

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Session of 1888.

Opened on Wednesday, 10th October, 1888.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 10th October, 1888.

Opening of Council—New Members: Oath of Allegiance—Governor's Speech—Boat Licensing Amendment Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech—Adjournment.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

The Council was prorogued by Proclamation on April 19th, 1888, until the 29th day of June, 1888; thence to the 29th day of August, 1888; thence to the 10th day of October, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

NEW MEMBERS: OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Sept. Burt, the newly-elected member for the North district (*vice* Mr. A. McRae, deceased); Mr. John Horgan, the newly-elected member for Perth (*vice* Mr. S. H. Parker, resigned); and Mr. S. H. Parker, the newly-elected member for the Sussex district (*vice* Mr. Layman, resigned); took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber short-

ly after 3 o'clock p.m., and, having taken the Chair, delivered the following Speech:

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

"I meet you with pleasure, and I trust
"that our united labours during another
"Session may, under Divine Providence,
"promote the welfare and progress of the
"Colony.

"2. The Financial Returns to the close
"of the third quarter of the current year
"will be laid before you. The receipts for
"1888 under the headings of Lands, Customs, and Railways are not expected to
"realise the estimate, and there may be a
"deficit of perhaps £30,000 at the end of
"the year. This is inconvenient at a
"time when money is much wanted for
"the development of our promising gold-
"fields and other purposes, and rigorous
"economy will be necessary in arranging
"for the expenditure of 1889. The situa-
"tion, however, need not be regarded as
"more than one of temporary difficulty,
"removable by the exercise of prudence
"and retrenchment. Sooner or later, the
"Revenue of this colony must largely in-
"crease. Our resources are gradually
"but surely expanding, and if public
"expenditure has to be restrained for a
"time, there is no cause for alarm.

"3. A revenue of £366,000 is now
"expected for the present year. This is
"nearly £9 per head of the population,
"a high rate of public income, and one
"with which there is every reason to feel
"satisfied. It is the abnormal outlay

"during several years of bold enterprise, "incurred in making and working new "railways and telegraphs, and in other- "wise attempting to develop our large "territory, which has outstripped a "revenue which has all along been really "excellent, and even wonderful for a "small and far scattered community of "only some 42,000 souls. It is not sur- "prising that such an unusual expenditure "cannot be continued, until, as must be "the case before long, population and "industries further increase and develop.

"4. As you are aware from despatches "already made public, I requested the "authority of the Secretary of State to "raise an additional loan of £200,000. "Lord Knutsford, however, is averse to a "loan at the present moment, considering "that the responsibility for further "borrowing should be left to the local "Government after the approaching "change of constitution. The later "correspondence will be laid before you. "It will be seen that the Secretary of "State is willing to approve of the issue "of Treasury Bills to an amount not "exceeding £50,000. This will suffice to "cover the expected deficit, and, with "rigid economy, will enable the sup- "plementary estimates and the estimates "of 1889, which will be laid before you "in due course, to be framed on a satis- "factory basis. The necessary measure "providing for the issue of Treasury "Bills will be introduced.

"5. The published despatches will have "prepared you for the Bill approved by "her Majesty's Government for the "change of the political constitution of "the Colony. This important measure, "with the accompanying further despatch "from the Secretary of State, which "reached me yesterday, will be at once "laid before you, and will no doubt "receive your most careful consideration.

"6. The very promising nature of the "gold discoveries at Yilgarn and Pilbarra "have led me to proclaim goldfields at "those places, where there seems every "reason to feel confident that substantial "results will follow the enterprise of the "capitalist and the miner. It is impos- "sible that the Government, in assisting "to open up these fields, should at "present spend public money with the "freedom a fuller chest would justify; "but a good deal has been done towards

"providing a water supply at Yilgarn, "which now only waits the advent of "capital and machinery, without which "the gold-bearing reefs can be nothing "more than a medium of premature "speculation.

