

Legislative Council had finished their work; therefore the session need not be continued any longer.

The House adjourned at 9:35 o'clock until the next afternoon.

## Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 5th December, 1900.

Paper presented—Motion: Guano (Abrolhos), to permit export (withdrawn)—Complimentary Remarks, close of session—Prorogation: Assent to Bills; closing Speech

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 3 o'clock, p.m.

### PRAYERS.

#### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: By-law, Coolgardie Municipal Council, 2, Blue Book, 1899.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### MOTION—GUANO (ABROLHOS), TO PERMIT EXPORT.

Debate resumed from the previous sitting, on the motion by Hon. R. S. Haynes, "That it is unnecessary that the restriction on the exportation of guano from the colony should be further enforced."

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Members were good enough to adjourn the debate on the previous night, so that a snap division should not be taken. As the motion had been discussed, and as he had objected to the motion being put in a thin House last night, it would not be fair to ask that the motion be put in a thin House this afternoon; therefore he asked leave to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

#### COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS, CLOSE OF SESSION.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Mr. President, I am certain hon. members would not like to separate without some expression of the feeling of regard and esteem they entertain towards you for the manner in which you have presided over the deliberations of the House. Hon. members will all agree with me that you have done so with great care and consideration to them, and with strict impartiality, which has facilitated our discussions, when sometimes they have perhaps been heated. I think members will agree with me you have endeavoured to hold the scales fairly between the different parties in the House. I am also very pleased to think the business of the Council has been carried on for the benefit of the country, and that important measures have been passed after due care and deliberation. You have on all occasions exhibited a desire to give to each side an opportunity of dealing with the questions in hand, and I only hope that you may continue for many years to preside over this honourable Council with the same *éclat* as that which has characterised you during this session. My own connection with the House as leader will, of course, cease when the general election takes place. There will be no possibility of my again meeting members in this position, unless some unfortunate occurrence should arise necessitating the summoning of Parliament again before the dissolution, which we all hope will not occur; therefore in all probability when the House meets next year it will be under another leader as Colonial Secretary. I can only say I shall be very glad if the Government of the day—whoever they may be—can see their way to place two members in this House to represent them. I have sometimes felt my position to be extremely difficult. Not having had the benefit of a professional education, and having had to contend with "gentlemen of the long robe," I have sometimes been nonplussed by the arguments adduced, which of course have been very forcibly urged. I hope the Government will be able to place a member of the legal profession in this House to assist the leader, or to be leader himself. In conveying to you the sentiments of the House and the thanks of hon. members

for the urbanity and consideration you have shown to them, I also desire to say we appreciate the services which have been rendered to this House by its officers, especially by the Clerk, Mr. Lee Steere, who I trust may long continue to occupy the high, important, and honourable position he now holds. No doubt the services rendered are of assistance to yourself. I desire to convey to you the thanks of the House, and I can only say I hope the years for which you have been elected will be pleasant, happy, and to your own satisfaction.

**HON. E. McLARTY :** I desire to indorse what has been said by the Colonial Secretary, which I feel sure expresses the feelings of all the members of the House. I therefore have much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to the President and to the officers of the House.

**THE PRESIDENT :** I thank the leader of the Government very much for his kind expressions towards myself, and for his appreciation of the manner in which I have filled the office of President of the Council during this session. I may say the duties are now more arduous and more responsible than they were when I first was appointed President of this Council. Then we had only 15 members, whereas now we have 30, and therefore more points arise for decision at present than in the past. My sole aim as President is to act fairly to both sides; not to show partiality, nor to hamper discussion in any way, but to see that each side has a fair hearing. I could not have carried out the duties so successfully as I have done, had it not been for the able assistance of Mr. Lee Steere, the Clerk of the Council, whose aid and advice to me are invaluable. As time is short, I simply again thank you for your kind expression of feeling towards myself and the officers of the Council.

