

mind, and it will be a convenience to the Government and the country, we will do it." The result is we find ourselves here, in a thin House with nearly all our supporters away, being hampered in our efforts to carry on the business of the country and to consult the public convenience. I do not think members opposite are acting towards me in the way I should like to act towards others, under similar circumstances.

MR. BANDELL: I think I stated that my reason for taking the action I did was simply to record a protest, so that the course adopted on the present occasion should not be construed into a precedent.

Question put—That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 25th June, at 3 p.m.

A division being called for, the numbers were—

Ayes	...	...	...	10
Noes	...	...	...	8
Majority for ...	...	...	...	2
Ayes.				
				NOES.

Mr. Burt	Mr. George
Mr. Connor	Mr. James
Mr. A. Forrest	Mr. Illingworth
Sir J. Forrest	Mr. Leake
Mr. Harper	Mr. Keep
Mr. Hassell	Mr. Lotou
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Moss
Mr. Piesse	Mr. Randell
Mr. Solomon	
Mr. Wood	

Motion put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House accordingly adjourned until Tuesday, 25th June.

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 25th June, 1895.*

*Governor's Speech—Federal Council Reference Bill; first reading—Address-in-Reply—Adjournment.*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Shortly after 3 o'clock His Excellency the Administrator (Sir A. C. Onslow) entered the Council Chamber, and the members of the Legislative Assembly, in obedience to command, attended the Chamber, whereupon His Excellency delivered the following Speech:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

1. I meet you with pleasure, and am glad to be able to assure you of the continued progress and advancement of the Colony.

2. The finances are in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, and the Revenue for the year will far exceed the Estimate. The credit of the Colony at the present time is excellent.

3. The first moiety of the Loan for one million and a half, authorised last Session, has been successfully floated in London at 3½ per cent. interest, and realised a premium of £3 ls. 4d. per cent. As this was the first occasion on which this Colony has been able to place a Loan at 3½ per cent., the result is most gratifying.

4. The Federal Council met in Hobart in January last. The principal matter decided was that the Draft Commonwealth Bill, passed by the Sydney Convention in 1891, should be dealt with by the several Parliaments of Australasia. My Ministers, while fully admitting that the Federation of the Australasian Colonies is of vast importance to the Colonies themselves, as well as to the Empire, are still of opinion that, until the question has made some substantial progress in the Eastern Colonies, it cannot, under existing circumstances, become a pressing question for this Colony.

5. During the past year the numerous Public Works authorised by Parliament have been progressing. The Railways to Mullewa and to Busselton have been opened for traffic. The contract for the construction of the Railway from Southern Cross to Coolgardie has been let at a satisfactory price. The deviations for the improvement of the Eastern Railway are nearly finished. The Surveys for the Railway from Mullewa to Cue have been completed, and the contract for the construction of the line will be let at as early a date as possible. The Surveys for the Railway from Donnybrook to Bridgetown are in hand, and

the necessary Bill to provide for its construction will be submitted for your approval.

6. The further development of the Coal deposits on the Collie River proves that a valuable fuel has been discovered, both for steam and domestic purposes, and you will be asked to pass the necessary legislation to authorise the construction of the railway, for which funds have already been provided.

7. The continued progress of our Goldfields is a matter for much congratulation. Population is being attracted in great numbers. The output of gold is large and regular, and will rapidly increase so soon as the machinery now being erected is at work, and better means of transit are provided by the Railways shortly to be constructed. The water difficulty is being gradually overcome, and the efforts of the Government in conserving and sinking have met with considerable success. It is proposed to undertake deep boring at Coolgardie, in the hope of striking an artesian supply.

8. The importance of the Dundas Goldfield has necessitated a regular means of communication being established with Esperance Bay, where a substantial jetty is being constructed. A contract has therefore been entered into for a fortnightly steamer service between Albany, Esperance Bay, and the other ports on the South Coast.

