

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 1917

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY, 1917.

The SPEAKER (Hon. W. McCormack, *Cairns*) took the chair at 7 o'clock.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

The SPEAKER announced the receipt of a message from His Excellency the Governor conveying his assent to the following Bills:—

Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Bill (No. 2);

Health Acts Amendment Bill.

QUESTIONS.

MOULDERS AT IPSWICH WORKSHOPS.

Mr. GUNN (*Carnarvon*), on behalf of Mr. Roberts, asked the Secretary for Railways—

"1. What was the average earnings of moulders at the Ipswich workshops when working six days per week?

"2. What is the average earning of moulders per week since the working arrangement of four days per week?

"3. Are the men working four days per week being paid bonus rates?

"4. If so, who requested bonus payment?"

The SECRETARY FOR RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Coyne, *Warrego*) replied—

"1. £4 0s. 5d.

"2. £2 10s. 10d.

"3. No bonus being paid. The men are working four days and three hours per week.

"4. See No. 3."

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

CHANGES IN THE CABINET. PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The PREMIER: With the permission of the House, I desire to make a Ministerial statement.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I desire to inform the House that this day the resignation of the Hon. William Hamilton, member of the Legislative Council, of his appointment as a member of the Executive Council, and of his position as Secretary for Mines, has been accepted by His Excellency the Governor. I have also to announce that this day the Hon. William Hamilton was appointed President of the Legislative Council. I desire also to state that the appointment of the Hon. Alfred James Jones as a member of the Legislative Council and a member of the Executive Council, with the portfolio of Secretary for Mines, has also been confirmed by His Excellency the Governor.

I desire to congratulate the Hon. Mr. Hamilton on his rise to the high office of President of the Legislative Council. As we are all aware, Mr. Hamilton has been for many years connected with the Labour movement, and has been one of those who has "borne the heat and burden of the day."

(Hear, hear!) He was a member of this House for sixteen years, and during that time, I am sure I am right in saying that he won the respect and esteem of members on both sides of this House for his sincerity, earnestness, and steadfastness.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: During the time he has represented the Government in the Legislative Council—for the last eighteen months or so—he has carried out his duties with conspicuous ability, and I am sure that in his new position he will uphold the reputation he has already attained in another sphere.

I desire also to congratulate Mr. Jones on his appointment to the position of Secretary for Mines. Mr. Jones is a gentleman with very considerable parliamentary experience in this Chamber, and I think he has earned the respect of members for his ability and his industry.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. J. TOLMIE (*Toowoomba*): I only desire to re-echo the sentiments of the Premier with regard to the appointment of Mr. Hamilton to the position he occupies to-day. If an hon. gentleman had to be appointed from the other side to fill the position of President of the Legislative Council, then I would just as soon prefer that Mr. Hamilton should occupy the position as anyone else, as in his association with members of this House he has won the respect and esteem of all.

I may say that in the translation of Mr. Jones to the Upper Chamber, with the portfolio of Secretary for Mines, I hope that he will be a source of strength to the Ministry. His resignation from this House will give public opinion an opportunity to test the conduct of the Government.

The PREMIER: No doubt.

HON. J. TOLMIE: I congratulate Mr. Jones also on his appointment.

Mr. BOOKER (*Wide Bay*): I cannot let the occasion pass without just a few comments. Mr. Hamilton is a personal friend of mine, and he is a man for whom I have a strong personal regard. He is one of the old stalwarts of the Labour party, and he is one of those who are responsible for putting the Government where they are to-day. (Hear, hear!) For that reason I can quite understand the Premier's remarks. Further, I take it that the elevation of my friend, Mr. Hamilton, to the President's chair means that the Upper House is to stay. (Government laughter.) Just listen to the hilarity of the younger element of the Labour party, the young men who have done little or nothing for the party!

Mr. KIRWAN: That is not fair; it is unkind.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not in order. He must speak to the question before the House.

Mr. BOOKER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, interjections are irrelevant at all times. The Government are satisfied to put their best ornament in the position of President of the Legislative Council. It indicates to the people of Queensland that the Council is there to stay. (Renewed Government laughter.) I say may they stay, and for many years may the Hon. Mr. Hamilton be President of the Council.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MEATWORKS BILL.