"7. The Colony is to be congratulated "on the approaching opening of the "Beverley-Albany Railway. This great "work has been steadily and successfully "proceeding, and is expected to be com- "pleted early in 1889. It will unlock "our gates to the world, will accomplish "many things for us, and will be the "beginning of a new era. I know of no "other instance in which a community of "the limited population of this Colony "has acquired at one time a line of railway "242 miles in length, or has made in five "years such general progress in railway "and telegraphic communication as West- "ern Australia. We may well feel proud "of what has been achieved.

"8. I am informed that the present "holder of the concession for the Midland "Railway has made satisfactory arrange- "ments for the construction of the whole "line, according to the terms of the "Contract; and for the settlement of the "granted lands by a good class of German "immigrants. The intelligence has caused "much satisfaction, and a successful pro- "secution of this large and important "undertaking cannot fail to be of the "greatest value and profit to the Colony.

"9. Correspondence on the subject of "a Land Grant Railway to Eucla will be "laid before you. Subject to your "approval and that of the Secretary of "State, certain terms have been offered to "a gentleman who has deposited £5,000 "as a preliminary guarantee. Time must "show whether it be yet possible to "arrange for this costly enterprise.

"10. The telegraph will very shortly "be open as far as Derby, and the lines "extending to the Kimberley Goldfields "and to Wyndham are making good "progress.

"11. Papers connected with the laying "of a submarine cable to the Northern "coast of this Colony, including proposals "from Messrs. Millar and Co. and from "the Eastern Extension Telegraph Com- "pany, will be laid before you. The lat- "ter company will very shortly, I under- "stand, lay a cable between Java and "Roebuck Bay.

"12. Papers respecting the late Conference at Sydney on Chinese Immigration, respecting an Imperial scheme of Emigration, including some important proposals made by me on behalf of the Colony, and respecting the Pearl Fishery on our Northern coast, will also be presented to you.

"13. A proposed further contract with the Adelaide Steam Ship Company for the conveyance of our coastal mails will be presented for your approval. Though not framed in exact accordance with your expressed wishes, the contract embodies the best terms it has been found possible to procure, and, on consideration, you may authorise the Government to accept it.

"14. The agricultural and pastoral industries of the Colony are prosperous and extending. The season, so far, has been good, and prices have been maintained. In the towns, and in commerce, there has been a certain amount of depression. It has been met by the self-denial and industry of the workmen, and by the carefulness and confidence of traders and financial institutions, and business is stated to be on a sound basis.

"15. In addition to the Constitution Bill and the usual money laws, various measures of public usefulness will be brought before you, including Bills relating to Roads, Trade Marks, Quarantine, Inspection of Steam Boilers, Inquests on Infants, and several other subjects. A Bill referring to the Federal Council matters connected with our Pearl Fishery, for legislation thereon, will be introduced.

"16. The usual departmental reports and various official papers will be presented to you.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN:—

"17. I now leave you to your labours, merely adding that I think you will join with me in feeling confidence in the future of Western Australia."

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

BOAT LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved the first reading of

a Bill to amend the Boat Licensing Act, 1878.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

MR. SHOLL said: I have much pleasure in rising to propose, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the speech with which he has been pleased to open this Council. I regret, sir, that the task has not fallen to abler hands than mine, and that the various matters dealt with in the speech have not been placed in the hands of a man of more experience and more ability than myself. I think hon. members will agree with me that the speech of the Governor on this occasion is not as satisfactory as we otherwise would wish. We find in the second paragraph of the speech that it is anticipated that the colony at the end of this year will have to be prepared to meet a deficit of £30,000. I don't consider, sir, that we should take it as an established fact that this deficit is going to exist at the end of the year. We do not know what in the mean time may happen. Taking into consideration the present very bright prospects of the colony, in view of the development of our goldfields—the development of Pilbarra, and the development (with a little assistance from the Government, if it is possible to obtain it) of the Eastern goldfields—I say, with a little energy, and with a little liberality on the part of the Government, if it is possible to obtain it—taking this outlook into consideration, I think there never was in the existence of this colony such a bright prospect before it. It is to be regretted that unfortunately we are suffering from the drag which the colony has had attached to it for the last fifty years; and His Excellency the Governor, no doubt, saw the necessity, just at the present time, of raising a loan partly for the development of these goldfields, and partly for repaying to revenue certain sums which were paid out of it but which should really have been charged to loan account. But, unfortunately, the endeavor of His Excellency to obtain permission to raise this loan has been unsuccessful. It has been refused. The gentleman who sits in his office in Down-

