

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

### FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENT :

*The Legislative Assembly was dissolved by Proclamation on the 15th January, 1936.*

*The Sixteenth Parliament was convened for the despatch of business on the 6th August, 1936, and the First Session was commenced on that day.*

## Legislative Council.

*Thursday, 6th August, 1936.*

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### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Legislative Council met at 12 noon. The PRESIDENT took the Chair.

### PROCLAMATION.

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. A. R. Grant) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, summoning the first session of the Sixteenth Parliament.

### COMMISSIONERS.

His Excellency's Commissioners (His Honour Mr. Justice Draper and His Honour Mr. Justice Dwyer) having entered the Chamber at noon, a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, His Honour Mr. Justice Draper (Senior Commissioner) requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in his

name for the opening of the first session of the Sixteenth Parliament.

The Commission was read.

The Senior Commissioner read the following statement:—

*Honourable gentlemen of the Legislative Council and members of the Legislative Assembly—*

I have it in command from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor to deliver to you the following message:—

The Lieut.-Governor informs the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly that he has officially learned, with the deepest regret, that our Most Gracious Sovereign, His Majesty King George V. departed this life on the 20th day of January, 1936. The Lieut.-Governor further informs the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly that his Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VIII. was duly and lawfully proclaimed King of Great Britain, Ireland, and of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, Supreme Lord on and over the State of Western Australia, whereof public proclamation and due notification was fully and lawfully made by the Lieut.-Governor within this State on the 22nd day of January, 1936. The Lieut.-Governor therefore desires that honourable members will, before they proceed to sit and vote in their respective Houses, severally take and subscribe the oath of allegiance to His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VIII., before a Commissioner duly authorised by the Lieut.-Governor to attend in the Chamber of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly respectively this day to administer the same.

*Mr. President, Honourable gentlemen of the Legislative Council and members of the Legislative Assembly—*

I have it also in command from His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor to inform you that at 3 o'clock this afternoon His Excellency will declare to you the causes of the calling to

gether of this Parliament; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should first be chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, members of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by the Commissioner appointed by His Excellency you do elect your Speaker and notify the same to His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor.

### **SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.**

Members of the Legislative Assembly having retired, and the Junior Commissioner having left the Chamber, the Clerk read a Commission from His Excellency appointing Mr. Justice Draper a Commissioner for administering to members of the Legislative Council the oath of allegiance to His Majesty King Edward VIII.

Consequent on the demise of King George V. and the accession of King Edward VIII., members of the Legislative Council took the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King.

The Senior Commissioner left the Chamber.

#### *New Members.*

The Clerk produced returns to the writs for the election of members to serve in the Council for various provinces, from which it appeared that the following gentlemen were duly elected for the province set opposite their respective names:—Hon. L. B. Bolton (Metropolitan), Hon. W. H. Kitson (West), Hon. G. W. Miles (North), Hon. J. M. Drew (Central), Hon. G. B. Wood (East), Hon. L. Craig (South-West), Hon. A. Thomson (South-East), Hon. E. M. Heenan (North-East), and Hon. J. M. Macfarlane (Metropolitan-Suburban).

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

### **DEMISE OF KING GEORGE V.: ACCESSION OF KING EDWARD VIII.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [12.23]: On account of the death of our late beloved King, I beg to move the following motion:—

We, the members of the Legislative Council in the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, take this the earliest opportunity of expressing our deep sympathy in the great sorrow which Your Majesty has sustained through the death of your illustrious father and our late beloved Sovereign, King George V.

**THE HONORARY MINISTER** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): I second the motion. Question passed, members standing.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [12.24]: I beg to move the following motion:—

We, the members of the Legislative Council in the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, humbly offer our sincere congratulations on Your Majesty's accession to the Throne. We desire to assure Your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion, and to express the hope that Your Majesty may enjoy a long and prosperous reign.