MESSAGE TO COUNCIL DECLARING BILL LOST.

The PREMIER: I ask permission to move a motion without notice.

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Premier be allowed to move a motion without notice?

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I beg to move—That the following message be sent to the Legislative Council:—

“Mr. President.—

“The Legislative Assembly having had under consideration, and disagreed to, the amendments of the Legislative Council in the Meatworks Bill, and having returned the Bill to the Legislative Council, which Bill the Legislative Council have failed to pass, beg now to intimate that the Bill, in the terms of the Parliamentary Bills Referendum Act of 1908, is now lost.

“W. McCORMACK,
“Speaker.

“Legislative Assembly Chamber,
“Brisbane, 15th February, 1917.”

It will be remembered that last evening we adjourned until 7 o'clock this evening to enable another place to formulate reasons why they were not accepting the Meatworks Bill as endorsed by this Chamber. It was intimated last night that the Council had not had time to prepare their reasons, and consequently reasons were not assigned and the Bill was not returned last evening.

HON. W. D. ARMSTRONG: Was not an attempt made to reinstate the Bill?

The PREMIER: There was an attempt made by the representative of the Government in another place to reinstate the Bill, but he was not allowed to reinstate it. The Council rejected the offer, which shows clearly that they never at any time had any intentions of sending reasons to this Chamber why they had not accepted the views of the Legislative Assembly with regard to the measure.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: They have not sent reasons for the very best of causes—that is, that it is not desirable, in the view of the vested interests they represent, that the real reason should be made public as to why they are not accepting the Bill as sent to them. Consequently it is necessary that we should declare the Bill as “lost” within the meaning of the Parliamentary Bills Referendum Act—because it is an important measure; a measure which was intended to give the Government power to take control of meatworks under certain circumstances in the public interests; also to take possession of any other works which were used for the manufacture of foodstuff or commodities which would be required in connection with the prosecution of the war. (Hear, hear!) That was the purpose of the measure. Now the Council have deliberately refused to place this necessary power in the hands of the Government; and not only have they refused to give us those powers, but they are more persistent in their refusal than they were

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twelve months ago. It is a measure which was introduced for the people. It was introduced in the people's House and it was passed in the interests of the people.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: It has been rejected by a House of vested interests unfortunately, in which, in many instances, direct representatives of those vested interests hold seats. (Hear, hear!) The position is a serious one, and the Government will certainly see that an opportunity is given to the people themselves to pass judgment upon the action of that Chamber with regard to this and other measures.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. J. TOLMIE (*Toowoomba*): As a point of order, I wish to know whether you, Mr. Speaker, have any evidence that this Bill has been lost. So far as I know, there has been no intimation in this Chamber in regard to the matter, and I should like to know on what grounds the Premier assumes that the Bill has been lost. I think we should conduct the business in an orderly manner. The Bill was sent to the Upper House, and I do not know of any intimation of it being returned to us. At any rate, you, Mr. Speaker, in your official position, have not intimated to the House anything in regard to the measure, and I do not know that the Premier has appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the position of that Bill at the present time, or to make discovery as to whether it ever reached the Council, and, if it has reached the Council, what fate has befallen it. We have no evidence on that point except the hearsay evidence of some persons who have heard something, or perhaps they have read something in the Press, but in the ordinary course it has not been brought before us. However, if we declare the Bill "lost," then the Premier will have an opportunity of doing what he has said—that is, to give the people a chance to express themselves in regard to the action of the Legislative Council. The Premier made a terrible mistake in not having accepted the Bill twelve months ago, because the public have had an opportunity of considering the matter from all points of view and have come to see that it is loaded up with dangerous propositions right to the hilt. This Bill is like most Bills introduced by the Government. There is something in it not clear to the public; something in the measure for the purpose of taking the public down.

The PREMIER: Will you tell us what those things are? Name them.

