

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Second Session of 1883.

Opened on Wednesday, 18th July, 1883.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 18th July, 1883.

Opening of Council—New Members—Governor's Speech
—Imperial Pauper Invalids Bill: first reading—Ad-
dress in Reply—Adjournment.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

THE Council was prorogued by His Excellency the Administrator on the 19th of April, 1883, until the 4th of July next ensuing; thence it was prorogued to the 18th of July, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

The Council assembled at three o'clock, p.m.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon. Alfred Peach Hensman, Attorney General; the Hon. James Henry Thomas, Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways; and the Hon. John Forrest, C.M.G., Surveyor General and Commissioner of Crown Lands, handed to Mr. Speaker the usual oath of allegiance, taken and subscribed before His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Maitland Brown and Mr. Alexander Joseph McRae also took and subscribed the usual oath of allegiance, and having delivered to the Clerk the necessary Declaration, as required by the Constitution Act, took their seats, the former as member for the Gascoyne, and the latter as member for the North District.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Shortly after three o'clock, His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber, and took the Chair.

His EXCELLENCY, having desired that hon. members be seated, was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL—

"1. It gives me much pleasure to meet
"you thus early after entering upon the
"duties of my Government.

"2. The hearty welcome I received
"from all classes on my arrival has been
"most gratifying to me, both as an ex-
"pression of loyalty to the Queen, and
"as evidence of the cordial relations
"which the people of Western Australia
"are ready to establish with Her Majesty's
"Representative.

"3. The interesting and important work
"waiting to be done throughout a vast
"territory; the public spirit and intelli-
"gence of the leading colonists with
"whom I have been brought in contact;
"the thoroughly English character of
"the community; and the charm of an
"unrivalled climate, fill me, I can assure
"you, with the most agreeable anticipa-
"tions of my term of office. It will be
"my earnest endeavour to order the
"affairs of the Colony with prudence,
"and to advance its interests in every
"possible way; and I look to the Legis-
"lature, and to the people generally, for
"that support and co-operation which
"no doubt I shall receive, and without
"which the best efforts of the head of a
"Government can have but little result.

" 4. I rejoice to find the Colony in a flourishing condition. The sandalwood trade is somewhat depressed, I trust only temporarily; and the low price of lead continues to prevent the mines of the Champion Bay District from being worked to advantage. But, on the whole, the varied interests of this far scattered community are sound and flourishing. Pastoral pursuits are extending; the demand for our jarrah and other timber continues; and the pearl and pearl-shell fishery has been stimulated by a successful take and a good market. Beneficent rains have fallen; and, if the weather has been too severe for the stock in some of the southern districts, it has much benefited agriculture, and the country generally.

" 5. I congratulate you on the recent increase to your numbers. By the addition of two elected members, the growing interests of the North are now fairly represented; and the presence in your chamber of the Director of Public Works and Commissioner of Railways, as an official member, cannot fail to be an advantage.

" 6. Your first attention will no doubt be given to the financial position of the Colony, the ruling factor in our public affairs. On the 31st of December last, the Treasury books showed a credit balance of £32,355. During the current year, this balance has increased considerably, the excess of receipts over expenditure to the 30th June having been £59,483, raising the balance to £91,838. The principal sources of increase have been the Land and Customs receipts; the former having been £29,444, and the latter £5,950 above the receipts of the first half of last year.

" 7. The usual financial Bills, namely, the Excess Bill for 1882, the Supplementary Estimates for 1883, and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1884, will be introduced without loss of time. The Supplementary Estimates will include expenditure amounting in all to about £21,500. I am convinced of the wisdom of confining Supplementary Estimates within the narrowest possible limits; and no doubt your Honorable House will agree with me in thinking that adequate and care-

ful provision should be made beforehand for the requirements of a year. With this object, I shall have to ask you to grant some increased amounts on the Estimates for 1884, in order to avoid coming before you hereafter for further supplies.

