

tion to my Throne, which have been called forth by the completion of the 60th year of my reign, and I am sincerely pleased by the cordiality with which the Parliament of Western Australia has taken part in them. I request you to convey my hearty thanks to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of Western Australia."

I may add that the casket, in which the Address was enclosed, was much admired by the Queen. I have, etc.,

JOHN FORREST,

Premier.

The Honourable the Speaker,  
Legislative Assembly, Perth.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### FIFTH DAY OF DEBATE.

MR. J. J. HIGHAM (Fremantle): Mr. Speaker, I have been asked by the hon. member for Sussex, who moved the adjournment of the debate on Friday, to apologise for his non-attendance in his place to resume the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I willingly address the House in his absence, though I think it would be inadvisable for me to continue this debate at very great length. I hope that representatives of this colony will take part in the federation Convention at Sydney, and everything that this House can do will be done to facilitate their departure for New South Wales. One subject in his Excellency's Speech is that of the Fremantle flogging, which has been so hysterically referred to by some members of this House. On the one hand we have a magistrate of 30 years' standing, well known for his integrity, impartiality, and justice, and on the other hand we have two villains, with long criminal records, one of whom is a member of the Collingwood push, and the other a man under sentence of 15 years for garrotting. People who look into the merits of the case must agree that the sentence awarded was well merited, and the only one which, under the circumstance, could be inflicted. The hon. member for North-East Coolgardie referred to the comments of the local and Eastern press on this matter. All I can say is, that if members of the local press had set a better example, we would not have had any such scurrilous remarks as appeared in the newspapers elsewhere, remarks both uncalled for and unnecessary. The character of the worthy magistrate in question

requires no defence from those people who know him. What has already been said is quite sufficient, both for the gentleman himself and for those who know and esteem him. The question of the establishment of smelting works at Rocky Bay has also been referred to. It has been contended that such works will seriously depreciate the value of property and destroy vegetation around North Fremantle; but experience of similar works in other parts of the world show those fears to be groundless. Even if we deemed it necessary to shift these works away from Rocky Bay, it would not be necessary to go more than two or three miles to get a better site at Owen's Anchorage; a site which I hope at no very distant date will be connected with Fremantle by rail. The Railway and Harbour Works at Fremantle are depriving us of facilities for dealing with the cattle trade, and should it be necessary to find another site for the cattle yards at Owen's Anchorage, it would be necessary to connect that place with the railway system by a light line. It is not necessary for me to continue this debate any longer, and I hope the business of this special session will soon be disposed of, so that we may get to the ordinary business of the country.

MR. KENNY (North Murchison): I rise to receive my baptism of fire on the Parliamentary battlefield of this country, and I cannot do better than follow the line of the veterans and recruits who have preceded me, and congratulate you, sir, on your re-election to the high and responsible position which you fill with honour to yourself and credit to the country. I also beg to welcome the Premier back, not only to the country, but to his place in this House. I congratulate the country upon the great benefits that must of necessity arise from the visit of the right hon. gentleman to the mother country. I, like many other members, felt strongly disposed to take part in this debate on the Governor's speech, but in deference to the expressed wishes of the leader of the House I cannot do better than put my remarks as short as possible, in order to enable the Government to carry out their intentions with regard to the Sydney Convention. Although this debate has been somewhat protracted, that is not the blame of the hon. members on the Opposition side



