

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Session of 1887.

Opened on Thursday, 16th June, 1887.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 16th June, 1887.

Opening of Council—New Members: Oath of Allegiance—Governor's Speech—Address to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Jubilee—Post Office Discipline Bill: first reading—Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech—Adjournment.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

The House was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor on September 2nd, 1886, until the 19th day of January, 1887; thence to 20th April; thence to Thursday, 16th June, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Colonial Secretary (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), on resuming his seat after returning from England, where he had represented the colony as Executive Commissioner at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance. The Attorney General (Hon. C. N. Warton), on taking his seat in the House for the first time, took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance. Mr. J. C. H. James, on taking his seat as an official member during the absence in England of the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands, took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance. Mr. D. K. Congdon, nominee member; Mr. E. R. Brockman, nominee member; Mr. E. Keane, the newly-elected member for Geraldton; Mr. Alexander Forrest, the first elected member for the new electorate

of Kimberley; and Mr. A. P. Hensman, the newly-elected member for the Greenough district, took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber shortly after three o'clock, and, having taken the Chair, delivered the following Speech:—

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

"It is with pleasure that I again meet
"the Legislature of Western Australia,
"now strengthened by the addition of
"two members under the Law of last
"year.

"2. Her Majesty's Jubilee is about to
"be celebrated, here as elsewhere through-
"out the Empire, with universal feelings
"of loyalty and rejoicing. In antici-
"pation of the Addresses which are to be
"entrusted to me to forward to our
"gracious and beloved Sovereign on this
"national occasion, I propose to send,
"after it shall have been approved by
"you, a congratulatory telegram on the
"part of the whole Colony, to be com-
"municated to Her Majesty through the
"Secretary of State.

"3. The Committee of members of
"Your Honorable House convened by me
"during the recess have advised that the
"sum of £5,000, set apart by you for the
"celebration of the Jubilee, shall be
"expended in a contribution of £2,000 to

"the Imperial Institute in London, and
 "in a first grant of £3,000 towards the
 "establishment of a Victoria Public
 "Library in Perth. The report of a
 "further Committee I have consulted in
 "the matter will be presented to you,
 "and the foundation stone of the Library
 "will be laid on Jubilee Day.

"4. This Colony has been efficiently
 "represented at the recent Colonial
 "Conference in London by a present
 "and by a late member of my Govern-
 "ment and of your Honorable House.
 "It does not appear to have been found
 "possible to settle the details of the
 "fortification of King George's Sound.
 "This is to be regretted; but the Con-
 "ference has done good work in arrang-
 "ing for the naval defence of Australia,
 "in which Albany and its harbour are
 "much concerned. It is admitted and
 "felt that the Conference is an event of
 "the first importance in Imperial politics.

"5. Further papers respecting the
 "late Colonial and Indian Exhibition will
 "be laid before you. The Colony has
 "every reason to be satisfied with the
 "success of the Western Australian
 "Court, in connection with which the
 "services of the Executive Commissioner
 "(now Sir Malcolm Fraser, having to-
 "day received the honour of the
 "K.C.M.G.) have been appreciated both
 "by this, and by Her Majesty's Govern-
 "ment.

"6. Our Northern Goldfields have
 "not at first proved the success which,
 "with some reason, was confidently
 "anticipated; and it has been felt prudent
 "to pause in the execution of costly pub-
 "lic works in the Kimberley Districts.
 "Much is now expected from the gold-
 "bearing reefs, which have been most
 "favourably reported upon. These reefs
 "are already attracting private enter-
 "prise, and, when their permanent value
 "has been proved, the construction of a
 "line of telegraph, and of a jetty of a
 "good description at Wyndham, will be
 "proceeded with. Meanwhile, a con-
 "siderable sum of money has been
 "allotted for roadmaking, and for the
 "establishment of a monthly mail service
 "between the Goldfields and the two
 "ports of Derby and Wyndham.

