

NEW SOUTH WALES PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT—FIFTH SESSION.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE Fourth Session of the Twenty-second Parliament was prorogued by Proclamation dated 5th December, 1912, until 21st January; thence to 4th March, thence to 15th April, thence to 27th May, thence to 13th June, thence to 27th June, and thence to 22nd July, 1913, for the despatch of business; and the Fifth Session commenced on that day.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 22 July, 1913.

Governor's Speech—Member Deceased—Leave of Absence—Appointment of Governor—Assent to Bills—New Ministry: Ministerial Statement—Law of Evidence Bill (*format*)—Petition—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply.—Special Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at noon.

The Clerk of the Parliaments read the proclamation convening Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor entered the Chamber, and was escorted by the President, accompanied by other members and officers of the House. A message was forwarded to the Legislative Assembly intimating that his Excellency awaited the attendance of the members of that House, who being come with their Speaker, his Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

1. It affords me sincere pleasure to call you together for the discharge of your im-

portant duties, and to congratulate you upon the present favourable outlook for another prosperous season for the primary industries of the state.

2. An epidemic of smallpox, recently broken out amongst us, has given occasion for much public anxiety. It is satisfactory to be assured that the form of the disease is exceptionally mild, carrying with it, up to the present, neither fatal consequences nor any serious cases of illness. My advisers, confronted with this visitation, have applied vigorously and promptly all the powers of the existing law, and the precautions taken have apparently succeeded in checking its wider spread. They deem it necessary, however, to ask Parliament to pass a measure strengthening the law applicable to such crises, and providing for compulsory vaccination of infants; this will be submitted at the earliest possible moment.

3. Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Federal Government for the transfer to them of Cockatoo Island and the docks and workshops thereon—a step equally advantageous to the Commonwealth and this state.

4. The recent abundant wheat harvest has served to again illustrate the need for modernising the methods of transporting this important product. An expert in this subject has recently visited the state at the invitation of the Government, and has furnished a valuable report based upon local conditions and requirements. This will be laid before you in due course, together with the proposals of the Government for the erection of grain elevators and the necessary provision of rolling-stock.

GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

5. You will be invited to make necessary provision for carrying on the public service pending the assembling of the next Parliament.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

6. The great complexity of the statutes governing the Crown lands of the state has occupied the attention of my advisers for upwards of two years. During the preparation of the necessary consolidating statute it became apparent that its successful completion involved the previous passing of an amending and declaratory act to remove anomalies and harmonise discrepancies which the labours of the commission appointed had detected. The passage of such a declaratory bill through all its stages last parliamentary session has permitted the task of consolidation to be carried forward uninterruptedly, and the completed measure, accompanied by the certificate of the eminent counsel engaged upon it, will be among the earliest presented to you for consideration.

7. A number of important measures introduced during the last session of Parliament, which were not carried to finality, will be reintroduced at the respective stages reached, and will be proceeded with.

8. My advisers intend to ask you to devote further attention to the problem of

land settlement. They will introduce a short amending land bill, and also other measures defining tenant-right, authorising the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank to make advances on leaseholds, and providing for a super-tax on certain large estates.

9. As the result of recommendations tendered by the Royal Commission on Food Supply, you will be asked to pass into law measures to regulate the meat supply and to deal with monopolies within the state.

10. The growing congestion of metropolitan traffic has been watched with deep concern by my advisers, who will invite you to consider proposals respecting an underground city railway and the vehicular ferry services between Sydney and North Sydney.

11. The vital question of housing accommodation for the people has also been closely considered, and the necessary steps will be taken to authorise the creation of additional model suburbs, both in the metropolis and in certain country industrial centres.

12. Important measures, investing the Government Savings Bank Commissioners with wider powers to assist workmen to secure their own homes, and establishing tribunals for the fixing of fair rents for dwelling-houses, will also be submitted forthwith.

13. The establishment of a superannuation fund for the public service—a question of much complexity—has been the subject of prolonged investigation by an expert committee. You will be invited to consider a bill for this important purpose, based upon information thus obtained.

14. A bill which will provide a board of appeal for the police, thus removing certain existing discontents, without impairing the discipline essential to that

important force, will be laid before you ; as will also a measure to amend the law relating to railway appeals.

15. You will also be asked to devote attention to measures to protect deserted wives and children, to deal with the question of testator's family maintenance, and to constitute a public trustee.

16. You will be asked to improve the working conditions in various industries by assisting in the passage of an Eight Hours Bill, a Coal-mines Regulation Bill, and bills to amend the industrial arbitration law. Measures to amend the Mining Acts and the Minimum Wage Act will also be submitted.

17. My advisers further intend to lay before you measures relating to the questions of a Greater Sydney and workmen's compensation, and a bill which they have gladly adopted on the invitation of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

18. Proposals for the construction of certain urgent public works will be referred to the Public Works Committee.

19. I now leave you, gentlemen, to your important labours, and trust that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, they may conduce to the welfare and prosperity of the state.

The Assembly then withdrew.

House adjourned at 12.21 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

MEMBER DECEASED.

The PRESIDENT reported the decease of the Hon. John Hughes.

The Hon. F. FLOWERS : I desire to move, with the consent of the House, a motion to the following effect :—

That this House desires to express, and to place on record, its deep sense of the loss sustained to the state and this House in the

removal by death of the late Hon. John Hughes, M.L.C., and that the President be requested to communicate this resolution to Mrs. Hughes.

In referring to this matter I do so with profound regret. At the same time, seeing that some months have passed since the death of the late Mr. John Hughes, I have no desire, in moving a motion of this kind, to lay bare the wound of sorrow and grief that time alone can heal. I think, however, that we should as a matter of duty place on record our full recognition of the great loss that the state and this House have sustained in the death of that gentleman. Personally my relationship with him was of the most friendly character. I have no recollection of such cordial feeling existing between any other two hon. members of this House as that which existed between Mr. John Hughes and myself. Although our ideals and ideas were apart—possibly we rarely agreed upon matters political—yet I enjoyed his very close friendship, and his death was the greatest loss to myself personally. And I think I can say it was a decided loss to the state generally, for he took a most important part in the affairs of his country, and in every sense fulfilled to the highest the obligations of citizenship. Certainly, he has left his mark on this House as a man of acknowledged ability—a man whose word was accepted on every occasion as that of an honorable man, and I am sure that the motion I have moved will meet with the entire approval of every member of this Chamber. He was a man of an extremely kindly disposition. In as few words as possible I think we may sum up that he was a man and a gentleman, and no man can be greater than that, for he won the confidence and the esteem of everyone with whom he came in contact. He has left behind him the imperishable monument of a good name.