of the House. I believe there is no one sitting on my side of the House who would attempt to raise factious opposition to any good measure introduced by the Government. I myself have always recognised that a well constituted and well managed Opposition is essential to the good government of every country. Whatever may be the opinion of the Opposition, I feel sure they take a higher standard than that their duty is merely to remove the Government with the sole purpose of occupying the Treasury benches. There is no doubt that sooner or later we can achieve federation, but at the present time Western Australia need not be anxious about joining in with the other colonies. The Government are doing the correct thing in endeavouring to meet the representatives of the other colonies at the Convention. We have made an engagement with those colonies, and that engagement should be carried out. Although we may not see our way clear to join in federation at present, a lot is to be gained by our delegates meeting and exchanging opinions on this great question with the representatives of the other colonies. If we are not in a position to federate now, we could at any rate arrange our laws so as to become more closely associated with our neighbours. We have a very different class of people in Western Australia to-day from what we had five or six years ago. The laws that suited the conditions of that time are certainly out of joint with the conditions of to-day. We ought to endeavour as much as possible to so frame our laws, that the thousands of people who have arrived in Western Australia, and will arrive in the future, will not feel they are strangers in a strange land, but rather that our laws are their laws and our people are their people. What I think is this. The one great thing that Western Australia requires now is another five hundred thousand of such people as our goldfields have already introduced to our shores, and then our colony will be able to take up her position in every way equal to her more favoured sisters who, at no distant day, will, I firmly believe, form the United States of Australasia—a great and prosperous nation under the Southern Cross.

MR. OATS: I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your position as Speaker of

this House. I have known you for several years, and I am sure that no better man could be appointed to that honourable position. I also heartily congratulate the Right Hon. the Premier, who has come back to us looking so well, and ready, I am sure, to do his best for the good of this great country. I am in rather peculiar circumstances here. I have been a mining man from the very inception of these great goldfields. I can give you facts that you want to possess with regard to the development of this great country. I was first in Southern Cross—a town in the Yilgarn district which I now represent; and at that time the difficulties were great—very great indeed. Water was scarce; but I will refer more particularly to water later on. I have been for three or four weeks or a month without water to wash my face and hands. But what is a man worth unless he conquers difficulties? We conquered that difficulty in Southern Cross; and for the last four years of my residence there I had sufficient rain water for myself and family and for my visitors. What has been done there could be done elsewhere. I am a Western Australian. I came here over eight years since; and I have thrown in my lot with Western Australia; and I wish to see Western Australia grow to an immensity far beyond the other colonies on the great Australian continent. I believe it is possible for this to be achieved. I am a goldfields member; and when I say I am a goldfields member, I do not intend to speak a word against the other sources of production in this colony. As an individual, I am willing and anxious that the other productions in this colony should be fostered. I will do all I can to bring that about. The land is waiting for the scraping of the soil, and it will grow, and grow productively—in fact, I look forward to the time when instead of importing we shall export; and in the meanwhile, as the right hon. the Premier said, we want the people here. So we do. At present the sum of £80,000 a month is going out of the colony to supply the wives and families of men who are working here. At present that money is going out; but I want to see it stop in. If these men bring their wives and families here, more money will be circulated, and it will be so much



the better for the colony. To bring about that, we shall require the same advantages in this colony as the other colonies possess. The miner comes here, and he certainly gets good pay—say £3 to £3 10s. a week. [AN HON. MEMBER: Four pounds?] Yes; but that is exceptional. Before long perhaps, the people will be able to live on £3 a week better than they can now live on £4 a week. Now about the tariff. If we could reduce the price of necessities I would even go so far as to subsidise production. We must have these things admitted into the colony at as cheap a rate as possible.

THE PREMIER: Yes; if we cannot produce them.

MR. OATS: I glanced over the list of articles which are imported free, and I noticed nothing but food for Chinamen. I noticed nothing on which you could bring up a stalwart Britisher. Knock off the duties on the necessities of life. Give a man a free breakfast, give him a free dinner and a free supper, and put the duties, if you like, on the luxuries of life. [AN HON. MEMBER: Free drinks.] Yes. Put a duty on champagne as much as you like; but bring in the necessities of life free, and relieve the working backbone of the country of the duties which are now imposed on the necessities which these men consume.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the landlords?

