

Justice, being confident that Dr. Dobson would discharge the duties of Chairman as ably in the future as he had done in the past.

The Hon. J. BALFOUR observed that it afforded him much pleasure to support the motion. He felt that the longer Dr. Dobson had been in the chair, not only had his experience increased, but the more satisfied honorable members had been with the ability, impartiality and good temper he had displayed in the performance of his duties.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT.—I have much pleasure in conveying to Dr. Dobson the decision of the House, and in congratulating him on being again elected to fill the important position of Chairman of Committees.

The Hon. F. S. DOBSON said he had to express his extreme gratitude to the House for the manner in which it had received the too flattering remarks of the honorable members who had proposed and seconded the resolution. It had ever been his utmost endeavour to preserve complete impartiality in dealing with questions which had come before him, and on which his decision was necessary. Of course opinions might differ as to whether individual members would have dealt with those questions in the manner in which he felt it his duty to do, but whilst differences of opinion might and must exist, he had the consolation of knowing that a difference of opinion was not necessarily an attack upon his personal honour. He could only say that he would endeavour in the future, as he had done in the past, to make any decision he was called upon to give consistent with the most complete impartiality, and also with what knowledge of parliamentary law and practice he had, during the years which he had occupied the chair, been able to make himself familiar with. He had also to thank the President personally for the renewed expression of that kindly feeling which the honorable gentleman had always exhibited towards him.

THE LATE MR. ORMOND.

The Hon. H. CUTHBERT moved—

“That this House deplores the loss which the colony has sustained by the death of the Hon. Francis Ormond, for many years a useful and respected member of this Chamber, and desires to record its acknowledgment and appreciation of the eminent services rendered to his adopted country by his liberality and generous endowments, and to express its sympathy with his widow in her sad bereavement.”

During the last five or six years (observed the hon. gentleman) this House has had the

misfortune to be deprived of the services of some of its most eminent and useful members. I refer to the late Mr. R. S. Anderson, Sir Charles Sladen, Sir William Mitchell, Dr. Hearn, Mr. Henty, and Mr. Highett.

The Hon. W. A. ZEAL.—Dr. Hearn was a giant amongst them. The others are not entitled to be mentioned in the same breath.

The Hon. H. CUTHBERT.—No doubt Dr. Hearn was a most illustrious member of the Council.

The Hon. W. A. ZEAL.—There is no comparison between him and the others.

The Hon. H. CUTHBERT.—It is not my intention to institute any comparison between the gentlemen whom I have mentioned. I desire simply to refer to the great loss which this Chamber has sustained in being deprived of the services of those able men. We have now also to deplore the loss of Mr. Francis Ormond, who was for many years a useful and worthy member of this Chamber. The deceased gentleman was ever desirous of performing his duty, and he listened attentively to, and weighed carefully the different arguments that were brought before the House in debate on the various questions submitted for our consideration. It might be said that he had not a single enemy in this House. In every act he was kind, courteous, and considerate, and I think that those who knew him best esteemed him most. As long as I have known him, I have never heard him say one word in this Chamber which was calculated to irritate or annoy anyone. But it is not in his capacity only as a member of this House, or as a politician, that the name of the late Mr. Francis Ormond will be handed down to posterity. Even when the illustrious names to which I have referred will have passed into oblivion, I venture to think that the name of Francis Ormond will be held in grateful remembrance through successive ages by those who will benefit by his liberality and wisdom; and by those he will be regarded as one of the greatest benefactors of his time. His sphere of duty was not limited or confined merely to the discharge of his duty as a member of this House. It was broader, I may say nobler, more diversified, and more philanthropic. In this colony, I think, he may be classed as one of our representative men of whom we may be justly proud; and I also think, that during his life-time the great and eminent services which he rendered to his country were not appreciated as they deserved. Had it pleased Providence to extend his span of existence for a few months longer, I believe that those

services would have received some fitting recognition at the hands of his Sovereign. He is now removed from all earthly honours, but although those honours did not reach him in his life-time he had, in witnessing the success of the grand educational institutions which he founded—I allude to Ormond College and the Working Men's College—a satisfaction beyond any which honours could bestow. He left those institutions in full working order, each in its special sphere of usefulness, advancing with rapid strides, and fully carrying out the intentions and expectations of its founder. On those institutions—both of which I think must be acknowledged by all to be very noble and very useful—he lavished a great portion of his wealth; but even that expenditure was not sufficient to exhaust the resources of his large-hearted liberality. He founded a chair of music at our University; and he was instrumental, by his princely gift, in enlisting and encouraging men to hasten the completion of the Anglican Cathedral. Whether we look upon Mr. Ormond as a member of this House or as a public benefactor, I think we must say that he endeavoured to do his duty in his day and generation faithfully and well. He has left behind him noble and lasting monuments of his good-will towards the people of this colony. His desire was to raise and elevate them, and it is because he was what I consider a great public benefactor that I regard it as not out of place to ask this House to express its sorrow for his loss, and its sympathy with his widow in her bereavement.