HON. J. TOLMIE: We will have plenty of opportunities of naming those things when the Premier takes that step that he has been promising so long he would take, but which, up to the present time, he has failed to do. He is very courageous when he is on the front Treasury bench and thunders to the House his decision with regard to certain things, but when it comes to action his courage oozes away and he never meets the public. Now we are told that he is going to bring this measure before the public. Having made that intimation, before the House closes he should go further and give us an opportunity of knowing whether a referendum is going to be taken in regard to this matter, or whether the Government are going to seek a more direct way, and

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that is, to appeal to the people themselves as to whether they possess the confidence of the people.

OPPOSITION MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. J. TOLMIE: That is the more direct and simple way for the Premier to appeal to the people, and if he was returned with the overwhelming majority that he has now, or even with a majority at all, I am sure that the Upper House would not stand in the way of such legislation as has already been submitted to them. I believe they are doing the right thing when they think the country is in danger, and when the rights of individuals are being menaced as they are being menaced by the actions of the Government in the past; when things are being done so derogatory to the welfare of the State of Queensland by this Government, and when the position brought about is so unsatisfactory to progress and development, I think it is high time that the Council should endeavour to force the Government to appeal to the people to see whether the people stand behind them in regard to this matter. I am quite certain in my own mind that when an appeal is made the country will justify the action that the Government has taken.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear! and loud laughter.

HON. J. TOLMIE: Hon. members seem to find a very great amount of encouragement owing to the fact that I said the country would justify their action. There can be no misunderstanding about it. What I wish to convey is that the people will stand behind the Upper House in the action they have taken. (Government laughter.) I do not say that all their actions are satisfactory, but when a number of actions is performed by an individual all in the one direction with a view to benefiting the country, then there must be a summing up of the good and the bad.

The PREMIER: You have given half your case away.

HON. J. TOLMIE: There must be a summing up of the actions of the Upper House, and I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind—and from my associations with the general public I think I am right in saying also that there is not the slightest doubt in their minds—that the amount of good that the Upper House has done in dealing with the Government measures has been incalculable. They have, at any rate, given the people a chance of safeguarding their interests, and when the Government face the people, if they do—and I say that with a great deal of doubt as to whether they will or not—when they do summon up courage enough to face the people in regard to the matters they say they are going to put before them by way of referendum, the people will stand by the Upper House.

Mr. MACARTNEY (*Toowoong*): The leader of the Opposition, I understood, raised a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon. member be seated, and I will dispose of it? As the leader of the Opposition must know, the House has given the Chief Secretary permission to move a motion.

Mr. MACARTNEY: Not that motion.

The SPEAKER: It does not matter what the motion contains. The Speaker is simply

the servant of the House, and whenever any member obtains the permission of the House to move a motion, that motion is put by the Speaker.

Mr. MACARTNEY: Not if it is a disorderly motion.

The SPEAKER: This is not a disorderly motion. So long as the motion is couched in plain, parliamentary language, the Speaker has no option but to accept such motion when moved by any member in this House.

Mr. MACARTNEY: I do not rise for the purpose of disputing your ruling, but to call attention to section 3 of the Parliamentary Bills Referendum Act of 1908, which provides—

“(2) For the purposes of this Act, such Bill shall be deemed to have been rejected a second time when the Legislative Assembly in the next session of Parliament has, after an interval of not less than three months from the first rejection of the Bill as defined by the last preceding subsection, again passed such Bill (or a Bill substantially the same) and transmitted it to the Legislative Council for its concurrence therein, not less than one week before the close of the session, and the Legislative Council before the close of the session has either—

(c) Rejected or failed to pass such Bill; or

(d) Passed such Bill with any amendment or amendments in which the Legislative Assembly does not concur.”

I would like to ask the Premier if the session is closed? I remember that a day or two before Christmas we were under the impression that the session was going to close before Christmas, but we find ourselves still here. Last night there was some talk of closing, and yet we are here to-night, and, so far as I know at the present time, we are going to be here to-morrow night. I think that this motion cannot be put until the session has closed.

The PREMIER: How can you put it after the session has closed?

Mr. MACARTNEY: It is not necessary for the purposes of the Act that it should be passed. If the hon. member had pointed out any provision in the Act which necessitates this motion being passed, I could understand him, but the section is clear that the default does not arise until the session has closed, and the session has not yet closed.

The SPEAKER: Is the hon. member disputing the Speaker's ruling?

