

for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. OSBORN (Roebourne) : I have pleasure in rising to second the motion moved by the member for Swan (Mr. Jacoby), for the adoption of an Address in reply to the Governor's Speech. But before doing so, allow me, Mr. Speaker, to express what I think is due from me towards yourself. Allow me to offer you my congratulations upon being elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It is very pleasing to me to be able to offer you those congratulations for more than one reason, from the fact that I think we have known one another practically all our lives, and from the fact that we started on our careers practically in the same direction. We both struck out in the same direction in the constituency in which I now represent. It will be fresh in your memory that we both branched out in our own careers in the same direction and we have been practically associated with one another for many long years. And I trust you will be spared many years to occupy the position you now occupy, and that with the support of hon. members in this House you will not be hampered or harassed in your deliberations, and I am sure and certain that any ruling you will give will be in accordance with your conscience and what you consider in the best interests of the State and this Parliament assembled. Land settlement has been referred to in the Speech and it is gratifying to note the statements contained therein. No doubt the Government have done the best possible in the interests of the State in this direction. They have pushed land settlement forward with the utmost ability. I am certain if they had not taken advantage of the flourishing condition of the mining industry the agricultural industry would not be so flourishing as it is to-day. At one time in our State there was seemingly a feeling from the mining point of view that agriculturists should receive no attention, but I am glad to say that feeling has changed, and to-day the mining industry seems to recognise that the agricultural industry is necessary for the welfare of the State and the public generally, and that it is one

of the first and foremost things that should claim the attention of this House. Take for instance the imports last year of things we should really be producing in the State. Last year we imported bacon, ham, eggs, butter and tea, etc., to the value of £655,350, and jams, jellies and fruits to the value of £153,911, while we imported meats, flour, oats, pollard, potatoes and onions to the value of £262,495. There appears to be a splendid inducement for those prepared to spend their money in the direction of taking up land and producing those items I have enumerated. One fact seems to present itself in dealing with those items, and that is that the ham and bacon factory that was established at Fremantle some two or three years ago appears to have given up the industry in this State because it has not been able to buy sufficient live stock for its continuation. I think that in itself should induce the people of the State to consider whether there is not plenty of scope for the settlement of land and the production of these commodities. So far as the resources of the State are concerned every day brings with it some new discovery of importance to the country. Only lately we have heard of discoveries in phosphates, also tale. Although perhaps the discovery of tale is of little importance, yet it points to the fact that in the State we have everything required, and I am sure that with judicious handling of the reins of Government these minerals, these deposits, will be further exploited, and there will be fresh discoveries. In regard to the phosphates discovery I trust the Government will not lose sight of it, and that every endeavour will be made to get it on the market, or that facilities will be given for private enterprise to put it on the local market at the earliest possible moment. Mention is made in the Governor's Speech of steps to be taken to assist and encourage mining operations. Although this assistance is to be practically at this end of the State. I hope the Government have not overlooked the Northern portion of the State, and I trust that at an early date the Government will take into consideration the value of the mineral deposits and of the precious and baser

metals in the North, and that a great deal more assistance will be given in the future than has been given in the past, in regard to assisting prospectors if necessary by running light tramways or light lines of railway to assist in bringing minerals or the baser metals to the market at a reasonable and profitable price. At present we have enormous deposits of copper and silver lead in the Northern portion of the State, yet the prospectors have no way of getting the products to the port. Onslow suffers from this. There are enormous deposits of copper and silver lead, but the owners have had to abandon them because they have spent all their profits in putting the product on the market. We have no smelter in the State to treat the ores. I trust the matter of smelters will be taken in hand by the Government so that we can utilise our own mineral deposits instead of sending them away for treatment, and instead of paying enormous prices to have them treated. I trust the Government will not lose sight of this urgent matter, that smelters should be erected in a central spot to assist in putting the baser metals on the market. I notice with much pleasure that the Government propose to bring in a Bill called the Vermin Extinction Bill. I know this measure has had some consideration at the hands of the Government, but unfortunately it did not become law during last session. I can assure the Government that the pastoralists of my constituency are very anxious that the Bill should be put through at the earliest possible moment. Undoubtedly the primary object of the Bill, from what I can learn, is to deal with the rabbit invasion, but besides rabbits there is a pest in the Northern districts of the State, to cope with which is a costly matter to the squatters. I refer to the wild dogs, and I hope the Bill will include a provision dealing with wild dogs. I hope the Government will take an early opportunity of amending the Licensing Act so that there can be a limitation to the number of natives' dogs in the Roebourne and neighbouring electorates, because I can assure members that the natives' dogs are doing nearly as much damage as the wild dogs. I understand that each native is allowed to keep one

dog without licensing it, and as many more as he likes by licensing, which makes it practicable for the blacks to keep around them as many dogs as they like, and thereby do a tremendous amount of damage to the squatters in the districts where they reside. I hope the Government will amend the Licensing Act so as to allow the natives to have no dogs, or at any rate a limited number, because this is a matter of great importance to the district from the pastoralist's point of view. Some pastoralists in the North are paying as much as £125 a year for the destruction of dogs, that is, in addition to what is already allowed by the Government for that purpose. In regard to the Early Closing Act I hold certain opinions, and I trust that when the matter comes before the House we shall arrive at some decision that will be equitable to all concerned, not only favourable to the shopkeeper or to the shop assistants, but also to the purchaser who has to purchase his commodities when time affords. It is not at all times of the day or week that some of our people can shop, they have to take the opportunity of shopping when it is convenient to them, and I trust that when this matter comes up for discussion we shall see our way clear to give the three classes I have mentioned the opportunity of saying on what days the shops shall be closed. I trust that the solution of the matter will be in the direction so that the purchaser as well as the employers and employees shall have a say. I take some little interest in matters of the Federal Parliament as well as in those of the Parliament of the State, and I notice a very disquieting feature in current affairs is the continued attempt on the part of legislators in the Federal Parliament to usurp to themselves the right to administer the whole of the affairs both Federal and internal. I trust that while this State exists and while the fact remains that we are disconnected by a thousand miles of seaboard or a thousand miles of desert—

Mr. Collier: What! Desert? You have been reading the *Age*.

