

Mr. HOLLWAY (Premier and Treasurer).—I shall refer the representations of the honorable member for Coburg to the Minister of Agriculture. If the honorable member can quote specific cases, it will be better for him to make the details known personally to the Minister. In reply to the honorable member for Richmond, I appreciate the difficulties of musicians, but I cannot see how the Government can interfere in this matter.

Mr. KEON.—The firm sought Government intervention when it desired to rebuild the Regent theatre.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—The honorable member should discuss that matter with the honorable member for Carlton.

Mr. KEON.—I can discuss the letter from your party to the firm.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—I think the honorable member is asking for too much when he seeks Government intervention to compel firms to employ orchestras at picture theatres.

Mr. HAYES.—The firms should be compelled to employ orchestras.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—Until recently, this was a comparatively free country, and I do not think a firm was compelled to employ orchestras any more than a person was compelled to attend picture theatres.

Mr. KEON.—The present set-up gives this firm a monopoly of films.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—Apparently the honorable member wishes to discuss cartels and monopolies, but at present I am speaking of orchestras. The Government has made conditions materially better for musicians by its encouragement not only of the "Music for the People" orchestra, but also of the State Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. HAYES.—Musicians cannot starve all the week waiting for a Government show on Sunday.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—If the honorable member were to read the musicians' award, doubtless he would leave this place to start blowing his own trumpet in an orchestra. I am prepared to bring to the notice of the company in question the representations of the honorable member to see if there is any explanation.

Session 1949.—[24]

Mr. KEON.—Theatres inflict Hollywood rubbish on their patrons and so they should provide some form of culture.

Mr. HOLLWAY.—I do not hold a brief for all pictures. The Government cannot interfere with private industry to the extent of compelling theatre managements to employ orchestras.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 4.29 p.m. until Tuesday, May 3.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, May 3, 1949.

The **PRESIDENT** (**Sir Clifden Eager**) took the chair at 5 p.m., and read the prayer.

DEATH OF THE HONORABLE SIR GEORGE LOUIS GOUDIE.

The Hon. J. A. KENNEDY (Minister of Public Works).—The passing of Sir George Goudie since the House last met has left honorable members with a feeling of deep regret and it is fitting that the distinguished services rendered by our departed friend should be recognized. I therefore move, by leave—

That this House place on record its deep regret at the death of the Honorable Sir George Louis Goudie, one of the members for the North-Western Province and a former Minister of the Crown, and its keen appreciation of the long and valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria.

The outstanding services which marked the career of Sir George Goudie are well known to honorable members but it is desirable that I should submit a record of his activities. Sir George died on the 30th of April last at the age of 83 years. He was born at Homebush, near Avoca, and received his education at State schools. As a young man he took a keen interest in municipal affairs and for more than 25 years was a member of the Ballan, Birchip and Karkaroc Shire Councils. During that period he was engaged in farming and grazing pursuits and as a storekeeper at Hopetoun.

Sir George Goudie was first elected to the Legislative Council as one of the members for the North-Western Province on the 5th of June, 1919 and he held that seat continuously until his death. I am informed also that he had the unique distinction of never having to fight an election. He held Ministerial office for many years, being Commissioner of Public Works and Minister of Mines in the Lawson Ministry from the 7th of September, 1923, to the 19th of March, 1924, and in the Allan Ministry from the 18th of November, 1924, to the 20th of May, 1927. He was Minister of Water Supply and Minister of Labour from the 19th of May, 1932, to the 25th of July, 1934, and Minister of Water Supply and Minister in Charge of Electrical Undertakings from the 25th of July, 1934, to the 20th of March, 1935 in the Argyle Ministry. He was Commissioner of Public Works and Minister in Charge of Immigration in the Dunstan Ministry from the 2nd of April, 1935 to the 14th of September, 1943. He was also Leader for the Government in the Council from January, 1942, to September, 1943. In January, 1942 he was appointed chairman of the Air Raids Precautions Shelters Committee and he was also chairman of the Employment Council for approximately six years. He was created a knight in 1939.