MR. OATS: They are better off now than they were eight years ago. I will draw attention to the difference between Western Australia now and what it was eight years ago. There were few people here eight years ago, and there was very little money. I paid many men in Western Australia the first golden sovereign they ever had in their lives. What has brought this change about? The magic wand of gold. Gold has brought this about, and will bring about yet greater results if we treat the country right. I am not afraid to say—I stake my reputation on the assertion, and there are others who will back me up, the member for Coolgardie will back me up—that the gold production in this country will increase and go on increasing. In a year from now 100,000oz. in the month will be produced, and more than that, even, in a very few years. We cannot go on taking out the gold for

ever; but so far we have a bigger result per ton than any other goldfields in the world. I hope to see this production of gold increase; for gold will help our agriculture and will help every other industry. Let us therefore help on the production of gold. Let us help the prospector. I am not so much in favour of the capitalist, although you cannot do without capital. Let us have capital and spend it rightly. I need not refer to the great industries of the capitalist, or the moneys sent here by the capitalist. We are told that we are having hundreds of millions of money spent in this colony. It is a lie! Show me where five millions have been spent here! There are statistics showing that so much money has been spent on the mines; but more still has been spent in the offices in London and elsewhere.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good deal has been spent here too.

MR. OATS: The next point I wish to refer to is that of the public batteries. I know the right hon. the Premier will carry out what he has said. I am sure he will. We don't want a toy battery. We don't want a coffee mill. We don't want a dolly. If the Government are going to spend anything in the erection of a battery, they must erect a battery which shall be a success as a business transaction. It must not be put there to pacify, but to help the industry. I know districts where a good mill put up on proper land would pay great profits, and should return the money in a very short time.

THE PREMIER: Tell us where these places are.

MR. OATS: I will. Carry out my scheme, and I guarantee success. Let me tell you what has been done in some parts of the colony. In one case they have to take the stone 40 miles at a considerable cost before they can get it crushed, and the crushing costs sometimes £3 a ton. [AN HON. MEMBER: £5 sometimes.] I am speaking of an instance that came under my notice to-day. Give me a good plant and water—there is plenty of water there. [THE PREMIER: And wood?] Yes; there is plenty of wood too, and I will guarantee to crush that stone for ten shillings a ton and less. [AN HON. MEMBER: You cannot do it.] Who said I cannot do it? The hon. member does not know anything about it.



I know what I am talking about. I think that great caution should be exercised in the matter. The Government should first determine on the district where the battery should be applied. You must first know if the stone is there, and its value; and when you have ascertained that, I think you cannot do better than erect a battery. Coming to federation, I would like to see a united Australia; but I do not want to see Western Australia absorbed in the other colonies. The time is not ripe for federation entirely; but the delegates should go to Sydney and tell the members of the Convention what we expect. They should tell it boldly and manfully. Federation will come when the time is ripe for it; and when that time comes I shall do all I can to bring it about. The next question is with reference to water. I must say something about that. You know very well that the year before Coolgardie was discovered, several prospecting parties went out and found gold. I can give the names of them—in fact, I assisted in sending these men out. They came back, and said they could not get water. Well, there are 20,000 people in a small area there now, with plenty of water for everybody. The member for Coolgardie said that he would like to see the mines at Coolgardie more advanced. I contend that in Coolgardie, within an area of five miles, there is plenty of good stone—many hundreds of thousands of tons—that can be profitably worked. When I talk of profit in gold, I do not want any two or three ounces of gold per ton. We would like to have it; but still, at the same time, it is not required for economical mining. Not at all. I am not going to say anything against Coolgardie. But someone said that there was no water there. Now with reference to drinking water. We want good drinking water—condensed water. I have lived on it for eight years, and I ought to know something about it. Water in Coolgardie was five shillings a gallon. To-day it is 1½d. or less. We must first prove what water we have, if we are to spend half a million on it. I do not object to the water scheme; only if we can do it without pumping the water up, let us do it. But let us first see what water we have. There are oceans of water there, and tanks might be erected to conserve it. Skilful

engineers might be sent there to see what is the best thing to be done. I believe all hon. gentlemen here on both sides of the House will do their best to help the country. I would like to mention that I am sitting on these cross-benches, but that I am going to do the best I can to help the Government in any good measures for the country. I shall not be afraid to cross this gangway to vote for the Government, if they produce a plan or a measure that will help this colony. I will cross the gangway willingly; and I believe others will too. Still I have come here—not to vote for a certain party or a certain man with my eyes shut. The little brains I have I will use; and they are at the service of the country.