"7. The code of New Land Regula-
 "tions considered by you last Session
 "has been approved by Her Majesty,

"and is in force. The despatches on the
 "subject have been published.

"8. The construction of the Albany-
 "Beverley Railway is proceeding in a
 "very satisfactory manner, and it is
 "hoped that the line may be opened by
 "the end of next year. In the prosecu-
 "tion of this great public work, the
 "Colony is enjoying many benefits of an
 "expenditure not less than £750,000.

"9. There is some prospect that the
 "difficulties which have arrested the
 "works on the Land Grant Railway to
 "connect Geraldton with Perth may
 "shortly be overcome. Should this be
 "so, we shall reap the advantage of a
 "further large expenditure.

"10. The plans for the proposed Fre-
 "mantle Harbour Works will be laid
 "before you, together with the report of
 "Sir John Coode. These works cannot
 "be undertaken without a further loan.

"11. The Railways and other Public
 "Works provided for in the Schedule to
 "the Loan Act of 1884 are now in an
 "advanced state. Beverley and Northam
 "already possess the advantages of rail-
 "way communication; while the Green-
 "ough line and the Roebourne tram-
 "way will be formally opened as a part
 "of the Jubilee rejoicings in their districts.
 "Since last Session, the telegraph has
 "been extended to Bridgetown, Gingin,
 "and Mandurah. I think it may be said
 "that the progress in Public Works is
 "remarkable, and I have now before me
 "several projects for further undertakings
 "of magnitude. The papers will be pre-
 "sented to you for consideration.

"12. In the important matter of Im-
 "migration, the operations of the Board
 "under the law of 1883 have to a great
 "extent been superseded by those of the
 "West Australian Land Company, under
 "their contract with the Government.
 "Though no very large number of immi-
 "grants have as yet been landed, the
 "limit of the absorbing power of the
 "Colony appears at present to be very
 "soon reached, and it has been necessary
 "to arrange that the Company shall, for
 "a time, introduce only such immigrants
 "as can be employed on the Railway
 "Works. I regret this, as no solid basis
 "of future prosperity can be established
 "without a large increase to the popula-
 "tion, which, however, has at last reached
 "40,000 souls.

"13. Much attention has lately been directed to the condition of the aboriginal natives of the Colony. I shall ask you again to improve the law in their favor, and it must be admitted that the notice drawn to the subject has been productive of good. This, however, does not extenuate the gross misstatements and attacks which have been levelled against this Government and community by mischievous or ill-informed persons, and which have fallen to the ground so soon as the facts have been made known. Papers on the subject which have been published or printed will be presented to you. I have applied to Her Majesty's Government for the services of a naval officer to control the rapidly extending Pearl Shell Fishery on our Northern coasts.

"14. The public finances of the Colony continue in a sound condition. The present year commenced with a credit balance amounting to £83,418; and, though I fear a large supplementary expenditure, and perhaps a revenue somewhat short of the estimate, will lessen the amount in hand at the close of 1887, there is every reason to suppose that the Government will be able to begin next year also with a surplus. It is, however, a matter for consideration on financial, as well as on other grounds, whether it would be wise to pass a further loan bill this session. I shall recur presently to this subject.

"15. Some further correspondence with the Secretary of State on the question of a change of the Constitution to the form known as Responsible Government will be laid before you. The papers include an important statement by Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that it would not be practicable to surrender to a Parliament representing a small population, principally resident in the Southern Districts, the control of all the vast territory now included in Western Australia. Though far from being an opponent of Responsible Government, I have, on more than one occasion, I think, publicly stated my opinion that separation would be too dear a price for this Colony to pay, at the present time, even for a boon so naturally desired by the English race as Parliamentary Government. If it should be a question for West

"Australians to consider, whether they should hold together for a year or two longer as they now are, or should separate themselves in order that this section of the Colony might at once enjoy the freest institutions, I would say, for very serious financial reasons, if for no others, let the change be delayed. Perhaps the intentions of Her Majesty's Government are not yet sufficiently known to allow of a complete discussion of the matter, but I think it right towards the Colony I have had charge of for four years to express plainly the view which presents itself to my own mind.