Question proposed.

The Hon. Sir NORMAND MacLAURIN : I rise to support the motion which has been proposed in such feeling terms by my hon. friend, the Vice-President of the Executive Council. I was intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Hughes for very many years, and even more so after he became a member of this House. His conduct in this House endeared him to every member of it. He was twice or three times the Vice-President of the

Executive Council, and in every one of his relations with this House and its members he showed the greatest consideration. His explanations were always clear and simple, and any suggestions or amendments that might be brought forward were certain to receive at his hands the utmost consideration, whether he thought they were such as he could receive or could not. Always Mr. Hughes was kindly and courteous to everyone. His death, in its suddenness, was a blow to us all, and I am sure that every member of this House must have felt by his death that he had lost a personal friend. For these reasons, and for many other reasons which it would take too long to enumerate, I feel it is my duty to support the motion which has been so well proposed by the representative of the Government.

The Hon. J. WILSON: I am sorry to make an interlude, but I think I would be ungenerous were I not to refer to the fact that in 1899, when the first four Labour members were introduced to this House, the late Hon. John Hughes, as leader of this Chamber, was the first to bid me welcome as a strange factor of inundation in this Chamber. From that time till his decease he exhibited every one of the traits which the leader of the House should manifest, and nothing but courtesy was extended to hon. members by the late Hon. John Hughes. I am glad to concur in everything that the leader of the House has said. I believe that the memory of the late respected gentleman, who was thrice leader of this House, will mark an epoch in the history of this Chamber. I think I am with all hon. members in mourning for his loss; but I do believe that we have still the same blood remaining in the brother of the late gentleman, who will help to maintain the honor of the great man whom this country mourns.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: As a colleague of the late member, I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying my tribute to his memory. I venture to think that in every path of life in which the hon. member walked he adorned it. To those who enjoyed his intimate acquaintance he was ever a true and firm friend. To those who knew him in this House he was ever prepared to put his learning and his knowledge at the disposal of every

[*The Hon. Sir Normand MacLaurin.*

member, and I venture to think that we all had the immense advantage of profiting by the admirable way in which he used to deal with the measures that were left to his charge. To those of us who had the privilege of working intimately with him, his intense devotion to duty was his leading characteristic. In the service of the country he never spared himself, and this House and the country are the poorer by the loss of one who was a great public servant and a good man.

The Hon. F. H. BRYANT: As one of the late appointments to this Chamber, I desire to express my keen sense of the great loss this House has sustained in the demise of my hon. friend. When I entered this Chamber a few months ago, practically new to all the forms of this House, I found the Hon. John Hughes a true man and a gentleman who offered his assistance to me, and gave me guidance on many occasions. Within a few months I had learned to respect and honor him. He has now crossed the Great Divide, where the divisions of time cease, and yet, in the language of the leader of the House this afternoon, I say he has left his mark, and it is one which we would all do well to emulate. I only wish to add that those who are left behind him have a standard set for them to attain. I hope and trust that we will all endeavour to so live that in the parting we will leave the same grand name behind us.

Question resolved in the affirmative, members standing in their places.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The PRESIDENT reported the receipt of communications from his Excellency the Governor, dated, respectively, 3rd January and 20th June, 1913, intimating that his Excellency had been pleased to grant leave of absence for twelve months to the Hon. A. Brown from the 3rd January, 1913, and until the end of the present year to the Hon. J. M. Creed.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a message from the Governor informing the Legislative Council that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to appoint his Excellency Governor in and over the State of New South Wales and its dependencies.

Resolved (on motion by the Hon. F. FLOWERS, with concurrence) :

That the following address be adopted as a reply of this House to the message of the Governor, communicating the fact that his Excellency had assumed the Government of the State :—

To his Excellency, Sir GERALD STRICKLAND, Count della Catena, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please your Excellency—

We, the members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for your Excellency's message, informing us of your assumption of the government of the state, in virtue of a commission from his most gracious Majesty appointing you Governor.

We beg your Excellency to accept our cordial congratulations on your appointment, and to assure you that the choice made by the King will tend to increase and strengthen the loyal attachment of all classes to his Majesty's throne and person.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Royal assent to the following bills reported :—

Newcastle Iron and Steel Works Bill.
Public Service (Amendment) Bill.
Loan Bill (No. 2).
Height of Buildings (Metropolitan Police District) Bill.
Australian Mutual Provident Society's Officers' Provident Fund Trustees Enabling Bill.
Great Southern Railway Improvements Bill.
Carrington Bridge Removal Bill.
Newcastle Southern Breakwater Extension Bill.
West Maitland Sewerage Bill.
Dubbo Sewerage Bill.
Condobolin to Broken Hill Railway Bill.
Port Kembla Harbour (Northern Breakwater) Bill.
Tamworth Sewerage Bill.
Bellevue Hill Line to Bondi Beach Tramway Bill.
Broadmeadow-Waratah Tramway Bill.
Miners' Accident Relief (Amendment) Bill.
State Coal-mines Bill.
Gas Bill.
Fruit Cases Bill.
Irrigation Bill (No. 2).
Closer Settlement (Amendment) Bill (No. 2).
Senators' Elections (Amendment) Bill.
Wyalong to Lake Cudgellico Railway Bill.
Friendly Societies (Amendment) Bill.

NEW MINISTRY : MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon. F. FLOWERS: I desire to announce to the House that since the last meeting of Parliament the then Premier, the Hon. James Sinclair Taylor McGowen,

Esq., M.P., has resigned, and the Hon. William Arthur Holman, Esq., M.P., has formed a new Administration, which is as follows :—

The Hon. William Arthur Holman, Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Records of New South Wales, and Attorney-General.

The Hon. James Sinclair Taylor McGowen, Minister for Labour and Industry.

The Hon. Frederick Flowers, Vice-President of the Executive Council, Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. John Henry Cann, Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Internal Revenue of New South Wales.

The Hon. Arthur Hill Griffith, Minister for Public Works.

The Hon. John Louis Trefle, Secretary for Lands and Minister for Agriculture.

The Hon. David Robert Hall, Minister of Justice.

The Hon. Ambrose Campbell Carmichael, Minister of Public Instruction.

The Hon. Alfred Edden, Secretary for Mines.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (Formal).

Bill read a first time.

PETITION.

