

“the number of representatives from each colony to five, instead of two as at present. You will be asked to approve of this Address to Her Majesty, as my Ministers consider that the influence and usefulness of the Federal Council would be much increased by the proposed change; and it is to be hoped that the colonies of New South Wales and South Australia will also join the Federal Council.

“15. In conclusion, I may with confidence say that there is every reason to hope that the progress which has marked this colony during the present Parliament will continue, and I leave you to perform your important duties, in the firm belief that, with Divine assistance, your labours will result in the adoption of measures having for their object the permanent advancement of the best interests of the colony.”

His Excellency the Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair.

#### DESTRUCTIVE BIRDS AND ANIMALS BILL.

This Bill was introduced, and was read a first time.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I rise with pleasure to propose an Address-in-Reply to the very interesting Speech of His Excellency the Governor, and I might say that I am quite in accord with a great part of what it contains. His Excellency has referred to the financial disasters which have overtaken Australasia, and there is no doubt but that they have been widely felt. Their effects have been felt considerably in this colony; but not to so great an extent as in the colonies to the East. Still, it certainly says a great deal for the resources of Western Australia, that during the period of these disasters and troubles there has not been one serious failure. Upon this we might one and all congratulate ourselves, and I might add that the absence of any serious failure was largely due to the forbearance of people one with another, a course I hope will prove to be of lasting benefit to the colony and its progress. With regard to

the mining industry referred to in the Speech, I consider the colony has a very great future before it. We now know that our gold mines extend from the Dundas ranges, near the Southern coast, to Kimberley in the North, a distance of some 1,500 miles as the crow flies. Although gold has not been found all through, it has been touched at different distances; and I have no doubt but that eventually the precious metal will be discovered throughout the whole length of the line, and that a large population will be supported by it. It has been said that gold mining does not pay those engaged in the industry. This may be so, but it maintains a large number of people, who all contribute to the revenue, and who aid in adding to the productiveness and wealth of the colony. I have also heard it urged against gold mining that the gold is sent out of the colony. Of course it is, and I would like to know what would be the use of keeping it here? Wool is sent out of the colony, and so is sandalwood; but we always receive something in return for it. Another pleasing announcement in the Speech is that relating to the discovery of coal on the Collie River. His Excellency said that it has been proved that coal in large quantities exists, and that already it has been used with complete success on the railways. If we could only work the mine profitably we would save thousands of pounds which are now sent out of the colony. I am glad to see that mention is made of the proposed survey of a line of railway to the field; but at the same time I should be sorry to see the Government constructing a line until the seam has been properly tested and is likely to prove payable. I am pleased to find that the public works undertaken by the Government are progressing satisfactorily. We are told that in a few weeks' time the South-Western Railway will be complete. In the past it has been said that this was the only means of bringing the Southern districts into notice; and I hope, now that the line is almost an accomplished fact, much good will accrue from it. I remember having a conversation with a leading settler of the district, from whom I inquired how he was getting on. He said that there had been a capital season, and that the crops were splendid, but he added that

he did not cultivate much because he could not get his crops to market. I replied, "Why, you have the river;" to which the settler replied that it did not pay to send by that means, but if he had a railway he would cultivate more. He also stated that he had 19 bales of wool. Now they have the railway, and I hope it will do much good, and that instead of one man in the district having 19 bales of wool, we shall find 50 or 60 people with an equal amount. I was opposed to the construction of the line, being rather sceptical as to the returns we should get from it; but this, time alone can tell, although no one will be better pleased than myself to see it paying working expenses, and a profit besides. Fair progress is also being made with the Yilgarn line; and, when complete, I hope it will be the means of securing a return to the unfortunate shareholders in the mines there. Another public work with which good progress is being made is the Breakwater at Fremantle. For many years the question has been a vexed one. We have had the opinion of many engineers, both professional and amateur, amongst the latter being myself; and the various opinions expressed resulted in a commission being appointed to inquire into the whole question, which ultimately decided in favour of the river scheme. I am glad to say that I was one of the majority which decided in this way, and I hope I shall live long enough to see the work brought to a successful issue, and the steamers lying at the wharves inside the river. I am glad to learn that the dredge imported by the Government is doing such excellent work, and I am sure that the money in this direction has been well spent. When the dredge leaves Albany, I hope, before it comes to Fremantle, it will be sent to some of the ports at the North, particularly Carnarvon. A jetty has been erected there to enable the settlers to ship their goods; but although there is an abundance of water alongside the jetty for ships and steamers, there is an intermediate mud bank, which stops the traffic, and which could be removed by the dredge in a very short time. The Speech refers to the Commissions which are sitting on the subjects of the Railway Workshops and the Tariff. I am a member of the latter Commission, and I might

