

ADJOURNMENT.

At six o'clock the House adjourned until Thursday, 22nd January, at three p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 20th January, 1891.

Communication from His Excellency the Governor—Message (No. 1) from His Excellency the Governor—Suspension of Standing Orders—Election of Chairman of Committees—Supply (£60,000)—Ways and Means—Supply Bill—Privileges Bill—His Excellency the Governor's Speech—The Address in Reply—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

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

On the resumption of the sitting,

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

MESSAGE No 1: SUPPLY (£60,000.)

"In accordance with the provisions of "Section 67 of the Constitution Act, "1889, the Governor recommends to the "Legislative Assembly that provision be "made to the extent of £60,000 towards "defraying the expenses of the various "Departments and Services of the Colony "during the year ending on the last day "of December, 1891.

"Government House, Perth, 20th January, 1891."

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved: That so much of the forms and usages of the Imperial Parliament at present guiding our procedure, pending the adoption of Standing Orders, be suspended, as will admit of the immediate constitution of the Committee of Supply, and Ways and Means, and of the reporting and adopting of Resolutions therefrom on the same day on which they shall have passed these Committees; also of the passing of a Bill through all its stages in one day.

Agreed to.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that His Excellency's Message be referred to the Committee of Supply. It was the desire of the Government to have the Supply Bill passed through all its stages at once, in order that they might be placed in possession of funds. As hon. members were aware, up to the present time, there had been no vote for the public service for this year, to cover any expenditure incurred by the Government, and therefore the Government were desirous of placing themselves in possession of funds at the very earliest moment they constitutionally could. He had therefore to move, in the first place, that His Excellency's message be referred to the Committee of Supply, when that committee was constituted.

Agreed to.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest) said it now became his pleasing duty to move that the House appoint a Chairman of Committees, and he had very great pleasure, upon behalf of the Government, in proposing that Mr. George Randell, the hon. member for the electoral district of the Moore, be appointed Chairman of Committees of the whole House. The hon. member was an old colonist, and had sat in the House for many years as the representative of the city, and throughout his whole career, whether in the House or out of it, he had always earned the respect and confidence of the community. It therefore gave him great pleasure to propose that Mr. Randell should preside over their deliberations as Chairman of Committees

of the whole House during the existence of the present Parliament.

MR. PARKER said it afforded him great pleasure to second Mr. Randell's nomination. He was very pleased indeed when the Premier was good enough to ask him to second the nomination of the hon. member, because when he cast his eyes round with the view of selecting someone to occupy the Chair—formerly occupied by their distinguished friend, now the President of the Legislative Council—at once the name of Mr. Randell was forced upon him as that of a person peculiarly fitted to occupy this position,—a position which he was sure the hon. member would fill with credit to himself, and do good service to the House.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. RANDELL: Mr. Speaker,—I desire to express the high sense I entertain of the honor which has been conferred upon me, as proposed by the hon. the Premier, with the sanction I presume of his colleagues in office, and seconded by the hon. member for York. I also have to thank those hon. gentlemen for the high terms in which they were good enough to refer to any services I may have rendered the country. In accepting the office which has been now conferred upon me, I only hope, sir, that with your valuable assistance which I know will be cheerfully rendered to me, and with the kindly forbearance of the members of the House—I only hope, sir, that I may be able to discharge the responsible duties of the position—I say responsible duties because I am fully aware of the responsibility of the position; and, but for the hope I have of receiving the kindly forbearance of the House, and your own valuable assistance, sir, I should hesitate before accepting the high position that is now conferred upon me by the suffrages of my fellow members. I desire again to thank the members of the Government for the honor conferred upon me in selecting me for the office, and I thank the House for confirming it.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

IN COMMITTEE:

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that there be granted to Her

Majesty, on account of the service of the year 1891, a sum not exceeding £60,000, towards defraying the expenses of the various Departments and services of the colony.

Agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Ways and Means.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE:

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the services of the year 1891, a sum not exceeding £60,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Western Australia.