"16. Should Your Honourable House, as appears probable, place in my hands, during the current Session, an Address in favour of the adoption of Responsible Government, it will be my duty at once to transmit it to the Secretary of State, and to request that I may be favoured, at an early date, with the views of Her Majesty's Government on the whole question. On the receipt of those views, I would propose to make them public, and to dissolve the Legislature, in order that the constituencies might pronounce their judgment. A General Election having been held, the Legislature would be assembled without delay to discuss the matter, and it thus seems likely that there may be a second Session this year.

"17. To return now to the subject of a further loan for public works. It is my opinion that, in the event of Your Honorable House passing during the present Session an Address in favour of the introduction of Responsible Government, it would, for many obvious reasons, be advisable that the discussion of a new Loan Bill—which, if only a portion of the useful undertakings now advocated are to be proceeded with, must add at least £500,000 to our present debt of £1,286,000—should be deferred until the Session after the General Election. This would cause a delay of some months; but it appears to me that it would be the constitutional course to take, and that it would be scarcely fair to the present, and still less to any future Government, and scarcely according to usage, to discuss proposals of magnitude, deeply affecting the finances and the future of

"this Colony, until such discussion could take place at least in clear view of the exact position and conditions of the question—now being agitated, but not as yet defined—of a change of the Constitution. This, accordingly, is the policy I would advocate, and I trust it may meet with your approval.

"18. You will be asked to pass a resolution affirming that it is desirable to establish a Federal Quarantine Station at Albany. Papers bearing on the subject will be laid before you.

"19. A law providing for the compulsory assurance of the lives of civil servants, and regulations for the classification of the Clerks of the Civil Service, will be laid before you.

"20. I propose to consult you on the subject of any desirable re-arrangement of the Customs Tariff of the Colony.

"21. The approaching expiry of the Contracts between this Government and the Adelaide Steam Ship Company is a matter which will also engage your early attention.

"22. I shall consult you regarding difficulties which have occurred in connection with the administration of the Public Health Act of last Session. The Roads Bill introduced last Session will be proceeded with.

"23. The Legislation placed before you will include the usual financial measures of the year, the various Bills which have been published in the *Government Gazette*, and other Bills in preparation. The more important measures, in addition to those already mentioned, which you will be asked to consider, relate to the following subjects:—Protection of Life Policies, Inquiry into Fires, Juries, Magistrates' Jurisdiction, and Quarantine.

"24. The usual Financial and Departmental returns and reports will be presented to you, and you will be informed of the action taken in various matters in accordance with your Addresses to me of last Session.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN:—

"25. Though suffering in some respects from a wave of depression which has reached us from elsewhere; from the results of over-speculation consequent on what may be called the recent discovery of Western Australia by the outside world; and from unexpected

"turns of events incident to a time of change from the old order to the new—I think it must be allowed that the Colony the public affairs of which are entrusted to our guidance under Her Majesty, is making remarkable progress in many directions. That this progress may be solid and permanent, and that it may increase and secure the welfare of the community in an elevated, as well as in a merely material sense, is the desire which is in all our hearts, and with which I pray God to bless your labors."

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

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said it had been his practice at former sessions, at this stage, to move a mere formal bill, in order to assert the rights and privileges of the House. On the present occasion, however, he departed from the usual practice. Copies of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, on the auspicious occasion of the Jubilee of her accession to the Throne had been forwarded to hon. members, and he trusted that the terms of the Address were such as to commend it to hon. members. It would be idle on his part to preface that loyal Address with any remarks of his own, because he felt he would fail in expressing those sentiments of affection and devotion towards Her Majesty's throne and person which he would wish to express. He would therefore simply move the adoption of the Address, as follows:—

"TO HER MAJESTY, VICTORIA,

"By the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India.

"May it Please Your Majesty,

"We, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Council assembled, approach Your Majesty with feelings of the sincerest love and loyalty on this most happy and national occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Your Majesty's accession.