The Hon. J. GARLAND presented a petition from the Vale of Clwydd Coal-mining Company Limited, praying for leave to introduce a bill to alter the title of the Vale of Clwydd Coal Mining Company, Limited.

Petition received.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH : ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Smallpox Epidemic—Compulsory Vaccination—Consolidation and Amendment of Land Acts—Tenant-right—Taxation of large Estates—Income Taxation—Public Service Superannuation Fund—Police Appeal Board—Fair Rents—Control of Monopolies—Transport of Stock and Produce—Railway Duplication—Model Suburbs—Public Works—Immigration.

The PRESIDENT reported that he had received a copy of the speech delivered by his Excellency the Governor.

Speech read by the Clerk

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE moved:

That the following address be presented by the whole House to the Governor in reply to the speech which his Excellency has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, namely:—

To his Excellency Sir GERALD STRICKLAND, Count della Catena, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please your Excellency,—

We, his Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for your Excellency's speech, and to assure you of our unfeigned attachment to his most gracious Majesty's throne and person.

2. We beg to assure your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us.

3. We join your Excellency in the hope that, under the guidance of Divine Providence, our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of the state.

He said: The speech of his Excellency very properly begins with a reference to the continued prosperity of New South Wales. New South Wales is such an enormous territory that it is a matter of the sincerest congratulation that such a statement should be made. We rejoice that the season all round is favourable, seeing that for many years in this state we have had climatic conditions when one part was prosperous and the other was not prosperous. Floods at Maitland and a drought at Bourke have often been the conditions under which this House has met. We may very well congratulate the people of New South Wales upon the fact that at the present time there is a prospect of a very plenteous season for both farmers and pastoralists.

The speech deploras the outbreak of an epidemic of smallpox in Sydney, and promises a measure of compulsory vaccination. I, as a medical man, most heartily congratulate the people of Sydney on the extreme mildness of the epidemic which is now upon them. Those of us who have known something of the unvaccinated and consequently unprotected condition of New South Wales have felt that the people here were living on the edge of a volcano, and we shuddered when we thought of the devastation which would occur if a severe epidemic of smallpox got

hold of the people. The apathy of former Governments in allowing this condition of affairs to continue almost amounted to criminal negligence, and I congratulate the Government on their action in taking this matter up and making a start to have the population vaccinated. Just for a moment listen to the condition of New South Wales in the last ten years. The Government vaccinations since 1901 have been dwindling down. In that year there were 2,081 people vaccinated. In 1902 the number was 896; in 1903, 605; in 1904, only 20; in 1905, 32; in 1906, 42; in 1907, 39; in 1908, 42; in 1909, only 11; and in 1910, 280. Those were what I might call normal times, when there was no scare; consequently we may take it that the population of this state is practically unprotected by vaccination. The question arises—I have no doubt it will be debated very strenuously when the bill for compulsory vaccination is brought before the House—as to what means a civilised community, living under the conditions of the people of New South Wales, have of dealing with an outbreak of the smallpox; because, mark you, this epidemic I assume is smallpox. I have not seen any of the cases, but I take it from the doctors and the experts both of New South Wales and the Commonwealth that this outbreak is an epidemic of smallpox. Starting from that basis it is as we know, almost unprecedented. There is a report of a similar outbreak within the last few years, and it is very instructive to see how that outbreak terminated. From 1902 to 1904 in the island of Trinidad there was an outbreak of smallpox, much the same as the present outbreak here. There were 5,154 cases, with a fatality of 28. That is to say, only about 1 in 200 of the people who were attacked by this disease died. The outbreak in Trinidad was amongst a negro population, and 85 per cent. of the population had been vaccinated. There you have a mild outbreak of smallpox amongst a protected people, and the fatality, as I say, was only 1 in 200.

The Hon. F. JAGO SMITH: Has the hon. member the population of Trinidad?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: No, I have not. Here is a very remarkable fact: Only 564 of those cases in Trinidad were sent to the isolation hospital, and they

were supposed to be the worst cases ; and of those 564, 103 were vaccinated, and 461 were not. Amongst the 103 vaccinated cases in the isolation hospital there were no deaths, but amongst the 461 non-vaccinated cases there was a death rate of 2·8 per cent. And that was in such a mild epidemic as occurred in Trinidad. There were no fatalities amongst the vaccinated cases ; all of those who died were unvaccinated. That is a case on all fours with the present outbreak here, the only difference being that it took place amongst a population 85 per cent. of whom were vaccinated. The point I wish to bring out is this : what means have we of opposing smallpox if we reject vaccination ? In England they have tried what is known as the Leicester system. Hon. members may know that the town of Leicester is composed principally of anti-vaccinationists. The town council, the governing body of Leicester, are totally opposed to vaccination. They set out a scheme for preventing the spread of smallpox, and I will undertake to say that any Government which adopted the Leicester system in New South Wales would have a short shrift and a very long fall. Their method of treatment is to quarantine the house. They quarantine all the inmates of a house, or they put them in separate small hospital wards and reception houses, but mainly they quarantine them in their own homes. Each infected house is visited daily by inspectors for fourteen or sixteen days, and other persons who come in contact with smallpox are visited in the same way. They are compelled not to go to work for the whole or part of the quarantine period, and their rent and maintenance have to be paid by the city. This is of course a kind of compulsion that could not be thought of in a country like this, and, from my point of view, in comparison with such compulsion, infantile vaccination is quite a trivial affair. Either you must undertake to isolate absolutely, or else you must adopt vaccination. To show the absurdity of the Leicester system, I may point out that although the civic authorities are totally opposed to vaccination, they insist upon all their nurses and doctors being vaccinated. We have been told, and will be told over and over again before this

matter is finished, that this question of vaccination is a big medical superstition.

The Hon. J. WILSON : Is the hon. member satisfied with the vaccination practised in Newcastle ?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE : I am not discussing any system of vaccination, but the broad question. When the bill comes before the House I will be prepared to discuss it in detail.

The Hon. J. WILSON : Sawdust and milk cheese they are putting in in Newcastle !

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE : I take it that, on such a motion as this, to discuss details would be quite out of place. All I have to say about the medical superstition, if it be a superstition, is that it is a superstition which is common to the whole world. The superstition in favour of the efficacy of vaccination as a protective measure against smallpox is so universal that practically the whole world believes in it, and that cannot be said certainly of any other medical opinion, or any other medical method of treatment. We medical men as a body are doubters. We are descended intellectually from doubting Thomas. We want to probe, and to prove everything that is brought before us. So much is that the case that in the old days the Shoolmen had a proverb which laid it down that wherever there were three doctors there were two unbelievers. The old saying was *Tres medici duo athei*. And to-day it is exactly the same. But on the question of vaccination the medical profession all over the world is unanimous.