I think we all agree that the late Sir George Goudie had a wonderful life, in the course of which he was able to render most signal service to the State. Some honorable members were associated with Sir George in this House for many years. In my own case the association lasted twelve years, for six of which he was a Minister and for another period Leader of the Government in this Chamber. Sir George never said anything that would hurt any one; he was always a most kindly man, possessed of rare judgment and a wealth of wisdom. Only to-day I was informed that the Premier of the first Ministry to which Sir George Goudie was elected said of our departed friend that he was the best man in that Cabinet. Perhaps that remark was indicative of the reason why Sir

The Hon. J. A. Kennedy.

George occupied Ministerial posts for such long periods. He was esteemed by all and his passing is deplored.

We envy him the remarkable service he was able to render to the State and we feel sure that his influence will long be felt particularly throughout the country areas, because he was essentially a man who had the interests of the rural parts of the State deep down in his heart. I am certain that all honorable members desire to express their deepest sympathy to Lady Goudie and other members of the family. The relatives of Sir George Goudie will no doubt gain comfort and help from the knowledge that he was held in such high esteem and that he established such a splendid record of public service during his long career.

The Hon. W. J. BECKETT (Melbourne Province).—In formally seconding the motion I desire to associate myself with the eulogy heard from the Minister of Public Works regarding the long career of our late colleague and to join with the honorable gentleman in the sympathy he has expressed with the sorrowing widow and other members of Sir George Goudie's family. Once again, honorable members have, this afternoon, had the sad duty of paying their last tribute of respect to a dear old friend. I use the words "once again" because this is the third occasion in the last two years on which we have followed a member to his last resting place. In *As You Like It* Shakespeare employed the phrase "And one man in his time plays many parts." That is apropos of the career and life work of our late respected member. He was a pioneer in the Mallee and a primary producer of more than 50 years ago. He led a very full life in the part of the State to which he belonged. As indicated by the Minister of Public Works, Sir George Goudie before becoming a member of this House served—as have many other members—an apprenticeship as a municipal councillor. Subsequently he filled a multitude of public offices which I think must constitute a record for the State.

As has been pointed out, Sir George served Victoria in this Chamber for 30 long years, and—like several other members, including myself—his membership began before any remuneration

was paid. As a matter of fact, he was the first member of the Country party to be elected to the Council. It is true that the late Sir John Harris was a member before Sir George Goudie's time, but Sir John did not then officially belong to the party. Sir George was the first member of the Country party in this Chamber to hold Ministerial rank. Obviously he led a most active life. In the Scriptures there is a phrase, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," which can well be applied to the life of Sir George Goudie, from every point of view.

Whatever he did he did well. He never claimed to be a brilliant statesman or politician, but the characteristic feature of his work in this House was patience, together with a quiet determination to accomplish things. Whether as a senior Minister or as Leader of the Government in this Chamber he always had that soft kindly answer which turned away wrath, and which enabled him as a Minister of the Crown to get things done. Old faces are sadly missed. Members are disappearing one by one; of those who were in this House 25 years ago very few are left. The memory of that dear old kindly gentleman, Sir George Goudie, will long linger with us.

The Hon. P. T. BYRNES (North Western Province).—As his colleague in the North-Western Province, I desire to add my tribute to the wonderful work Sir George Goudie performed for many years. Throughout the northern districts of Victoria and, in fact, throughout rural Victoria as a whole, Sir George was held in the highest esteem. He had a most practical mind and he understood the problems of the countryside very well. Listening to the impressive record read by the Leader of the House one realized that it is given to few to give so much as Sir George Goudie gave. He was not only a member of the Victorian Parliament, but for many years he served on municipal councils, where his memory is still green. Possibly the best service he performed was as chairman of the Employment Council, in which capacity he was able to have work done that otherwise would

never have materialized. It was work which has been of permanent value to the State.

Owing to Sir George Goudie's practical knowledge of the requirements of Victoria, more especially in the sphere of rural activity, much of the money spent on unemployment relief was converted into a valuable asset for the State. That fact is by no means forgotten in all parts of Victoria. When I first became a member of the Council I looked to Sir George Goudie for guidance. At that time he was Minister of Public Works, and I recall that he discussed broadly with me some of the principles that a young Parliamentarian should know. That chat was one of the most informative that I ever had. I learned more in that quarter of an hour than I might have learnt in many years elsewhere. I thought of him very highly as a colleague. I know members of his family, and his death is a personal loss to me. I have great sympathy for Lady Goudie and his immediate relatives, and I shall remember him as a simple, courageous and successful citizen.