"As in the case of other portions of Your Majesty's vast Empire, the history and career of the Colony we represent had scarcely begun when Your Majesty inherited the Throne of Your Majesty's ancestors, and it is in Your Majesty's name that this territory has been administered from almost the first commencement of its settlement and civilisation, which therefore claim some place among the imperial achievements of Your Majesty's glorious reign.

"For this, and for the other reasons common to Your Majesty's loyal subjects throughout the world, Your Majesty's Jubilee will nowhere be celebrated with greater joy than in Western Australia. We offer to Your Majesty our respectful congratulations; and we earnestly trust that—sustained amidst the cares of Empire by the affection of the Royal Family of England, and by the loving allegiance of a people whose pride and pleasure it is to acknowledge and revere the Sovereign who has ever respected their rights and liberties, the Friend who has ever sympathised with them in their triumphs and in their trials—Your Majesty may, for many years to come, continue, by the providence of God, to wisely wear the Royal and Imperial Crown which Your Majesty has so well and so nobly adorned, for half a century on this memorable day.

"We humbly beg Your Majesty to accept the assurance of our continued devotion and loyalty to Your Majesty's Throne and Person."

MR. PARKER said he felt it a privilege on this occasion to be allowed to second this loyal Address. Speaking as he did on behalf of the elected members of that House, he felt, and they all felt that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions did a feeling of loyalty and devotion to her throne and person exist in a stronger and deeper degree than it did amongst the people of this colony. They also appreciated the distinction which His Excellency had just informed them Her Majesty had been pleased to confer upon the hon. gentleman the mover of the Address; they were all rejoiced that the hon. gentleman's meritorious services had been recognised by his Sovereign. The Address itself was couched in the most loyal and eloquent language, and required no comment on his part. He

felt it a pleasure and a privilege to second the motion for its adoption.

The Address was then put to the House, and agreed to unanimously.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) asked the House whether it would be their pleasure to present the Address to His Excellency that day.

THE SPEAKER informed the House that, anticipating the pleasure of the House, he had asked His Excellency if he would receive the Address that afternoon, and His Excellency had intimated his readiness to do so.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved, and Mr. PARKER seconded, that a telegram containing the purport of the Address be telegraphed by His Excellency to Her Majesty.

Agreed to.

POST OFFICE DISCIPLINE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to secure the due performance of their duty by Post Office Servants.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

MR. KEANE rose to propose that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the speech which they had just heard. He regretted extremely that the task had not fallen into abler hands, especially considering that the speech was one of the most important—if not the most important—utterance ever delivered in that Chamber. In moving that an humble address be presented to His Excellency in reply he proposed to be very brief, and he felt sure that his hon. and learned friend the Attorney General would bear him out that brevity on such an occasion, if not on all occasions, was the soul of wit. [THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Hear, hear]. He would leave it to the older and abler members of the House to sever the corn from the chaff. The event *par excellence* of the present year was the Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty's accession to the throne; and he thought he was justified in stating that in no part of her wide dominions would the auspicious event be celebrated with more loyalty

and more enthusiasm than in Western Australia. With regard to the Colonial Conference held in London, to which allusion was made in His Excellency's speech, he did not think the outcome of the deliberations of that Conference had been quite satisfactory for this colony, especially as regards the fortification of King George's Sound. With regard to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, to which reference was made in the next paragraph of His Excellency's speech, he thought that the thanks of that Council and of the colony were due to our Executive Commissioner and his assistant, Mr. Alpin Thomson, for the satisfactory show which Western Australia had made in connection with that Exhibition, especially considering the materials with which they had to work. He was sure that in this connection the Council and the country at large would join him in congratulating the Colonial Secretary upon the acquisition of the well-deserved honor which Her Majesty had been pleased to confer on their Executive Commissioner, now Sir Malcolm Fraser. With regard to the paragraph in His Excellency's speech relating to the construction of the Albany-Beverley railway, with reference to which His Excellency said that this colony was now enjoying many benefits of the expenditure incurred in connection with that important public work, in his opinion His Excellency took too broad and comprehensive a view, for it was South Australia and Victoria that would reap the greater portion of the benefits connected with that expenditure. His Excellency informed them that Sir John Coode's plans for the proposed harbor works at Fremantle would be laid before them; and it was unnecessary that at this stage he should say much with reference to this most important work. No doubt they should hear enough about the work before the session closed, from the hon. members representing the town of Fremantle. He noticed that the question had been religiously left alone by His Excellency in his speech; and he regretted to find no reference made in the speech to the question of harbor works at Geraldton, the important district which he had the honor of representing. He regretted also that His Excellency, both as an administrator and a statesman, had not favored them with his views upon