**THE HONORARY MINISTER** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): I second the motion.

Question passed, members standing.

*Sitting suspended from 12.40 to 3 p.m.*

### **LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.**

His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.5 p.m. and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

It is with pleasure that I open the First Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of Western Australia for the transaction of public business.

With the deepest sorrow I refer to the recent passing of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. of blessed and glorious memory.

By his wise counsel his serene and discriminating outlook upon Empire and Dominion affairs, and his identifying himself with the aspirations of his subjects in all parts of his realm, the late King deservedly won the love and support of all sections of his people.

In the accession to the Throne of His Most Gracious Majesty, King Edward VIII., we are fortunate in having a Monarch who also has acquired a personal knowledge of Western Australia and its people.

During the month of June the people of this State were honoured by a visit from the recently appointed Governor General, in the person of His Excellency Baron Gowrie, V.C., G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O. While on

tour, His Excellency was joined by Lady Gowrie. Before leaving, His Excellency expressed himself as delighted with the State, its people and its resources.

It is proposed to hold a Premier's Conference at the end of August when matters of the utmost consequence to this State, and to Australia generally, will be discussed; one of the principal items being the financial relationships between the Commonwealth and the States.

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

The revenue for the year ended the 30th June, 1936, was £10,033,721, and the expenditure £9,945,343, resulting in a surplus of £88,378 on the year's transactions. This favourable condition is due to the higher national income reflecting an increased revenue.

Although the surplus, which is the first recorded since 1926-27, indicates returning prosperity, there can be no relaxation in economic Government expenditure. Relief measures because of the drought in the north-eastern portion of the wheat belt have involved considerable expenditure, which must be continued during the present financial year. As the pastoral areas have also been seriously affected by a shortage of rain, the wool clip may be substantially reduced. Strict economy and close supervision of all Government accounts, therefore, must be maintained to avoid a retrogression of the present satisfactory budgetary position.

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council—*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly—*

It is gratifying to be able to record the continuance of an improved condition regarding employment. The returns of last June show a reduction of 1,100 persons on sustenance or relief work as compared with June of the previous year. The numbers employed in industrial establishments now surpass those similarly engaged in the peak year of 1929-30, and the percentage of trade unionists unemployed has been reduced from 13.9 for the second quarter of last year to 9.2 for the same period of the current year.

As finances permit, a vigorous policy of constructing essential public works is being

pursued. Urgently needed employment is thus provided. The supplying of material required has created increased employment in private industry, and the money thus circulated has helped very materially in maintaining business activity and financial stability.

The vigorous campaign in support of the use of Western Australian products, which has proved so successful, will be prosecuted with unabated enthusiasm, as it constitutes a most fruitful means of creating permanent and full-time employment, a definite objective of my Ministers.

*Mining.*

The mining industry continues to maintain its excellent progress. In 1935 it employed 15,557 men, an increase of 2,247 over those employed during 1934. The gold yield of 649,049 fine ounces showed a slight decrease due to a temporary cessation of work early in the year.

Encouraged by a continuance of a high price for gold, much capital has been introduced into the State during the last year for the development of large low grade ore deposits, an outstanding example being the Big Bell mine. The Government have undertaken to construct a railway to this mine from Cue, and the necessary legislation will be placed before you for your consideration almost immediately. Several other mines are expected to reach the producing stage shortly, which should greatly increase the gold yield of the State.

To assist in the development of mining, branch mains have been laid to provide water at Ora Banda and Mt. Palmer, and the mains to Bullfinch, Marvel Loch, and Burbidge have been replaced by larger pipes. A pipe line from Coolgardie, 102 miles in length, to serve Norseman and other centres en route is in course of construction.

*North-West.*

It has been decided to build another passenger and cargo ship for the North-West trade, and the manager of the State Shipping Service has already left for the United Kingdom to make preliminary arrangements for the construction of the vessel.