**HON. R. S. HAYNES :** As we are now on the eve of the prorogation of Parliament, and as the leader of the House (Hon. G. Randell) has intimated that this is probably the last occasion on which he will appear as leader of the House, I think the House would be wanting in respect to the leader if we did not give some recognition, at all events of the able services he has always rendered to the House as representative of the Govern-

ment. It is, I take it, the duty of the House to recognise those efforts, if those efforts have been successful; and they have been successful in a marked degree, because the leader of the House has to represent not only one person, not only one party, not only one district, but the whole of the colony, and he has practically to do in this House exactly the same amount of work as is done in another place with the aid of several Ministers. I can quite understand the hon. gentleman when he says he often felt he desired some assistance in the House. I assure the hon. gentleman we are all prepared at times to assist him, but there were times when in the heat of debate we perhaps went a little further in our opposition than we were warranted in doing. One thing I have always admired the Colonial Secretary for is this. Since the hon. gentleman has been leader of the House we have had full, fair, and unequivocal answers to the questions that have been put. The hon. gentleman was the first to introduce that system during my time in Parliament. As I have said, there has been friction in debate, and perhaps I myself am one of the worst offenders. Perhaps I have said things in the heat of the moment which on reflection I would not say. The hon. gentleman knows me so well, I have appeared before him so often in other capacities, that he is aware there is a certain amount of discount to be taken off. At the end of that debate, when we established the record—perhaps the unenviable record—for a lengthy sitting, the hon. gentleman was much cooler, and perhaps had borne the heat of the debate better than any of us. One thing we must admire is that the hon. gentleman never seemed to lose his head, as other hon. members did. It is a credit to the hon. gentleman that, after so many years of active service in the cause of the State, he was able to hold his own, and to practically pass his measure through the House—for it was the hon. gentleman's measure—in the face of the opposition of those who are termed "gentlemen of the long robe." I cannot help referring to the position which the hon. gentleman has occupied in this city. Perhaps many hon. members do not remember him as mayor. I think the hon. gentleman was mayor when I first came to the country,

and he occupied the position for many years. He has been a member of Parliament for many years, both in the elected House and as a nominee member; and he has been leader of the House upwards of two years, discharging the duties of the position with credit to himself. We would be wanting in respect if we did not place on record a recognition of the services he has rendered to this House. It is reserved to few men to attain the position the hon. gentleman has attained as leader of the senior House in this colony. As one gets older and approaches that stage of life when he wishes to retire from politics, there may be a lessening of physical force; but if the Colonial Secretary has lost any physical force, it is not appreciable, and it is certainly compensated for by the judgment and wisdom he has brought to bear in the management of this House. I desire to place on record—and I understand some hon. members will support me—that we recognise the hon. gentleman has discharged the duties fully, fairly, and without fear, favour, or affection to either side, but with credit to himself and satisfaction to the general community.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without making a few remarks on this the last occasion on which the honourable the Colonial Secretary will appear here as leader of the House. He is well known to all members of Parliament in this colony. I believe it is 16 years since he first entered Parliament, and we know the hon. gentleman's career. He has carried out useful work not only in Parliament but out of Parliament, and as leader of the House—I think this is the third or fourth session in which he has held that position—he has discharged the duties satisfactorily to all the old and also the new members of the Council. Things are now moving rather fast in Western Australia, and it is well known that the Upper House has lately rather been taking the lead in politics in this colony. Members of this House have been elected more recently than members of another place, and the Council has had to take an advanced position in politics; therefore the Colonial Secretary has had a little more trouble than usual to keep the refractory members among us in order. As the last speaker, Mr. Haynes, has already

said, we have often spoken a little too sharply in the heat of debate, and said things we were afterwards sorry for (and I am one of the greatest sinners, perhaps); but no one can accuse the Colonial Secretary of ever having made a mistake in that way, at any rate. He has always kept himself cool and calm in the heat of debate, even when he has had pretty hard words sent back to him, and he has always come out of the fire with credit to himself and to this House. I hope that although the Colonial Secretary is going to retire as leader of the House, we shall long have in this House and in the Parliament of the country the benefit of his long experience. Although the hon. member has attained a great age, he seems well able to grasp important matters, and his advice is always acceptable to the members of this House. I hope for years to come he will hold a seat in the House for the benefit of the country and with credit to himself.

HON. J. T. GLOWREY: As one of the youngest members of this House, I should like to say a few words. It must be a matter of very great regret to hon. members to hear the words from the Colonial Secretary this afternoon. It has been my pleasure to know Mr. Randell for some considerable time before ever I had any idea of entering this House. I frequently had occasion to call on that hon. gentleman in my capacity as Mayor of Coolgardie and councillor of that town, and I must say I always found the Colonial Secretary most obliging, most courteous, and most attentive; in fact it did not matter what our requests from the goldfields were, they received every attention from the Colonial Secretary. My good opinions have been further confirmed, and when I make this statement I think I speak on behalf of the goldfields members who are absent to-day. Mr. Randell's words at all times have commanded the greatest attention and respect from hon. members. I really think we shall suffer and lose by the hon. gentleman retiring from the leadership of the Government in this House. As a young member, I know how necessary it is to have the experience of older members to guide us, and I always did look to Mr. Randell with confidence, because I knew whatever words fell from his lips, we were

safe in taking his advice or his statements, whatever they were. I have much pleasure on behalf of goldfields members in wishing the Colonial Secretary long life and prosperity.