the important question of immigration. It appeared that the operations of the Board of Immigration had to a great extent been superseded by those of the W.A. Land Company, under their contract with the Government. He was very much afraid that the money expended upon immigration under the system referred to was in a great measure money thrown away. With regard to the financial position of the colony he thought it was extremely satisfactory, and he believed their finances as in the past would continue to show themselves elastic. The bonds of Western Australia were now quoted at from 103 to 104½, which compared favorably with those of our neighbors. With regard to the policy enunciated by His Excellency on the subject of a fresh loan and on the question of Responsible Government, as there would be ample opportunity of discussing these important questions, as the session advanced, he need not now stop to discuss them. They were questions which he was sure would receive every consideration at the hands of the hon. members of that House. At no period in the history of the Assembly had questions of so much magnitude and importance been submitted for their consideration, and at no time in the history of the colony had there been so much necessity to have a skilled captain and a courageous crew to steer the vessel of State safely through Scylla and Charybdis into prosperous waters. He was glad to find His Excellency informing them that he proposed to consult them on the subject of a revision of the tariff, which he thought most hon. members regarded as necessary. In conclusion, he cordially echoed the wish expressed by His Excellency that the progress which the colony was making in various directions might be solid and permanent, and, in His Excellency's own words, that it might increase and secure the welfare of the community in an elevated, as well as in a material, sense. He had much pleasure in moving that an humble address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the gracious and important speech with which His Excellency had opened the session—a session that gave promise of being one of the most eventful in the history of the colony.

MR. CONGDON said he rose with

pleasure to second the resolution. The hon. member who had moved the address had gone so fully into the matters dealt with in the important and comprehensive speech which they had just listened to, that there was little for him to add. He thought it was a matter for congratulation that His Excellency was, on the present occasion, enabled to meet a Legislature which had been strengthened by the addition of two new members. With regard to the proposed celebration of Her Majesty's jubilee, and the manner of celebrating that auspicious event, he was not altogether in accord with the views of the Commission as to the proposed expenditure of the sum of £5,000 set apart by the Legislature for the celebration of the jubilee—he thought a larger proportion of that sum than had been appropriated for local celebrations might have been well spent in connection with the municipal celebrations all over the colony. With regard to the late Conference held in London, he thought it was to be regretted that no satisfactory decision had been arrived at with reference to the fortification of King George's Sound. With reference to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, he thought the success of our own court was in a great measure due to the efforts of our Executive Commissioner, whom they were all pleased to hear had that day received the honor of the K.C.M.G., which showed that those efforts had been appreciated by Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the important question of harbor works, he did not suppose any hon. member could imagine that these costly works could be undertaken and carried out without a further loan; and, looking at the national importance of the question, and the necessity for improved accommodation at the principal port of the colony, he hoped that the House would think fit to pass the necessary loan bill during the present session. It was satisfactory to hear of the progress which had been made with respect to other public works, and that His Excellency had now before him several projects for other undertakings of magnitude. With reference to the important question of immigration, he thought the Government were to be commended for their caution, and for seeing that the operations of the Land

