

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—First Session of 1873.

Opened on Monday, 23rd June, 1873.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Monday, 23rd June, 1873.

Opening of the Council—Swearing in of Members—The Governor's Speech—Importation of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs Bill: first reading—Papers Tabled—Adjournment.

OPENING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor on the 30th August, 1872, to the 10th January, 1873; thence to the 23rd June, 1873, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRAYERS.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Attorney General (Hon. H. H. Hocking), Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, Bart., Mr. Marmion, and Mr. Dempster.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the approach of His Excellency the Governor. The Governor entered the Council Chamber with the Speaker.

His EXCELLENCY was then pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

Mr. Speaker, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,—

In your reply to the Address with which I opened the last Session of your Honorable Council you "recognized that the great Political Advance which," you did me the honor to say, had "marked my term of Government, must be followed by efforts to forward the material Progress of the Country," and you

assured me of your "earnest desire to co-operate with" me "in all measures tending to the advancement of this Colony." That promise you loyally fulfilled, and I am now able to congratulate you on a Progress which, in despite of untoward circumstances beyond our control, is patent and unmistakeable.

I am able now to tell you that the Revenue of this Colony is in a very flourishing condition, and that not only the Revenue but the Exports and the Imports of Western Australia are now greater than at any former period of its existence; that the financial position of the Mercantile Community is sound; that the value of Land in many places has greatly risen; that the amount of Deposits in the Savings' Banks is on the increase; and that these results are true tests of Progress, for they have gone side by side with a large reduction of Imperial Expenditure, and in despite of the general failure of the Wheat-crop from Red Rust, a calamity by which very heavy loss has befallen the Colony and much hardship has been entailed upon individuals, especially in the Victoria District,—drawbacks which far outweigh the impulse which has been afforded by the Expenditure of a small Loan for Public Works.

Those works are fast advancing. A few weeks more will see the completion of a system of Telegraph Lines connecting all your principal centres,—lines which already are paying their way and reducing many of the ordinary expenses of Government, and which bid fair to become a source of Income, thus justifying the step I have already taken of reducing the charge on Telegrams. The Fremantle Jetty, a work worthy to rank with those of far larger Colonies, is approaching completion; at Albany, Geraldton, and Bunbury, works of the same nature are being carried out, whilst new Lighthouses will add to the security of Navigation.

The joint Marine Survey, under the able conduct of an officer of the The Royal Navy, is progressing, and has already furnished us with valuable information, which will be laid before you.

In accordance with your resolution of last Session, I appointed a Board to examine and report upon the question of Harbour Improvements, and they, having considered Navigating Lieutenant Archdeacon's Survey and Report, have advised in favour of obtaining the opinion of an eminent Marine Engineer. The old maps of Challenger Passage having been proved defective, and the knowledge of those best acquainted with it incomplete, it has now become evident that you cannot, as was hoped by the Government on the information then before them, obtain a good harbour for all weathers, also possessing a safe entrance for the largest ships, at or anywhere in the vicinity of Fremantle, without considerable outlay,—thus the success which the Colonial Secretary obtained in regard to the port of call for the Royal Mail Steamers, at the Intercolonial Postal Conference, has been neutralized or postponed; but my action in impressing on you the necessity of a complete Marine Survey of the whole Harbour before undertaking any great expenditure, or coming to any definite conclusion, has been fully justified by results.

My views regarding the Harbour question have ever been, and are, that it is advisable, if within the means of the Colony, to create a secure anchorage for all weathers for vessels of large tonnage, if possible within the mouth of the Swan or in Gage's Roads, if not, then at Cockburn Sound or any other place in its vicinity. Complete security for the shipping, facility of entrance, proximity to Fremantle, and economy of construction and maintenance, all must enter into consideration: such were my instructions to Mr. Doyne, and such, I would suggest, should be the instructions to any other Engineer, should you see fit to employ one.