Mr. MACARTNEY: No. I would not like to run into conflict with your ruling. I know that certain consequences follow. (Laughter.) I am accepting your ruling and pointing out the law. The Premier must necessarily have introduced this motion for the purpose of gaining some political point or capital, because it can have no other meaning. He accentuates the importance of this Bill. He accentuates the necessity of it as a measure for the purpose of dealing with war matters—with enterprises which are necessary in connection with the war. But the hon. member has not pointed out that the Government have succeeded in doing without this measure for the best part of two years, and nothing has happened to prevent arrangements going on in respect to the war

as before. Nor has he pointed out that last session he had the opportunity of getting this Bill through with simply two words in it—that the properties should be taken over on “just terms”—not on any arbitrary terms, but just a pure claim for honest and reasonable justice. The hon. member would not accept that Bill last session with that amendment. That amendment is in this year, but the hon. member would not accept it this year. That Bill has gone back to the Upper House with an objection to that amendment, and how on earth the hon. member can reasonably stand in this House and tell the people of Queensland that the Upper House have acted unreasonably in rejecting the Bill again this session, I cannot understand. He has failed to show any reason or justice on the part of the Government with respect to meeting the wishes of another place. The hon. member came out with his ordinary claptrap statement about vested interests. He says that gentlemen sitting in the Upper House are the representatives of the actual vested interests concerned. Coming from the hon. member—coming from the party that sits on the other side of the House—what are we to take out of that? Whom do hon. members represent? To whom are they tied?

The PREMIER: The people.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. MACARTNEY: What about the genesis of this Bill? We remember the occasion when the hon. member was led down George street to the Trades Hall to get his instructions for this Bill. That was the origin of the Bill. The Bill had its birth in a deputation which the hon. member went to receive in the Trades Hall at Turbot street, and yet the hon. member has the effrontery to get up and say that gentlemen on the other side are representing vested interests. If the hon. member is not a representative of certain interests in this State—if he is not the tied representative of those interests—I do not know what he is. Why, we have men going down to conferences in Sydney in their Ministerial capacities—to attend the conference of the Australian Workers' Union.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is not in order.

Mr. MACARTNEY: When the hon. member is allowed to cast a reflection on members of the Upper House about their relations or their connections outside, surely I am at liberty to suggest just what the Government is whose head makes such remarks!

Mr. BOOKER: I do not know whether my remarks will meet with your approval, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that the remarks of the Premier just indicate the spirit of hon. members on the other side, and the echo that came from the supporters of the Cabinet only emphasises it. When this Bill was first proposed, as the hon. member for Toowong so aptly put it, it emanated, not from the Cabinet, not from the Government supporters, but from an irresponsible body outside, controlling the public life of Queensland.

The SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC LANDS and GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Not so! Not true! Not true!

Mr. BOOKER: Here, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, is where I may come into conflict with yourself—I do not desire to do so. The

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position of Queensland to-day is so acute that I might be permitted to have some latitude in my remarks. I wish to point out a very remarkable coincidence. Just on the eve of the present state of things in connection with this Bill, we find the meatworks in Southern Queensland closed down. Within a few days ago the chilled beef, the frozen beef in the works of Queensland—for no other purposes than for the Imperial troops and the allies, besides providing ostensibly cheap meat for the people of Queensland—through a strike—

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: The position is so acute at this particular time—

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: I am leading up to my point of contention.

The SPEAKER: Order! I might point out that the hon. member practically told the House that he intended to go beyond the scope of the motion, and expected to be pulled up. If the hon. member adopts those tactics, he must expect to be pulled up. I don't want to interfere with the hon. gentleman's speech, but I hope he will deal with the subject before the House—that is, the message to the Legislative Council.