9. An advantageous offer having been made to the Government by the West Australian Timber Company, Limited, to sell the concession granted to them in 1871, my Ministers have purchased the concession, and all the rights existing thereunder, together with the lands, railway, mills, and everything belonging to the Company, being glad of the opportunity of putting an end to a contract which the altered position of the Colony rendered undesirable in many ways.

10. The Agricultural Bank, established under the Act passed by you last Session, has already commenced operations, and is attracting attention and business. My Ministers are fully satisfied of the usefulness of this measure and believe it will prove of much importance in assisting persons with small means to settle upon and improve the lands of the Colony.

11. The new Lighthouses at Rottnest and Cape Leuwin are in course of construction, and when completed will prove of vast benefit. It is proposed to provide Lighthouses at several other important places, and thus assist trade and commerce on our coasts, as well as provide for the safety and comfort of the travelling public.

12. The opening up of well watered Stock Routes to our Northern and Eastern Districts is now in hand, and good results are anticipated. My Ministers are fully aware of the difficulties that are experienced in bringing stock to market during the summer months, and are anxious to give as great facilities as possible.

13. The Fremantle Harbor Works are proceeding satisfactorily, and at a cost in all

branches considerably below the original estimate. The North Mole has been extended for 3,276 feet, and the South Mole has been commenced, and has already been extended for a distance of 530 feet. The Rock Dredger employed at Fremantle is doing exceptionally cheap and effective work, and another Dredger of the same type is about to be ordered. The Pump Dredger employed at Albany will shortly be removed to Fremantle, and it is proposed to order an additional Pump Dredger, so that in a short time there will be two of each class employed at Fremantle. This great work will continue to be vigorously prosecuted, and my Ministers have every confidence in the ultimate success of the undertaking. In connection with the Fremantle Harbor Works, it is proposed to construct a commodious Dock inside the River, near Rous Head. This will supply a long felt want, and will greatly add to the usefulness and convenience of the Port.

14. The dredging of Princess Royal Harbor, at Albany, has been further continued, and the anchorage ground has been largely extended. The Mail Steamers can now with safety enter the Inner Harbor, while all the intercolonial steamers now use the Town Jetty, where a good supply of fresh water is available. The work of dredging at Albany has been carried on for over two years, and has been very successful.

15. The Midland Railway is practically completed. Trains have been running regularly on three days in the week since the 24th November last, and since the 3rd inst. have been running four days in the week. As soon as the Railway is handed over to the Company by the contractor, a daily train each way will be insisted on, as provided by the Contract.

16. The Imperial Government having sanctioned the establishment of a branch of the Royal Mint in this Colony, a Bill providing the necessary legislation has been prepared, and will be submitted to you. My Ministers believe that the establishment of a Mint will greatly assist the mining industry, and will, at the same time, add to our prestige as a large gold-producing country.

17. You will also be asked to consider Bills dealing with Municipal Government, the Amendment of the Law relating to Gold Mining, the Regulation and Inspection of Mines, the Amendment of the Parliamentary Electoral Law, Duties on the Estates of Deceased Persons, the Appointment and Jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, Standard Time, the Law of Copyright, and other measures of minor importance.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

18. The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year are in course of preparation, and will be laid before you as soon as possible, and my Ministers hope to be able to provide from Current Revenue not only for all pressing ordinary requirements, but also for many other important works usually constructed from Loan funds.

19. The large increase in the Revenue, and the consequent flourishing condition of our finances, have given my Ministers the welcome opportunity of considering whether some of the Duties now chargeable under "The Tariff Act, 1893," might not with advantage be abolished, especially those on articles of food in general use, and not capable of being produced in the Colony) and I have pleasure in informing you that they propose to submit a Bill for your consideration dealing with this important question. My Ministers also propose to introduce a Bill repealing the Export Duties on Pearl Shells and Sandalwood, as they are of opinion that these duties are not justifiable or necessary under existing circumstances.

