

Speech, which he would now read to the House. (*Vide p. 5 ante.*)

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. THROSSELL: Mr. Speaker, sir, it is with pleasure I rise to move the Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech, although, in doing so, I confess to a feeling of great diffidence, as I recognise the occasion as no ordinary one. Sir, in common with every member of this Assembly, and I may say of every man in this great colony, I recognise with feelings of intensified pleasure that this day's proceedings renders the inauguration of Parliamentary and Responsible Government complete, and the reign of our new Constitution fully established. I fully recognise the many benefits which may be expected to result to the country under the new form of Government, with the new powers and privileges it confers; and I join with His Excellency in the earnest hope that our highest anticipations may be realised; and I have little fear but that (in the words of Excellency) the principles of self-government will be administered in such a way as to promote "sentiments of self-respect and true patriotism." It is reason for pride, sir, to know that Her Majesty the Queen has expressed the warmest interest in our welfare, and that politicians, both in England and the colonies, are watching with interest the extension of Parliamentary Government to this last of the Australian group which can claim it. I am one with His Excellency in believing that numbers of intending and desirable settlers will shortly be attracted to our shores, now that the colony has entered upon a form of Government which enables it to administer its own affairs. I rejoice, sir, to have the opportunity of publicly and gratefully acknowledging the practical sympathy and good-will of the Eastern colonies extended to us in our time of need, and whose support and assistance were so valuable in securing to us the privilege of free Government, and I recognise in this another step towards an united and federated Australia. It affords me pleasure to learn that His Excellency has faith in the future prosperity of the colony under Responsible Government,—a faith which I am

confident is not misplaced, for I believe, sir, the future will show that the trust reposed in us will be administered with due regard to the interests of the present and coming generations. Sir, I wish you to believe that it is no empty form of words when I say that I feel sure that the selection of the Hon. John Forrest as our first Prime Minister has given the highest satisfaction to this Assembly and to the colony at large. I recognise in our Premier one who has served his country faithfully, and who has well earned the honor conferred upon him, and I believe that the Government which he has formed possesses the confidence of Parliament and the country. It is a matter for much congratulation that the new Ministry are fully alive to the importance of a vigorous and progressive scheme of public works, and I for one, sir, rejoice in such a policy, for I believe that we should now be done with the day of small things, and that our vast colony, with its many resources, at present undeveloped, demands just such a policy at our hands. Speaking for myself, I may say that, having unbounded faith in the colony, such a policy will ever have my warmest support, so long as due caution and sound judgment be shown in the class of public works undertaken. Our public debt is small; our colony is large; our resources are many and varied; and our chief wants are population and capital, and I verily believe that, under a wise and bold policy of public works, these wants will speedily be supplied. In saying this much, sir, I must confess to a feeling of surprise at the amount of the sum proposed for the first loan under the new form of Government. Not that I conceive it to be too great a sum for the colony to borrow, but I was not prepared to find our first Ministry bold enough to inaugurate quite so progressive a policy; and I believe the feeling of the country and this Assembly will be similar to my own in this matter. Sir, I said at the beginning of my remarks that the present occasion was no ordinary one, and I feel justified in so saying, for this is the first occasion in the history of the colony on which so large a sum as £1,336,000 has been proposed in a Loan Bill. It will not be expected of me, or of any other hon. member to-day, to give our unqualified ap-

proval to the large scheme of public works mentioned by His Excellency, until full particulars are before the House. To some of the works enumerated, I could give my unqualified approval; notably amongst these would be a well-considered scheme of harbor works at Fremantle, and at the various ports along our coast, which works I consider of paramount importance. Many of the other works mentioned are now before us for the first time, and it will not be expected that this Assembly, on this occasion, can give its approval to all of them. I trust, however, that at the proper time the Ministry will be able to show these works to be desirable, and such as will give promise of being reproductive, calculated to advance the interests of the colony. With regard to the proposed railway from Perth to Bunbury, respecting which there has already been considerable agitation, I would express the opinion that, provided the land to be tapped be proved to be as good as has been represented (and on this point there is much difference of opinion), and provided the interests of the country be carefully safeguarded in securing the settlement of private lands (which is said exists in large quantities along the proposed line); providing this is done, then, sir, this is one of the public works that might well be undertaken. The most careful evidence, however, as to the quality of the land must be forthcoming before such a large and costly work should be taken in hand. With respect to the proposed railway to the Yilgarn Goldfields, which I regard as being of immense importance to the colony, I can but express the earnest hope that events on the fields will so shape themselves as to speedily justify the construction of such a line. I say this, sir, recognising the immense impetus that would be given to the agricultural development of the district I have the honor to represent, and the whole of the rich agricultural districts around, by the establishment of a large mining population on the goldfields. But I regret, sir, that at the present time I cannot give my support to such a costly line until greater development of the goldfields has taken place. I am aware, sir, that I am uttering an unpopular opinion, but at any rate it is an honest one, and one that, I trust, circumstances