Mr. BOOKER: The point I want to raise is this: that the Premier proposes that this Bill shall go to the people. That is so. The Premier is putting this Bill in the form of a referendum to the people—for the people to decide whether this Bill, as the Government proposes, should become an Act of Parliament—to control in the future the meat companies' business in Queensland. That is quite evident; consequently, the remarks I am passing have a very great bearing upon the welfare of the people, and that is why I am trying to say this to the people of Queensland—not necessarily to my friends opposite, because I know what their determination is, and anything that any hon. member on this side may say goes for nought. But the people have the final voice in the legislation of this country, and I am to-night just trying to convey to the people of Queensland the dangers that are ahead of them. Now, the very fact of the strike that has taken place—

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: I cannot conceive, Mr. Speaker, how you can take objection to my remarks in this respect.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: This proposal of the Premier's is to go to the people, and as a representative—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is nothing whatever in the motion about sending the matter to the people. The motion is to send a message to the Upper House. I hope the hon. member will keep in order.

Mr. BOOKER: I am just as earnest about it, Mr. Speaker, as you are. As a representative of the people I have absolute rights and privileges from my place in this Chamber to say to the people—

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! The hon. member only has rights and privileges within the scope of the motion. The Standing Orders are definite on these matters, and the hon. member knows quite well what

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he may discuss under this motion. I hope he will keep in order. His rights and privileges are not being curtailed by me at all.

Mr. BOOKER: You are curtailing mine to-night.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not curtailing the hon. member's rights and privileges in any way. But the Speaker has to administer the Standing Orders and keep members to the question so far as his ability will enable him to do so, and I intend to keep members to the question now before the House.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BOOKER: I am a representative of the people, and I represent a very important constituency.

Mr. COLLINS: The canaille. And other interjections.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: I represent an important constituency; I represent the larger proportion of that constituency; and I claim the privilege to-night, from my place here, to put my case to the people of Queensland. The Premier's rights and privileges are no more than those which I have.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: I am on equal terms, Mr. Speaker, in my place in the House, to put my case to the people.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! The hon. member has the same privileges as any other hon. member. The Premier has no more privileges than has any other hon. member in this House. The hon. member knows that.

Mr. BOOKER: I presume that I have the same rights and privileges as has the Premier. The Premier said it was his determination to submit this Bill in the form of a referendum to the people. That is so.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member is in order in mentioning that in passing; but he is not in order in making a speech upon it.

Mr. BOOKER: I take it I have the same privileges and the same rights to put from this side of the House the case of—as the Premier said—vested interests. There are no vested interests in the Parliament of Queensland that have not some big bearing upon the welfare of the people. And I say this—that this strike that has taken place—

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. BOOKER: If I cannot state my case, it is no use my staying here to-night. That is all about it.

The honourable member thereupon left the Chamber amid Government laughter and interjections.

Question put and passed.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER: I beg to move—That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 20th March. I am sure all hon. members will be pleased that the session has practically now come to an end. I propose that we shall adjourn until 20th March, and in the meantime a proclamation will be issued proroguing Parliament. We have had a very strenuous session, lasting from last August;

and we have done a lot of work. There have been thirty-two measures passed. Unfortunately, some very important measures we have been unable to put upon the statute-book—notably the Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Act Amendment Bill, the Initiative and Referendum Bill, the Wages Bill, the Meatworks Bill, the Abolition of the Legislative Council Bill, and some others.

The TREASURER: The Land Valuation Bill.

The PREMIER: And the Land Valuation Bill, as I am reminded by the Treasurer. I desire to thank the members of the House for their regular attendance, and for the assistance they have been throughout the session. I also desire to thank the leader of the Opposition and all the members of the Opposition for the assistance that has been given us during the session. I congratulate them upon the work that they have done. They have made the best use of the material at their hands. (Government laughter.) I think I will not be misunderstood if I express the opinion that they have considerably enhanced the prospects of their party's remaining in the position which it now occupies. (Loud Government laughter.) That is no personal reflection, Mr. Speaker; it is merely a reference to the material that they had to work upon.

Mr. MACARTNEY: Why don't you get on the table and crow?

The PREMIER: I desire to thank also the Chairman of Committees, the officers of the House, and members of the Press generally, for the assistance and courtesy shown us throughout the session. I hope that during the few ensuing months the allies will make a long stride forward on to the road to the goal of victory that we are all confident will be finally achieved.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. J. TOLMIE: There was one announcement which I expected to hear from the Premier, and that was in reference to this campaign he proposes to institute against the Upper House during the next few months. He indicated to us a few minutes ago that such was his intention. Some members on the Opposition side have to make arrangements for leaving for a short period.

