

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Council

TUESDAY, 26 JULY 1910

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TUESDAY, 26 JULY, 1910.

The PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir Arthur Morgan) took the chair at half-past 3 o'clock.

DEATH OF KING EDWARD VII.
AND ACCESSION OF KING
GEORGE V.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO THE
GOVERNOR.

The PRESIDENT said: I have to report that on the 19th July I presented to His Excellency the Governor the resolution agreed to by the Council on the 13th instant, relative to the death of King Edward VII. and the accession of King George V., and that His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

“Government House,
“Brisbane.

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL,—

“I beg to inform you that I shall have much pleasure in complying with your request that I forward by the first opportunity to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State the loyal and dutiful resolution that has been come to by your honourable House, in order that the same may be duly presented to His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth.

“WM. MACGREGOR.

“19th July, 1910.”

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT said: I have to inform the Council that I have received a letter of date 18th July, from His Excellency the Governor, notifying the resignation, on the 16th July, of the Honourable Joseph Capel Smyth.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1.

ASSENT.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Governor conveying the Royal Assent to this Bill.

JOINT COMMITTEES.

MESSAGE FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The PRESIDENT announced the receipt of a message from the Assembly, intimating that they had appointed Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Cottell and May to be members of the Joint Library Committee; Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Roberts and Ryland to be members of the Joint Committee for the Management of the Parliamentary Refreshment-rooms; and Mr. Speaker and Messrs. D. Hunter and Payne to be members of the Joint Committee for the Management and Superintendence of the Parliamentary Buildings.

MEMBERS SWORN.

The following members took the oath and subscribed the roll:—

Hon. ERNEST JAMES STEVENS;
Hon. THOMAS ALEXANDER JOHNSON; and
Hon. CHARLES STEWART MCGHIE.

DEATH OF MRS. KIDSTON.

ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE AND ADJOURNMENT
OF COUNCIL.

HON. A. H. BARLOW: I desire to ask the permission of the Council to move, without notice, the following resolution of sympathy, after which I propose to move that the Council do now adjourn:—

1. That the Council desires to express its heartfelt sorrow at the death of Mrs. Kidston, and to assure the Honourable William Kidston of its sincere sympathy with him in his irreparable loss.

2. That this resolution be conveyed by the President to the Honourable William Kidston.

The bereavement which has so sadly fallen upon the Premier, the head of our system of responsible government, is a sudden and most severe misfortune. More than forty years ago a lad and lass, belonging to that sturdy race, the Scottish Lowlanders, walked together amid the country lanes and green fields surrounding the ancient and then rural town of old Falkirk. In time they ventured upon a home for themselves, which by his industry and her care was a happy one; but, seeking better things, they emigrated to Australia. For a time things went well with them. Then, by adherence to principles which they both believed to be right, came a time of reverse and depression, the details of which cannot be dwelt upon and are only known to their intimate friends; yet, after the clouds came the sunshine, and the one-time young Scottish mechanic rose to be Premier of this State. During their reverses Mrs. Kidston bravely stood beside her husband and battled on until prosperity smiled upon them. In her prosperity she was just what she had always been in adversity—the faithful comrade and helper of the man with whose fortunes she had allied herself—never forgetting old friends of bygone times, and pursuing in her prosperity and prominence the even tenor of her way as she did in obscurity and misfortune, until she had lived to see her husband honoured by his native town of Falkirk by admission as an honorary burgess—a distinction conferred previously upon only two or three world-wide celebrities. Mrs. Kidston did not possess any trace of a nature at once shallow and demonstrative, but she was a keen judge of character, an intelligent observer of current events, a firm friend, and an implicit believer in him whom she has now left. It was painfully evident to me some time ago, from intimate observation, that she was in serious danger, and the event has proved that nothing that medical skill and loving, careful nursing could do would have prevented or long deferred the sad ending which came so suddenly last Saturday evening. The problems of life and death and the dispensations of Providence have never yet been solved; it is still, "One shall be taken and another left." To the bereaved one we can do no more than tender sympathy. It is impossible that he can forget the lost one, but in the beautiful words of the poet who lived and died so comparatively near the place of the Premier's birth and early youth—

Still o'er those scenes his mem'ry wakes
And fondly broods with miser care.
Time but the impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.

She has gone, but she has left behind her as a legacy to their father and to Queensland good sons who will be his prop and stay as

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advancing years come upon him. The memory of a good wife and mother is a harbour-light to those she left behind—

A light in the window for thee—

to guide them to follow one who is not lost—but gone before. I beg to move the motion as read.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. G. W. GRAY: I rise to second the resolution so feelingly proposed by the Hon. Mr. Barlow. It was only a few evenings ago that I had occasion to meet the Premier in the other Chamber on a matter he wished to talk over with me, and I found he had been called suddenly away to the hospital. He returned shortly afterwards, and the first topic of our conversation was the illness of his wife. I feel quite sure that what has happened was not expected, because he did not seem to think the matter was serious; so the blow that has fallen upon him is doubly severe owing to its suddenness. It seems very hard, indeed, after so many years of loving friendship, now Mr. Kidston has attained to a high position and prosperity, that his wife should be taken. I feel quite sure that the one thing which made his position a pride to him was the fact that it was shared by the wife, who had gone through all the ups and downs of life; and, of course, he was naturally expecting that she would share in his prosperity and all that appertained to his high position as the first Minister of this State. I wrote to the Premier to-day expressing my sorrow that I was not able to attend the funeral or to pay my respects by being present in the cortege from his house to the railway station, for the reason that I was confined to the house with a very severe cold. Now that it has fallen to my lot to second the motion, I can only repeat what the Minister has so feelingly expressed—that we all sincerely and deeply feel for our Premier in his bereavement.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. A. HINCHCLIFFE: I desire to support the resolution. I need hardly say that very many years ago I had the pleasure of meeting the Premier's wife in Rockhampton, long before he occupied any public position in this community. I can testify to her estimable character and the many good qualities she possessed. (Hear, hear!) I very deeply regret the blow which has fallen upon the Premier of this State. It is a serious blow to any man; it is much more serious when the man who suffers the blow occupies a responsible position in public life. I need not say any more, but I again express my deep sympathy with the Premier in the sad loss he has sustained.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. T. A. JOHNSON: As a representative of the Darling Downs, I feel called upon heartily to support the motion that has been brought forward by the Hon. Mr. Barlow. In giving expression to my own sympathy with our Premier, I can assure the members of this Chamber that the greatest possible sympathy has been expressed not only in the town of Warwick but in the whole of the district. They feel very keenly and sympathetically the great loss the Premier has sustained in the death of his beloved partner in life. As one who passed through a similar trouble a short time ago, I feel more keenly and more sympathetically the loss that the Premier has sustained, and I am sure that every hon. member here will fully and thoroughly

sympathise with him in his grief. He will no doubt feel this severe blow the more coming as it does at the beginning of the session. I trust that Almighty God will comfort and strengthen him and prepare him for the work that lies before him. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

HON. A. H. BARLOW: In pursuance of the melancholy duty that we have assembled to-day to perform, I beg to move that the Council do now adjourn.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at eight minutes to 4 o'clock.