The Hon. J. WILSON : In their fees, yes !

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE : They are unanimous as to the efficacy of vaccination as a preventive against smallpox. The one and only reason of that agreement is that the proofs upholding the efficacy of vaccination are so overwhelming that no man who is cognisant of the facts can escape from admitting the truth which these proofs bring out. The epidemic here is quite a mild sort of thing, and I suppose there has been a good deal more unrest on the part of those who have been vaccinated than of those who are down at the Quarantine station. I dare say there are men in this House—some of the older members of the medical

profession—who remember to have seen bad smallpox. In my student days in the East End of London I saw a good deal of smallpox amongst the foreigners who came from abroad, and brought it with them, and I say that anybody who has ever had anything to do with smallpox must have realised that it is the most repulsive, disgusting disease that any medical man has to treat. Only the other day an old and highly-respected citizen of this state, who must now be getting on to be 90 years of age, gave a description of an attack of smallpox he had when he was a boy, sixty-seven years ago. Hon. members may imagine what a frightful disease it is when it so impressed itself upon that man's brain that only last week he sat down and wrote this description of it:—

I may say it was very prevalent in my native town in Scotland in the year 1846. First I felt sick, wanting to vomit, but could not. I was put to bed, and the doctor brought. In a day or two I was covered with an itchy rash, which became more and more developed till the pocks seemed to jostle each other for room to swell out, till at last not a speck of my skin could be touched with a pin's point. They must have run into thousands. Even my eyes were filled with them, inside and out. I was blind for three days. The agony became unbearable; each little bag was now about the size and shape of a split pea. Oh, the agony of it! I remember it even now. In another day or two they all burst, which somewhat relieved the pain. Just fancy thousands of sloughing sores! The sheets, which, by the order of the doctor, could not be changed, were spread all over with the sloughings. Fancy such stuff to slither about in for some days. The pain by this time had pretty well all gone, but the smell! Oh, that smell! I had to bear it, nasty and all as it was—a nasty, sickly, fetid odour that lasted till the sores dried up. The itch began again. I felt I could have torn myself to pieces, but I could not, because my hands were fastened down in such a manner that scratching was impossible. All this time my only diet was rice water and barley water, alternated. My thousands of sores were now dried up, and the scales loosened, and fell off, and for the next eight or ten days I lay in a mass of stuff resembling dried fish scales. Oh, but it is a loathsome disease! I was now considered out of danger, and had to lie still, and get some more nourishing food. When I had gained a little strength I was taken into the open air for the sun to shine on me. Many months passed before I got my right colour.

The Hon. J. McFAGHER: The doctors ought to give a testimonial to that man!

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: That is the condition brought about by a severe attack of smallpox; and in my opinion, and I think in the opinion of the medical

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faculty all over the world, in order to obviate such a thing vaccination is preferable to isolation.

The Hon. J. WILSON: Vaccination with what—Newcastle lymph?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: I again congratulate the Government on bringing this bill in, and when they have put it before the House we shall be able to discuss it, I hope, without any professional acrimony.

I note in the speech that there is to be a bill brought in to amend the Land Acts. I wonder how many bills have been brought in to amend the Land Acts?

The Hon. J. WILSON: Since the foundation of Parliament!

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: I dare say that since Duffy brought in his Land Bill in Victoria, and Robertson in this state, not a single session of Parliament has passed that some amendment of these acts has not taken place, and I dare say that after we have all passed away they will still go on amending land acts.

Another bill is one to define tenant-right. In bringing in that bill the Government will, I think, have their hands pretty full. Tenant-right, as hon. members know, was long ago referred to, I think by Lord John Russell or Lord Palmerston, in the words that tenant-right is landlord wrong; and the magnitude of the question is probably greater than any other before the country.

Then the Government also propose to raise revenue by a super-tax on large estates. The question of taxation in this country, I think, will before very long have to be altogether reconsidered. At the present time we have a war-tax laid on the shoulders of the people in the form of an income-tax. It has always been considered, and I think Mr. Gladstone laid it down many years ago as an axiom of finance, that an income-tax is an emergency tax, and should cease during peace, that it was to be considered as nothing but a war-tax. The Government intend to bring in a bill to raise money by means of a super-tax. Well, they must get money; the wheels of the state must be kept going round; and if this be the only way of getting it, I suppose this House must agree with the Government proposal. But I would like to call attention to the fact that recently

the same question was raised in England, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, made a very strong speech in defining his position. He said :

I do not think there is any doctrine more fatal to the root principle of democratic government than that it should consist in the constant amelioration, at great expense to the community, of the social conditions of the less-favoured class in the country at the sole and exclusive expense of other classes.

I am sure this will be considered, to a very great extent, as a matter of socialistic legislation, but it is no more socialism than it is, I suppose, individualism. It certainly is not socialism. There will be a bill to provide a superannuation fund for the public service. That is a bill which I have no doubt will meet with extensive favour amongst members of the public service. Though recently a judge in Western Australia said that no man who had enough energy to commit suicide would enter the public service, still I think that we have in the public service of New South Wales a large number of very able men, and their position will be much strengthened by a proper superannuation fund. The fact that a man who enters that service is thereby debarred from making money in a commercial way, and so putting by for a rainy day, will always have the effect of keeping probably many good men out of the service. But with a superannuation fund, the conditions of the public service will be very much improved. The bill to create a board of appeal for the police is one which will give intense satisfaction to the police force of this country, in which recently there has been a tendency towards bureaucratic government. If an independent appeal board is created, I have no doubt that it will do away with a good deal of that dissatisfaction which now is rife amongst the police. Many of the other measures, such as the Coal-mines Regulation Bill, the Eight Hours Bill, and the bill to amend the industrial arbitration law, will, I take it, not deal with the principles of existing legislation, but be amending bills. I now move the adoption of this address.