20. The question of the continuance of the Annual Grant for Ecclesiastical purposes has been considered, as promised last Session, and a Bill will be submitted to you providing for the termination of the grant by two instalments. My Ministers are of opinion that this will be the most suitable way of dealing with the grant in the interests of the Churches, and the most economical for the Government.

21. The increase of telegraphic communication has made it necessary to duplicate the telegraph line to our Eastern border at Eucla, and you will be asked to provide a sufficient sum to erect an alternative line from Coolgardie *via* Dundas, Ponton's Station, and Eyre, to Eucla, provided the South Australian Government agree to erect a duplicate line from Eucla to Port Augusta, *via* the Gawler Ranges. The numerous new centres arising on the goldfields have necessitated a considerable extension of the telegraph system, and my Ministers propose to provide postal and telegraphic communication to all important mining and agricultural centres, as soon as possible.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

22. The low prices obtainable for our staple products, especially wool and cereals, give cause for serious consideration and anxiety. My Ministers propose to meet these adverse circumstances by reducing the transit rates on our Railways for agricultural and pastoral produce to the lowest possible paying point, by giving cold storage accommodation on our Railways, by the establishment of a Market and Cold Storage in Perth, which is now in course of erection, and by providing good jetty and wharfage accommodation and other increased facilities for shipping at all the ports of the Colony.

23. The Legislative Assembly having resolved last Session that the Railway Workshops at Fremantle should be moved to a more advantageous site, my Ministers have, during the recess, given the subject the most careful consideration, and they propose to recommend that the shops be moved to a site near the Midland Junction, on a reserve of 266 acres

belonging to the Crown. In arriving at this decision, my Ministers are acting in accord with the recommendations of a Commission specially appointed to consider the question, and also in accord with the opinions of the professional advisers of the Government.

24. Owing to the increase of population, the necessity for improving the Water Supply and Sanitary arrangements of the larger towns has become a question of much importance, and a comprehensive scheme for dealing with these matters is being considered by the Government. My Ministers are anxious to assist all local efforts in the above direction, and a contour Survey of Perth is now being carried out with the object of enabling reliable estimates to be prepared for any Drainage or other works that may be necessary in connection with the Sanitation of the Metropolis.

25. The Railways are proving of the greatest importance to the country, and the revenue for the present financial year will not only exceed the working expenses, but will also pay the interest and sinking fund on the capital expended in their construction. The success which has attended the opening up of the country by Railways proves, beyond any doubt, that the policy of giving facilities of transit by railway has been thoroughly justified, and should be continued to the utmost extent consistent with the means of the Colony.

26. I now leave you to the consideration of the important matters that require your attention, with the full assurance that you will bring to bear upon them your practical knowledge and experience; and I hope and believe that, with the blessing of Divine Providence, your labours will result in the continued prosperity of this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

His Excellency and the Members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber.

#### FEDERAL COUNCIL REFERENCE BILL.

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

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

THE HON. E. McLARTY: Mr. President, I rise to move the adoption of an Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency the Administrator has opened Parliament this day. It is with pleasure that I do so, for I feel it a compliment and a great honor to have been asked to take this action. At the same time I approach the task with considerable diffidence, because I am sensible of my inability to deal with the subject as I would wish to. I accepted the responsibility of making this motion for two reasons—the first of them being that I did not feel justified in shirking a duty, and the second being that I knew hon. members would bear with me some-

