

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. NEWMAN rose and said he would propose an adjournment of the House until to-morrow, for the purpose of affording members an opportunity of considering the Governor's Speech and the Address. He did not make that proposal in a hostile spirit, but as that was the first speech, and was a long one, and touched upon many important matters, it was only fair to give every member of the House an opportunity of carefully considering it; he therefore proposed the adjournment of the House until 4 p.m. to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 6th December, 1870.

Opening of Council by Prayer—Standing Rules and Orders—First Readings—Address in Reply to Governor's Speech—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

OPENING OF COUNCIL BY PRAYER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved for a select committee to consider and report on the question of opening each sitting of the Council by Prayer. Such committee to consist of the Speaker, Mr. Steere, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Moore, and the Mover.

Question put and passed.

STANDING RULES AND ORDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved for a select committee to frame Standing Rules and Orders for regulating the business of the Council. Such committee to consist of the Speaker, Mr. Walcott, Mr. Steere, Mr. Carr, Mr. Newman, Mr. Drummond, and the Mover.

Question put and passed.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motions by the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. P. Barlee): Local Boards Bill, Municipalities Bill, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, and Fraudulent Debtors Bill.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Resumed debate.

Mr. NEWMAN resumed the debate on the Address in Reply and said that the subject of the Governor's Speech had already been so well commented upon that there was little left to be said. He was, however, both surprised and disappointed at finding matters touched upon in so general and cursory a manner, so general that it was impossible from that document to learn what was the policy or intention of the Government on many subjects of public importance. He was surprised and disappointed in not finding any reference to public works or to the subject of a loan; matters which His Excellency must have been aware engaged a large share of public attention. These important topics were not touched upon in the Address to the House. As to the working road boards, living as he did in the town, he did not feel himself called upon to offer an opinion, but would leave the subject to those gentlemen who lived in the country. A good deal had been said regarding the very large concessions of land that had been made to the timber companies, especially to the timber company in the south. He admitted that the concession was considerable, yet he approved of it and viewed it simply as a bonus, and the fact that the second company had not nearly such large concessions as the first, was evidence that the Government viewed the concession in a similar manner. As regards Mr. Forrest's expedition, a great many widely-different opinions had been expressed, but he was afraid that it was all mere talk after the event. The expedition has not led to much, but before starting, who could have told what would have resulted? The country had to pay for expeditions, and as Mr. Forrest's expedition was effected as economically as any previous expedition, he could see no reason to find fault with it. The pearl fishery was a success, and a law should be introduced for the protection of the fishery, or else it would soon be destroyed. As regards a better system of agriculture and an improved breed of stock, he was afraid that all His Excellency could say, or that they might add to what His Excellency had said on the subject, would be of any effect. It was too true that bad farming was too general, and many of the agriculturists were now suffering therefrom. As to the Government Geologist and the Surveyor General he would offer no opinion. He would only remark on one other paragraph, and that was the promise of assistance which the country had given His Excellency on obtaining Representative Institutions. He trusted and believed that