" 8. The balance of £91,838, which I have named as standing to our credit on the 30th of June, must be expected to diminish considerably as the year goes on. Some of the most important heads of revenue accrue only in the first half of the year; and heavy expenditure under the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates has still to be met. But the Government may, upon a prudent calculation, expect to begin the year 1884 with a credit balance exceeding £50,000.

" 9. The Revenue for next year, including £7,250 from Imperial sources, has been estimated at £270,000. We may hope that this figure will be surpassed; but it is better to exercise caution in computing beforehand rising sources of income, which may not yet have found their permanent level. As it is, considerably increased amounts have been allowed for Land, Customs, and Railway revenue; and the total Estimate exceeds that for the current year by £40,860, and exceeds the actual receipts of 1882 by £19,628.

" 10. The preparation of the Expenditure side of the Budget for 1884 is not yet quite completed; but I am able to say that it will show a balance of revenue, without fresh taxation. When the Estimates are introduced, full explanation on all points connected with them will be given.

" 11. The value of the Exports of the Colony during 1882 amounted to £583,055, and of the Imports to £508,755. There was thus a total trade of £1,091,833, exceeding the returns of 1881 by £80,286 on the Export side, and by £103,924 on the Import side—a great increase for a single year.

" 12. Telegraphic advices in the public press state that our Railway and Telegraph 4 per cent. Loan of £254,000 has been placed upon the London market at £96 10s., but has been withdrawn, owing to an incomplete subscription. No doubt the Loan will shortly be

" again brought forward; and we need
" have no fear of the ultimate result.

" 13. The construction of the Second
" Section of the Eastern Railway is pro-
" ceeding satisfactorily; but the Govern-
" ment have had to sanction a deviation
" from the contract route, owing to a
" landslip at a cutting about 8 miles
" from Guildford. It is estimated that
" this deviation will entail an extra ex-
" penditure of £5,000. In consequence
" of the additional work, three months
" extension of the contract time has been
" allowed, and the Railway should now
" be completed to Chidlow's Well by the
" 15th of November next. The necessary
" rolling stock was indented for on the
" 15th of March last, and I have tele-
" graphed to the Crown Agents to expe-
" dite its despatch, so as to avoid delay
" in the opening of the new section.

" 14. The survey and specifications of
" the Third Section of the Eastern Rail-
" way, from Chidlow's Well to York, have
" been completed, and tenders have been
" called for its construction.

" 15. Papers will be laid before you
" embodying further important proposals
" for Railways on the land grant system.
" You are already in possession of Mr.
" Hordern's offer, and of the report of
" the Committee which has considered it.
" The additional projects are, from Colo-
" nel McMurdo and others for the con-
" struction of a line from Beverley to
" Albany; and from Sir Julius Vogel
" and others for the construction of a
" line from Beverley to Ettakup, and
" thence to Eucla. The report of the
" Committee which has considered Mr.
" Hordern's proposal appears to indicate
" the lines on which an undertaking of
" this nature may be entertained; but,
" until more is known of the exact finan-
" cial basis upon which each project rests,
" it would, I think, be injudicious to pro-
" nounce in favour of a particular appli-
" cation. The details of such a scheme
" should be well settled, before the Colony
" commits itself; and I would therefore
" suggest that, while definitively stating
" the bases upon which you are ready to
" agree to the construction of land grant
" Railways over the routes mentioned,
" and communicating to me your general
" views, you should leave the final nego-
" tiations with the promoters to be con-
" cluded by the Government.

" 16. I believe that the initiation of a
" system of land grant railways would be
" a wise policy for Western Australia;
" and that we might look without fear on
" the alienation of 10,000 acres of land
" per mile of railway opened. Land so
" alienated is in a very different position
" from land granted to a private person,
" for it becomes the property of an asso-
" ciation of capitalists, or is managed by
" a body of directors with shareholders
" behind them pressing for dividends;
" and in such hands land is more likely
" to fructify than in those of the
" Government.

" 17. The contract for the erection of
" about 700 miles of Telegraph line from
" Geraldton to Roebourne has been let,
" and the contractors have bound them-
" selves to begin the work next month,
" and to finish it by March, 1885.