MR. LYALL HALL: It was not my intention to have addressed the House at this stage; but I feel I cannot refrain from commenting on some of the speeches made by hon. members on the opposite side of the House. There is no necessity for me to follow the example of other members and to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker. It is the House which is to be congratulated. I would ask you to extend to me the same forbearance—the same leniency—you have always shown to other new members; and I would ask you to remember, if I should transgress any rules which govern the debates in this House, that I graduated first in the City Council.

AN HON. MEMBER: You need not apologise for that.

MR. HALL: I shall only say a few words to-night, as I intend to speak again when Parliament re-assembles; and I shall only touch on those topics already touched on by hon. members. First of all, I must deeply deplore the uncalled-for attack made by the member for the Swan on the Acting Premier. I believe that if he had commenced his electioneering speeches in the same strain he would never have occupied the seat he does.

MR. EWING: Never prophesy unless you know.

MR. HALL: I think that the hon. member went out of his way to abuse the opposite side. The hon. member went so much out of his way to be nasty that I can well understand his being told recently in the law courts that he had yet to learn the rudiments of manners. [MR. EWING: Supposing you teach me.]



The hon. member opposite came in as an independent candidate; but I do not think his best friends would ever accuse him of being independent, unless it is that he thinks, as a great number of so-called independent men seem to think, that in order to show his independence he must be abusive. The principal subject that the House has met to discuss is that of federation. I listened with very great pleasure to the speech of the hon. member for East Perth, who has evidently made a study of the subject; and, as an Australian born, I am pleased to see that those who are able to express their views, and those who are able to judge, consider that it was a speech that would have done credit to any Parliament in Australia or in any part of the world. Despite the hon. member's arguments, I am not prepared to hand over this colony of Western Australia to the tender mercies of the older colonies or to the more advanced colonies, believing, as I do, that we shall progress better in the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed under local government than by being members of a Federated Parliament. I think, however, that we should be represented at the forthcoming Convention. The Premier has pointed out that we are not bound to accept any of the provisions of the Convention; but in the interests of those who may come after us it is as well that we should have a hand in the framing of the Federal Constitution. With regard to the mining laws, I am glad that the right hon. the Premier has seen fit to make some amelioration in the conditions of labour; and I hope that he will also see his way to grant some security of tenure to those people who invest their money in the mines. I congratulate the House upon the return of so many members representing the goldfields; and I can assure those hon. members that I will do all I can to further the industry which has raised this colony from obscurity to greatness. Since my return to Parliament I have had the privilege of a tour through a portion of the goldfields; and I have made it my special aim to enquire among the mining population their views with reference to the Coolgardie water scheme. I found there was a diversity of opinion, but that it simply resolved itself into this, that those gentlemen who, like

my friend Mr. W. G. Brookman and others, had plenty of water at their mines, and who were able to sell the valuable fluid at an enormous price, did not want a cheap and plentiful supply of water to the fields. Those, on the other hand, who had not a sufficiency of water—even by paying a high price for it—were strongly in favour of the Coolgardie water scheme; and from inquiries I made I venture to say that if a vote were taken on the fields there would be five to one in favour of the Coolgardie water scheme being carried out. The chief objection of hon. members on the Opposition side of the House to the scheme seems to be the expenditure of what, I may say, is the paltry sum of £2,500,000. I ask those hon. members to consider what has been the expenditure on water supply systems in other colonies. In Victoria—I am not quite certain of my figures, but I know I am very nearly correct—it cost something over £2,000,000 to supply water for Ballarat, the chief mining centre. To supply Sandhurst there was an expenditure of something like £1,500,000, and the water supply of Geelong cost about £500,000, while the Melbourne water supply cost several millions of money.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Melbourne water supply system pays.