ing Street, 15,000 miles away, and who is ignorant of the requirements of this colony, has thought proper to refuse to sanction the raising of this loan. I don't think we can accuse His Excellency of any shortcomings in this matter, but I do think it is simply a mistaken policy on the part of the Secretary of State. If you refer, sir, to His Excellency's speech, you will see that we are told in paragraph 3 of the speech that the revenue for the present year is expected to reach the sum of £366,000, which is nearly £9 per head of our population. Well, sir, if we take into consideration what the small population of this colony, 42,000 people all told, has done in providing means for developing our large territory; if we take into consideration the extensive seaboard of this colony, with subsidised steamers running up and down it; if we take into consideration the railways we have built and the thousands of miles of telegraph lines; if we take into consideration the various mail routes, the various subsidised mail services we have established, and the work we have done in the way of settlement along the coast; and if we also consider the large police force which this 42,000 people have to provide for—if we take all these things into consideration, I think, sir, it is not surprising we should have a deficit. There is also one other thing I might mention: if we take into consideration certain sums of money that we have paid out of revenue which should have been paid out of loan, I don't think it is wonderful that we may have to meet a deficit of a paltry £30,000 at the end of this year. I have taken a few statistics for 1886, for the purpose of comparing our deficit with the deficits of the different colonies. In New South Wales, with a revenue of £7,594,300, the expenditure was £9,078,869, showing a deficit of £1,484,569, or nearly a million and a half. In Victoria, a compact and largely developed country, the richest you may say of all the colonies, we find that during that year they had a revenue of £6,481,021, while their expenditure reached £6,513,540, leaving a deficit of £32,519. In Queensland we find, the same year, a deficit of £391,893, and I think members will recollect that last year that colony had a deficit of something

like £190,000. South Australia, in 1886, found herself with a deficit of £259,126; New Zealand, £622,859; and Tasmania was £16,832 deficient in that year. Now, sir, considering the extent of this colony, with its scattered settlement and sparse population, and the work which has been done, I am only surprised—and I think every member will agree with me it is surprising—that we have not a greater deficit than we have at the present moment. We all know we have passed through a period of great depression, and it is due to the pluck and energy of the people, and the policy, or I may say the indulgence and liberality and foresight of our financial institutions, that, in the face of this drawback our colonists have pulled through as they have done. Paragraph 4 of His Excellency's speech shows that His Excellency, as I stated before, recognised the necessity of doing something at the present time to keep the colony going, and of raising money for developing these goldfields; and he asked the Secretary of State to allow £200,000 to be borrowed. The Secretary of State has refused to sanction a loan of that amount, but recommended that Treasury bills should be issued to the extent of £50,000. Now, sir, for myself, I shall certainly be opposed to the issue of Treasury bills. I think it would be a very poor advertisement for this colony if it went forth that we are in such a bad state that we are not in a position to raise a loan, but must be content with issuing Treasury bills to raise a paltry £50,000. I think if it went forth that this colony was in such a terribly poor condition, such a bankrupt condition, as to require the raising of £50,000 to keep us going it would do us more injury than the £50,000 would do us good. For my part, I should prefer to see the Government bringing forward a bill to increase taxation for twelve months—let it be a temporary measure, and let the public meet things fairly in the face. Let us also exercise retrenchment at the same time, until we get rid of the trammels which oppress us, and we get a more liberal and better form of Government than we have now. There has been already published a Bill for changing the Constitution, and we have just heard read the despatch from the Secretary of State forwarding the amended Bill which the Home Gov-