what during the time I shall detain them, in the same way that they have shown consideration towards me in the past. I do not think it is necessary for me to dwell at great length on the matters touched upon in the Speech, because we shall have an opportunity of discussing them fully when they come before us more in detail. As a whole the Speech will commend itself both to hon. members and the country generally. It shows us a flourishing past, and breathes hope and prosperity in the future. It is gratifying for us to find that the finances are in so sound a condition, and that the revenue has exceeded the estimate of the Government. This, Sir, taken together with the fact that our credit stands high in London, (the first portion of our last authorised loan having been floated on very advantageous terms) must be a matter for general congratulation. In addition to this our public works have been pushed on with great energy, and with much advantage to the colony. In no part of Australia, having regard to the proportion of our population, has a large public works policy proved of such great advantage, and on this account I concur with what is said in the Speech that we shall be justified in extending our railways still further among the settled districts as far as our means will allow. Those districts to which there is no railway communication cannot make much advance, nor can they share in the prosperity which other parts of the colony are enjoying. The flourishing state of our finances will justify these further extensions, and I hope in the not distant future to see branch lines from the South-Western Railway to the Williams, and from York via Greenhills towards the Southern Cross Railway. I have no particular knowledge of this latter country, but from what I have heard of it I feel sure we shall be justified in constructing a railway through it. Our trunk lines are now fairly established, and we may now proceed with the construction of branch lines to act as feeders to the main lines and open up the country. We have just heard that our railways are at the present time not only paying working expenses, but are also providing the interest and sinking fund, a fact which, I think, reflects great credit upon those responsible for the management. During the recess it has been proved beyond all doubt that we have a very valuable coalfield in the South. Several members have lately visited the local-

ity, and I am sure they must have been surprised at the great developments which have taken place, and there can be no doubt, I think, but that we have a rich and extensive coal field, and when the Bill authorising the construction of a Railway to it comes before Parliament, there will be no dissenting voice, at any rate in this House. If there is, it will certainly be on the part of members who did not avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting the field. I hope, however, that the greatest possible care will be taken in selecting the best route through that mountainous country, with a view to avoiding a repetition of the painful mistakes we have experienced on the Eastern Railway. The news from the Goldfields continues to be encouraging, and there is every reason to believe that the output in the future will exceed even the satisfactory results of the past. It is satisfactory to note that the Government are alive to the necessity of postal communication with distant parts of the colony and that they are going to provide steam communication between Albany and Esperance. I am glad to learn that the contract and concession with the W.A. Timber Company is at an end. The concession granted to that Company was an extraordinary one—one which I am sure would not have been entertained in these days. I now come, Sir, to the most important clause of the Speech. It refers to the termination of the Ecclesiastical Grant. I feel, Sir, that this grant must soon be abolished, and that being so, the present seems to be an opportune time to deal with the question, because the finances are flourishing, and we can therefore afford to treat the Churches of the colony in a more liberal manner than it otherwise might have been possible to do. I fully concur with the idea of the Government to pay the Churches two lump sums in lieu of the annual grant. By dividing the amount it will not entail such a strain upon the revenue as if the payment were in one sum, and it will enable the Churches to be more liberally dealt with. For my part I think we should treat the Churches with the greatest liberality possible. The Agricultural Bank seems to be working satisfactorily, although it has not been in existence long enough to enable us to form an accurate opinion of its merits, although I may say I am pleased to see that the money is being lent under the most careful conditions. The proposed light-houses along the coast are much required and will prove of great advantage. The opening up of well-watered stock routes is a matter of urgent

necessity to the whole of this Colony, and I am glad to find that the Government intend to deal with the matter. At the present time there is a great scarcity of meat in the centres of population which the North can well supply. I know this statement has been doubted, but I am in a position to say that in the Kimberley District there are many thousands of fat sheep waiting to be sent to market, besides hundreds of bullocks for which there is no means of conveyance, either by steamer or by droving. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that I learn the Government intend to take this matter in hand, and thus provide a supply for the central parts of the colony, and an outlet for the squatters in the North. It is satisfactory to know that the Harbor Works at Fremantle have been pushed on with so much vigour, and are being constructed considerably under the estimate for them, especially when we find they have so well stood the severe trial of the recent gale at Fremantle. I note it is proposed to bring before Parliament a Bill to establish a Royal Mint. I have no knowledge of this matter, but I have no doubt if it is not too costly, it will prove a great benefit. I observe also that it is intended to bring in a Bill dealing with the Tariff. I must say I regret rather that this proposition is to come before us at the present time. Although the finances are in a flourishing condition, there is a great deal which is required to be done, and I do not think the taxes imposed to-day press heavily on any portion of the community. I think the Government would do well to maintain the revenue as it is, and to employ whatever surplus may be available on necessary works within the Colony. At the present time sanitary works are much needed in this city of Perth and in other towns, and I am of opinion that the general public would be more satisfied if the Government were to undertake these and other like works, than by a remission of the taxation proposed, which after all will only result in a very slight individual saving. I think it is imperative that something should be done to improve the sanitary condition of Perth and other towns, and I hope that steps will be taken at an early date to bring this about. I do not think the taxes press heavily. We now pay something like fifty per cent. less for the necessaries of life than we did a few years ago, and at that time we were paying similar taxes. Take sugar, which is an article of