Question proposed.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR : I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the address, which has been so ably

moved by the hon. member, Mr. Doyle. He has dealt very exhaustively with the matter referred to in the opening portion of the speech, and for that reason I do not intend to add anything, except to say that I quite agree with the Government in their proposal to introduce compulsory vaccination. As far as I have been able to understand the matter, it appears to me that the great weight of medical authority is in favour of infant vaccination. There are one or two other matters in the speech which are of first-rate importance, and I think that the Government are to be commended for promising to introduce bills dealing with these matters. One of very great importance is the proposal of the Government to establish a tribunal to in some way fix what in the speech is termed fair rents for dwelling-houses. The community has suffered for a considerable time from what may fairly be termed an exorbitant system of rentals, and any honest attempt to deal with that problem should, and I think will, meet with the approval of this House. It must be admitted that the question is one of extreme difficulty. I do not think it is proposed to attempt to settle rents generally, that is all kinds of rents, but I do think that any attempt made to abolish what are termed exorbitant rents, will, if successful, unquestionably be a great boon to those who have for years past been suffering through the payment of excessive rents. I know that objection will be made that no tribunal can be established to give satisfaction in that direction. But I want to point out this : that there are tribunals in existence now to settle rents, and though we have no direct law establishing such tribunals, still we know that rents are fixed, and fixed sometimes in a most outrageous way. If private people can step in and settle rents, and settle them, too, most unfairly, surely there can be no reason why the Government should not step in and make an attempt to settle rents somewhat more fairly than is now the case. In the evidence taken before the commission that recently sat, dealing with this question, we find it stated that in the case of three houses in Hunter-street, one gentleman was able to step in and purchase leases, and thereby increase the rents from £3 per week to £6 10s.

An Hon. MEMBER: What party did he belong to?

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: It is quite immaterial to me what party he belonged to. I do not think that the land shark is monopolised by any party. In all probability you will find him spread all over the place. The point I want to make is that a private individual can step in and fix rents in the outrageous way I have mentioned, and that is not an isolated case. Our choice is not between having a tribunal and not having one. We have these outside tribunals, such as the one I have referred to, and I do think it is now time that the Government took a hand in the matter.

The Hon. Dr. NASH: Why is it outrageous?

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: If my hon. friend had his rent suddenly raised from £3 to £6 10s., and had also to fork out a £100 bonus to get possession of the house, I do not think he would be quite so likely to ask "why is it outrageous?"

The Hon. F. FLOWERS: You have to find the man first!

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: But when you have found him, I am quite prepared to deal with him. I am quite agreed that an owner should receive a fair rent, and this bill to establish fair rents will cut one way just as well as the other.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: Will it deal with the man who does not get a fair rent?

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: What does the hon. member mean by fair rent? If a man is not getting a rent which is fair, the tribunal will be able to raise it to what is fair.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: Will it cut both ways; is that what the Government propose?

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: It is to be a fair-rent bill. Surely that is a guarantee.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: I am afraid not!

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: I must admit that I am not so mightily concerned about owners who may be said to be getting too little in the way of rent. They do not seem to be a numerous class. If their case is laid before the Government and this House, there is not the least doubt that it will be dealt with.

[The Hon. A. Sinclair.]

The Hon. F. FLOWERS: They will receive consideration!

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: A very great deal of suffering has been caused to a large section of our people by these excessive rentals. It is all very well to make fun of it. But there is an enormous number of people who have had their rents doubled and not only doubled, but have had to buy rubbish, miscalled furniture, placed in houses by agents, before they could get possession. When we find this kind of thing going on, it is really not a matter to make fun of. It is a serious matter to those who are suffering. In connection with this proposal by the Government, there is another bill which, I think, will commend itself to hon. members of this House; it deals with somewhat the same matter. The Government propose that additional power be given to the Commissioners of Savings Banks to make advances to workmen who may desire to become possessed of homes of their own. I can conceive of no better way of dealing with the question of unfair rents than by enabling as many people as possible to get out of paying rent entirely. That seems to me to be the most statesmanlike and the healthiest way of dealing with the problem. I am in favour of applying practically the whole of the savings bank moneys—representing the investment of the saving element in our community—to that purpose.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: What about closer settlement? Will the hon. member take all the money away from that?

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: I do not know whether there may not be other means of dealing with closer settlement.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: The savings bank is the only tribunal that can deal with it!

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: Anyhow, I quite favour applying a very large proportion of these savings of the people to enable people to acquire homes of their own. I can conceive of no better use that the money can be put to. That is really my contention. Another matter of importance is the proposal to deal with the meat supply and monopolies. It seems to me that the state ought to take a hand here particularly in dealing with the meat monopoly. I am not much concerned with monopolies in the manu-

facturing side of our commercial life, but we are bound, in some way, to deal with trusts and combines that affect the food supplies of the state.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: The commission appointed by the Government reported that there was no combine in connection with the meat supply.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: Quite apart from the the work of the commission, it is a well known fact that there is a danger of the meat supply passing under the control of a trust to a very great extent outside this state, and it seems to me the better way that the utmost power of the state, in preference to federal power, should be used in safeguarding the food of the people. For that reason I think the Government is to be commended for its intention to deal with that important matter. I have referred to these three or four matters because they seem to me to be of extreme importance, and matters that require to be dealt with with some amount of urgency.

The Hon. J. MEAGHER: But competition is able to regulate prices!

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: Competition will regulate prices where it exists. It is to deal with industries where competition has practically ceased to exist that this bill is proposed. And while we want to protect ourselves against monopolies it is just as reasonable for us to protect ourselves against undue competition as well. One may be just as great a menace to a section of the people as the other. I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion of the hon. member, Mr. Doyle.

The Hon. J. GORMLY: I must say that the Government has put a very large programme before a Parliament which is very near the expiry of its term of power. I notice that some particular stress is given to dealing with the carriage of goods on our railways and the handling of produce in bulk. There has been criminal negligence in the past with regard to the methods in which stock and produce are brought to market. There has certainly not been the attention devoted to duplicating our main lines that there ought to have been. It is now something like twenty-three or twenty-four years since the main southern line was duplicated as far as Picton, and what has been done since then?

