

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser): Quite so.

The schedule was then put and passed.

Preamble: "Whereas it is expedient "to construct certain public works, at an "estimated cost of upwards of £500,000; "and whereas it is probable that the "construction of such works will occupy "a period of four years; be it enacted, "etc.:"

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE asked what was the meaning of the words "whereas it is probable that the construction of such works will occupy a period of four years?" He thought that was very doubtful.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) said the reason why these words were introduced was this. The general Act passed this session, dealing with loans, was an Act the draft of which was sent out by the Crown Agents, the provisions of which were to be incorporated in all future loans; and the Crown Agents at the same time sent out certain explanations and suggestions to the effect that in any future Public Works Loan Bills it would only be necessary to enact certain things, and only necessary in the preamble to recite that the works were likely to occupy so long, and that the sinking fund clause should be made to commence from the date of the works being completed, or likely to be completed. He did not think the words were of any great importance here: they were in the principal Act.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said, if they were not of much importance, he would move that they be struck out.

Question put—That the words "and whereas it is probable that the construction of such works will occupy a period of four years" be struck out.

Agreed to.

Preamble, as amended, put and passed.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported.

IMPORTED LABOR REGISTRY BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE, 1861, AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eleven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Saturday, 13th September, 1884.

High School Governors—Lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin—Sir Julius Vogel's Submarine Cable Scheme (Message No. 31)—Mr. Waddington's proposals for a Land Grant Railway to Champion Bay (Message No. 3)—Loan Bill (£325,000) for Public Works: third reading—Message (No. 39): Replying to Addresses—Message (No. 40): Replying to Addresses—Message (No. 41): Assenting to Bills, etc.—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at ten o'clock, a.m.

PRAYERS.

HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE having signified his intention to resign his governorship of the High School, owing to his residing out of town, the hon. member moved that Mr. S. H. Parker be elected in his place, which was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Shenton, also, whose term of office as a governor of the school was about to expire, was re-elected, without opposition.

LIGHTHOUSE AT CAPE LEEUWIN.

MR. VENN asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government had taken any steps in regard to establishing a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, and whether they had communicated with the other colonies on the subject?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said the Government had been in communication with the Governments of the other colonies on the subject and the negotiations were still in progress. The colony of Victoria had signified its willingness, with the approval of its

Parliament, to aid in the construction of the lighthouse, if the other colonies would do so.

SIR JULIUS VOGEL'S SUBMARINE CABLE PROPOSALS.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE, in bringing under the notice of the House the report of the select committee on Sir Julius Vogel's proposals in connection with a submarine cable, said the committee recommended that the terms agreed upon last session should be substantially adhered to, and that Sir Julius Vogel should not retain the concession unless the contract is signed within one year from the present date, and a guarantee of £10,000 is deposited by the contractor for the due fulfilment of the work. The committee also recommended that, as Sir Julius Vogel is now in New Zealand, His Excellency should communicate directly with him and ascertain whether he is prepared to enter into a contract on the proposed terms, and, if not, that His Excellency should intimate that all negotiations must be considered as terminated, so far as Sir Julius Vogel is concerned in the matter. The hon. member then moved the following resolution: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to communicate directly with Sir Julius Vogel, and ascertain whether he is prepared to enter into a contract to carry out his proposals for the construction of a Submarine Cable on the terms recommended in the report of the select committee appointed to consider His Excellency's Message (No. 31)."

MR. VENN said there had been a considerable amount of misapprehension, he thought, with regard to this cable. So far as we were aware, there was no particular blame attaching to the Government, or the Crown Agents, or anyone else, to account for the non-completion of the negotiations. He had very carefully gone through the correspondence with the Crown Agents, and there could be no doubt that they had done all in their power to protect the interests of the colony. But he thought that possibly in their anxiety to protect those interests they had gone a trifle beyond what that Council intended when this matter was

before it. The Council was anxious to obtain direct communication between the North-West coast of this colony and England; and, instead of giving any subsidy to Sir Julius Vogel or anybody else, the Legislature gave to Sir Julius the exclusive right to lay one or more cables, so long as, in return, he gave us what we wanted. Objection had been taken to his desire to take the line to Java and elsewhere; but, he thought, if Sir Julius had suggested Java in the first instance, the House would have offered no objection to it. The select committee's report, however, would bring the matter to an issue one way or the other. The Commissioner of Crown Lands pointed out at the time that no guarantee was asked; and there was no doubt that, so far as that House was concerned, hon. members had been so anxious to secure the cable that they did not make any provision for any guarantee; but the Government in their desire—a laudable desire, no doubt—to protect the colony suggested the desirability of some guarantee being given by the promoters; and the Crown Agents suggested that £10,000 should be the amount, which was the sum now agreed upon by the House to be deposited by the contractor for the due fulfilment of the work. Perhaps £10,000 was not too large an amount; but he would remind the House that it was just possible that in our endeavor to make a good bargain we might fetter our agreement with such conditions as could not be fulfilled; and this might hamper the promoters very much. It was not likely that any man would risk such a large amount, until at any rate he had his syndicate formed and the necessary capital subscribed. He thought our main object was to secure the cable being laid, and that the syndicate shall not have the right to sell its concessions to others, and thus postpone the carrying out of the project indefinitely, and prevent our getting a cable at all. He only hoped that the present report would have the desired effect of inducing Sir Julius Vogel to complete his negotiations, or to throw up the scheme, and so enable somebody else to treat with us in the matter.