ernment say they will assent to. This is a matter we shall have plenty of time to go into; but I feel that the interests of this colony will be so affected if we have this question hanging over our head, and things will be in such a critical state that, although I am opposed to many parts of the Secretary of State's bill, I think we might feel inclined to agree to the bill as a whole, with the view hereafter of having certain objections removed. His Excellency in the 6th paragraph of his speech alludes to the gold discoveries at Yilgarn and Pilbarra, also to the fact of his having proclaimed goldfields at these places. There are various views entertained with regard to the policy of the Government in proclaiming the Eastern goldfields at any rate. For my part I am one of those who think that great good will come out of the declaration of these fields. It is true that there are some people who have done their best to develop these fields by expending their money, and who may be deprived of the chance of recovering it, if these new regulations take force; but probably this hardship might be modified if the Government give these people every reasonable consideration, and deal liberally with them. But I think the mere fact of these goldfields being declared will do good in the long run, and tend to the speedy development of the fields. His Excellency in the next paragraph alludes to the Beverley-Albany railway; and I agree with His Excellency that it will be a great benefit to the colony when this line is constructed, and I think great credit is due both to the company and to the contractors for the expeditious manner in which they have carried out the work. I would also endorse what His Excellency says with regard to the Midland Railway; I think it will be a matter of satisfaction to this colony and all concerned that the construction of this railway is likely to be soon proceeded with. With regard to the Telegraph line to Derby, and the line from there to the Kimberley goldfields, and the line to Wyndham, which, we are told, are making good progress—although I always thought it was a mistake to have that Wyndham line built, and said so—and I still think what I stated was right, that if we had not undertaken this work we should have been in a better position to-

day than we are in now—still, good may come out of it; and if the construction of these telegraph lines will prove of assistance in the development of that district, I think perhaps the money will have been well spent. With regard to the proposed further contract with the Adelaide Steamship Co., referred to in paragraph 13 of the Governor's speech, I think it will give satisfaction to all hon. members to know that some arrangement has been come to; but, until the papers are laid before us, it will of course be impossible to form a definite opinion on the subject. For my part I feel a certain amount of satisfaction that the Government have been able to come to some arrangement with the Adelaide Steamship Co. for this service, as the company has always given satisfaction; and, so long as the price paid for the service is not excessive, for my part I think the colony may be congratulated upon having the work carried out by that company. I don't know that I need detain the House any longer, and I will conclude my address by joining with His Excellency in trusting "that our united labours may, during this session, under Divine Providence, promote the welfare and progress of the colony."

THE SPEAKER: Does the hon. member conclude with any motion?

MR. SHOLL: I am not prepared with any motion. I merely move that an address be presented. I haven't got the address.

MR. A. FORREST said: In seconding the address in reply I shall not, as my friend the hon. member for Gascoyne has done, say that I regret the motion has not been placed in abler hands, because, knowing as I do that the Northern portions of this colony are the most important part of it, and that the members who represent the North are supposed to be the best men that can be found, I cannot join with my hon. friend in regretting that this matter has not been left to abler men. Under these circumstances, I shall now proceed to say a few words on the address of His Excellency. In the first portion of his address, His Excellency goes on to say that there will be a deficit at the end of this year of £30,000. Now, I give the Governor every credit, for no doubt he has taken more trouble than I have in making out that at the

end of the financial year the estimated revenue will not come up to the expenditure by £30,000. The three items which His Excellency mentions as being the departments chiefly responsible for this loss are the Lands, the Customs, and the Railways. Now, sir, as to the land revenue, I believe—and I can speak with some authority—that the Land Department will, before the end of this year, itself pay the whole of this £30,000; and even if I am not correct in this statement—which I have on the best authority—I don't think there is any reason to cry because the colony owes £30,000. It is a very small amount. I think, even looking around this small Council, there are many men here who owe more than £30,000; and, with this great colony at our back, when we are told in the "speech from the throne" that we owe £30,000 as a colony—when we have many men here who owe quite as much as that, and people in the colony willing to lend it to them—I say I think it is a matter almost of congratulation that, as a colony, we only owe such a small amount, after the period of depression we have passed through, and looking at the number of people who have left the colony within the last twelve months. This time last year, sir, I should not have been surprised if the Governor had come down this session and said we owed £100,000 instead of £30,000. Coming to clause 4 of the speech I regret it very much. This is the only portion of the speech I take exception to, where His Excellency says the Secretary of State has refused to sanction a loan. I think the House should try all in its power to bring pressure to bear upon the Secretary of State to bring in this small loan bill. Surely the members who represent this colony are in a better position to know what is required than the Secretary of State at home. Still I would not go so far as my hon. friend who moved this address, who says he will refuse such a small amount as £50,000 in the shape of Treasury bills. I certainly shall support this small issue of Treasury bills, because I believe it is a common practice with other Governments to issue them, from time to time, if they need them, without going in for a loan. The despatches with reference to Responsible Government will all come before