The improvement in facilities for traffic on the main southern line merely consists of an additional number of crossing-places. The officer in charge of the Junee section of that line explained to a gathering of railway men at Junee that there were 64 crossing-places between Junee and Picton, and each train had to stop at each of those 64 crossing-places to allow another train to pass. If that only takes five or ten minutes in each instance—though frequently it takes considerably longer—what must be the total amount of time wasted in bringing fat stock to market with the intention of exporting their carcasses to the markets of the world? What chance have we to compete in the European markets when the transit of stock to the place of slaughter is neglected in such an abominable manner? With regard to produce, it is mentioned in paragraph 4 of the document before us that the recent abundant harvest has illustrated the need for modernising the methods of transporting crops. How has the produce been dealt with? The farmers have got their grain to the railway station, and there they could get no trucks to carry it to market, nor would the Railway Department, or the Government, provide any place for that produce to be stored; but it has been left there from day to day and from month to month until the bags have been rotted by the weather, and tens of thousands of bushels of wheat have become merely a heap of refuse grain rotting on the ground. This has been going on for years past. It is not only that the lines have not been duplicated to enable stock and produce to reach the market in reasonable time, but the rolling-stock, both engines and trucks, have been altogether inadequate to meet requirements. When we have had a spell of drought, what has been done to enable people to take stock from one district to another to save them from perishing? Nothing at all. People who have made provision for depasturing stock where there was natural food for them have had to wait weeks and sometimes months before they could get facilities for transporting the stock from one district to another. Has any effort been made to get our railways into the most efficient state to pay working expenses and interest on the capital expended in their con-

struction? Nothing at all has been done to meet those requirements. On the whole of our great Australian railway system, extending for a total length of about 3,400 miles, on the central link the only train that runs with anything like regularity is the express from Sydney to Melbourne, because the Railway Department fully realises that if there were not reasonable facilities provided for the carrying of passengers between those two great centres of population they would have to compete with the steamships, which would otherwise take the passenger traffic. But it is of still greater importance to the progress of the country that stock and produce should have a fair chance of being promptly dealt with. That has never been attended to, and there is not the least indication that it is going to be attended to in any adequate way in the near future. We have been told on former occasions that an amended Land Bill is to be brought in, and we have on our present programme the same paragraph as for years past. We are told that it is intended to deal with the consolidation of the statutes relating to land, but the complexity of those statutes is such that no legal or other man in the world could understand them, even if he devoted the whole of his time to the task. Years ago I was a member of a committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed for the purpose of going through the various acts to frame a consolidation. We had the assistance of learned legal men, as well as of the heads of different branches in the Lands Department, and it took us many months to endeavour to bring those laws into something like a consolidated form. There were then only sixteen Land Acts in existence, but now there are a great many more. I trust that something will be done in the direction of consolidating our land laws, and of amending them as well, because until such a measure is passed some of our best agricultural land is locked up under leases for a considerable length of time. Millions of acres are leased to absentees and corporations, who spend their profits outside this state. On the Victorian side of the River Murray there are thousands of acres of excellent wheat-producing land, and on the New South Wales side of the river there is land equally good which is let in huge tracts

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of half a million acres or so in one holding, some for about 2s. 6d. per square mile. That is not the way to make a country progress. To put the lands to their best use, and make them profitable, it is human labour that is required. I trust that Parliament will not remain passive any longer in these matters.

The Hon. Dr. NASH: I want to trespass on the patience of the House for a few minutes to refer to one or two matters with which I am concerned in the speech delivered to us this afternoon. I note that, encompassed within these nineteen paragraphs, there is probably enough work for a whole Parliament. My hon. friend and his colleagues must be preparing us for the Parliament which is to come, when it may be they will have opportunities to deal with some of the matters referred to in these nineteen paragraphs. If they do not, there will come after them a body of gentlemen, who may use them like ninepins to be knocked over at their leisure. In view of the notoriety to which New South Wales has risen during the last few weeks, it appears to me that the Government of the day should have promised something more than is contained in the second paragraph of this address. What is the condition of the country? We are the byword of the nations. We are suspected by the other states of Australia, and we are derided and laughed at as a people who have neglected a public duty. And this public duty is not a duty to ourselves, not to the individual who lives in this country, but it is a duty to our neighbour. All the laws made in this or any other land which is governed by what we designate as decent laws, have for their basis that they should be for the protection of the people against the errors committed within that country by the individual. We feel not yet, nor shall we feel for months the loss and trouble which is now upon us; and the Government comes along and proposes that there shall be compulsory vaccination of infants, to me a childish way of dealing with the crisis, and a way which will not be effective in this land for the next twenty-five years. What would have happened in this country, what would have been thought in the adjoining states, and what would other nations of the world with which we trade have done had there come

to them what will be here in the immediate future, that is a series of cases from Asia and Europe comparable in their virulence to what has been the experience during the last thousand years in the homes of our fathers? What sort of a reputation should we have gained amongst other people? I venture to say that, in view of our experience of the last few weeks, if Asiatic or European small-pox had visited us instead of the modified form of the disease which has been extending throughout many portions of America, we should have seen in this city a succession of riots in which the people would have demanded some sacrifice for the neglect which has taken place during the last twenty-five years.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR: Surely the hon. member does not blame the Government for that neglect?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: For the neglect which has taken place in this state during the last twenty-five years, neglect for which there is no excuse, and which the statistics of the hon. member who moved the address disclose to be of the very worst kind, because, as the hon. member said, there is but one subject within the realm of medicine upon which the medical profession is practically in unanimous agreement and that is the effectiveness of the inoculation which we practise against the most virulent of the varieties of variola. I do not know why the Government has had to fall back upon the infantile portion of the community. They are no danger now, none whatever. They are no danger to the present population.

An Hon. Member: Cannot they get it now?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: The infants are not born to whom this bill is meant to apply.

The Hon. J. WILSON: No Government would dare to make it apply in any other way.

The Hon. Dr. NASH: The hon. member must be alone in his opinion. If the hon. member refers to the literature which has been circulated to-day, by people who call themselves anti-vaccinationists, he will find that the principal leaflet bears no name. Nobody has been prepared to attach his signature to it, nor is there any person mentioned in the body of it who is

recognised as an authority to the least degree on the subject. Take the second circular and we are practically in the same position. There is a name attached to portion of it—the name of C. T. Nixon, but who he is and what he is nobody knows so far as I am aware. He is not anybody who lives in New South Wales. He is somebody who has written a letter to the *Adelaide Advertiser*. How many can agree with the hon. member when he says that the Government cannot apply the measure to anybody else? It must be absolute nonsense. If anything is to be effective there must be some application beyond the infant.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: The Government propose to limit it; they do not propose to go further!

The Hon. Dr. NASH: I am saying that it appears to me ridiculous in view of the existing condition of things under which we are a byword to the rest of Australia. I shall wait for the bill and I hope to have something to say when the measure is before us. But what I am pointing out now I am led up to by paragraph 2 in the speech before us. I hope the Government will find some way to enlarge upon the infantile community because we take it that for this purpose infants mean those under twelve months. Even if it be more, how can any effect be produced for the community by applying it alone to infants? It must not be forgotten, in this connection, that it is not the infants who are particularly exposed, and every day we live we are becoming more likely to see introduced the severest form of the variola disease.