The address was then agreed to.

MR. WADDINGTON'S LAND GRANT
RAILWAY PROPOSALS (MESSAGE
No. 3).

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said it was his duty to move the resolution contained in the report of the select committee appointed to consider Mr. John Waddington's proposals for the construction of a railway on the land grant system between the Central Districts and Geraldton, and in doing so he wished he had been able to give more time to the subject than he had been able to do, in the hurry of concluding the business of the session. Besides, although as chairman of the select committee he was called upon to move this resolution, he felt he was not able to do as much justice to the subject as some hon. members would have been, for he knew little or nothing of the land through which the line was proposed to be carried. There could be no doubt, however, from the information he had been able to gather in select committee from those hon. members, that this railway was likely to lead to a large amount of useful settlement; and not only that, it was a matter of great importance, he thought, that the different districts of the colony should be better united together than they were at present. They had seen during the latter part of the present session how very much divergence did exist, and how hon. members representing different constituencies looked upon themselves, not as West Australians but as solely interested in their own particular districts; and he felt that if these railway proposals were carried through we should look upon ourselves, not as people belonging to Albany, or Bunbury, or Fremantle, or Geraldton, but as a united body of Western Australians. For that reason alone he thought these railway projects would be of immense importance, and would contribute very largely to the welfare of the colony. A great many hon. members, on a former occasion when considering the Beverley-Albany scheme, stated that they only consented to the proposal to construct the line on the land grant system because they thought it would be impossible for us to construct it under any other system in the near future. He did not agree in that point of view himself, for he considered that in the circumstances of Western Australia the land

grant system was the very best possible system we could adopt, in the construction of a railway such as this. The great desideratum with us was population, and it seemed to him we were more likely to obtain that population under this system than any other. The House having already affirmed the principle of the land grant system, the committee felt there was no necessity for them in this report to state the reasons which induced them to recommend its adoption as regards this particular line, but simply to state that there seemed no valid ground for refusing to follow the same course in respect of a railway northwards as had already been adopted in respect of a railway southwards. With regard to the route, he thought there were reasons why it would have been advisable to have carried the line northwards according to Mr. Waddington's first proposals: it would have been a more direct trunk line through the southern half of the colony than going at right angles from Guildford to York and down south again. But there were engineering reasons which induced the committee to adopt the circuitous route, and there was another consideration,—the settlers in the districts about Gingin and Bindoon were greatly disappointed because the Eastern Railway was not carried out in that direction, and this line would give them those railway conveniences from which they had been debarred. In addition to that, the Commissioner of Railways pointed out to the committee the importance of not having more traffic than was absolutely necessary over the steep gradients of the Darling Range, and the committee therefore adopted the easier route. The House would no doubt come to the conclusion that after having already gone so carefully into the conditions of the contract for the Beverley-Albany line they could not do better than follow those conditions as regards this line. The committee, however, suggested a few modifications, as would be seen from the resolution which he was about to move. With regard to the first of these modifications, he did not think it was necessary for him to dwell upon it; and he thought the House would also see that the next modification was a reasonable one, namely, that the number of immigrants to be introduced

in any one year should be a matter for arrangement between the Government and the contractor. It was possible, if this contract were entered into within a short period, that we might have a large number of immigrants introduced into the colony under another contract, the Beverley-Albany contract, and if under this second contract there should be a large number, an indefinite number, also introduced almost simultaneously, we might be in a position of some difficulty, and therefore the committee considered it would be desirable that the number to be introduced under this contract should be a matter for special arrangement between the Government and the contractor. The third modification would also no doubt recommend itself to the House—that no money payments should be made in respect of the introduction of these immigrants, and that the payment should be in land. The only other modification suggested was that no lands shall be reserved from sale in respect of this railway until the contract is actually signed. This was recommended in view of the great inconveniences which arose in connection with the negotiations entered into with the promoters of another line; and, as we had no certain guaranty as yet that the work would be carried out, it seemed highly desirable we should not repeat the mistake in regard to this line. He now begged to move, That an humble address be presented to His Excellency, informing him that, with regard to Mr. Waddington's railway proposals, the House had agreed as follows:—

1. That the construction, on the land grant system, of a railway between the Central and Victoria Districts, is desirable.

