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SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## FOREWORD

by

**The Honourable Sir Albert Wolff, K.C.M.G.**

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This volume marks the commencement of a new series of law reports pertaining to the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Henceforth the reports will be known as the "Western Australian Reports", instead of the "Western Australian Law Reports", which commenced in 1899.

The new reports will be cited as "W.A.R."

It is felt that the new reports will be a step forward. The Law Society of Western Australia is to be commended on its decision to take an active part in obtaining the reports of cases and selecting material for publication.

In May last year a Council of Law Reporting was established, of which I have the honour to be Chairman. This Council will be the medium for supplying cases for reporting to Messrs. Butterworth & Co. (Australia) Ltd., who have undertaken the publication of the new series.

It is essential that the law reports, if they are to be of maximum use to the profession, to students, and to the community in general, should be published promptly, and that there should be confidence in their accuracy. This calls not only for the assistance of the profession, who are so vitally interested, but also the help and co-operation of Her Majesty's Judges. It is of primary importance to see that no case worthy of inclusion in the reports is omitted; it is equally important that the reports should not be burdened with material which only goes to swell the volume. I know that there is a marked division of opinion on this question. There is one school of thought which would have everything published. Even if we cherish these ideals, the finance is not available to give practical expression to them.

It must be conceded that in recent years the published reports have been too thin, despite a very great increase in the business of the Courts.

There will be an editor and reporters: Francis Burt, Q.C., editor; J. L. C. Wickham and P. H. Atkins [E. J. Edwards], reporters. Parts will be published bi-monthly, and subscribers will receive advance parts five times a year.

The Council trusts that it will have the co-operation of the profession in all things conducing to the improvement of the reports.

The form of the reports will be similar to the Victorian Reports published by Messrs. Butterworth for the Council of Law Reporting of Victoria, but they will not necessarily remain in this form. Personally I should like to see a summary of the argument of counsel similar to that appearing in the law reports of the Council of Law Reporting in England. To achieve this it will be necessary for reporters to gain experience in selecting the salient features of the argument. Furthermore, as we have not at the present time a system of recording, a great deal of work would be involved in getting together the necessary material. I believe the time is not far distant when the Courts will have an effective system of recording, and when that happens the question of reporting the argument will be considered.

A. A. WOLFF

CHIEF JUSTICE

*February 1960*

SUPREME COURT, PERTH

**SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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**Senior Puisne Judge**

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