**THE PRESIDENT:** As President of the Council, I also wish to express my regret that Mr. Randell has decided not to carry on the duties of leader of this House after this session. It is a matter of deep regret, because it makes the duties of President so much easier when a man like Mr. Randell is in charge of the business of the House. Although Mr. Randell is retiring from the position of Colonial Secretary, we shall not lose him as a member of the Council: he will remain with us for many years as a private member.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY:** In the short time at my disposal, I cannot adequately express my thanks to members for their expressions of the way in which I have conducted the business of the House while I have been leader for the Government in this Chamber. It is with intense gratification that I have received these testimonies from members. I believe they are sincere. I have egotism enough to believe that I have on the whole discharged my duty to the satisfaction of members. Every hon. member of the House, whatever his opinion may be, if he differed from me, and if he opposed the measures which it was my duty and privilege to introduce, has shown kindness and consideration to myself. Retaliation has never been one of my guiding principles, either in private or public life. During the four sessions we have met in this House I have managed the business of the House with much cordiality; and although the latest remembrances are cherished in the mind, if there has been any unfairness, I must say that I have received from members of this House the greatest consideration. I have always felt my deficiencies. At my time of life, one's memory often does not respond as it did ten years ago, and I sometimes felt a little lost. With the cordial assistance of the various members of the House, I believe the business has been transacted to the satisfaction of all hon. members. It is a feeling I shall carry away with me into private life, that I have retained the good opinion of my fellow members in this House. It will remain with me until the

end of my public career, and be a source of great satisfaction to myself.

#### PROROGATION—ASSENT TO BILLS.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE ADMINISTRATOR** entered the Chamber at half-past three o'clock, and commanded the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly, who arrived with their Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER** presented the Appropriation Bill, to which His Excellency assented.

**HIS EXCELLENCY** also gave assent to the following Bills, in addition to Bills assented to previously:—

*"An Act relating to the Members of the Federal Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia."*

*"An Act for determining the Divisions in Western Australia for which Members of the Federal House of Representatives shall be chosen, and the number of Members for each Division."*

*"An Act to amend 'The Game Act, 1892.'"*

*"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Municipalities."*

*"An Act to amend 'The Truck Act, 1899.'"*

*"An Act to amend 'The Post Office Savings Bank Consolidation Act, 1893.'"*

*"An Act for the Extirpation of Noxious Weeds."*

*"An Act to facilitate the investment in Western Australian Government Securities of Trust and other Funds in the United Kingdom."*

*"An Act to authorise the raising of a sum of Seven Hundred and Ninety Thousand Pounds by Loan for the construction of certain Public Works, and other purposes."*

*"An Act to impose certain Customs Duties subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act."*

*"An Act to further amend 'The Land Act, 1898.'"*

*"An Act to amend and consolidate the Laws relating to Distillation."*

*"An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Trustees."*

*An Act to amend the Law relating to the export of Arms, Military and Naval Stores, and Munitions of War."*

*"An Act amending the Law relating to Conspiracy and Protection of Property."*

"An Act to facilitate the Settlement of Industrial Disputes by Conciliation and Arbitration."

"An Act relating to the Public Service."

"An Act to provide for the Drainage of Land."

"An Act to amend 'The Goldfields Act, 1895,' and the Acts passed in 1896 and 1988 amending the same."

"An Act to amend 'The Railways Amendment Act, 1881.'"

"An Act to amend 'The Health Act, 1898.'"

"An Act for requiring the Proprietors of Railways to carry Mails."

"An Act to amend the Act of the Sixth year of Her Majesty, numbered fifteen, as to Interest on Judgments."

"An Act to amend the Law relating to Bills of Sale, Liens, and Bailments."

"An Act to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1892."

"An Act to amend, The Land Resumption Act, 1894."

"An Act to amend 'The Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1894.'"

"An Act to provide for the payment of Members of Parliament."

"An Act to allow Kangaroos to be taken for Food during a Close Season and on Native Game Reserves."