say that the object of those composing it is, if possible, to reduce the duty on the necessaries of life without interfering with the revenue. I am glad to see that the Government intend to introduce again the Homesteads Bill, although I hope it will be on somewhat different lines to the measure put forward last session. We have plenty of waste land which is of no use in its present state, and we should encourage settlement upon it, and thus prevent large sums of money being sent out of the colony for produce which can well be grown here. There are large quantities of land still adapted for the growth of corn, wheat, and potatoes. I cannot include oats, for perhaps we cannot grow them here as well as in other parts; but poultry farming might be encouraged, and thus stop the importation of eggs from the other colonies. I notice also that the Government intend to again introduce the Constitution Bill, and if it comes to us in a somewhat modified form to that proposed last session, there may be some chance of its becoming law. Another Bill which is to be reintroduced is the Treasury Bills Bill. Last session the Council thought the measure was not required, but now there appears to be more reason for it, and at all events we can trust to the present Government not to abuse any powers they may get under it. I now come to the most important matter in the whole Speech—the reference which is made to the Bill which it is proposed to introduce to prevent an influx of Chinese. There is no doubt we are getting a large number of objectionable people in the colony, and this should be prevented. At the same time we must be careful not to stop the Northern settlers from obtaining the class of labour they require. On some stations, most of the water drawing is done by Chinese, and no doubt coloured labour is needed in other ways. We want Chinese for cooks and for gardeners, but we must not allow Hang Hi or Sing Woh Lee to import Chinese under fictitious agreements. If these coloured races come to the colony they should come under agreement to well known colonists. We are informed that the Midland Railway Company have placed their bonds on the market with success, and I am glad to hear it, although I wish His Excellency were in a position to assure us that the money had been subscribed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: We have received a telegram stating that the bonds have been over-subscribed.

THE HON. E. T. HOOLEY: I would have liked to have heard that a substantial deposit had been paid. However, with the Government guarantee, I believe the bonds will be placed. With respect to the Federal Council, I am glad that the Government propose to have the colony represented by five members instead of two. Before concluding, I must congratulate our President on the honour conferred upon him by Her Majesty, for I take it that it is not only an honour conferred upon the President individually, but an honour bestowed upon the House. I now move that the following Address be presented:—

*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 Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to deliver to us, and beg to assure you that the various matters to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, shall receive our most careful consideration and attention, and it shall be our anxious endeavour so to deal with them as to promote the advancement and welfare of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: It is with very great pleasure, Mr. President, that I rise to second the motion of the hon. member who has just sat down. He has, however, so ably and fully spoken to it that he has left me very little to say. Before referring shortly to the Speech, I should like to join with my hon. friend in congratulating you, sir, on the well-merited honour which has been conferred upon you, and I hope you may long be

spared to enjoy it. Coming now to the Speech, I note with satisfaction that a change has been made in the time for the meeting of Parliament. In former days, when we met in the summer time, hon. members became tired and languid in consequence of the heat, and were not so well able to perform their duties as they will be in the cooler part of the year. I can only re-echo the expression contained in the Speech on the subject of the financial depression which, for some time past, has existed, and hope that it is really now all over. The large and rich finds of gold, and the excellent season, should help, to some extent at any rate, to recoup us for the losses we have made through the stoppage of the banks. It is quite true, as my hon. friend has said, that the gold goes out of the colony, but we must remember that many people are employed in obtaining it, all of whom spend the money they get here, and consequently are the means of doing a large amount of good to the colony, and I am sure that when the railways to Yilgarn and Mullewa are completed, still more good will be done. As to the coal, I am informed by the Hon. Mr. Wright that there is a very good chance of a large and payable field being discovered near Albany. The opening of the Railway to Bunbury will also be the means, I hope, of doing much good. It will enable those who reside in this part of the colony to obtain certain of their supplies at a cheaper rate. Already we are getting splendid fish from Mandurah, and when the line is officially opened we shall no doubt be still better off. As to the Breakwater at Fremantle, we have already had evidence of its being able to stand very heavy gales. For days together we have experienced very stormy weather, and although it was considered by some that portions of the breakwater would subside, it has been found that it has been constructed in so masterly a manner as to withstand the severest elements. I hope before long to see the whole work finished, and steamers lying along wharves inside the river. Speaking of wharves reminds me of the Fremantle workshops. I have heard opinions expressed outside that it would be a good thing to remove the workshops altogether from their present site. The land where they are situate is very valuable, but very small; and as there is a