everyday use. I remember that a few years ago this article of consumption was sold at £44 per ton. Now it can be purchased for half that price, and even as low as 2½d. per lb. in this town. It seems to me that it is hardly worth while opening up the whole question of the Tariff simply for the purpose of taking off the duties on some few of the items which cannot be produced in this colony. If the question is opened up, we do not know where it will end. There is not only the question of the sanitary arrangements of Perth and other large towns, but an immense amount of money is required to be spent on the conservation of water. Many districts are badly off in this respect, and I should have been glad to have seen the Government rather trying to maintain than remit existing taxation for a little time longer until such works as I have referred to are carried out. It would be of far more benefit to the people that this expenditure should be going on than that the Tariff should be altered for the purpose of remitting what I have already said amounts to a small individual charge. I note that it is intended to bring in a Bill to duplicate the line from Coolgardie to Eucla. We all know the inconvenience and loss the colony has been put to by the interruptions on the overland line in the past, and I am glad to see the Government are taking action to provide a remedy. A Bill is to be brought before Parliament to provide for the removal of the Railway Workshops. This is a vexed question and one which will no doubt involve a great deal of discussion, although I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that if it is in the best interests of the colony, (and I am inclined to think it is) that the shops should be removed, all feeling should be left out of the question, and we should abide by the wishes of the advisers to the Government. I do not know that I need detain the House any longer, I feel sure that all matters submitted to us will be dealt with in an impartial and careful manner, and I hope the same cordial feelings which existed among members during our last session will be continued in this one. I now beg to move that the following Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Administrator.

*To His Excellency Sir Alexander Campbell  
Onslow, Knight, Administrator of the  
Government of Western Australia, &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the members of the Legislative Coun-

oil of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Our most careful consideration and attention will be given to the important matters referred to by Your Excellency, and all other matters that may be brought before us; and it shall be our earnest endeavour to so deal with them that our labours may result in the continued prosperity of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: I have much pleasure in rising to second this Address, although I wish the task had fallen into more able hands, or into the hands of some older member who would be able to deal with the various questions more fully than I can. I can support the remarks of the mover of this Address when he refers to the thoroughly satisfactory state in which we find the finances of the colony. We have known the position for some time, and we can only hope now that some further public works will be started without recourse to Loan funds. I congratulate the Government on the satisfactory way the last loan was floated, and I trust that their next effort in this direction may be even more successful, and that we shall be able to raise what money we require at 3 per cent. as the other colonies do. In reference to the paragraph of the Speech relating to the Federal Council I think we may congratulate our delegates on the course they took at the last meeting, as it is well known that this colony cannot afford to go in for Federation. If we were to do so we might just as well cease trying to supply our markets and all march off to the goldfields. With Federation this colony would be flooded with Victorian and South Australian produce. Everything which has been overdone in those colonies would be used as a means of ruining our farmers, for as I have said, they would flood our markets with their over production. We must, therefore, congratulate the delegates, or the larger proportion of them at any rate, on the course they pursued. I believe one of them would have liked to have gone further, but I am afraid he will have to wait a little longer before he can spend his eloquence and powers in a Federal Parliament. The Government, and everyone who believes in the colony, may congratulate themselves that common sense prevailed, and that the delegates were not