Company were being kept within fair and reasonable bounds. He believed, however, with His Excellency that no solid basis of future prosperity for this vast territory could be established without a large increase to the population. He was glad to hear that the Government proposed to further improve the laws for the amelioration of the aboriginal natives. Although, as His Excellency said in his speech, there was no extenuating the gross attacks which had been levelled against the community in relation to this matter, still he thought the notice which had been drawn to the subject had been productive of good, and he was pleased to find that further legislation was proposed in this direction. The financial position of the colony was a source of satisfaction, seeing that the present year commenced with a credit balance amounting to over £80,000; and the elasticity of the country's resources must, he thought, leave no room for doubt or hesitation as to further increasing our liabilities by raising another loan for public works of necessity. Probably the most important paragraph in an altogether important speech was that relating to the question of constitutional change. The paragraph was, indeed, so important to his mind that he made no apology for quoting it in full. "Some further correspondence with the Secretary of State," His Excellency said, "on the question of a change of the Constitution to the form known as Responsible Government will be laid before you. The papers include an important statement by Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that it would not be practicable to surrender to a Parliament representing a small population, principally resident in the Southern districts, the control of all the vast territory now included in Western Australia. Though far from being an opponent of Responsible Government, I have, on more than one occasion, I think, publicly stated my opinion that separation would be too dear a price for this colony to pay, at the present time, even for a boon so naturally desired by the English race as Parliamentary Government. If it should be a question for West Australians to consider, whether they should hold together for a year or two longer as they now are, or should

"separate themselves in order that this section of the colony might at once enjoy the freest institutions, I would say, for very serious financial reasons, if for no others, let the change be delayed." He regretted very much that His Excellency should have held out this threat of separation, and he could only hope that, whatever the outcome of the question might be, its solution might be accomplished without the extreme course of separation, which, in his opinion, would be a suicidal policy. He hoped that, if not during the present session, at some future session they might be able to introduce and carry a resolution recommending the adoption of Responsible Government—but Responsible Government for the whole colony. He was glad to find that they were to be asked to pass a resolution in favor of establishing a Federal Quarantine Station at Albany; and also that a law providing for compulsory assurance in connection with the Civil Service was to be laid before them. A revision of the Customs Tariff was also a very desirable piece of promised legislation, and he was glad to find that the question of the public health was to receive further consideration. Nothing could be of greater importance to any community than a satisfactory Public Health Act. They were also promised legislation on the subject of the protection of life policies, inquiry into fires, the jury system, and the jurisdiction of magistrates,—all of which subjects he was sure would commend themselves to the attention of the House. In conclusion, he would again express the pleasure which it gave him to second the resolution submitted by the hon. member for Geraldton.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is that an humble address be presented.

MR. PARKER moved that the debate be adjourned until the next meeting of the Council.

The motion was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT OVER JUBILEE WEEK.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he understood it was the desire of hon. members that the House, at its rising, should adjourn for a few days, in view of the approaching celebrations in honor of Her Ma-

jesty's Jubilee. That being so, he moved that the House, on its rising, should adjourn until Friday, June 24th.

Agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 24th June, 1897.

Petition (No. 1): Responsible Government—The Address to Her Majesty—Representation of the North District: Return of Mr. Richardson—Erratum: *Hansard* report of Mr. Speaker's ruling—Commission to inquire into Salaries of Civil Servants—Copyright Register Bill: first reading—Prisoners Employment Bill: first reading—Correspondence with the Waddington Syndicate re Midland Railway—Post Office Discipline Bill: second reading—Address in Reply: Adjourned Debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PETITION (No. 1): IN FAVOR OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

MR. PARKER presented a petition adopted by the citizens of Perth, in public meeting assembled, embodying certain resolutions in favor of the immediate introduction of Responsible Government.

The petition was received and read.

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

MR. SPEAKER informed the Council that the Address of the Legislative Council to Her Majesty was handed to His Excellency, who was pleased to reply as follows:—

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

"The Address which you have placed in my hands will be transmitted by me to Her Majesty the Queen by the earliest opportunity, and I have no doubt that Her Majesty will receive it very graciously."