Desirous that Western Australia should take her place in the counsels of the Australian Colonies, I sent the Colonial Secretary to the Intercolonial Conference, and I have to express my sense of the ready courtesy of the other Colonies, not only in admitting for the first time a representative for this country, but in deferring their meeting expressly to await his arrival. You will, I doubt not, recognize that the Intercolonial Conference of 1873 will mark an epoch in the history of Western Australia.

I also took steps to ensure a Representation of our resources at the Sydney Intercolonial Exhibition, by appointing a Commission and placing the necessary funds at their disposal; and, at the request of the Commission, I further appointed the Colonial Secretary, then in Sydney, to act as Special Commissioner on that occasion.

The success of this attempt is a matter of congratulation, especially when it is remembered that with more time and greater combination far greater results may be hereafter attained.

I willingly record my appreciation of the services that the Commission and the Special Commissioner have rendered to the country.

Papers regarding a proposed permanent Colonial Exhibition at South Kensington will be laid before you.

The Pearl Shell and Pearl Fishery at the North has been prosecuted with increasing success, and is becoming of great importance; the season's yield of shells alone, according to the most reliable data obtainable, being worth in the London market about £50,000, whilst many extremely valuable pearls have also been exported.

A Bill for the better protection of persons employed in various industries on the North-West Coast will be laid before you, and also a measure to give extended powers of Local Self-Government in local matters to the inhabitants of that district, and one to make certain provisions in regard to the Pearl Shell Fishery.

Deeming it reasonable that the town of Fremantle should be no longer denied the privilege of alone returning its own members, that the Northern District, which yields a very considerable revenue and whose interests are special and very important, and that the Murray and Williams agricultural District should return Representatives to your Honorable Council, I shall again request you favorably to consider a measure to that effect.

The working of the New Land Regulations, under which any person on payment of a shilling an acre a-year for ten years may obtain a freehold, and which in other respects are very liberal, has so far as can yet be judged, been fairly satisfactory. A careful and full Report upon the subject, and upon the working of the Survey Department, has been prepared for your information.

I have received Her Majesty's assent to the Proposed Regulations regarding Grants of Land to Volunteers, and I cannot doubt but

that the Volunteer Movement, already progressing, will now receive an additional stimulus.

Her Majesty the Queen has also been pleased to assent to certain Amendments in the Mining Regulations which I recommended, and which I have every reason to believe will much promote that industry.

The great Mineral wealth of this Colony, and especially of the Victoria District, is becoming more and more evident, and the expense of transit is the only bar to the utilization of natural riches which, should you enable me to develop them, promise to place the prosperity of this Colony on a secure and lasting basis.

To attain this end a Bill will be introduced to authorize me to raise a Loan to construct a Railway, with a gauge of three feet, from Geraldton to Northampton.

The Survey has been completed, and the results, with Estimates of Traffic, will be laid before you.

The preliminary Survey of a line to the Eastern Districts is in course of completion, and if possible a Report will be communicated to you before the end of the Session. The existence of large masses of very valuable iron ore near Northam, and the discovery of tin, may hereafter give increased importance to this project.

A Geological Map of great value to this Colony, and which has been looked for with interest elsewhere, has been prepared by Mr. Henry Y. L. Brown, the late Government Geologist, and will be presented to you.

Assays of Quartz have yielded very favorable results both in Silver and Gold, and I shall again request you to consider the advisability of assisting individual enterprise by putting means at my disposal to prospect and to test the richness of the Quartz Reefs, already known in many cases to be auriferous, and which abound from North to South of this vast Territory.

Under the powers vested in me by the Land Regulations, I have promised a small concession of land, which has been ratified by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, to the Melbourne and Champion Bay Lead Mining Company, on condition of their establishing Smelting Works near Geraldton. Several applications for concessions have been before me, but I will ask your Honorable Council to consider and advise upon the expediency of making such future concessions, and upon the terms on which they should be granted.

The support your Honorable Council by a small majority afforded to my policy of Free Trade in respect to Flour—an article even without an import duty now difficult to obtain—has been fully justified by circumstances, which seem also to force on your consideration the question whether you will maintain the duty you imposed on corn, meal, and horse feed, articles the absolute dearth of which now presses heavily upon the agricultural as well as on other interests of the Colony. Much land will next year lie idle for want of seed, and many are unable to obtain food for their poultry, pigs, and horses, and yet the gain to the Revenue by the tax on these, and on various articles used for food and in our industries, is utterly incommensurate with the injury it occasions.