Carried, *nem. con.*

THE CHAIRMAN reported the resolution to the House, and the report was adopted.

SUPPLY BILL (£60,000).

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill intituled "An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of £60,000 to the service of the year 1891."

Agreed to.

Bill read a first time, and carried through all its stages, *sub silentio*.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), by leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill for defining the Privileges, Immunities, and Powers of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, respectively.

Agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

THE SPEAKER reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament. He (Mr. Speaker) had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy of the

Speech, which he would now read to the House. (*Vide p. 5 ante.*)

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. THROSSELL: Mr. Speaker, sir, it is with pleasure I rise to move the Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech, although, in doing so, I confess to a feeling of great diffidence, as I recognise the occasion as no ordinary one. Sir, in common with every member of this Assembly, and I may say of every man in this great colony, I recognise with feelings of intensified pleasure that this day's proceedings renders the inauguration of Parliamentary and Responsible Government complete, and the reign of our new Constitution fully established. I fully recognise the many benefits which may be expected to result to the country under the new form of Government, with the new powers and privileges it confers; and I join with His Excellency in the earnest hope that our highest anticipations may be realised; and I have little fear but that (in the words of Excellency) the principles of self-government will be administered in such a way as to promote "sentiments of self-respect and true patriotism." It is reason for pride, sir, to know that Her Majesty the Queen has expressed the warmest interest in our welfare, and that politicians, both in England and the colonies, are watching with interest the extension of Parliamentary Government to this last of the Australian group which can claim it. I am one with His Excellency in believing that numbers of intending and desirable settlers will shortly be attracted to our shores, now that the colony has entered upon a form of Government which enables it to administer its own affairs. I rejoice, sir, to have the opportunity of publicly and gratefully acknowledging the practical sympathy and good-will of the Eastern colonies extended to us in our time of need, and whose support and assistance were so valuable in securing to us the privilege of free Government, and I recognise in this another step towards an united and federated Australia. It affords me pleasure to learn that His Excellency has faith in the future prosperity of the colony under Responsible Government,—a faith which I am

confident is not misplaced, for I believe, sir, the future will show that the trust reposed in us will be administered with due regard to the interests of the present and coming generations. Sir, I wish you to believe that it is no empty form of words when I say that I feel sure that the selection of the Hon. John Forrest as our first Prime Minister has given the highest satisfaction to this Assembly and to the colony at large. I recognise in our Premier one who has served his country faithfully, and who has well earned the honor conferred upon him, and I believe that the Government which he has formed possesses the confidence of Parliament and the country. It is a matter for much congratulation that the new Ministry are fully alive to the importance of a vigorous and progressive scheme of public works, and I for one, sir, rejoice in such a policy, for I believe that we should now be done with the day of small things, and that our vast colony, with its many resources, at present undeveloped, demands just such a policy at our hands. Speaking for myself, I may say that, having unbounded faith in the colony, such a policy will ever have my warmest support, so long as due caution and sound judgment be shown in the class of public works undertaken. Our public debt is small; our colony is large; our resources are many and varied; and our chief wants are population and capital, and I verily believe that, under a wise and bold policy of public works, these wants will speedily be supplied. In saying this much, sir, I must confess to a feeling of surprise at the amount of the sum proposed for the first loan under the new form of Government. Not that I conceive it to be too great a sum for the colony to borrow, but I was not prepared to find our first Ministry bold enough to inaugurate quite so progressive a policy; and I believe the feeling of the country and this Assembly will be similar to my own in this matter. Sir, I said at the beginning of my remarks that the present occasion was no ordinary one, and I feel justified in so saying, for this is the first occasion in the history of the colony on which so large a sum as £1,336,000 has been proposed in a Loan Bill. It will not be expected of me, or of any other hon. member to-day, to give our unqualified ap-