" 18. In connection with our Tele-
" graphs, I shall have to lay before you
" an important project, from capitalists
" represented by Sir Julius Vogel. These
" gentlemen ask a concession, for a term
" of 21 years, of the right of landing a
" submarine cable at a point on the coast
" of the Colony, and thus directly con-
" necting Western Australia with the
" telegraph system of the world. Such a
" cable would make our lines a thorough-
" fare of European telegrams; would cost
" us nothing, while adding largely to our
" telegraph receipts; would expedite, de-
" velop, and cheapen the transmission of
" news and general messages; would
" bring our geographical position into
" relief; and would, as I feel sure you
" will agree, be in many ways of sub-
" stantial advantage.

" 19. I have received a Despatch, which
" will be laid before you, from the Right
" Honorable the Secretary of State on
" the subject of the Stocking Clause of
" the Kimberley Land Regulations. The
" Earl of Derby is ready to approve of
" any amendment of which the language
" of the Clause may be susceptible, and
" remits this and other important points
" for your consideration. There is no
" difference of opinion as to the policy
" which should govern these land regula-
" tions—namely, protection against mere
" speculation in land, coupled with the
" utmost facilities to *bonâ fide* settlers—
" and there should be little difficulty in
" arriving at a settlement of the matter.

" I will also lay before you a draft regulation, suggested by the Secretary of State, for the purpose of giving effect to your wish, expressed last year, that lessees of Crown Lands should have a certain prior right of renewal of their leases.

" 20. I have received reports from the Expedition despatched to the Kimberley District in April last. A good anchorage and a townsite have been fixed upon by Mr. Fairbairn in King Sound, opposite Mary Islands; but difficulty was found in landing the frame houses, and they have been sent back to Cossack. Papers connected with the Expedition will be presented to you, including the report of the Surveyor-General, who has recently returned from the district, and will be able to afford the Council interesting information. I am of opinion that the present Steam Service should, if possible, be extended to King Sound. A considerable sum of money will require to be spent upon reforwarding the building material, upon further equipment required by the Government Resident, and in providing landing facilities at the new township of Derby. Your previous consent to this expenditure will of course be requested.

" 21. The work of the Kimberley survey parties is reported to be progressing satisfactorily, and the Surveyor-General has brought back with him an encouraging account of the general appearance and condition of the new country. The grass is stated to be excellent, the stock in condition, and the settlers in good spirits. There are about 43,000,000 acres of pastoral lands now leased in this district, at an annual rent of £21,348. The settlers (exclusive of the Government parties) number as yet only forty or fifty, all told, on seven sheep stations; and the district contains about 27,000 sheep. Settlement can thus as yet scarcely be said to have fairly begun.

" 22. The South Eastern, or Eucla District, the second string to our bow, is rising into importance. The leases issued now cover about 35,000,000 acres, at an annual rent-roll of £9,067, and applications are being made for unconditional pre-emptive rights under Clause 68 of the Land Regulations.

" A group of such applications recently granted increased the rents from £128 to £2,688 per annum. If the boring operations now being carried on by private enterprise and by the South Australian Government should be successful, the Eucla District will rise into great prominence and value. It appears desirable to make provision, as soon as possible, for further surveys, including the laying out of a township, in this district.

" 23. The application of the law to offences committed by natives in the Northern Districts of the Colony has produced some good effect. It cannot be expected that sheep stealing will at once be entirely prevented, where all the circumstances are so favourable to it; but it must be kept down, and there is some evidence that the natives are beginning to understand that punishment follows crime. Even with such reinforcement as may be possible, the Police Force in these vast districts will unavoidably, for a considerable time to come, be too weak to exercise a close supervision of the native population; and a careful watch over stock is a very necessary safeguard. The difficulties which our pioneer settlers have to encounter will always receive my sympathy and consideration.

" 24. With reference to the Act passed by you, during the recent short Session, legalising certain magisterial sentences upon natives, it would appear that some further legislation, more clearly defining and consolidating the powers of Magistrates in native cases, is necessary; and a Bill on the subject has accordingly been prepared.