The Hon. F. T. SARGOOD.—Mr. President, I beg to second the motion. I cannot claim so long an acquaintance with the late Mr. Ormond as some honorable members, but I think I may fairly claim not to be surpassed by his best friend in thorough appreciation of the eminent services which he has rendered to this colony. I think I am right in saying that very early in life Mr. Ormond commenced to take a keen and active interest in educational movements—true, in a small way at first, but his actions showed the bent of his mind, and, as time went on, so his interest in the matter developed, and also, fortunately, his ability to give practical expression to his wishes. There are few, perhaps, in this colony who have gone through more trying times than did the late honorable member. He had seen what are commonly called “hard times.” He had known what it was to work hard, but his indomitable courage and ability to master a subject enabled him to overcome all

difficulties, and to raise himself to the position of one of our wealthy men. Moreover, it is gratifying to know that as his wealth accumulated so his anxiety to properly and wisely utilize that wealth developed, and we have to-day, as has been well stated by the Minister of Justice, lasting monuments not merely of his liberality, but of the judgment with which he was able to spend his money. Whether it be in the foundation of the Ormond College, in the foundation of the Working Men's College, or in the foundation of a chair of music at the Melbourne University, the Hon. Francis Ormond showed an aptitude for properly and judiciously applying the wealth with which he was blessed. He has set an example, which, let us hope, will be followed by others, so that as time rolls on the people of Victoria may have the satisfaction and advantage of finding that the wealth that is won in this colony is not gained simply for the sake of hoarding it for selfish purposes, or to leave vast fortunes behind, but that it will be well and wisely and liberally used during the life-time of those who win it.

The Hon. J. BALFOUR.—Mr. President, it was with a profound sense of the exceeding great loss which the whole community has sustained, that I heard of the death of the Hon. Francis Ormond. The honorable gentleman was, as you are aware, an intimate personal friend of my own, and I feel his loss deeply. The more one knew of him, the more strongly one felt that he was a man of the most disinterested character, actuated in all things not by selfish or personal motives, but by a high sense of his duty to his fellow creatures, which was founded upon strong Christian convictions. “E'en his failings leaned to virtue's side,” for if one sometimes wondered at his careful economical expenditure upon himself, the wonder ceased when one found that this personal economy was exercised only that he might be able the more munificently to assist the community with his princely gifts. Everything he did was done, as I have said, from a high sense of public duty. I will just mention two little instances which came under my notice quite recently, and which will serve to illustrate how strong was this trait in Mr. Ormond's character. One evening towards the close of last session, he was sitting near me, and his looks showed that he was very unwell. Although he was suffering from a severe cold on the chest, he had determined to remain through the whole of that night's sitting, because he felt it to be his duty; and it was

with great difficulty that I persuaded him, with your assistance, Mr. President, to relinquish that determination, and go home to bed, after urging upon him, as I did, that he had no right to imperil his health, and perhaps his life, even to perform his public duty as a member of this House. On another occasion, Mr. Ormond was on a visit to his station in Riverina, and although he had not finished what he went there to do, he determined to return to Melbourne, because he had to attend a meeting of the council of the Working Men's College. I did all I could to induce him to remain at the station, and finish the private business he had in hand; but he was not to be persuaded to neglect his public duty, and such was his great interest in the Working Men's College that he travelled a distance of 200 miles just to attend a meeting of the council of that institution. The mover and seconder of this motion have referred to Mr. Ormond's munificent donations to the cause of education, and I can bear personal testimony to the fact that he did all in his power to elevate his fellow creatures by means of education. He commenced this good work, as we have already been informed, when he was quite a young man, and was acting as manager or superintendent of his father's station. At that time everybody was extremely busy, making haste to get rich. Men thought very little about education or the elevation of the people; but several times a week, after the day's hard work, Mr. Ormond brought the station hands together and taught them. That was the beginning of his devotion to the cause of education in this colony. You all know how he progressed—how he founded the Ormond College at the Melbourne University, not alone for the advantage of the church to which he belonged, although it is connected with that church, but for the advancement of education, the doors of that college being open to students of all classes and creeds in the University; and I venture to say that the students of that college will keep very green in their memories all that was done for the cause of education in the founding of their college by the late Francis Ormond. We all know what he did for the working men of Melbourne. Feeling the great lack of educational means which would enable working men to rise in the social scale, he founded the Working Men's College, and although I am not able to speak with positive certainty on the point, I believe it will be found that he has left a sufficient sum to complete the extension of its buildings. I know he told me that his next gift

was to be towards the further enlargement of that splendid institution. Mr. Ormond was always an enthusiast in regard to music; and, as you are aware, he has founded a chair of music at the Melbourne University. He did great service to the community as a member of the Royal commission on education, giving a great amount of valuable time and attention to a thorough investigation of the merits and defects of our system of public instruction. In fact, Mr. Ormond made education quite a hobby, and none can doubt that he did much in that way to promote the advancement of the whole community. Just before going home, Mr. Ormond left with me a letter, that I read now with very great sadness, because he asks me in it, in the expectation of his being away from the colony for only a short period of time, to request the House to grant him leave of absence. The very words of his letter show that he had no expectation of being taken away so soon by death. He writes:—

“In consequence of Mrs. Ormond's weak state, and my not over-robust health, I am advised by our medicees to seek the change and rest which a trip to Europe affords. Will you kindly, when the right time arrives, ask for leave of absence to me for the remainder of the session.”