It has been thought well to postpone Mr. John Forrest's Exploring Expedition till the close of the year. In the interim the results—I hope the successful results—of the enterprising explorers now on their way from Central Australia, will be before us. Mr. John Forrest's services are also now required on a sketch survey of much importance, and which will serve as a good base of operations for his expedition, which I trust may be as successful as the one upon which I despatched him on my first assuming the Government of this Colony, and which is now bearing fruit in the occupation of the country about Eucla, soon destined to become our connecting link with the Eastern Colonies.

In compliance with your desire, expressed last Session, a Land Titles Registration Act, on the Torrens system, will be laid on your table.

Large claims having been made upon this Colony by the Home Government on Convict account, I ventured to refer them back for reconsideration, and you will recognize with me that the thanks of the Colony are due to the Earl of Kimberley for having at my request suspended the final decision, with a view fully and fairly to consider any points that may be reasonably urged on the side of the Colony. The directors of the Prison Board, also, on being informed of my representations, at once suspended directions they had given for the withdrawal of Imperial pay from Medical Officers in districts where depôts have been closed; but it will be for you to make such further provision for Medical services during the ensuing year as may to you appear necessary, and it must be anticipated that some modification of the present financial arrangements will be insisted upon, but I have full confidence not to such an extent as might

suddenly embarrass a Colony which admittedly has strong claims on the consideration of the Mother Country.

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Gentlemen, I have already exceeded the limits usually assigned to addresses of this nature, and I will omit mention of several less pressing and prominent topics of interest.

A series of papers illustrative of the line of policy I have pursued in relation to Native Affairs are in a forward course of preparation, and will be presented to you when complete.

A Bill to abolish the Duty on Goods sold by Auction and to regulate and fix the issue of Auctioneers' Licenses, and a series of other Bills, minor perhaps, yet not without their importance, will be introduced by my Government into your House. I doubt not but that you will give your most careful attention to them and all other matters concerning the public good, and conducive to the peace, order, and prosperity of all Her Majesty's subjects within this Country.

And so, Mr. Speaker, and Honorable Gentlemen, I leave you to your deliberations, trusting that they may be guided to promote those ends, and that our united efforts may, with God's blessing, continue day by day to advance the Colony in the way of Prosperity.

Having handed a copy of the Vice-Regal Speech to the Speaker, His Excellency, accompanied by his staff, withdrew from the House.

The SPEAKER took the Chair.

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE, SHEEP, AND PIGS BILL.

First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with leave, without notice, moved that leave be given to bring in a Bill to further regulate the importation of cattle, sheep, and pigs. He said that before proceeding with his motion, the hon. gentleman sought the permission of the House to offer a few remarks upon the vacancies which had occurred during the recess by the death of members whose faces would be missed by all present. Especially would they all miss the presence of two, who, in the inscrutable wisdom of Providence, had been taken from amongst them since last session, one in the prime of his manhood, and the other having attained the allotted space of human life; both of whom having done good service to the land of their adoption. Another face missed, and missed for ever, was that of one who from the earliest days of the colony had identified himself with

its history, and who had gained the respect of all colonists. The hon. gentleman also alluded in graceful terms to the temporary absence of the Chairman of Committees, and then proceeded formally to move for leave to bring in the Bill.

The Bill was read a first time.