found willing to throw away all the good that has been done in building railways and opening up the country and allow other places to flood our markets with their produce. I am glad that the Government have got some backbone, and has not been found willing to sell the country for a little praise. We are not ripe for Federation. If we were to go into it our farmers might as well leave their lands at once and go to the goldfields. With reference to our railway construction, the line to Coolgardie has been taken at a very cheap rate. I am glad that this line, together with that from Mullewa to Cue, has been undertaken first, because there is no doubt we must attribute to these goldfields our present prosperity. As regards the railway from Donnybrook to Bridgetown, I am rather in a fix about it, because last year I was one of its greatest opponents on the grounds that I did not think it was justified. I asked that it might stand over until this year. With the present state of the finances I shall not be opposed to it, and I hope and trust that we shall be able to construct many more railways through agricultural districts, or branch lines into them. The Greenhills District and the East Beverley District, where there are large areas of agricultural land, should be opened up. During the last five months we have imported £60,000 worth of wheat, flour, hay and chaff, which shows that it is necessary to build further railways into agricultural districts where we have good land, so as to avoid sending money out of the colony for articles we should produce here. If £60,000 were spent among our population of 80,000 or 90,000, which includes children, it would do a great deal of good, to say nothing of the amount we shall have to send away during the remainder of the year, especially as for the next few months we must import almost everything. We know we are greatly depending upon our goldfields; but they may give out, and we should endeavour to have something to fall back upon. There is enough good agricultural land in our Eastern Districts to supply twice our present population. I will now say a few words about our coal deposits. I was not among those who visited the field, but I have heard from several who have been there—even from those who have been opposed to the railway to the Collie and who are among the most cautious—that there is a very good thing there. I hope now that we are going to construct the

railway, we shall be able to keep the money in the colony which has usually been sent away for the purchase of coal. In paragraph 7 of the Speech the Government say they hope to go in for deep boring at Coolgardie. This should have been done a long time ago.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENOOM): We could not get tenders.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: Then the Government should have undertaken it themselves. I consider this one of the most important works, and it should be carried out at once. Paragraph 9 refers to the purchase of the W. A. Timber Company's concession. I congratulate the Government on this, and I hope the time is not far distant when we shall be able to buy the Midland Railway and the Great Southern Railway. The opening up of stock routes to the North has been talked of for a long time, and if the Government now take the matter in hand in earnest it may do some good, although I am afraid that notwithstanding this, it will be a long time before there is cheap meat in Perth. In paragraph 15 the Government say that as soon as the Midland Railway is handed over by the contractor to the Company a daily train service will be insisted upon. I hope if there is any more difficulty over this concession the Government will take the matter in hand, and do the same as the New Zealand Government has done under similar circumstances. As to the Mint, we are getting a good deal of gold in the colony, and it may be an advantage to the mining community to have it coined in the colony. In paragraph 17 the list of Bills we shall have before us is set out, and if this includes all our work, we may congratulate ourselves on the outlook of a very short session. As to the proposed amendment of the Tariff Act, I am of the same opinion as the mover of the Address, and think it would be far better to leave matters as they are at the present time, because when once the question of the tariff is opened there is no telling where we shall stop. In connection with the repeal of the export duties on pearl shells and sandalwood, I am afraid the proposal comes rather late, at any rate so far as sandalwood is concerned. We are told in Clause 20 that it is proposed to abolish the Ecclesiastical Grant, and with the mover of the Address I hope the Churches will be dealt with as liberally as possible, otherwise a great blow will be dealt to the country. We do not want our young people

