This may be regarded as a little sentiment on my part, but it is no sentiment, it is solid, bitter fact; and not only must we aid the prospector in opening new fields, but it is our duty to assist the poor men, the men on shows, the men with small syndicates, the men who toil from year to year, oftentimes not having the price of a meal and hardly sufficient to get a feed. Many men have had to throw up mines, perhaps on the eve of success. Therefore I claim it is only fair that aid should be given to prospectors in the same way that aid is given to agriculturists. There are one or two other matters that I had noted here, but I think members will agree with me we should pass them lightly over. [Mr. HORAN: And a bit annoying.] They are

not annoying. Perhaps I may be better able later on to deal with the hon. member's interjections than I am to-day. There are other reforms that are promised. The Minister for Mines has promised to see that the prospectors are looked after, and I may say I think the present Minister for Mines (Mr. Gregory) has done more for the prospectors than any previous Minister for Mines. My friend spoke lightly of the suggested improvements of the new stock routes. I think it is only a fair suggestion, to every right-thinking man; it is not going to be an expensive item, and it will bring the whole of the State—the distant parts—into a trackable condition, and will mean the settlement of a great deal of land in parts at present unknown. Before concluding, there are one or two matters I should like to notice, and here is one of them. During the late elections on the goldfields, there was a hue and a cry raised that the Government are in opposition to the welfare of the worker. I cannot believe that, nor do I believe it. I gave it out on the hustings and from the platform that if I found the principles of the workers were at stake in any direction, I would stand by them. My feelings towards labour are the same to-day as they ever were, and the workers will not suffer anyhow at my hands. [Mr. HEITMANN: Come over to this side.] I shall never be on your side while you have the caucus and the pledge. There is another matter, in reference to electoral reform. We must all agree that the state of the rolls during the last elections was deplorable, and I much regret that that applies more particularly to the electorate of Coolgardie; so much so that probably there is a chance of my being thrown out of the seat I am occupying to-day, through the rolls being in a bad and I may say rotten state. Whoever may be to blame for that at present I do not know. I think a lot of blame rests with the officers who have been on duty, and I hope it will be the duty of the House at the earliest opportunity to place the rolls in a better and more workable condition. We have been told that our distinguished visitors from time to time have unanimously expressed every satisfaction at our prospects and advancement. Well, it is pleasing and satisfactory to note that the state of affairs to-

day is much different from that obtaining during the last three or four years. A better spirit prevails throughout the State; and it is our duty to maintain that buoyant feeling, and I believe we shall maintain it. The voice of the people throughout the late election was so pronounced that caucus government has received its death-blow.

MR. BOLTON: Your seat is still uncertain.

MR. EDDY: If I remember rightly what I read in the Press, the hon. member interjecting was one of the men who said on the platform that no pledge will keep a crooked man straight. I say that the reaction predicted by wise heads has taken place; the liberty which has been Britain's and Australia's boast was only tied up for a time; and now, men with hands and minds unfettered can again secure the common-sense vote of the people. I believe that this feeling which has extended throughout Western Australia will extend also throughout the Commonwealth, and that the people of Australasia will at the next Federal election condemn government by caucus. His Excellency's Speech concludes with the hope that this Parliament will materially advance the well-being of the State; and I believe it will, by means of honest debate, by good, common-sense arguments, and by allowing work to supersede talk; though there is plenty of room for honest and healthy opposition. As each member expects to give to his electors a fair account of his stewardship, so do the Ministry hope to give general satisfaction to the State they represent. I have pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. (General applause.)

On motion by Mr. T. H. BATH (Leader of the Opposition), debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. on the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 28th November, 1905.

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THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2:30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

MEMBERS SWORN, ADDITIONAL.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a Commission from the Governor authorising him to administer the oath to members not already sworn.

Hon. H. Gregory (Menzies), Mr. C. H. Layman (Nelson), and Mr. P. Stone (Greenough) took the oath and subscribed the roll.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR WORKS: 1, Special by-laws of Bayswater Roads Board. 2, Exemptions from rating under Lawlers Roads Board. 3, By-laws of Nelson Roads Board.

By the MINISTER FOR MINES: Annual Report of Mines Department for 1904.

QUESTION—METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, REDUCTIONS.

MR. HORAN (for Mr. Daglish) asked the Minister for Works; 1, Is it correct that the price of water to the city of Perth has been reduced to 6d. per 1,000 gallons? 2, If so, will the same reduction apply to the municipalities of Subiaco and Leederville? 3, If not, why not?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. Frank Wilson) replied: 1, Yes, for road watering purposes, from Causeway and Wellington Street bores, where pumping is unnecessary, and from points on the new 21in. pumping main in Havelock Street prior to bore water being treated. Also for the same purpose during period from 1st June to 30th September, in-