will speedily compel me to alter. I am disappointed that no mention is made of this railway being considered as the first section of a transcontinental line. Sir, I am glad to notice that the Government policy includes the development of our goldfields and mineral resources; improvements to the Eastern Railway (so much needed); a scheme of immigration, without which our public works would be incomplete; and the survey of lands for agricultural settlements, as well as many other important minor works. To the members of this Assembly who may be of opinion that the policy of the Government is too bold a one at the outset, it will be a relief to know that it is not intended that all the money should be raised at once, and that the specific sanction of Parliament is to be sought for each separate railway, and that Loan Estimates are to be submitted before the other works are undertaken. This plan, to my mind, sir, will bring many supporters from the ranks of those who otherwise would be disposed to oppose the borrowing of so large a sum. I trust, sir, that, whether the scheme of public works be adopted in its entirety or not, sufficient at least will meet the support of this Assembly as will enable the Government to proceed, without unnecessary delay, with the execution of a useful scheme of public works, so necessary to the advancement of the country at the present time. I am in accord with His Excellency and his Ministers that a well-considered scheme of public works will attract population, develop our mineral resources, and tend in many other ways to open up the varied resources of the colony.

MR. DEHAMEL: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I believe it is contrary to the rules of this House for an hon. member to read his speech, as I observe the mover of the Address is now doing.

THE SPEAKER: There is no doubt that it is contrary to Parliamentary rules for any member to read his speech, and, if it had not been that the hon. member for Northam is a new member, and consequently not conversant with the rules of the House and Parliamentary practice, I should certainly have called him to order before this. But I was unwilling to interfere with a new member, who was a stranger to the rules of the House, and

addressing the House for the first occasion, though I intended telling him privately that it must not occur again.

MR. THROSSELL, continuing, said: Sir, there are two items which I regret are not included in the otherwise liberal policy of the Government. I would have liked, sir, to have seen the introduction of a diamond water-borer provided for, which has proved of such vast benefit to the waterless regions of the other colonies, and given so rich a return to the country for the outlay. I feel certain that if the country between the Eastern Districts and Yilgarn, and which embraces land that is acknowledged to be suited for pasture,—I feel sure if this country is to be utilised, the diamond borer must be introduced and do its work. I would also have liked to have seen public crushers provided for our goldfields, in places not otherwise provided with them. This kind of assistance I conceive to be wise in the interest of the development of our goldfields. There is a third item of much importance not included in the Government policy; I refer, sir, to some well considered scheme for assisting suitable persons to settle upon our lands; and for some well-considered plan of the kind I believe the country was fully prepared. I hope, sir, even yet, that some well-devised scheme of the kind will be adopted as part of the Ministerial policy. I believe that I shall have many with me in the opinion that, without some well-considered plan of assisted settlement, the colony has already opened up by its railway (to the South and North) sufficient land for all ordinary requirements of settlement. I am pleased to notice that it is proposed to sever the connection between the Crown Agents and this colony, and that His Excellency has provided in the Estimates for the establishment of an Agent General in London, as I believe under such an arrangement the best interests of the colony will be secured. It is satisfactory to know that the colony started the new year with a credit balance of £45,600. It will, I believe, be gratifying to every member of this Assembly to learn that it is proposed to re-organise the Works and Railway Department, and that provision is to be made for the appointment of the necessary officers, of recognised standing and