You will glean from the wording of his letter that Mr. Ormond's own idea was that he would soon be able to return to the colony, improved in health and strength, and it was a great shock to us all and to the entire community, when we learned by cable that he had been taken away, leaving a painful blank not only in this House but in the colony at large. I very much sympathize with this motion, and I have no doubt it will be unanimously agreed to.

The Hon. C. J. HAM.—Having been associated, Mr. President, with the late Francis Ormond not only in this House but also as a fellow member of the Royal Commission on Education as well as upon the council of the Working Men's College, from the very birth of that institution, it will perhaps not be out of place, if I offer a word or two on this melancholy occasion. Reference has been made to the various acts of munificence of the late honorable gentleman, and in a manner so appropriate as to commend itself to every member of this House. To the Working Men's College, Mr. Ormond gave not only his money but the very best of his efforts for the furtherance of the great objects that he had so much at heart, and despite a good deal of discouragement from time to time that

institution was carried to a successful issue, chiefly by his perseverance and encouragement. Mr. Ormond had a distinct object in view, and worked quietly and steadily towards that end, and it must have been a source of great gratification to him to know, when he left the colony, that there were upwards of 2,000 students receiving instruction in the Working Men's College. I feel sure, sir, that the name of Francis Ormond will long be cherished by all classes of this community and especially by the working men of the colony.

The Hon. D. HAM.—Mr. President, as one of the members of this House who enjoyed the privilege of personal intimacy with the late Francis Ormond, I should like to be allowed to join in the general tribute of respect and admiration. The late Mr. Ormond was a born philanthropist. At the time he was managing his father's station, a man was unjustly condemned to death. Mr. Ormond felt that it was his duty, if possible, to save that man. There were no railroads and few bridges in those days, and Francis Ormond rode all the way to Melbourne, risking great dangers, for his horse was drowned as he was swimming across a river, and he himself narrowly escaped a similar fate. Getting another horse, however, he continued his journey, and he had the satisfaction of securing a reprieve just in time to save the condemned man from the scaffold. As we all know, this community has greatly benefited by his princely liberality. The generosity of the late Francis Ormond was not confined to the church of his choice, or institutions connected therewith. His desire was to benefit and elevate the whole community, and his motives were disinterested and pure. His death is a great loss to this colony, and although he has been called, no doubt, to a higher and better reward, I am really sorry that, in the Providence of God, he was not permitted to live until he had received the honours which he so justly deserved, and which, I am sure, he would have borne with all possible credit, and with great satisfaction to this community, where his name will be held in reverence for generations to come.

The Hon. G. DAVIS.—Mr. President, I cannot allow this motion to pass without expressing my very hearty and sincere approval of it, and also of all that has been said by honorable members. I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Ormond only for a very brief time, during the last session of Parliament, but I was impressed by his obvious desire to argue all matters that came under our notice

with strict impartiality. That appeared to me to be one of the chief features of his mind. Of course, before I had the honour of a seat in this Chamber, I knew Mr. Ormond by repute, as one of those wealthy citizens of Victoria, who recognise that property has its duties as well as its rights. Mr. Ormond always laboured hard for the advancement of the people amongst whom he lived, and he has shown by his own bright example that the elevation of the working men of the colony is an object worthy of the support of our wealthy citizens, and one, which, I trust, will not be forgotten. I am sure, sir, that no honour which might have been conferred upon the late Francis Ormond, in recognition of his great services to this colony, could have exceeded the honour which will be conferred upon him in the time to come by the grateful recollection of the people of Victoria.

The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. H. CUTHBERT, the President was requested to forward a copy of the resolution to Mrs. Ormond.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

The Hon. H. CUTHBERT moved for leave to introduce a Bill to create a Department of Public Health, and to further amend the law relating to public health.

The motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then brought in, and read a first time.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The debate on the motion of the Hon. J. S. Butters, for the adoption of an address in reply to the speech of the Acting Governor (adjourned from the previous day), was resumed.

The Hon. J. H. CONNOR.—Mr. President, I think it is right that honorable members in this House should retain and exercise the privilege of criticising the acts of the Government during the recess, and notwithstanding that this is the most powerful Government we have ever had in office—a Government that is able to do almost anything—still I think that some of their acts during the recess are open to criticism. I listened with very great pleasure to the speeches of the mover and seconder of the motion for an address in reply, but I feel that a number of the paragraphs in the speech of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government really require some explanation from Ministers. The paragraph in reference to the defences of the colony, in particular, seems to me to be very unsatisfactory.