The abolition of the 20 per cent. surtax on wharfage has afforded great benefit and relief to the residents of the North-West.

Steady progress has continued in the agricultural areas along the Gascoyne River. Several new settlers have taken up land, and the value to the State of the work being carried on is illustrated by the fact that the production of bananas has increased from 3,613 cases in 1933-34 to 17,805 cases in 1935-36.

The Onslow jetty, which was destroyed by cyclone two years ago, has been reconstructed. Progress is also being made with the Point Samson jetty.

#### *Roads.*

The Federal Aid Road Agreement will expire at the end of the present financial year, and consideration is being given by the Federal and State Governments to its extension. The existing agreement has conferred much benefit on this State, and no effort will be spared to secure its continuance on a basis of distribution at least as beneficial as the existing arrangement.

#### *Pastoral.*

The export of wool for the 11 months ended the 31st May, 1936, totalled 77,175,500 lbs. of greasy wool valued at £4,387,591, and 3,020,130 lbs. of scoured wool valued at £221,234.

The average price paid during the past year was 13d. per lb.

One hundred and sixty-eight thousand three hundred and sixty-two lambs and 5,411 sheep were exported overseas, constituting a record. Comment on the quality of the lambs was more than favourable.

#### *Wheat.*

A marked improvement in prices during the year has been the principal feature of the wheat industry. Unfortunately the past season in the eastern and north-eastern districts was very unfavourable, although in the southern wheat belt an excellent season was experienced and good yields were obtained. The estimated total crop harvested last season was 23,000,000 bushels from 2,423,628 acres.

The present season gives promise of being reasonably good, a dry autumn having been relieved by heavy and wide-spread rains early in June. Crops, although backward, are nevertheless healthy.

#### *Dairying.*

Although the dairying districts have lacked the usual rainfall, butter production amounted to 13,018,387 lbs., approximately the same as for the previous year. The quality has again improved, and should continue to do so as a result of the installation by all manufacturing companies of modern equipment.

A new cheese factory has been opened at Manjimup, and our production of cheese, which increased from 624,345 lbs. in 1934-35 to 834,000 lbs. in 1935-36, should this year be sufficient to satisfy local requirements, whereas last year the value of the quantity imported, mostly from the Eastern States, was £74,087.

#### *Fruit.*

As a result of another very heavy apple crop, estimated at 1,100,000 bushels, it is expected that the total export for the season will reach over 800,000 cases. The major portion of the crop was sold at very satisfactory prices.

#### *Potatoes.*

Potato production is steadily increasing. Western Australia is now exporting. The average yield in Western Australia is 4.75 tons per acre, the highest of any Australian State.

#### *Metropolitan Water Supply.*

The construction of the Canning dam is progressing, and owing to its storage of approximately 800 million gallons there were no restrictions on water supplied last year. It is hoped that by November the front face of the weir will be built to a height of 120 feet thus ensuring a cubical content of approximately 3,000 million gallons.

A 24in. diameter steel main has been laid from Queen's Park, *via* Canning Bridge, to Fremantle, thus ensuring ample supplies of clean hills water for shipping.

#### *Sewerage and Drainage.*

Progress has been made with the sewerage of the metropolitan area. The Claremont-Cottesloe system is approaching completion. Reticulation is proceeding in several districts. Progress on the construction of the Subiaco treatment works is up to schedule, but the non-delivery by contractors of pipes for the rising main will delay the closing down of the Burswood Island filter beds until the end of October.

The third section of the Maylands drainage works has been completed, and the fourth section is now in hand. Large storm-water drains have also been laid in the Subiaco and Nedlands districts.

#### *Forests.*

A steady improvement in the position of the timber industry continues. Orders received from many parts of the world combined with an improved local demand for timber, have justified the reopening of practically all sawmills, which are again working at full capacity. It is estimated that the output of sawn and hewn timber for the current year will amount to 13,000,000 cubic feet. Employment in this industry has increased from 3,680 in 1933 to 5,500 in 1936.