" 25. Important as is the construction of Harbor Works at Fremantle, I scarcely think any steps for carrying out Sir John Coode's plans can be taken this year. A fresh loan would be necessary, and the Colony, now busily engaged in making railways, has just placed on the London market a railway and telegraph loan for £254,000, the largest it has yet brought forward. I recommend that the question of Harbor Works be postponed till next Session, when the success and future of the Kimberley and Eucla districts shall have become more declared, and when the other enterprises

" now to be brought before you shall have been set on foot. With prospects still clearer and more assured, we shall then be better able to consider whether we can assume fresh burdens.

" 26. I have not yet received the decision of the Imperial Government respecting the stoppages from the grant-in-aid on account of the Water Police. With regard to other matters relative to the Imperial establishment in the Colony, the Home Government have agreed to transfer to us the Lunatic Asylum, on the basis of a payment from Imperial funds of £42 per head *per annum*, for each Imperial lunatic. Your consent will be asked, and may, I think, be given to this arrangement.

" 27. The final accounts of the Road Loan, now entirely absorbed, will be laid before you. The administration of the Roads is not in a satisfactory state. I am considering the subject, and hope to communicate further with you as to what is best to be done.

" 28. A Bill will be brought forward having for its object the proper organisation and discipline of the Volunteer Force of the Colony. No adequate measure exists, and its want is felt. Our Volunteer Force is quite large enough for present needs, and its spirit and physique are excellent. It is deserving of every encouragement, and a vote for the purchase of proper arms for a portion of the force which now carries ineffective weapons will be asked.

" 29. A Bill to regulate the erection of Telegraphs will be presented for your consideration. Such a measure is very necessary in this Colony, which, when the present Roebourne contract is completed, will possess some 2,300 miles of Telegraph Lines.

" 30. My recent arrival has not given me time to consider some important matters upon which I hope hereafter to suggest legislation; but, in addition to the Bills already named, measures will, if possible, be introduced into the Council dealing with the following subjects, namely:—Married Women's Property, Buildings in Towns, Registration of Dogs, Harbor and Port Dues, Railway Terminus at York, Exemption of Justices from Juries, Powers of Chairmen of Quarter Sessions, Discipline of Convict Invalid Depot, Flogging of

" Prisoners, Survey of Boats, and the Incorporation of the Fremantle Grammar School.

" 31. A Building Act for Towns is much required. It will be requisite in the first instance to refer the draft of the Bill to the various Municipal Bodies for their observations. For this reason, it may not be feasible to pass the measure this Session. With regard to the Bill for the Registration of Dogs, this subject has upon two occasions been inconclusively dealt with, but I still trust it may be possible to prepare a law meeting the circumstances of the case, and dealing fairly with all classes. I have not yet settled the draft of the Bill, as I wish, before doing so, to confer personally with some Members of the Council, of whose special experience I desire to avail myself.

" 32. I propose, in future years, to publish drafts of Government Bills in the *Gazette*, before the beginning of the Session of Council, with a view to their discussion in the public press, as well as to give more time for any representations from those whose interests they affect.

" 33. The best use to be made of the balance, of over £50,000, which the Colony may expect to have to its credit on the 31st of December next, demands our anxious and careful consideration. It should not, I think, in any case be reduced below £30,000. But £20,000 might safely be expended; and I would strongly advise that this money be not frittered away on small public works in various parts of the country, but be applied to some one object in the interests of the whole community. The great want of Western Australia is population; and any undertaking which does not minister to this want, directly or indirectly, can have but little bearing on the general progress of the Colony. Indirect advantage will accrue from the railways and telegraphs we are now constructing, and from the other important schemes which I have mentioned to you, and upon which you have to pronounce. But I do not think we should lose the opportunity, now at last within our reach, of making an organised and powerful effort to introduce, by direct means, a large number of suitable immigrants.

" 34. I propose accordingly to invite you to consider a scheme for the appointment of a Board of Immigration, and for the payment of £20,000 into an Immigration Fund, to be expended by the Board within the next two years in the introduction of at least 1,000 immigrants. This scheme will include a proper agency in England, and arrangements for the reception and settlement of the immigrants on their landing in the Colony. The operations of the Board could hereafter be extended, as the accumulation of balances allowed of fresh payments into the Immigration Fund.