us again, and I am sure we are all very pleased that the Governor has enabled us to have these despatches for this session, without further delay, for, owing to this question of a change in the constitution being unsettled, the colony is kept back; and it will be still further kept back unless it is gone on with at once, and I shall be prepared myself, with the hon. member for the Gascoyne who moved this address, to vote for the bill as it stands rather than lose it. As to the goldfields, I am sure all members will be pleased to hear of the prospects of them; and, if the fields turn out anything like what is expected, we may be sure that this colony will not be the smallest in importance, but the largest of the lot. I do not suppose that goldfields with such prospects, so close to the capital city, have been found before in any colony. I believe that in Victoria, when the first goldfields were found, they were nothing like the prospects that we have; and I think, before this time next year it will not be a question of a falling revenue, but of a largely increasing revenue. I now come to paragraph number 7, in which His Excellency says the colony is to be congratulated on the approaching opening of the Beverley-Albany railway. I should like to say a few words on this subject, as I have been myself interested in the construction of this line. I think, as the Governor says, the colony may congratulate itself in having such a company as the W. A. Land Co. to carry out this great and important undertaking. Ever since the first deposit was paid into the Treasury, some three or four years ago, the whole thing has gone on like clockwork, without the slightest hitch; and, if it hadn't been for the obstruction of some members of this House last year, I believe the railway would have been opened at the present time. I am now informed it will be opened early next year, and I think it will be the greatest blessing that ever happened to this colony. People will be able to visit this part of the colony then without any trouble, and without the delay of having to wait at Albany for a steamer to bring them on, as they have to do now. With regard to the 8th paragraph of the speech, referring to the Midland Railway, I am very proud that the arrangements for resuming this work are of a most satisfactory nature; and I

believe that in the course of a few weeks this railway will be resumed on as good terms, or even better terms than the W. A. Land Co.'s. If so, I need not say that it will help to improve the finances of the colony, and the prospects of the colony generally. I also congratulate the Government on the approaching opening of telegraphic communication with Derby, and the progress made with the line from Derby to the goldfields, and also the Wyndham line. I regret very much the great delay that has occurred in the opening of the line to Derby, and I shall move a resolution on the subject later on. But, apart from this delay, I think it is a matter for congratulation that the colony has been able to have telegraphic communication established from one end of the colony to the other. By the extension of this line northward, we shall have a cable laid to Roebuck Bay, which, probably, we should not have had otherwise; and I am sure that everyone who has any capital invested in this part of the colony will be glad to have the means of knowing how things are going on there. I have no doubt that the proposed fresh contract with the Adelaide Steamship Co. will receive the attention of all hon. members. It is a very important thing, this steam communication on our coast, though of course we all hope the day is not far distant when the subsidy will be wiped out altogether. I think even now that the trade is sufficient, if there was more competition and private enterprise, on our coast. Still we cannot run the risk of the present steamers being taken away, and, possibly, that is the position we are in. We shall, therefore, have to continue this subsidy, but I hope it will not be for long, and that, as has been the case in all the other Australian colonies, subsidies for coastal work will have to lapse. I am also pleased to agree with His Excellency that the agricultural and pastoral prospects of the colony are flourishing, and more especially the pastoral interests. In the Northern districts the increase has been enormous. I suppose that the yield of wool will be at least one-third more than last year's yield, and the increase in the number of sheep must be at least 30 per cent. more than last year; so that our pastoral prospects are really good. I