proval to the large scheme of public works mentioned by His Excellency, until full particulars are before the House. To some of the works enumerated, I could give my unqualified approval; notably amongst these would be a well-considered scheme of harbor works at Fremantle, and at the various ports along our coast, which works I consider of paramount importance. Many of the other works mentioned are now before us for the first time, and it will not be expected that this Assembly, on this occasion, can give its approval to all of them. I trust, however, that at the proper time the Ministry will be able to show these works to be desirable, and such as will give promise of being reproductive, calculated to advance the interests of the colony. With regard to the proposed railway from Perth to Bunbury, respecting which there has already been considerable agitation, I would express the opinion that, provided the land to be tapped be proved to be as good as has been represented (and on this point there is much difference of opinion), and provided the interests of the country be carefully safeguarded in securing the settlement of private lands (which is said exists in large quantities along the proposed line); providing this is done, then, sir, this is one of the public works that might well be undertaken. The most careful evidence, however, as to the quality of the land must be forthcoming before such a large and costly work should be taken in hand. With respect to the proposed railway to the Yilgarn Goldfields, which I regard as being of immense importance to the colony, I can but express the earnest hope that events on the fields will so shape themselves as to speedily justify the construction of such a line. I say this, sir, recognising the immense impetus that would be given to the agricultural development of the district I have the honor to represent, and the whole of the rich agricultural districts around, by the establishment of a large mining population on the goldfields. But I regret, sir, that at the present time I cannot give my support to such a costly line until greater development of the goldfields has taken place. I am aware, sir, that I am uttering an unpopular opinion, but at any rate it is an honest one, and one that, I trust, circumstances

will speedily compel me to alter. I am disappointed that no mention is made of this railway being considered as the first section of a transcontinental line. Sir, I am glad to notice that the Government policy includes the development of our goldfields and mineral resources; improvements to the Eastern Railway (so much needed); a scheme of immigration, without which our public works would be incomplete; and the survey of lands for agricultural settlements, as well as many other important minor works. To the members of this Assembly who may be of opinion that the policy of the Government is too bold a one at the outset, it will be a relief to know that it is not intended that all the money should be raised at once, and that the specific sanction of Parliament is to be sought for each separate railway, and that Loan Estimates are to be submitted before the other works are undertaken. This plan, to my mind, sir, will bring many supporters from the ranks of those who otherwise would be disposed to oppose the borrowing of so large a sum. I trust, sir, that, whether the scheme of public works be adopted in its entirety or not, sufficient at least will meet the support of this Assembly as will enable the Government to proceed, without unnecessary delay, with the execution of a useful scheme of public works, so necessary to the advancement of the country at the present time. I am in accord with His Excellency and his Ministers that a well-considered scheme of public works will attract population, develop our mineral resources, and tend in many other ways to open up the varied resources of the colony.

MR. DEHAMEL: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I believe it is contrary to the rules of this House for an hon. member to read his speech, as I observe the mover of the Address is now doing.

THE SPEAKER: There is no doubt that it is contrary to Parliamentary rules for any member to read his speech, and, if it had not been that the hon. member for Northam is a new member, and consequently not conversant with the rules of the House and Parliamentary practice, I should certainly have called him to order before this. But I was unwilling to interfere with a new member, who was a stranger to the rules of the House, and

addressing the House for the first occasion, though I intended telling him privately that it must not occur again.

