

member for Perth, to be thankful for small mercies, in the firm belief that half a loaf was better than no bread. He would support the resolution before the Committee, because, in his opinion, it would be perfectly useless to support any other.

MR. MARMION deprecated the idea that he had in any way accused His Excellency of acting other than with perfect uprightness and fairness in this matter. His remarks were particularly directed to the report of the Director of Public Works, who, he thought, had not put forward the claims of the rival routes as fairly as he might have done. With all due respect, however, towards the Governor, he thought that His Excellency, before framing his report, should have waited for the House to have expressed an opinion on the question of route.

MR. BROWN said, as the subject was one of the gravest importance, he thought the House would do well to postpone its final decision in the matter until another day, and, regard being had to the lateness of the hour, he would now move that progress be reported, and leave obtained to sit again on Friday, for the further consideration of His Excellency's message.

Motion agreed to, and progress reported accordingly.

The House adjourned at five minutes to eleven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 20th June, 1878.

Eastern Railway: Petition to His Excellency the Governor—Duty on Transfer of Land Bill, 1878: first reading—Incorporation of West Australian Bank Shareholders' Bill, 1878: first reading—Customs Ordinance, 1860, Amendment Bill, 1878: first reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

EASTERN RAILWAY—PETITION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he held in his hand a petition presented to His Excellency the Governor by a number of the citizens of Perth, praying that he may approve of and adopt the route proposed for the Eastern Railway by the Government Engineer, and known as the "North Route." The hon. gentleman moved that the petition be received.

MR. S. H. PARKER pointed out that the petition was addressed to the Governor and not to the Council, and he did not think, therefore, it could be read.

MR. BROWN also thought the House could not receive a petition that was not addressed to the Council.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said he would merely move that it be laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER ruled that the petition might be laid on the Table of the House for the information of hon. members.

FIRST READINGS.

MR. BURT, in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to enforce the payment of Duty on the Transfer of Land.

Motion agreed to.

MR. BURT also moved for leave to bring in a Bill to incorporate the Shareholders of the W. A. Bank, and for other purposes.

Leave given, and Bill read a first time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to further amend "The Customs Ordinance, 1860."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock, p.m.