"An Act to repeal the twenty-third section of 'The Post and Telegraph Act, 1893.'"

"An Act to authorise the Reappropriation of certain Loan Monies borrowed by the Council of the Municipality of Kalgoorlie."

"An Act to amend the Law relating to the Slander of Women."

"An Act to amend the Imperial Act 9th and 10th Victoria, Chapter 93 (adopted in Western Australia by the Act 12th Victoria, No. 21), for compensating the Families of Persons killed by Accident."

"An Act to enable the Fire Brigades Board to issue Debentures."

"An Act to repeal an Act of the Sixty-second year of her Majesty, and numbered eighteen, intituled 'An Act to vest certain land at Coolgardie in the Municipality of Coolgardie, for a Mining Exhibition and other purposes.'"

"An Act to authorise the construction of a Loop Line of Railway from the Hannan's Street Station, Kalgoorlie-Gnamballa Lake Railway, to Kamballie Station, on the same Railway."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the Construction of Tramways in the Municipality of Leederville."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the construction of Tramways in the Municipality of Kalgoorlie."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the Construction of Tramways in the Town of Fremantle."

"An Act to confirm a Provisional Order authorising the construction of Tramways in the District of the Road Board of Kalgoorlie."

"An Act to authorise the Closing of Portions of certain Streets and Thoroughfares in the Municipality of Victoria Park, and the vesting thereof in Her Majesty the Queen."

"An Act for the closing of certain Roads and Streets."

"An Act for the closing of Water Street, North Fremantle."

"An Act to validate Two Rates made by the Boulder Local Board of Health for the years One Thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine and One thousand nine hundred respectively."

[An Act to amend the Patent Act, 1888, and the Patent Act (Amendment), 1892: reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.]

HIS EXCELLENCY was pleased to speak as follows:

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

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

I have pleasure in releasing you from your arduous duties.

2. As this is the last time I shall have the pleasure of addressing you, prior to the General Election, I desire to express my thanks for the careful and zealous manner in which you have discharged your Parliamentary duties.

3. The announcement that their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York will visit Australia and open, on behalf of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, the first Federal Parliament, has been received with pleasure and gratitude, and in approving of this visit Her Majesty has again shown Her gracious consideration for Her people in Australia.

4. The acceptance by the people of Australia of the Commonwealth Bill, its passage through the Imperial Parliament, and the Proclamation of Her Majesty establishing the Federal Government on the 1st of January next, are events of the greatest importance to this colony, to Australia, and to the Empire, and I feel sure the people of Australia will be found equal to the great attendant responsibilities that they have voluntarily and willingly taken upon themselves.

5. The success of the British arms in South Africa gives cause for congratulation, and the part taken by our own troops, as well as by those from the rest of Australasia, has been most gratifying. The spontaneous manner in which all the self-governing colonies of the Empire rendered assistance shows unmistakably their loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and their love and veneration for the motherland.

6. The work of the session has been both arduous and important, and you have added to the statute book several laws of primary importance, among which I may mention the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Municipal Consolidation Act, the Public Service Act, the Distillation Act, the Goldfields Amendment Act, and the Land Drainage Act. This and the other legislation of the session will, I trust, assist in improving the administration of the affairs of the colony.

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

7. I thank you for the liberal supplies you have granted for the Public Service, and the greatest care will be taken in the expenditure of the moneys you have voted. The finances of the colony are in a sound and satisfactory condition. The revenue for the first five months of the financial year gives an assurance that the estimated revenue will be realised. Every effort will be made to keep the expenditure within reasonable and moderate limits.

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

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

8. The prospects of the colony are bright, and all its industries are progressing. The gold production is

excellent, amounting to six millions sterling during both last and the present year; the revenue is greater than at any previous period; agriculturists and pastoralists are prosperous; the railways are not only paying working expenses and interest, but also a sinking fund for the repayment of the cost of their construction; the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient Mail Steamers call regularly at Fremantle, and our previous isolation is completely changed; trade generally is expanding, the various resources of the colony are being profitably developed, and among these material evidences of progress, a better feeling is growing up between the old population and the new, and especially between the people on the goldfields and those resident in the more settled portions of the colony.

9. Ten years have now elapsed since self-government was established, and I congratulate you on the progress of the decade that has passed. The inauguration of the Commonwealth marks the beginning of a new era for the Australian people, and I trust that whatever changes it may bring, the advancement and prosperity of Western Australia will continue.

10. I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 24th of April next.

*The session then closed.*