The PREMIER: Queensland?

HON. J. TOLMIE: No; going away on holidays. Surely members on the front Treasury bench do not begrudge members on this side going beyond the borders of the State?

The PREMIER: I wish you would all leave Queensland! (Loud laughter.)

HON. J. TOLMIE: We thought that the Minister for Lands might place an embargo on hon. members leaving Queensland. (Laughter.)

Mr. KIRWAN: There is no embargo on you chaps.

HON. J. TOLMIE: I am sure that if ever the leader of the House was sincere he certainly was sincere in his statement that he hopes all of us will leave the State. The hon. gentleman has given us a certain amount of flapdoodle about the work he has done, but the leader of the House, with a subservient majority behind him, ought to be able to accomplish some work.

Mr. PETERSON: You have got the "Gunn" over there. (Laughter.)

Mr. GUNN: And you have got the "Coyne." (Laughter.)

HON. J. TOLMIE: I am sure that, notwithstanding the hilarity of members opposite, they regret that the session is over and that they have got to face the caucus—the driving force outside which tells them what they have got to do in regard to legislation they failed to pass. We anticipate, at any rate, that the Premier will give us some timely notice when he proposes to start his campaign.

The PREMIER: I will certainly do that.

HON. J. TOLMIE: From my knowledge of the Premier I do not think that he is likely to do it until after next session, when he will be forced to meet the people of the State. Personally, I and the members of the Opposition are glad that the session has ended, because a good deal of legislation has been attempted to be passed and put on the statute-book that is inimical to the interests of the State. It has been a strenuous session, and a fruitless session to a great extent, and its fruitlessness lies entirely with the Government party. If they had any desire to benefit the interests of the public, then the legislation they introduced would not have been introduced at all. The session is over, and I trust, at any rate, that the officers of the House will have a little time to recuperate themselves after such strenuous work. It has been a hard session for members, and it has been a still harder session for officers of the House who are compelled to be here for long hours. Seeing that they had to stay here during the present hot weather, I hope that an extension of time will be given to them so far as any recreation is concerned. I hope that the next session will be more fruitful of good work. I endorse the sentiments of the Premier with regard to the war. I may say that we all stand on common ground in our desire to see the war brought to a termination, and the sooner it is brought to a termination the better it will be for the State of Queensland and the whole of the Commonwealth as well. I desire to express to you, Mr. Speaker, and the officers of the House, my felicitations on the close of the session, and I hope that your recess will be an enjoyable one.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Mr. BAYLEY (*Pittsworth*): In the absence of the leader of the Country party—(Government cheers and laughter)—I take this opportunity at the closing of the session to say how the members of the Country party appreciated the courtesy which has at all times been extended to them by officers of the House. We also desire to express our appreciation of the measure of courtesy extended to us by members on the Government side of the House. I trust that during the recess members on the Government side will be able to visit the country districts and that they will be able to consider the needs of the country and understand more perfectly the conditions that prevail at the present time, so that when the recess is over and Parliament reassembles they will be in a position to bring forward legislation for the good of the State and for the good of electors generally. (Hear, hear!)

The SPEAKER: On behalf of the officers of the House I desire to thank the Premier, the leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Bayley for their kind remarks.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at fifteen minutes to 8 o'clock.

Hon. W. McCormack.]

[PROROGATION.]

*Parliament prorogued by following Proclamation in Gazette Extraordinary, Friday,
4th February, 1917 :—*

A PROCLAMATION by His Excellency Sir HAMILTON JOHN GOOLD-ADAMS, Major on the Retired List of His Majesty's Army, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Governor of the State of Queensland and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

[L.S.]

HAMILTON GOOLD-ADAMS,

Governor.

IN pursuance of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State aforesaid, I, Sir HAMILTON JOHN GOOLD-ADAMS, G.C.M.G., C.B., do, by this my Proclamation, Prorogue the Parliament of Queensland to Tuesday, the first day of May, 1917.

Given under my Hand and Seal, at Government House, Brisbane, this Fifteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in the seventh year of His Majesty's reign.

By Command,

T. J. RYAN.

GOD SAVE THE KING!