2. That the general route to be followed should be from Guildford *via* Chittering, Bindoon, Victoria Plains, Carnamah, Arrino, Upper Irwin, and Dongarra, to a spot at or near Walkaway (Greenough Flats), the proposed southern terminus of the Government Northern line.

3. That the Government be empowered to negotiate with Mr. Waddington for the construction of this line of railway on the basis of the contract entered into with Mr. Anthony Horden; subject, however, to the following modifications:—

(a) That the land taken for the purposes of the railway, when passing through fee simple properties or townships, shall not be of greater width than one chain, except by special consent of the Commissioner of Railways.

(b) That the number of immigrants to be introduced in any one year shall be a

matter for special arrangement between the Government and the contractor.

(c) That no money payments shall be made in respect of the introduction of such immigrants; land payments, however, being allowed, as in the Beverley-Albany contract.

(d) That no lands shall be reserved from sale in view of the proposed railway construction until after the signing of the contract.

4. That as in the case of the Beverley-Albany proposals, the contractor for the Geraldton-Guildford Railway shall be required to commence and carry out the work simultaneously from either terminus.

5. That on the basis above laid down, the Government be empowered not only to negotiate, but to ratify and complete the contract for the construction of the railway, similar guarantees being entered into and the same amount deposited as security for the performance of the contract, as in the case of the Beverley-Albany Railway.

MR. VENN hoped the House would show by the amount of consideration which it was prepared to give to this important subject that it was alive to the beneficial results likely to accrue from Mr. Waddington's proposals. Whatever might be said to the contrary, there could be no doubt in his mind that of the two schemes for railway construction that had been before the House this session, this was the more important one. Personally, he thought the present line would run through a greater amount of good land and through country that had been populated for many years, and bring more exports for shipment, than any other line of railway that could be suggested in the colony. He took a very considerable interest in this work, as in every other work which to his mind was calculated to benefit the colony, —without reference to whether it was likely to more particularly benefit the North or more particularly benefit the South. He had no desire to pit the insignificance of the South against the importance of the North, nor to pit the insignificance of the North against the importance of the South. He preferred to look upon the colony as a whole,—as an integral part of the future federated dominion of Australia; and he regretted very much to find that during the present session an attempt had been made to insert the thin edge of the wedge of discord into our legislation. With regard to the proposals now before the House, he

might state that they did not emanate from the same syndicate in any way as the proposals for the Beverley-Albany line had emanated from. Mr. Hordern himself, he understood, had so much faith in the colony,—in its North as well as in its South—that he believed he was prepared to put some of his great wealth into this project as well as into that which had been put forward by himself, but the two syndicates for all practical purposes were as wide apart from each other as they possibly could be. Mr. Waddington, the promoter of this scheme, had put it forward at the instigation and with the promised support of a body of wealthy men, who he believed there could be no doubt had the means to carry the work through,—perhaps as soon if not sooner than the Beverley-Albany line. The recommendations of the committee did not to his mind differ very considerably from the proposals made by Mr. Waddington himself, other than he had left it an open question whether the line should start from York or from Guildford. Possibly it might be considered wiser in every way to start from Guildford, and he had very little doubt in his own mind that when the matter came to be fully represented to the syndicate they would be prepared to accept Guildford as one of the termini of the line. With regard to the northern terminus, of course the conclusion arrived at by the House with regard to the colony itself undertaking to construct a line southwards from Geraldton to Greenough, rather than that Mr. Waddington should have the northern terminus of his line at Geraldton, might have some influence upon the syndicate; but he was in hopes they would accept that modification also. The select committee recommend that no lands along this line should be reserved from sale, until the contract is signed. He was glad to think that the proposer of this scheme never asked for such a concession. There was one other point he should like to allude to: he referred to the rate at which compensation paid for land should be recouped to the contractor. The committee recommend that the contractor should recoup himself in land, as in the case of Mr. Hordern's scheme, but the report did not go on to say, as in Mr. Hordern's case, that the land selected in payment

for compensation should be valued at the rate of 10s. an acre. He hoped the committee understood that their recommendation carried that condition with it.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE said that was so. The condition applying to Mr. Hordern's scheme in that respect would also apply to Mr. Waddington's scheme.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. VENN moved that the paragraphs of the resolution be considered separately.

Agreed to.

Paragraph 1—agreed to, without comment.

