

distress. I ask hon. members to carry this motion in the usual way.

Question passed: members standing.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

DISTRIBUTION.

The PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor copies of the Speech that he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst hon. members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

HON. L. B. BOLTON (Metropolitan)
[3.53]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to us:—"May it please your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council 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 deliver to Parliament."

At the outset I desire to offer to you, Mr. President, my sincere congratulations upon your having been re-elected as President of this Chamber. The very able, conscientious, impartial and dignified manner in which you have guided the deliberations of the House is appreciated by all members, and I am voicing their feelings in tendering congratulations to you. May you be spared, Sir, for many years to preside over our deliberations. Having been returned for the seat rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Arthur Lovekin, and having personally known the deceased gentleman for 35 years, I feel that I should pay a brief tribute to his memory. He was, as already has been expressed, an outstanding personality in this State for many years, and did a vast amount of public good during that period. May I add that as King's Park will for ever constitute a memorial of the foresight of the late Lord Forrest, so the development of King's Park will remain a memory and a tribute to the wonderful work performed by Mr. Lovekin. I appreciate that in following him I have set myself a hard task: but I shall use every endeavour to prove a worthy successor, and shall try

to take the broad view that, although I represent the Metropolitan Province, the prosperity of the city can only reflect that of the whole State. There never was a time when the problems to be faced were so difficult of solution. I believe that every hon. member will agree with me that no previous Government had greater difficulties to overcome. We are informed that the deficit for the financial year just closed amounts to £1,557,896. Bearing in mind that exchange and unemployment relief absorbed no less than £1,200,000 of that amount, we realise that the Government did extremely well to keep within the amount of the deficit laid down by the Premiers' Conference. Without the two items I have mentioned, the deficit would have amounted to only £357,896. Owing to the grave financial crisis still existing, expenditure must, wherever possible, be still further reduced and economy practised in every direction. I must own that the Government are entitled to all the sympathy we can extend to them in that respect. There are, however, directions in which the Government can and should further reduce the public expenditure. I am a little disappointed to find that there is no suggestion of this in the Governor's Speech by way of reducing the numbers of members in both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Abolish this House altogether!

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is very unusual to interrupt an hon. member who is making his first speech in this Chamber.

Hon. L. B. BOLTON: I have advocated this reduction for many years, and I am still of the opinion that two representatives, instead of three, for each province, making a total of 20 members in lieu of 30 for this Chamber, and a reduction from 50 members to 35 in the Legislative Assembly, would yet give the people ample representation in our legislative halls. Indeed, I would go even further and support the suspension of Parliament for a term of five or seven years, as I am convinced that better results would be obtained if a commission of, say, six members were appointed to control the affairs of the State in the interests of the State, and the State only, and not of any political party. It would, naturally, be necessary for us to secure the very best brains available, men who have made a success of their own affairs and who would be

paid salaries in keeping with the high and honourable positions of trust which they would hold. This step would also have the effect of removing our public utilities from political control or interference, thus giving the management a much freer hand in the conduct of those utilities. In return the State could demand and expect more efficient management. We are also told in the Speech that loan expenditure and borrowing powers have been restricted during the past year. Personally I am not sorry that this is so, for I believe that our present troubles have been brought about mainly by over-borrowing and reckless expenditure. I wish to express my personal view that the policy of borrowing in order to create work, unless of a reproductive character, is entirely wrong and highly dangerous. The solution, to my mind, of the unemployment problem lies in the encouragement of private enterprise, which should have the assurance that it will be safe from socialistic interference and competition. The Government should continue to do all in their power to assist private enterprise in absorbing labour. I certainly do not believe that wages can be much further reduced in the interests of the community, as I am of the opinion that the continued reduction of the spending power of the people will not bring back the days of prosperity. I am gratified to know that our interstate and oversea imports, which in 1929-30 amounted to some £19,000,000, have been reduced to just over £10,000,000 for the past year, showing an improvement of about £8,000,000. Much of this improvement is due to the Government and public institutions which have used strenuous efforts to foster and develop both our primary and our secondary industries. It is also pleasing to note that Western Australia's exports per head of the population are still more than double those of the next highest State of the Commonwealth. The relief afforded borrowers from the Agricultural Bank and to discharged soldier-settlers was a very wise move, and the Government are to be commended for the action they have taken. We have been told that the gold-mining industry is in a more promising condition than it has been for many years, and with the assistance of the exchange, the gold bonus and the world's price of gold, the industry has been given a welcome stimulus. It is sincerely to be hoped that no interference will take place with regard to the bonus