" 35. Last year, the net arrivals of all passengers in Western Australia only amounted to 94 souls; the year before there were no net arrivals at all, but a net departure of 79 souls! These figures appear a sufficient argument for energetic action, on a well-considered plan, specially devised to cope with the difficulties which have always beset the Immigration question in this Colony.

" 36. I will lay before you, for your opinion, a proposal from the Government of Malta for the introduction of a certain number of Maltese immigrants; and I will also consult you upon various other matters, which I will not now enter upon. To any subjects which may be brought before me by your Honorable Council, I will give prompt and careful consideration.

" 37. It remains for me, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, to declare this Session of Council to be open; and I pray that your labours may be blessed to the general good."

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, withdrew from the Council Chamber.

IMPERIAL PAUPER INVALIDS BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill for the Maintenance of proper Order and Discipline amongst the Imperial Pauper Invalids in the Imperial Pauper Invalid Depot at Fremantle.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. CAREY, in rising to move the Address in Reply, said the Speech they had just heard from His Excellency was one which he was sure would meet with general approbation. The thanks of the country, and especially the thanks of the Legislature, were due to His Excellency for calling them together at so early a date after his arrival in the Colony. In doing so His Excellency must have felt he labored under a disadvantage, having been here for so short a time, and having had so little opportunity for the work of preparation. The hearty welcome which His Excellency had received on his arrival was, he trusted, an indication of the good feeling which would exist between the Governor and the people during his tenure of office. The Speech was rather a lengthy one, and dealt with a great variety of topics, including even the weather. Other Governors had been blamed before now for not introducing that subject into their speeches, but Governor Broome had not left a loophole for complaint, even as regards the weather. With reference to the allusion made in the Speech to the increase in the number of hon. gentlemen occupying seats in the House, he thought the presence of the new members would be a source of general satisfaction, and might be regarded as another indication of the progress which the Colony was making towards the enjoyment of those freer institutions which they were looking forward to,—another step towards that "good time coming," and which now certainly loomed very near, when the Colony shall govern itself. (Mr. BROWN: Hear, hear.) The reference made in His Excellency's Speech to the financial condition of the Colony must have been a source of satisfaction to hon. members, the present flourishing state of the Treasury being unprecedented in the annals of the Colony. But even the pleasure felt at this highly satisfactory state of affairs was not without its alloy, in the shape of the inevitable Supplementary Estimates. He was sorry to see such a large expenditure to be provided for under this head, and he hoped it would be the last time the House would have to deal with these very unsatisfactory charges; he hoped that the ordinary Estimates would be so

framed as to give no necessity for the introduction of supplementary votes. They had been promised that this sort of thing would not occur again, but here it was; and on a larger scale than usual, of late. He noticed by His Excellency's Speech that the Imperial Grant for the next year would only amount to £7250, and he looked upon the gradual diminution of this grant as another indication of the coming constitutional change already alluded to. One of the main arguments used by the opponents of Responsible Government was the loss which the Colony would probably sustain by the withdrawal of this Imperial grant; but this argument was gradually losing its force, and was becoming a very feeble one indeed. Bit by bit, the ground was thus being cut away from under the feet of those who were opposed to the Colony assuming the responsibilities of self-government, and it appeared to him they had very little ground indeed now to stand upon. He was glad to find that notwithstanding a probable increase of expenditure during the coming year, there would be no necessity to have recourse to any increase of taxation—not even upon wool or pearl shells, which he was sure would prove very gratifying to the Colony in general and to the hon. member for the North (Mr. Grant) in particular. With regard to the construction of railways on the land grant system, he was pleased to find His Excellency acknowledging the wisdom of adopting that policy, and he was sure the sentiments expressed by the Governor on this subject would meet with general approval. There was no doubt that, situated as we are, it would be a wise policy, and one which would prove advantageous to the Colony. We have land in abundance, and to spare; but not so as regards money. And there could be no doubt that the value of our land would be enhanced by the construction of railways through it. In his opinion land monopoly by a syndicate was far better for the Colony than land monopoly by squatters. With regard to the proposed modification of the Kimberley Land Regulations referred to in the Governor's Speech, hon. members were aware that he felt somewhat strongly on this point, and he was very glad to notice the cautious way in which His Excellency had worded