MR. THROSSELL, continuing, said: Sir, there are two items which I regret are not included in the otherwise liberal policy of the Government. I would have liked, sir, to have seen the introduction of a diamond water-borer provided for, which has proved of such vast benefit to the waterless regions of the other colonies, and given so rich a return to the country for the outlay. I feel certain that if the country between the Eastern Districts and Yilgarn, and which embraces land that is acknowledged to be suited for pasture,—I feel sure if this country is to be utilised, the diamond borer must be introduced and do its work. I would also have liked to have seen public crushers provided for our goldfields, in places not otherwise provided with them. This kind of assistance I conceive to be wise in the interest of the development of our goldfields. There is a third item of much importance not included in the Government policy; I refer, sir, to some well considered scheme for assisting suitable persons to settle upon our lands; and for some well-considered plan of the kind I believe the country was fully prepared. I hope, sir, even yet, that some well-devised scheme of the kind will be adopted as part of the Ministerial policy. I believe that I shall have many with me in the opinion that, without some well-considered plan of assisted settlement, the colony has already opened up by its railway (to the South and North) sufficient land for all ordinary requirements of settlement. I am pleased to notice that it is proposed to sever the connection between the Crown Agents and this colony, and that His Excellency has provided in the Estimates for the establishment of an Agent General in London, as I believe under such an arrangement the best interests of the colony will be secured. It is satisfactory to know that the colony started the new year with a credit balance of £45,600. It will, I believe, be gratifying to every member of this Assembly to learn that it is proposed to re-organise the Works and Railway Department, and that provision is to be made for the appointment of the necessary officers, of recognised standing and

ability; but I feel sure that, in carrying out these arrangements, it will be the wish of this Assembly that no injustice shall be done to any of the present office-holders. With regard to the Federation Convention to be held at Sydney in March next, I heartily concur with His Excellency that it is of much importance to us that this colony should be represented at this Convention, especially as it is more than probable that the important subject of connecting this colony by rail with the Eastern colonies will be fully discussed. The importance of this question cannot be over-estimated, pointing as it does to federation and a union of these great colonies in the near future—a union so ardently to be desired, I feel confident that it will be the wish of this Assembly that this colony shall be suitably represented on an occasion so likely to minister to its best interests. Having said so much, sir, I would now simply add how fully conscious I am of how inadequately I have fulfilled the task assigned to me. I could have wished more time in which to study the important subjects contained in His Excellency's admirable speech, the first opening speech under Responsible Government, — a speech which certainly is the most comprehensive and the most important that a West Australian Governor has ever placed before a Western Australian Parliament; a speech, sir, which shadows forth new life, and new hopes, for us and ours. I trust and believe, sir, that the order of things now inaugurated will not only mark a new epoch in our history, but will usher in an era of progress and prosperity for which our colony has long been pining. I would also say, sir, that I fully recognise the difficult task the new Ministry has to perform; and, while in the interests of the colony it must look for and welcome honest opposition, I feel confident that such opposition will be the outcome alone of honest opinion. In conclusion, sir, I most sincerely echo the sentiments of His Excellency that under Providence we may all so discharge the great responsibilities which devolve upon us, as to prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us by our country; and I further pray, sir, that Providence may raise up legislators whose sole objects shall be the welfare of the country,

the whole country, and nothing but the country. Under God's blessing may that country speedily become a monument of wisdom, of liberty, and progress, one which a federated Australia may gaze upon with admiration and respect. Sir, before formally moving the Address in Reply, I crave permission to refer to the objection that has been raised to my reading my speech. I crave pardon for having unwittingly transgressed the rules of the House, but I may say that I did so in entire ignorance that it was a breach of Parliamentary procedure. I may say that my hon. friend the Premier, when he yesterday entrusted me with the privilege of moving the Address in Reply, informed me that there would be no objection to my making notes of what I intended to say, and I was not aware that there was any limit to the extent or fulness of those notes. Hence my transgression. Having said this, sir, I now formally move that an address be presented in reply to His Excellency's Speech, as follows:—

"To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver
 "Francis Robinson, Knight Grand
 "Cross of the Most Distinguished
 "Order of St. Michael and St. George,
 "Governor and Commander-in-Chief
 "in and over the Colony of Western
 "Australia, and its Dependencies, &c.,
 "&c., &c.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

"We thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to deliver to us.

"The various matters to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, shall receive our most careful consideration and attention, and it shall be our earnest endeavor to so deal with them that our labors may tend to the advancement and welfare of the Colony."