Mr. OSBORN: While these conditions exist, or even if they do not exist, I think this State or any other State has

a perfect right to manage its own concerns, and I regret indeed that the legislators we have sent from here to do our work in the Federal Parliament lose sight of the fact that if we were able to select them to represent us in the Federal Parliament we should be given the credit that we still possess in Western Australia men able to administer our own affairs, and I hope they will not endeavour to take from this State or any other State the right to manage its own affairs. I hope the Government and the Parliament will use every effort in maintaining the rights and privileges of our own State, our own industries and our own financial future. Although a few days ago there was some controversy in respect to the management of our railways, yet the facts show a very gratifying improvement in the administration of our railway system. Working expenses have decreased and profits have increased. Though some say that our railways are too expensively run, each year shows that they are run on more economical lines and the administration must be better. To my mind the prospect of our railways is very pleasing, and I think that under the present administration the railways are giving most excellent results. Each year brings down the loss in the cost of running. While the mileage run is considerably more, our profits likewise are more, so that I do not think there is much to fear in respect of the administration generally of the railways of the State. Now in regard to the railways in the mining districts, I quite recognise that as far as the Marble Bar-Hedland Railway is concerned it is a thing of the past, a matter that has been fought out in this House; but nevertheless I regret that the starting point of that railway was not from a seaport further this way, where it would have given a great opportunity of developing far more country and the results would have been far greater for the port where it is to go through. But I am hoping that the Government will not forget that there are other portions of the same district requiring some consideration in the direction of a railway, and I hope they will take this as a hint that it requires some little attention.

Mr. Gill: You want another one.

Mr. OSBORN: Yes, we want two more, for by two more we could get far better results. While in business at the particular centre that the railway is now running to, I believed that the line should start from Port Hedland, whereas I now know that from Roebourne or Cossack ports, or Balla Balla, it would be running through mineral country the whole way. If hon. members will only look up facts they will notice, as I said before, there are immense deposits outside Onslow that could be very well worked if the commodity could be brought to market. A second railway is needed to bring those mineral deposits to market. We do not mind whether it is a railway or an electric tram. We are not proud people in that district, and I can assure members that they will receive the thanks of the constituency when they consent to the scheme I have suggested, and which I hope the Government will not lose sight of. In conclusion, may I express the hope that in the very near future the State will reap the benefit of the developmental policy of the Government to a far greater extent than what it has done up to the present time. We know that some railways have not yet had a chance to show that they will be remunerative and justify the Government in having undertaken them, and I hope this House will give the Government every credit for having undertaken the developmental work which they have carried out in this State during their career. I think we must acknowledge, everyone of us, that the Government have done their best for the development of the State generally and as a whole, and they have not to my mind paid attention to any one particular district more than to another. Perhaps they have not been able to cope with all the requirements and requests of the people: still I think they are doing their utmost and using every endeavour to further the interests of the State as a whole, and I trust this House will give them that assistance and support which it is absolutely necessary for them to have. While touching on the finances we must admit that it seems rather bad on the face of it that we should have gone

so far behind in the first four months: still I agree with the hon. member for Swan that there is nothing to be very down about in the fact that we have a little more overdraft than we ought to have. It will occur with every business just as with Western Australia. Surely the amount of overdraft, or the amount of expenditure in excess of receipts, is not going to lay us out in bankruptcy. We still have our industries although if we do not get the support and the facilities that we should get from the Government of the day, then our own industries must suffer. We must support the Government in the undertaking, knowing they are not running the State into any financial difficulties, unreasonable financial difficulties, that we would not undertake individually ourselves. Every man who has any idea of business at all will admit that he would not close his doors to business for the simple reason that his bank overdraft had run up a little more than he had expected. The Government recognise that they have certain work to do and will endeavour to carry it out, and I hope the House will support the Government in this and not feel afraid of the small overdraft staring them in the face. I am quite confident that the present Treasurer is not likely to give away the enormous grants that have been built up in the past, and I hope he will carry out his intention of straightening up the affairs of the State. Too much money has been given away in special grants and for works really not necessary.

Mr. Heitmann: What about the poor squatters?

Mr. OSBORN: I do not think the squatters ever received any special grant, neither have they asked for any. I would like to mention this fact, that the squatters in the constituency I represent do not ask the Government for assistance to exterminate wild dogs, but simply for a measure to enable them to tax themselves to pay men to exterminate the dogs. That is one feature that does not strike hon. members in this House. They do not ask the Government to assist them, but merely to allow them to assist themselves. I have much pleasure in second-

ing the motion moved by the hon. member for Swan.

On motion by *Mr. Bath*, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 12th November, 1908.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Treasurer: 1, Amended Regulations under the Audit Act; 2, Copies of Orders in Council under Section 35 of the Audit Act; 3, Public Library—Annual Report, 1907-8.

By the Premier: 1, Return of Exemptions granted under "The Mining Act, 1904"; 2, Fremantle Harbour Trust Regulations.

By the Minister for Works: 1, By-laws of the Ashburton Roads Board; 2, By-laws of Upper Gascoyne Roads Board; 3, By-laws of Melville Roads Board.

TIMBER TROUBLE, EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

Debate Irregular.

Mr TAYLOR (Mount Margaret): I desire to move the adjournment of the House on a matter of urgency to deal with the Kurrawang wood trouble.