The Hon. P. J. CLAREY (Doutta Galla Province).—On behalf of the Labour members of the Council I desire to associate them and myself with the remarks made by other members concerning the late Sir George Goudie. We suffer sorrow every now and then by the news of the death of a member who had endeared himself to us and had rendered good service to his country, and such a motion as that now before the House is submitted as a sad duty. Sir George Goudie could be appropriately described as the best equipped member in experience, age and knowledge to deal with Victorian rural problems. As the leader of the Labour party in this Chamber, and when I was a Minister of the Crown, I always noticed that his contributions to debates on country questions were outstanding and distinguished for their common sense.

Sir George devoted himself to the advancement of the interests of producers in a remarkable way. For many years he was a member of this Chamber, and served as a Minister in a number of Governments. Not only did he find time to attend to parliamentary activities in this House,

but he also contributed a vast amount of thought and work to municipal problems. He set out to serve the State, and to assist those with whom he lived and mingled. As individuals we have been in close association with a personality that was full of common sense and thoroughly equipped to make sound judgments. We have conversed with Sir George, and lived with him, but he has passed on and a respected colleague with whom we were closely associated is no longer with us. We members have suffered a personal loss, and the State is the poorer, too. We regret his demise and extend to Lady Goudie and his family our deep sympathy.

The Hon. J. H. LIENHOP (Bendigo Province).—I desire to associate myself with the splendid tribute expressed by the Leader of the House to Sir George Goudie. The late knight's record of service to the State is outstanding. He was a great personality, and his was a mind concentrated on country problems and advancement of the welfare of the man on the land. What he accomplished as a Minister, a private member of Parliament, and a citizen will stand as a monument to him. I recall that when it was my great privilege to succeed Sir George Goudie as Minister of Public Works, I found there were indelibly impressed on the minds of the officers who were responsible for the administration of the Department high ideals that were inspirations to all.

Sir George Goudie was a most capable parliamentarian, and even in the hour of political defeat he was big enough to tender worth while advice to those who had opposed him. He left a grand pattern, of which those who are to follow him might well take notice. The State has suffered a great loss through his death. His life, full of rich service, offers a magnificent example to Victorians. He had a large circle of friends and a big family of respected citizens. In this hour of sorrow I extend my sympathy to Lady Goudie, who nobly assisted her husband, and the other members of the family.

The Hon. G. S. McARTHUR (South-Western Province).—I desire, too, to pay tribute to the late Sir George Goudie.

I recall my election as a young member for the South-Western Province. Then I had the privilege of receiving a great deal of excellent counsel from him. He was generous in seeking to guide newly elected members. Sir George Goudie was a good practical countryman, and his personality commanded affection and respect. It is eighteen years since I was first elected to Parliament, and I see here now only six or seven members who were then in this Chamber. I extend deep sympathy to Lady Goudie and the family.

The PRESIDENT (Sir Clifden Eager).—Before putting the motion I desire to join in the tributes paid to the memory of the late Sir George Goudie and in the expressions of sympathy with Lady Goudie and the other members of his family. I knew Sir George for nineteen years and regarded him as a friend indeed in the performance of my parliamentary work and duties. My thoughts of the late member are dominated by an appreciation of his great geniality and genius for friendship. I never heard a harsh word fall from his lips either inside or outside the House. He could engage with great energy in a political fight, and during it all, he would display no hardness of heart towards his fellow members. It is needless for me to refer to the details of his career as a public man for they have already been fully stated by honorable members who have spoken to the motion. Victoria has lost a great citizen, a capable member of Parliament, and a notable former Minister of the Crown. Sir George died at the mature age of 83 years, and members feel sincere sorrow at his death, but that sorrow is tempered by the remembrance of his fine life and work.

The motion was agreed to in silence, honorable members standing in their places.

The Hon. J. A. KENNEDY (Minister of Public Works).—I move—

That the House, out of respect to the memory of the late Honorable Sir George Louis Goudie, do now adjourn until a quarter to Eight o'clock this day.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.27 p.m.