MR. SYMON said the honor had fallen upon him of seconding the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, on this the first meeting of Parliament

under Responsible Government. He felt the greater pleasure in doing this because, judging by the policy which the first Ministry under that form of government had put forward, he was convinced that we had at the head of affairs men who would be able to pilot the ship of State safely through the many shoals and broken waters which he was convinced they would have to contend with during their administration. It was not his intention, after the exhaustive speech of the hon. member for Northam in moving the Address, to deal at the present time with His Excellency's Speech *in extenso*; he would reserve, until a future occasion, any observations he might have to offer on the various matters dealt with in the speech. It was a matter of extreme gratification to him—and he was sure to all hon. members—that the Government had decided upon a bold, and, at the same time, a prudent financial policy with regard to public works. They had brought, or intended to bring forward, a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a sum of £1,336,000, and this amount was to be expended upon public works, which, he thought, would be money well spent in this colony. The loan might seem very large to many; but he thought that if they went carefully through paragraph 8 of the Governor's Speech, they would find there mentioned many works of great importance to the colony—works which he considered would be the making of this great country. They had heard from the mover of the Address of the great resources of the colony, and he (Mr. Symon) was convinced those resources existed. Among the many public works likely to be undertaken by the Government were Harbor Works at Fremantle and harbor improvements at the various ports of the colony,—which he considered absolutely necessary. They also intended to spend some money on a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, and additional money upon rolling-stock for the Eastern Railway. He thought hon. members would agree with him they were very much in want of these things being carried out. The Ministry had a policy which meant the expenditure of a large sum of money, and he thought that the majority of the works put forward by them would have the support of the hon. members of that House. It was not

his intention, as he had already said, to dilate at any great length upon His Excellency's Speech upon this occasion, but he should like to refer to the very substantial balance of £45,000 with which the year closed, and which he thought was a matter for congratulation. He was sincerely glad, for the sake of the colony, that they had—and he trusted they would have for a long period—such an able and distinguished Governor as Sir William Robinson, to assist and advise the Government in their arduous duties. And he would impress upon hon. members, at this important juncture, the strong necessity of their pulling together—one and all—for one purpose, namely, the common welfare of the colony. He had much pleasure in seconding the Address in Reply.

Mr. PARKER said he rose to move that the debate upon the Address in Reply be adjourned to the next sitting of the House. He did not at the present time intend to say anything with regard to the speech which His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to deliver in the Legislative Council, but, if permitted, he should like to say he gladly took this opportunity of congratulating the Premier upon being called to occupy the position he did in the first Ministry appointed under Responsible Government in this colony. He also had great pleasure in congratulating those whom the Premier had been pleased to associate with him as his colleagues in the first Ministry. He felt he expressed the views of all members in the House when he said they all felt sure those hon. gentlemen—although some members might disagree with their policy as expressed in this speech—would all fulfil the duties of their respective positions, while in office, honestly, and to the best of their ability.

The motion was agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 21st January, 1891.

Presentation of Address to Her Majesty the Queen—
Vote of thanks to Australian colonies for their assistance in connection with granting Responsible Government to this colony—Vote of thanks to Delegates—Sessional Orders: Business Days—Sessional Committees—Congratulatory Message from Federal Council—W.A. Turf Club Bill—Address-in-Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PRESENTATION OF AN ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest): Sir, I beg to move that the address standing in my name be adopted by the House, and that it be forwarded by the Speaker to His Excellency the Governor, for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen:—

"May it please Your Majesty,

"We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, at this our first meeting under Responsible Government, humbly approach Your Majesty with feelings of the deepest loyalty and affection.

"We desire to assure Your Majesty of our devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person, and to express to you our high appreciation of the privileges and advantages conferred upon us by our new Constitution.

"We pray that Your Majesty may long continue to occupy the Throne of your ancestors, and that your subjects in this portion of your Dominions may ever honor and cherish the great privileges they have now had conferred upon them, and ever remain Your Majesty's true and faithful subjects."

Address agreed to, *nem con.*

VOTE OF THANKS TO AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest): I beg to move that the address standing in my name, conveying the thanks of this House to the other colonies for their assistance in obtaining for Western Australia her present Constitution, be adopted by this House. I am sure that all hon. members will agree with the senti-