An Hon. Member: Will vaccination prevent it?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: Will it prevent it? The Japanese army of 600,000 fighting men lived and travelled in the worst place in the world for this infection for years. That army was thoroughly vaccinated, and not one case occurred. It is a tribute to the people who managed that campaign such as has never been won by any army in the world before,

The Hon. J. WILSON: What is vaccination?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: If the hon. member will attend in my room I shall be prepared to give him a lecture on the subject of any length he desires.

The Hon. J. WILSON : This is the place in which to give it, because the hon. member is talking to Australia!

The Hon. Dr. NASH : This is not the place to deliver a lecture on the subject of vaccination. I would like now to refer to paragraph 11 in the speech because I hope that any Government which approaches this question will do so with the object of providing these model areas with buildings in which people can live with due regard to their health and welfare; and that can only be if the Government takes care to employ architects who thoroughly understand the principles of construction in regard to light and ventilation. It may be said that in the years past and at the present moment there are such officers within the department. I am not prepared to say that there are or that there are not, but during the last few months I have had the honor of being connected with an advisory board which is concerned with perhaps, in one aspect, the most important building functions in the state, and that is, the construction of our public schools. The report upon that subject will be open to the public in the immediate future. It has already been made public to a certain extent, and I trust the Government will take full notice of what has been said in regard to the public schools of this state, because it bears out what I have stated many times in this Chamber, that for the best conditions of the health of the people of the state we must see that the Education Department provide light and fresh air to the full for the pupils who are taught in the schools.

Just one other matter: When this Government came into power I said that if they pushed on with a vigorous policy of public works and immigration they would have my assistance. I am still in that position, but I am sorry to have to say that the good intentions of the Government seem to me to be nullified by the slow rate at which these public works are being carried on.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR : The Government are spending all the money they can!

The Hon. Dr. NASH : The hon. member misunderstands me. I did not say that I would back up the Government in the expenditure of public money. I am not prepared to say that. What I said

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and what I repeat is that I am prepared to back them up in a vigorous policy of public works. But I have been led to believe, and the belief is not far wrong, that the public works at present being carried out are costing 60 per cent. more than should legitimately be the cost. If that is the case, no country could stand it.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR : But is it the case?

The Hon. Dr. NASH : I believe it is, and I have the very best authority for my belief. The downfall of a Ministry and the downfall of a state are not far distant if public works are being carried on at that ruinous cost—60 per cent. in excess of a legitimate cost.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR : An awful thing!

The Hon. Dr. NASH : I say it is an awful state of things, and a state of things which, if I am to believe my eyes, is absolutely correct, because I see it every day, and the reports from every part of the country are to that effect.

The Hon. A. SINCLAIR : The hon. member means the newspaper reports!

The Hon. Dr. NASH : I do not mean the newspaper reports.

The Hon. F. H. BRYANT : The hon. member has been in bad company!

The Hon. Dr. NASH : I am content with the company, because what I am saying is, first of all, the result of my own observation, and, secondly, the opinions of people upon whom I can rely. If my hon. friends are prepared to back this state of things up, well and good. Let them take the responsibility. I certainly shall not, because it is too serious a matter to trifle over, and it means disaster to our country and our country's cause. Members of the Government know better than I do the truth of the facts of which I speak. This Government has never had my ill-will, and I hope that, whatever Government is in power, it will always give me credit for honest criticism, however severe it be. I give such criticism because I possess the knowledge which is in me to speak fairly and truly. I think that, in view of the condition of public affairs, if my hon. friends pass the Vaccination Bill in this session, they will have done extremely well, and in this House, where contention rises not to

heights, we shall have the pleasure of looking on those brave gentlemen who face the electors in the hope of once again being members of the Parliament of New South Wales.

The Hon. F. E. WINCHCOMBE: I regret much to see that there is no mention in the Governor's speech of steps being taken to meet the necessities which were alluded to by the hon. member, Mr. Gormly, particularly the necessity of providing facilities for bringing produce to market during the forthcoming harvest. I see in paragraph 4 of the speech there is a reference to the report of an expert on the subject of handling grain in bulk. The action which the Government proposes to take in that matter may be very desirable, but it seems to me it is dealing with occasions which are somewhat distant, and in the meantime we have the prospect of probably a record wheat harvest in this state. If the probabilities at present in sight are carried out we shall have a record harvest, and there is no doubt that the existing facilities will be altogether inadequate to cope with it. Of course there are many reasons why urgent steps are not very practicable; that is to say, there is not sufficient money available. That is probably the outstanding reason which prevents the Government from doing what it would like to do. But there is a number of railways in course of construction into some of our best wheat districts, and none of these railways are being pushed to completion. That is a great mistake. The work seems to me to be spread too much. The money available is spread over too many lines, and the consequence is that we have a great number of lines which are going to be of great use, but which are less than half finished, and there is no prospect of their being used for a very long time to come. Take the case of the line from Stockinbingal to Forbes. I believe that over 50 miles of earthworks have been completed on that line, but not one rail has been laid. That is bad business, apart from the fact that this line is urgently wanted for the forthcoming wheat season. It is bad business to have so much money sunk in earthworks before a single line is laid. The proper system would be to construct a line, and complete it for a certain distance, so that it could be put into use;

then some return would be got for the expenditure. It is altogether ridiculous that 50 miles of earthworks should be completed without a single line of rail having been laid. I would urge on the Government that they should concentrate their efforts on the completion of one line, or portion of one line, so that it might be got into use, and be of service to the community, instead of, as at present, having a large amount of useless work done, and no lines completed. At the present rate of progress, none of the lines will be completed in time for the forthcoming wheat season, and it will be a serious matter if that should prove to be the case. These lines run into districts where there will be great congestion, if accommodation is not provided. I hope the Government will take some special steps in this matter. I look upon it as one of the most urgent and important that faces the Government at the present time. It is far more important than many of the subjects which are given prominence in the Governor's speech.