Rapid advances in reforestation work have been made during the past year by the use of Commonwealth and State funds. The total area of forest regenerated, planted, and brought under intensive management has been increased to approximately 385,000 acres. These advances in forest management and protection have assisted to place the sawmilling industry in a sounder position than at any other period in the State's history, and it is now possible to look forward with some assurance to a sustained annual yield of timber in perpetuity.

#### *Lands.*

During the year approval was granted for 421 applications for an area of 281,109 acres under Conditional Purchase alienation, and 84 applications for an area of 4,348,673 acres under Pastoral Lease. The Land Board allotted 93 blocks and there were 273 new settlers.

#### *Education.*

With the increased enrolment of children and the extension of services, expenditure on education and on the construction of new schools has been increased. The new central school for girls at East Perth, which should prove a splendid institution, is nearing completion. A notable innovation has been the introduction of a series of broadcast educational talks during school hours.

#### *Railways.*

Returns from the Railway Department continue to show a satisfactory improvement. Revenue for the year 1935-36 was greater by £146,950 than that of the previous year, and notwithstanding an in-

creased expenditure necessary to secure the greater earnings, and also an extraordinary expenditure of a non-recurring nature, the net return from railway operations was still £26,018 better than for the year 1934-35.

Orders have been placed for six Diesel electric rail cars, which will probably be placed in traffic during the current financial year. These will afford improved passenger service on country branch lines.

Tenders are being called for 12 trolley buses to replace the present tramway service to Claremont and Nedlands, and to extend to Wembley the existing bus route between East Perth and West Leederville.

Work on the foundations for extensive additions to the East Perth power house is nearing completion, and the machinery is now arriving. It is anticipated that the new plant will be placed in commercial service during the latter part of 1937. This will enable the power house to meet all demands for electric current for some time to come.

#### *Public Health.*

New hospitals have been opened at Gnowangerup, Manjimup, and Merredin.

The Flying Doctor Scheme was inaugurated at Port Hedland under the control of the Western Australian section of the Australian medical services, which is subsidised by the Government to the extent of £500 per annum. A similar service has been established at Wyndham.

A contract has been let for a new leprosanatorium at Derby to cost £13,000, and a committee has been appointed to report upon the desirability or otherwise of continuing to house lepers on portion of the Woorloo sanatorium reserve.

#### *Legislation.*

You will be asked to give consideration to measures dealing, among other things, with:—

- Aborigines.
- Uniformity of Taxation.
- Financial Emergency Legislation.
- Municipal Corporations Act.
- Cue-Big Bell Railway Construction.
- Reciprocal Maintenance Orders.
- Insurance of Pearlers.
- Boat Licensing Act.
- Police Act Consolidation.
- Prospecting for Oil.

I now declare this session of Parliament open, and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

## BILL—BOAT LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. J. M. Drew—Central) [3.29]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend Section 4 of the Boat Licensing Act of 1878."

Leave given; Bill introduced, and read a first time.

## LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

**The PRESIDENT**: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Lieut.-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. E. M. HEENAN** (North-East)  
[3.30]: 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:—  
"May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council 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."

We have just listened with great interest to the Speech delivered by His Excellency and I feel sure you, Mr. President, will agree with me when I say that the record of achievement during the past year is most commendable. It is a legitimate cause for satisfaction that for the first occasion since the year 1926-27, the finances of the State have shown a surplus. For years past we have become accustomed to continued deficits. These, of course, have been primarily due to the hard times through which the State passed during the years of depression. Better times appear to be looming on the horizon and the present surplus of £88,378 is a happy augury for the future. I earnestly trust that the favourable trend towards prosperity will continue and that this year's transactions will result in another and