the paragraph dealing with the subject. The Secretary of State, it appeared, was prepared to accept any amendment of the stocking clause, of which "the language of the clause was susceptible;" and as the "language of the clause" was very clear indeed, he had no doubt this question would be settled in a way which would be satisfactory to the country, though probably not to those who were directly interested. His Excellency referred to further expenditure in connection with the Kimberley District, but he thought it would be wise on our part, before incurring additional expenditure of any extent in this direction, to wait for the report of the Resident Magistrate, who had recently been sent to the district, and of Commander Coghlan, the officer in charge of the Admiralty Survey. The figures given by His Excellency with reference to the immense area of land taken up in this district, 42,000,000 of acres, with only seven sheep stations upon the whole of that vast territory, and a population of only forty or fifty Europeans, all told—all this was very significant, and, in his opinion, pointed to the necessity of the provisions of the stocking clause being rigidly enforced. He noticed reference made to the necessity for affording further police protection for this district, but it appeared to him—without here entering into the intricacies of the native question—that if they increased the police force much more than it now was, they would have a policeman at the door of every settler in the district. The reference made in the Speech to the question of harbor works at Fremantle must, he felt sure, have been somewhat disappointing to many hon. members. There was an opinion abroad, and a very strong opinion, that the day had arrived for undertaking this important work; but at the same time, regard being had to the fact that the loan which had been placed on the market had hung fire,—had in fact been withdrawn, it appeared to him that His Excellency counselled wisely in advising that no steps should be taken this Session to carry out Sir John Coode's scheme of harbor improvements, and that it was better we should wait another year, before undertaking additional burdens in the shape of loans. With regard to the Road Loan, he was glad to find on such unquestionable authority as that of

the Governor himself that this loan had been entirely absorbed. He trusted we should never again have another loan like it, and that nothing more would be heard of it. He hoped that in any measure that may be introduced by the Government dealing with our roads and bridges, local supervision would be the sole controlling power. Allusion had been made by His Excellency to a great many subjects in his Speech, but he regretted to find no reference made to a resolution adopted by that House last Session with respect to extending the jurisdiction of Local Courts, and he hoped the Government, before the present Session closed, would introduce a measure dealing with that resolution. He was very pleased to find a promise made by His Excellency that, in future, drafts of Bills which it was proposed to be introduced in the House would be published in the *Government Gazette* some time before the Council met. The necessity for this being done had been long felt, and he was sure the announcement would be hailed with satisfaction, as a decided improvement upon the system of confidential circulars addressed to hon. members privately, which had been at one time in vogue. He noticed with reference to the surplus £50,000 which it was expected would remain to the credit of the Colony at the end of the year, that His Excellency suggested it should not be frittered away. He (Mr. Carey) hoped, at any rate, that some of it would be "frittered away" at the South, where public works of late years had, he might say; been positively starved, and where undertakings of urgent necessity demanded the attention of the Government. The question of immigration was one of too much magnitude and importance, and he might say of difficulty, to be dealt with in a cursory review of a speech dealing with such a variety of topics as that which they had just listened to, and he would only now say with regard to it that he thought it must be gratifying to the country that the late Administrator had put an end to the nomination system, which certainly had proved a failure. Having now glanced at the different subjects referred to in His Excellency's Speech—a Speech which he again thought must have afforded gratification to all who listened to it—he now begged to move that a respectful Address

be presented to His Excellency in reply.