MR. HALL: So will the Coolgardie system pay. The Victorian irrigation system cost £6,000,000 or £7,000,000, but in this connection money was misapplied.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: The Victorian irrigation system has never paid a penny of interest yet.

MR. HALL: The money, as I say, was misapplied. [MR. ILLINGWORTH: I know that.] On the Coolgardie water scheme it is proposed to expend only £2,500,000, and yet hon. members are found to object to supply with water the source of all our prosperity. The conduct of such hon. members is not fair. In trying to persuade others they seem to have convinced themselves that the scheme is bad. Hon. members on the opposite side seem to have mistaken noise for argument; and having persuaded themselves that their view is the true one, as no doubt they have, I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt by assuming they have convinced themselves, and believe



they are right. There is only one other matter I would like to mention, and that is the Fremantle flogging case. Much has been said of it—indeed I think too much has been said—but allowing that the sentence may have been too severe, yet that sentence was imposed by the magistrate, and not by the Attorney General. I think the Attorney General would not have been doing his duty to the country if he had mitigated that sentence in any way, for the only way to prevent some men from committing crime is to use the "cat," and had the Attorney General been so weak as to listen to the pleadings of the deputation, then I say the prison at Fremantle would have been in a state of anarchy, because it is well-known that some of the prisoners were making wagers of tobacco that their friends on the deputation would get them off the punishment—that is while in prison. I think that, instead of blaming the Attorney General, he deserves the thanks of all law-abiding citizens. Gentlemen, I thank you for the way in which you have listened to me.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS** (Hon. F. H. Piesse): I desire to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, upon assuming again the honourable position you have so long filled; and as one of the older members of the House, since Responsible Government was introduced, I can cordially endorse the words of other members in reference to the great ability with which you have filled the position. My reason for rising at this stage of the debate, is to set at rest a matter referred to during my absence, in regard to railway rates and management in connection with the carriage of ores from the gold-fields to Fremantle. I do not rise for the purpose of debating this question, but for setting at rest some differences which have arisen in connection with this matter, and to point out that what has been already stated with regard to the reason why there has been a falling off in the returns of gold, which has been attributed to the discouragement of the carriage of ores on the railways, can be refuted by me in a few words. The member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper) stated that the apparent diminution in the gold returns was due to the discouraging effect of the railway rates for the carriage of ore. Now this question of the

carriage of ore is one in which I have taken great interest, and I have done my best to encourage the increase of that traffic. When it was first proposed to the department to carry low-grade ores, the understanding was that they would be carried to Fremantle for being shipped to smelting works at Wallaroo, near Adelaide, and it was mentioned then that these would be low grade ores.

**MR. VOSPER:** Low-grade ores to be sent to Adelaide!

**THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS:** Yes; the ores were to be carried to Fremantle in bags at 16s. a ton at owners' risk, on the understanding that the trucks which were carrying merchandise up to Kalgoorlie should be used in this traffic for back-loading down to Fremantle, and the rate being the ordinary traffic rate charged by the department for goods carried at owners' risk. After some negotiation with the department, as to taking the responsibility for loss in transit, if any, it was proposed that the department should accept the risk by charging at the class D rate, namely 36s. a ton for ores carried to Fremantle. As to alleged losses in transit, I may say that although some claims have been made for losses in regard to these ores, and in one instance a claim was made for alleged loss of 160lbs. of ore as shortage, yet there is no evidence forthcoming up to the present to show that a loss did occur in this or any other consignment during transit to Fremantle. We were informed that in one consignment some shortage had taken place at Fremantle; but it was afterwards found that, on the ore being turned out at Adelaide, the number of bags was quite correct, and therefore no shortage actually occurred in that case. It seems that the consignor had expected there would be some shortage, and consequently he was endeavouring to protect himself by making a claim in advance for shortage that had not actually occurred. Now, if the department were to accept the responsibility for loss or shortage in the transit of gold ores, and we charged only at the low rate of 16s. a ton from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle, it will be evident that, considering the high value of these ores, as much as £240 to £250 sterling per waggon load, the senders of this valuable property should surely take some portion of the