hardly think there is a station in the colony where the increase has not been 30 per cent. since last year. The prospects of the agricultural industry are also fairly good. True the rainfall has been small, but it has been general, and the crops all through the colony are excellent, although they require more rain. In the towns, however, I agree with His Excellency, there has been great depression; and perhaps the Government have been a little to blame for it. If they had come forward last year, as we wanted them, with a bold policy this state of things might have been averted, and many good men would have been kept in the colony who have now left it. The Government are probably of opinion they will come back again, when things improve; but, if men leave the colony in disgust, and give it a bad name, it does a deal of harm, and, as a rule, you won't find those men coming back again. The Government have done nothing during the last twelve months to bring people here, or to keep them here. Their cry is: "The colony must take care of itself; we won't do anything; our finances are going down, and we can't help you." I am glad the Government now see there is a good prospect. Anyone can see that, with goldfields springing up everywhere. The squatters are doing well, the crops promising, and most people are doing well, except mechanics and laborers. There is no work for them in town, and the Government should have done something to find work for them, and keep these people here. Instead of that, they have let them go away in disgust. I know that in one small congregation no less than sixteen families have left that Church and left the colony. Most of these were Scotchmen, thrifty people—the best men for the colony; but they went away, with their pockets pretty well lined too; others with money in their pocket some of them, because they could get no work. In conclusion, I shall merely add that I agree with the Governor in feeling every confidence in the future of the colony; and I hope the Government will come forward, even before this Council rises, with some good policy, and give the colony a shove. Now is the time to give it. They never had a better chance. The prospects are good all round. If I had

such prospects as the Governor has, with this colony at his back, I should certainly give it a shove; and I hope, with the prospects that he has, and with this Council to help him, His Excellency will give it a shove. Sir, I formally second the address in reply.

MR. MARMION said there appeared to be a general feeling that the debate should stand adjourned until Friday evening; and, generally speaking, they had adopted that course to give members an opportunity of digesting the Governor's speech. He therefore moved that the debate be adjourned until Friday evening.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past four o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 12th October, 1888.

The honor of Knighthood conferred upon Mr. Speaker
 —Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: first reading
 —Gold Declaration Bill: first reading—Merchandise
 Marks Consolidation and Amendment Bill: first
 reading—The Prorogation of the House last session
 —Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

THE HONOR OF KNIGHTHOOD CONFERRED UPON MR. SPEAKER.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Before proceeding with the business on the Notice Paper I have to ask the indulgence of the House, for the purpose of moving a resolution, without notice; and I am quite sure that when hon. members have heard what it is,

they will accord my wish, and I hope the resolution will be adopted unanimously. It is to this effect: "That Her Majesty has been pleased to confer the honor of knighthood upon Mr. Speaker has given great satisfaction to this Council." Perhaps I may be pardoned, and that hon. members will bear with me a minute or two, being an old friend of His Honor ever since I have been in the colony, while I take this opportunity of bearing testimony to the great value of your Honor's services during the very many years you have been associated with the Legislature of this colony—not only the Legislature as now by law established, but also as a member, sir, of that Legislative Council which obtained previous to the year 1870. I am sure that no member who has been in the House, as I have, during the whole period that this Constitution has been at work—and I think there is only one member in the House now, except myself, and that is the hon. member for Fremantle (Mr. Marmion), who has been here throughout the whole of that period—but I am sure that no member remembering the manner in which you, sir, as leader of the elected side of the House, for many years, conducted the business on that side of the House, and at a period when the business was conducted in a somewhat different manner from that in which it has been conducted of late years—that is to say at a period when it was conducted I may almost say on party principles, and we had a great many fights here on various questions—no one, sir, who remembers the manner in which you conducted the business on that side of the House will fail to appreciate the dignity and the tact with which you did so on all occasions, and the assistance you gave in perfecting the legislation of those years. All this must make us feel that in the dignity, sir, which has been conferred upon you, an honor also has been conferred upon this Council, and that it is an honor also which sheds a lustre upon the colony. I believe that my hon. and esteemed friend Mr. Parker—who I am rejoiced to see again occupying that position in the House which he has so worthily filled in the past—intends to support me in moving that these words may be recorded on the minutes of the House.