neglected as regards either their secular or moral education, or be allowed to grow up, as for instance, are some of the children of Sydney. I am quite in accord with the duplication of the telegraph line referred to in paragraph 21 of the Speech. For sometime the lines have been blocked, and it is now hardly any use sending a telegram if any great expedition is required. The 22nd is a most important paragraph. The Government say they are going to help settlers to meet the low prices obtainable for our staple products by reducing the transit rates. I do not know, however, that this will make much difference—at any rate it will not as far as the northern settlers are concerned. Increased shipping facilities may do something; but they will not increase the price of wool. In the South and Central Districts wool can hardly now be produced at a profit and much less can it be in the North. I am afraid the Government will have to go further than they state in this Speech. They will have to do something in the direction of extending the terms of payment for the land to 20 or 40 years, so as to give the farmers a better chance of paying, and enabling them to more rapidly develop their holdings. With reference to the Railway Workshops, there seems to be very little doubt throughout the country that it is necessary to move them to a more commodious and better site, where the repairs can be carried out more cheaply, and where a good deal of the wear and tear will be saved. The matter of drainage only refers to Perth at the present time, although other towns will require it before long. I am glad, however, to see that the Government have taken the matter up. We are told in paragraph 25 that the railways are in a flourishing state and that there is a surplus. I hope that this will be spent in opening up new country which is suitable for agriculture. I might also draw attention to the necessity of keeping up a larger supply of trucks so that they may be available at all times for those who wish to send produce by rail, instead of having to wait a week perhaps, as is now very often the case. This matter has been before the House on a previous occasion, and I hope the gentleman who now represents the Government will be able to exercise his influence with the Commissioner of Railways, who seems to be a hard man to make headway with. I shall not take up the time of the House longer. I congratulate the Government on the general state of the finan-

ces, the large increase of population, and the good season which is now setting in, and I feel assured that we may look forward to still greater prosperity during the next year than we have experienced in the past. I beg to second the adoption of this Address-in-Reply.

THE HON J. G. FOULKES: I move the adjournment of the debate.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (HON. E. H. WITTENBERG): I desire to consult hon. members as to the sitting of the House. I propose that we shall adjourn until 3 o'clock to-morrow, so that we may finish this debate, and after that I shall suggest that we adjourn for a fortnight. In the meantime I shall put what Bills I can on the Table, and thus afford hon. members an opportunity of considering them. It is of no use my asking hon. members to come here without a fair amount of work for them to do, and thus cause them to waste time which at this season of the year is especially valuable to many of them. I wish to study the convenience of hon. members to the fullest extent, and therefore I make this suggestion. I now move that the House adjourn until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I would just like to point out that to-morrow is rather an off day, and I would suggest that it might be desirable to fix Thursday instead of to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

The House, at 4.12 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 26th June, 1895, at 3 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 25th June, 1895.

*Communication from His Excellency the Administrator—Representation of the De Grey Electorate—Annual Report of the Auditor-General—Standard Time Bill; first reading—Civil Service Commission; Cost of, etc.—Question ruled out of order—Repealing the Stock Tax—His Excellency the Administrator's Speech—Address-in-Reply—Adjournment.*

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 3 p.m.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.

Shortly after 3 o'clock a Message was conveyed by the Usher of the Black Rod that His Excellency the Administrator requested the attendance of the Speaker and hon. members of the Assembly in the Chamber of the Legislative Council. Accordingly Mr. Speaker with members of the House went to attend His Excellency, who delivered his Opening Speech.

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE DEGREY ELECTORATE.

On the resumption of the sitting,

THE SPEAKER announced that since the last meeting of the House he had issued a writ for the election of a member to serve for the electoral district of the De Grey, rendered vacant by reason of Mr. A. R. Richardson having accepted an office of profit under the Crown, and that by the return to the writ it appeared that Mr. Richardson had been re-elected.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL.

THE SPEAKER laid upon the table of the House the Annual Report of the Auditor-General upon the public accounts of the colony for the financial year ended 30th June, 1894, as required by the Audit Act.

#### STANDARD TIME BILL.

Introduced by SIR JOHN FORREST, and read a first time.

#### COST, ETC., OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

MR. R. F. SHOLL, in accordance with notice, asked the Premier,—

- (a.) The cost to the country of the Civil Service Commission to date.
- (b.) The number of times during the recess