which has had so much to do with the position that obtains to-day. The fact that it is intended to plant nearly 1,000 acres of soft-wood timbers in the South-West is very pleasing, as the industries of the State that require soft woods are at a distinct disadvantage in that direction. This work is to be further commended for the reason that it will absorb many of our unemployed. The suggested legislation to control gambling is long overdue, and I hope that the Government will be fearless in the attitude to be adopted. Any benefit that may be the outcome of this legislation should be devoted to assisting our own charities, and the considerable sums of money being continually sent out of the State should be kept within our own borders. Bulk handling of wheat is one of the burning questions of the day, and the Government are evidently alive to that fact. As a wheat grower on a large scale, I am naturally a supporter of anything that will reduce the cost of production, but I am emphatically opposed to State control of the scheme. I consider the Government would have been better advised, when it set out to get the required information, to have secured the benefit of the world's best brains, instead of relying solely upon their own engineers who have had little or no experience in connection with bulk handling. As there is such a diversity of opinion regarding the whole question, I would counsel the most minute inquiry before the adoption of any scheme. The removal of the State Implement Works from the provisions of the State Trading Concerns Act, I view with great suspicion. The past actions of the Government in respect of State trading generally have not met with my approval, and at a later stage I may have quite a lot to say on the subject. I am disappointed to note that there is no suggestion of amending the Workers' Compensation Act. The provisions of the existing Act, as they apply to both our primary and secondary industries, are most iniquitous. The Government are fully aware of the serious position by their action during the previous session of Parliament, and I sincerely hope the existing law will not be allowed to remain in its present unsatisfactory state. Referring to the position of our primary products, it is pleasing to note the wonderful progress that is still being made, and it is gratifying to know that other than the price, over which we have no control, the position is so satisfactory. I trust that in the interests of the primary producers the outcome of the deliberations

at Ottawa will result in some relief being granted to those industries. I submit the motion.

HON. H. V. PIESSE (South-East) [4.6]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. J. J. Holmes debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 4.6 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 11th August, 1932.

| | PAGE |
|--|--------|
| Meeting of the Assembly | 10 |
| Swearing-in of members | 10 |
| Motions (3): Condolence | 10 |
| Summons from the Lieut.-Governor | 10, 12 |
| Lieut.-Governor's Opening Speech | 12 |
| Question: Miners' Phthisis Act | 12 |
| Bill: Industries Assistance Act Continuance | 12 |
| Address-in-Reply, first day | 12 |
| Adjournment, special | 13 |

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. G. Steere).

SUMMONS FROM THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard the Commission for the opening of Parliament read, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

The Speaker announced returns to writs for the election of members for the districts of Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, Kanowna and Roebourne, showing that Messrs. F. C. L. Smith, B. Nulsen and J. H. Church respectively had been elected.

The three new members took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

MOTIONS (3)—CONDOLENCE.

The late Hon. T. Walker, M.L.A., J. T. Lutey, M.L.A., and F. W. Teesdale, M.L.A.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [12.17]: Since we last sat the Angel of Death has been abroad, and we have lost three of our members—all well-known men. One was Mr. Thomas Walker, who served in this House for many years, part of the time as a Minister of the Crown and for six years as Speaker of this House. We shall long remember Mr. Walker, who was a most capable member. He was a friendly soul, and will be missed by all of us. Mr. Walker had an extremely varied career. He sat in the New South Wales Parliament for three years, and afterwards took up journalism in this State. He was elected for the district of Kanowna in October, 1905, and held the seat until his death. He became Minister for Justice on the formation of the Scaddan Government in 1911, and was called to the Bar a little time afterwards. He was also a member of the University Senate. He played many parts during his life in Western Australia, and urged reform in several directions. He suffered a prolonged illness, and died at the ripe age of 74. In Mr. Lutey we lost a former Chairman of Committees. He was the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe, for which district he was returned in 1916. Mr. Lutey possessed a charming personality and endeared himself to everybody. I doubt whether he had an enemy in the world. It would not have been possible for Mr. Lutey to offend anybody so seriously as to cause resentment to be long entertained. During the whole of his service in the House he worked conscientiously and wholeheartedly in the interests of the State. We missed him during the long illness he suffered, and shall continue to miss him. He died at a comparatively early age. We have also lost Mr. F. W. Teesdale, member for Roebourne. He came to this State as a young man, and went to the North-West in the early eighties. His, also, was a varied career. He was elected by the people of Roebourne in 1917 and held the seat until his death. He had many outside interests, but whatever he undertook was done for the advancement of the State and in the interests of the people. He was a most picturesque and most lovable man. Like Mr. Lutey, he had not an enemy in the world. Sometimes he offended people, but to make up a difference with Mr. Tees-