more substantial surplus. One of the most vital and pressing problems of to-day, not only in Western Australia or Australia but in the whole world, is that of unemployment. More than any other cause, it is at the bottom of all the social unrest that afflicts the world to-day. It is very heartening to learn from His Excellency's Speech that our conditions in this respect are becoming less acute. The aim and the responsibility of every Government should be to provide full-time employment for their citizens so that all can maintain a decent standard of living and secure a fair share of the abundant wealth that is being produced. Unfortunately, we have not achieved this desirable end during the past year, but some progress has been made and I earnestly hope that during this year full-time employment will be found for all. I am very pleased to note that the Government intend to pursue a vigorous policy with regard to the construction of essential public works, and I hope that when projects are being considered, due attention will be given to the solution of the water difficulty and the road problem, which are delaying progress in the North-Eastern goldfields districts and the pastoral areas. People in those far-flung localities are still carrying out pioneering work of national importance and are deserving of the utmost consideration. In dealing with unemployment, I must commend the efforts of the Government in their vigorous campaign in support of State products. I trust that their appeal will meet with a still greater response in the future. If we spend our money locally, it creates employment in various avenues and makes conditions better for all. It is a matter for general satisfaction that the gold mining industry continues to maintain excellent progress. The people of Western Australia have every cause to be thankful for what the industry has accomplished in recent years. At present there are approximately 16,000 men directly employed in the industry, and that number will undoubtedly be increased during the ensuing 12 months. The Government are to be commended for sponsoring developments at the Big Bell mine, which is a huge low-grade proposition that mining experts assert will produce wealth to rival the famous mine at Wiluna. The price of gold shows no indication of a decline and it seems apparent that, in view of the present state of world unrest, the high price will continue because gold seems

to be the one basis of exchange on which all the nations of the world are agreed, and it appears to me that the present state of world unrest will serve to accentuate the demand for gold. In view of its importance, therefore, it is essential that the industry be fostered and nurtured. The recent remarks of Professor Whiffeld should claim the attention of all. In addressing the Institute of Engineers of Australia, the professor urged that wider powers should be granted to the Mines Department to ensure that our mines were worked scientifically and that valuable State assets were not wasted or destroyed for the sake of individual profits. The professor is confident that, with proper control, the industry can be maintained for many years to come. It is a matter for regret that during the past year the number of fatal accidents that occurred in the mining industry has assumed alarming proportions. This is an aspect to which the Government must give their closest attention because it is causing grave concern and anxiety to the men employed in the mines and threatens to affect their morale. Another aspect that is sure to claim attention is the shorter working week. Mining is a very dangerous and hazardous occupation and in view of that and the immense profits being earned from it, the claim of the men for a shorter working week must receive most serious consideration. There is a world-wide trend towards the shortening of working hours, and unless we realise it and grapple with the problem, it will assuredly solve itself in some unpleasant form. Other subjects upon which I should like to touch are workers' homes and decentralisation, but other members from the goldfields especially will undoubtedly deal with them during the course of the debate. In passing, however, I must mention that the housing problem on the goldfields is still very acute, and exorbitant rents are being extracted from the workers. We are hopeful that the start made in extending the operations of the Workers' Homes Board to Kalgoorlie will continue. We hope also that the Government will give their practical and moral support to the growing movement in favour of opening up the port of Esperance for goldfields' freights. Great quantities of machinery and other goods which must be purchased from the Eastern States are at present being shipped all the way to Fremantle and then conveyed by rail to the goldfields. We on

the goldfields are of opinion that this is a hardship on all affected, and that a great improvement could be made by utilising the port of Esperance, which is the natural port of the goldfields. In conclusion, may I express the wish that this session of the sixteenth Parliament of Western Australia will achieve a great amount of good for the people, not only of Western Australia, but of the Commonwealth, to which we all belong.

**HON. T. MOORE** (Central) [3.39]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 3.41 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 6th August, 1936.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon, pursuant to Proclamation by His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. G. Steere).

### MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from His Excellency's Commissioner requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.