The Hon. J. WILSON: Of all the addresses in reply, the most interesting is always the one presented just prior to the closing of Parliament in its last session. But I should like to ask why it is that the mover of the address in reply, one of the medical profession, and the Hon. Dr. Nash, have not answered my question. During the unfortunate crisis that Sydney has been troubled with, is there one of the medical profession who can say that the proposition of the Government for the vaccination of infants is any attempt to get rid of the existing trouble? The mover of the address in reply, who is one of the greatest medical authorities in Newcastle, knows that the lymph that has been poured into the unfortunates in Newcastle has been absolutely without effect, and useless in its results. I asked the hon. member the plain question "what is vaccination?" but he could not answer it. If the word "vaccination" is used, it resembles a gun or a cannon, but the result depends on what is contained in the discharge. Has this Government attempted to see that the discharge that is used among the unfortunate portion of the scared public who become vaccinated is from the right source, or of the right quality? I speak as one who went through the scare of 1881, when the medical pro-

fession of Sydney took the unfortunate smallpox patients at midnight in mid-winter down the harbour to quarantine. Many of them died while going there. And this Government professes in the last session of Parliament to cure the unfortunate epidemic that is among us by offering to vaccinate unborn children. What a cure to offer to a public like that of Sydney!

The Hon. J. MEAGHER: They will have to be born first, will they not?

The Hon. J. WILSON: Is it not a wonderful cure? Could doctors live on the possibility of patients to come? No, they live on the possibility of patients that are. We all know there is an axiom that the only time to prepare for war is the time of peace, and I would rather the administrative skill of this Government—and I admit that individually they are clever—

An Hon. MEMBER: They are too clever!

The Hon. J. WILSON: I am simply admitting that they are clever; I am not qualifying it at all. And I say that instead of having a funk, or what ought to be a defunct, Health Board in Sydney, which has had its opportunity, I would rather see a live and efficient board created, and not cover the sins of omission on the part of the Health Board by asking Parliament to cure the malady that is in our midst by giving its consent to a bill to vaccinate unborn children. And these are statesmen. This is all they offer. I would rather they told the public, in regard to this unfortunate malady, which is in a mild form, and bears no comparison that of 1881, "Be easy and do not worry. With the machinery at our disposal, and by means of honest lymph, we will eradicate this disease, rather than by asking the country to be appeased with the vaccination of unborn youngsters." Why are not the medical profession, after the long lapse of time from 1881 to 1913, able to know the meaning of the word "lymph"? If I were to write a history of this I would only write a history of doctors on doctors, and during the past fortnight such a history would have driven them mad with shame. I am not going to touch upon any other question. This is the important one. I think 50 per cent of all we have heard about this outbreak is scare, and thanks to this scare they are ruining our

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port and its trade, and disseminating misery in the homes of thousands of people who have been led to submit themselves to vaccination. I say to the leader of the House, and it is reported in the press to-day, that yesterday a citizen of Marrickville died of blood-poisoning through absolute carelessness in pouring impure lymph into him by a man who is not qualified.

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: Not qualified? If a man is not qualified he has no right to perform the operation!

The Hon. J. WILSON: Does the hon. member think that every man is qualified?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: Every medical man who practises here must be qualified and registered!

The Hon. J. WILSON: Because a man has passed examinations?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: Passed through a proper course, and has a diploma!

The Hon. J. WILSON: The hon. member means be a member of the doctors' union?

The Hon. MARTIN DOYLE: No!

The Hon. J. WILSON: The leader of the movement would not say that. What I mean by not qualified is that the most sanctified man in Australia—the man who has a right to enter the home and be trusted—may be a madman, a drunkard, or a fool; and still have got through his examination. I repeat that a citizen of Marrickville was found dead in his bed, black from hand to shoulder, and that no coroner's inquest has been called for.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: Why assume that he died from bad lymph if no coroner's inquest has been held?

The Hon. J. WILSON: You cannot prove anything unless you have the evidence.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: The trouble is that the hon. member assumes it.

The Hon. J. WILSON: Perhaps I have no right to say it, but I say that if a man dies in Marrickville under exceptional circumstances those in authority there should be required to report the case. We have an act of Parliament demanding that certain diseases shall be reported to the Health Board. Is not that correct? But have you not left smallpox out? Is that included in the list?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: I think it is!

The Hon. J. WILSON: But is the hon. member sure?

The Hon. Dr. NASH: Yes, I believe it is!

The Hon. J. WILSON: The hon. member says so after seeking the advice of the leader of the House. The matter is in doubt. However, I am prepared to congratulate the Government on what it has done outside of this epidemic, and I hope the majority of their proposals will be carried into law. But this bill to kill a panic is the most unfortunate that I have ever known a Government to ask Parliament for.

The Hon. J. GARLAND: Make-believe!

The Hon. J. WILSON: No, not make-believe. This does not fool anybody; it is simply politics in distress and in panic.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT: I have it in command from his Excellency to say that he will receive the address in reply at noon to-morrow.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Motion (by Hon. F. FLOWERS) agreed to:

That the House at its rising this day do adjourn until half-past 11 o'clock to-morrow.

House adjourned at 6.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 22 July, 1913.

Opening of the Session—New Members—Opening of Parliament—Appointment of Governor—Assent to Bills—New Ministry—Member Deceased—Mr. Speaker and the Lieutenant-Governor—Resignation of Mr. Speaker—Adjournment.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

The House met at noon, pursuant to proclamation by his Excellency the Governor convening Parliament.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had issued writs for the election of members to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral districts of Blayney, Yass, and Wollondilly in the places

of Mr. George Stephenson Beeby (resigned), Mr. Niels Rasmus Wilson Nielsen (resigned), and the Hon. William McCourt (deceased), and that the writs had been returned with certificates of the election of George Stephenson Beeby, John Joseph Gregory McGirr, and Francis Arthur Badgery, indorsed thereon.

Messrs. Beeby, McGirr, and Badgery took the oath and subscribed the roll.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message, "That his Excellency the Governor requests the immediate attendance of this honorable House in the Legislative Council Chamber."

The House went, and hon. members having returned,

House adjourned until 4 o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER took the chair at 4.30 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR.

Mr. SPEAKER read the following message from his Excellency the Governor:—

Sir Gerald Strickland has the honor to inform the Legislative Assembly that his Majesty has been graciously pleased, by a commission under his royal sign manual and signet, bearing date at St. James' the twenty-fifth day of November, 1912, to appoint him to be Governor in and over the State of New South Wales and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australia, and that, on the fourteenth day of March last, he took the oath of office and the oath of allegiance before the Executive Council, and assumed the government of the state accordingly.

State Government House,
Sydney, 18th July, 1913.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Royal assent to the following bills reported:—

Newcastle Iron and Steel Works Bill.
Loan Bill (No. 2).

Public Service (Amendment) Bill.
Height of Buildings (Metropolitan Police District) Bill.

Australian Mutual Provident Society's Officers' Provident Fund Trustees Enabling Bill.

Wyalong to Lake Cudgellico Railway Bill.

Senators' Elections (Amendment) Bill.