MR. McRAE said he rose with pleasure to second the motion, though the hon. member who had moved the Address had left him very little to say. It was a matter for congratulation that His Excellency found himself in a position to make such a financial statement, and such a happy speech altogether. He could not, however, agree with His Excellency as to the wisdom of hoarding up our surplus revenue, just for the sake of having a large balance in the chest, instead of expending it upon public works of urgent necessity. He thought most hon. members would be glad to learn that His Excellency was in favor of the construction of railways on the land grant system, and he hoped that some of the various schemes referred to would be carried out, especially that which proposed to connect this Colony with South Australia, by way of Eucla. There was no doubt if that scheme were undertaken it would result in this Colony becoming a great calling place for large passenger steamers, as people would then avoid the dreaded passage round the Leeuwin, and pass comfortably through, by rail, to the other colonies. He was pleased to find that the Secretary of State had consented to some modifications in the Kimberley Land Regulations, for there could be no doubt the struggling settlers in that district required every encouragement it was possible to give them. For his own part he should be in favor of a reduction in the rent now charged for Kimberley land, bringing it something to the level of the rents in the North District. He hoped that the draft regulation which His Excellency said had been received from the Secretary of State with reference to a renewal of leases by Crown tenants would afford the present lessees some greater security of tenure at the expiration of their leases. He thought many hon. members would have been glad to have heard His Excellency express some opinion on the important question of Responsible Government (Mr. Brown: Hear, hear), and he thought this was about the only disappointing feature in the whole Speech—a Speech which, he had already said, he thought would be favorably received not only by that House but by the country at large. He thought it was unnecessary for him to

say any more, beyond again expressing the pleasure he felt in seconding the motion before the House.

MR. STEERE moved that the debate be adjourned until Friday, the 20th July. Agreed to.

The House adjourned at half-past four o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, *Friday, 20th July, 1883.*

New Member—Law relating to Gaming and Wagering, also relating to Apprentices—Eastern Railway deviation, Second Section—Excess Bill, 1882: first reading—Boat Licensing Bill: first reading—Grand Jury Abolition Bill: first reading—Imperial Pauper Invalids Bill—Address in Reply: Adjourned Debate—Messago (No. 1): Forwarding papers relating to Sir Julius Vogel's proposal re Submarine Telegraph—Messago (No. 2): Forwarding Despatches re Stocking Clause, Kimberley Land Regulations, and Prior Claims of Lessees of Crown Lands, etc.—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Edward Horne Wittenoom took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance, and, having delivered to the Clerk the necessary Declaration as to property qualification, took his seat as member for Geraldton.

LAW RELATING TO APPRENTICES AND TO GAMING AND WAGERING.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether the Government intend, during the present Session of the Legislature, to introduce Bills dealing with the law relating to apprentices, and also with the law relating to gaming and wagering?" The hon. member said he asked the question, in view of the discussion which took place on these subjects, during the Session of 1882. On the

11th of August, that year, he asked the Attorney General whether the Government intended introducing a Bill that Session to amend the law relating to apprentices, and the reply he received was that, although there was no intention on the part of the Government to bring in a Bill then, "no doubt it might be desirable that we should have an Act of our own, dealing explicitly with the question." With regard to the law relating to gambling, the hon. member for Plantagenet, on the 22nd of September last year, asked the Government whether they intended taking any steps during the recess to amend the law, with a view to the introduction of a Bill dealing with the subject this Session. The reply which the hon. baronet received was to the effect that the law as it now stood was a very doubtful question. That being the case, he wished to know whether the Government this Session proposed to introduce a Bill to remove this doubt.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that the subjects referred to by the hon. member had not been placed on the list of intended Bills for this Session; but the Government would be glad to deal with them if other business permitted, or to afford every facility to the hon. member himself if the hon. member should desire to introduce a measure dealing with either of the matters named.

MR. PARKER: Thank you.

EASTERN RAILWAY: DEVIATION ON SECOND SECTION.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways, "To lay on the Table of the House a copy of the correspondence relative to the deviation made on the Second Section of the Eastern Railway, and all papers connected with the sanctioning of such deviation." He found, on reference to the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session, that this deviation would entail a considerable extra expenditure upon the Colony, and he thought it was very desirable the House should be informed of the grounds upon which such expenditure was sanctioned, especially as he understood it was done in the absence from the Colony of the