PAPERS TABLED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), laid on the Table of the House the following papers:—

1. Returns connected with the Post Office Savings' Bank.
2. Annual return required under the Friendly Societies' Ordinance, of City of Perth Lodge, No. 4702.
3. Do., New Swan Lodge, No. 4406.
4. Return of applications for immigrants.
5. Memorial from settlers, north-west coast, asking for indemnification from public funds for Mr. Sholl, Government Resident, for losses incurred by him during the hurricane in March, 1872.
6. Circular despatch from the Secretary of State, in regard to the law in practice respecting letters patent for inventions.
7. Circular despatch from Secretary of State, defining rules for the use of the Civil Service uniform.
8. Despatch from Secretary of State, acknowledging receipt of karri timber.
9. Despatches between the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governor, on the new land regulations; on civil servants being members or directors of co-operative societies; on the case of Thomas Hiden; and on Acts passed by the Council.
10. Circular despatch as to the maintenance of a permanent exhibition at Kensington.
11. Report of Harbor Improvement Board.
12. Letter from Mr. Fred Pearse, setting forth requirements of north district.
13. Copy of letter from Mr. H. E. Victor, C.E., with respect to jarrah timber.
14. Correspondence relating to the maintenance of public roads.
15. Statement of receipts and disbursements connected with "Public Loan Act, 1872."

16. Report of geological exploration in Western Australia.
17. Papers on sericulture.
18. Report of Inspector of Schools.
19. Report on Crown lands and surveys.
20. Blue Book for 1872.
21. Land Regulations, proclaimed 22nd May, 1873.
22. A Bill to simplify the titles to and the dealing with estates in land.
23. Letter from J. S. Harris Esq., Resident Magistrate at Busselton, relative to grants from public funds in aid of agricultural societies.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. STEERE, consequent upon the unavoidable absence of a number of hon. members, and with the view of securing their presence before the business of the session was proceeded with, moved that the House adjourn until Tuesday next, the 1st proximo.

Mr. LOGUE seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), on behalf of the Government, offered no objection to the adjournment, but intimated that, if the House desired it, the Government was prepared to proceed with sessional business without any delay.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 1st July, 1873.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—First Readings—Leave of Absence—Papers Tabled—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. MARMION, in moving the Address in Reply to the Vice-Regal Speech, said as the House would be afforded another opportunity of considering the measures embodied in the gubernatorial utterance, he would at present merely glance through it. He simply echoed the introductory paragraphs, but in alluding to that portion of the Speech which treated of harbor improvements he dwelt at considerable length upon the primary claims of

Fremantle to a recognition at the hands of the Council in dealing with the harbor question. It was gratifying to him that into any scheme entitled to consideration proximity to Fremantle must enter. It had been the fashion of a section of our local press to sneer at its vested interests and at the claims which, as the chief port of the colony, it was entitled to put forward. It would be as well to remind those journalists that Fremantle was the second town of importance in the colony; that its inhabitants numbered nearly one-eighth of the whole population of the colony; and, he might add, that many of those inhabitants were energetic colonists who by their own indomitable perseverance had obtained an honorable position—men whose patriotic efforts were directed to promote the best interests of the colony. With regard to the paragraph in the Vice-Regal Speech which dealt with the question of free trade, the hon. member hoped the House would reverse its former decision upon that point, and replace on the free list corn, grain, meal, and all kinds of horse feed, of which the local markets were now completely bare—a state of things which was a positive disgrace to a colony like our own. As to the other portions of the Speech, the hon. member expressed strong approval of the policy of which they treated.

Sir Thomas COCKBURN-CAMPBELL seconded the motion, the hon. baronet in the same manner expressing his satisfaction with the gubernatorial utterance. He thought it a matter for congratulation, that notwithstanding the adverse circumstances which the colony has had to contend with, the tendency of His Excellency's policy had been progressive. He was firmly of opinion that, under the influence of that policy, the colony might look forward to further progress in the future. As a step in that direction he might allude to the probable result of the official visit paid by the hon. the Colonial Secretary to the neighbouring colonies, and of his successful efforts there to make known the resources which in this country are opened to those able and willing to assist in their development. Tradesmen, merchants, and others, when desirous of expanding their trade and connection, or of making their wants known, had resort to copious advertisements. In his opinion what Western Australia chiefly required was a good advertisement, setting forth its capabilities; and perhaps we could not have a better advertisement than the presence of our Colonial Secretary at the recent Intercolonial Conference, and our exhibits at the Sydney Exhibition. Doubtless the mining resources of the colony were among its richest treasures,