ability; but I feel sure that, in carrying out these arrangements, it will be the wish of this Assembly that no injustice shall be done to any of the present office-holders. With regard to the Federation Convention to be held at Sydney in March next, I heartily concur with His Excellency that it is of much importance to us that this colony should be represented at this Convention, especially as it is more than probable that the important subject of connecting this colony by rail with the Eastern colonies will be fully discussed. The importance of this question cannot be over-estimated, pointing as it does to federation and a union of these great colonies in the near future—a union so ardently to be desired, I feel confident that it will be the wish of this Assembly that this colony shall be suitably represented on an occasion so likely to minister to its best interests. Having said so much, sir, I would now simply add how fully conscious I am of how inadequately I have fulfilled the task assigned to me. I could have wished more time in which to study the important subjects contained in His Excellency's admirable speech, the first opening speech under Responsible Government, — a speech which certainly is the most comprehensive and the most important that a West Australian Governor has ever placed before a Western Australian Parliament; a speech, sir, which shadows forth new life, and new hopes, for us and ours. I trust and believe, sir, that the order of things now inaugurated will not only mark a new epoch in our history, but will usher in an era of progress and prosperity for which our colony has long been pining. I would also say, sir, that I fully recognise the difficult task the new Ministry has to perform; and, while in the interests of the colony it must look for and welcome honest opposition, I feel confident that such opposition will be the outcome alone of honest opinion. In conclusion, sir, I most sincerely echo the sentiments of His Excellency that under Providence we may all so discharge the great responsibilities which devolve upon us, as to prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us by our country; and I further pray, sir, that Providence may raise up legislators whose sole objects shall be the welfare of the country.

the whole country, and nothing but the country. Under God's blessing may that country speedily become a monument of wisdom, of liberty, and progress, one which a federated Australia may gaze upon with admiration and respect. Sir, before formally moving the Address in Reply, I crave permission to refer to the objection that has been raised to my reading my speech. I crave pardon for having unwittingly transgressed the rules of the House, but I may say that I did so in entire ignorance that it was a breach of Parliamentary procedure. I may say that my hon. friend the Premier, when he yesterday entrusted me with the privilege of moving the Address in Reply, informed me that there would be no objection to my making notes of what I intended to say, and I was not aware that there was any limit to the extent or fulness of those notes. Hence my transgression. Having said this, sir, I now formally move that an address be presented in reply to His Excellency's Speech, as follows:—

"To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver
"Francis Robinson, Knight Grand
"Cross of the Most Distinguished
"Order of St. Michael and St. George,
"Governor and Commander-in-Chief
"in and over the Colony of Western
"Australia, and its Dependencies, &c.,
" &c., &c.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful
"subjects, the Members of the Legis-
"lative Assembly of Western Australia
"in Parliament assembled, desire to as-
"sure Your Excellency of our continued
"loyalty and affection to our Most
"Gracious Sovereign.

"We thank Your Excellency for the
"Speech which you have been pleased to
"deliver to us.

"The various matters to which Your
"Excellency has referred, and all other
"matters that may be brought before us,
"shall receive our most careful consider-
"ation and attention, and it shall be our
"earnest endeavor to so deal with them
"that our labors may tend to the ad-
"vancement and welfare of the Colony."

MR. SYMON said the honor had fallen upon him of seconding the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, on this the first meeting of Parliament

under Responsible Government. He felt the greater pleasure in doing this because, judging by the policy which the first Ministry under that form of government had put forward, he was convinced that we had at the head of affairs men who would be able to pilot the ship of State safely through the many shoals and broken waters which he was convinced they would have to contend with during their administration. It was not his intention, after the exhaustive speech of the hon. member for Northam in moving the Address, to deal at the present time with His Excellency's Speech *in extenso*; he would reserve, until a future occasion, any observations he might have to offer on the various matters dealt with in the speech. It was a matter of extreme gratification to him—and he was sure to all hon. members—that the Government had decided upon a bold, and, at the same time, a prudent financial policy with regard to public works. They had brought, or intended to bring forward, a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a sum of £1,336,000, and this amount was to be expended upon public works, which, he thought, would be money well spent in this colony. The loan might seem very large to many; but he thought that if they went carefully through paragraph 8 of the Governor's Speech, they would find there mentioned many works of great importance to the colony—works which he considered would be the making of this great country. They had heard from the mover of the Address of the great resources of the colony, and he (Mr. Symon) was convinced those resources existed. Among the many public works likely to be undertaken by the Government were Harbor Works at Fremantle and harbor improvements at the various ports of the colony,—which he considered absolutely necessary. They also intended to spend some money on a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, and additional money upon rolling-stock for the Eastern Railway. He thought hon. members would agree with him they were very much in want of these things being carried out. The Ministry had a policy which meant the expenditure of a large sum of money, and he thought that the majority of the works put forward by them would have the support of the hon. members of that House. It was not