Paragraph 2.—General route to be followed:

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought the route sketched out would lead to engineering difficulties, if the railway got into the Bindoon Ranges. The Bindoon Hill itself would be a very formidable obstacle indeed.

MR. SHENTON said a great deal of the country had not yet been surveyed at all for railway purposes, and they were quite in the dark. Great latitude in this respect would have to be left to the Railway Department, at the same time keeping in view that the main object of the line was to open up as much agricultural land as possible, and also avoiding as many engineering difficulties as possible.

THE HON. J. G. LEE STEERE moved, That the words "Chittering, Bindoon," be struck out, and the word "Gingin" inserted.

MR. LOTON said if the line went near Gingin it should strike the northern portion of Bindoon and the southern portion of Victoria Plains, where possibly the best agricultural land along the whole route would be found. He thought it was very important that the southern end of Victoria Plains should be tapped by this railway.

The amendment proposed by Mr. STEERE was then put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought it would also be advisable that the words "Carnamah" and "Arrino" be struck out.

Agreed to, without discussion, and the paragraph, as amended, put and passed.

Paragraph 3.—Government empowered to negotiate with Mr. Waddington:

MR. MARMION, referring to sub-section (b)—“That the number of immigrants to be introduced in any one year shall be a matter for special arrangement between the Government and the contractor”—said he thought the number of immigrants to be introduced by the contractor should be specified, as in Mr. Hordern's contract, leaving it, however, to the option of the Government to insist upon the specified number being introduced, or not. He thought it would look very bad indeed if it were to go forth that, with two railway lines of this magnitude in progress, the colony dreaded the prospect of having 10,000 immigrants introduced into it within the next ten years. He thought such an impression, if allowed to go abroad, would have a very damaging effect.

MR. VENN pointed out that, as regards Mr. Hordern's scheme, the introduction of immigrants was a special feature of that scheme, which was not the case with Mr. Waddington's scheme. Mr. Waddington's proposals were more in the shape of business proposals, to do a certain work for a certain consideration, entirely apart from the question of immigration; and, if it was now sought to compel the promoter to introduce a new feature and to depart very considerably from the terms of his original proposals, the question might arise whether the whole scheme might not be jeopardised. He did not know himself that Mr. Waddington would object to it; but it was a marked departure from the original scheme, and, that being the case, he should prefer to see the report remain as it stood.

MR. MARMION said, whatever had been Mr. Waddington's idea, the select committee regarded this part of the scheme from the same point of view as that of Mr. Hordern's, and the intention was that Mr. Waddington, like Mr. Hordern, should undertake to introduce a certain number of immigrants. The only modification agreed upon was, that, as regards Mr. Waddington's scheme, the number of immigrants to be introduced should not be specified, leaving it to be arranged between the contractor and the Government. But it appeared to him it would be better if they were to indicate

the number which in the opinion of the House ought to be introduced, at the same time leaving the details of the arrangements to the Government and the contractor.

The paragraph was then put and passed.

Paragraphs 4 and 5 were agreed to, *sub silentio*.

Resolution reported, and report adopted.

LOAN BILL (£525,000) FOR PUBLIC WORKS.

Read a third time and passed.

MESSAGE (No. 39): ACKNOWLEDGING ADDRESSES.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message:

“The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following Addresses of the Honorable the Legislative Council:—

“No. 43. Deviation of Roebourne Telegraph;

“No. 44. Beverley - Albany Railway Contract;

“No. 45. Engineer's Report upon Fremantle Harbor Works.

“2. The Governor agrees with the views of the Council as expressed in Addresses Nos. 43 and 45, and will act in accordance therewith.

“3. The Governor will be ready to execute the Beverley-Albany Railway Contract as soon as it is prepared.

“Government House, Perth, 13th September, 1884.”

MESSAGE (No. 40): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message:

“The Governor has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following Addresses from the Honorable the Legislative Council:—

“No. 46. Sir Julius Vogel's Submarine Telegraph scheme.

“No. 47. Mr. J. Waddington's Railway proposals.

“2. The Governor will take action in accordance with the recommendations contained in these Addresses.

“Government House, Perth, 13th September, 1884.”

MESSAGE (No. 41): ASSENTING TO
BILLS AND RESERVING BILLS.

THE SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message:

"The Governor informs the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills:—

- "16. *An Act to amend 'The Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act, 1882.'*
- "17. *An Act to vest certain lands belonging to the Albany Mechanics' Institute in new Trustees, to enable the Trustees of the said Institute to raise Money on Mortgage of the same.*
- "18. *An Act to amend 'An Ordinance to regulate the Police Benefit Fund.'*
- "19. *An Act to extend the provisions of 'The Joint Stock Companies Ordinance, 1858,' to Insurance Companies.*
- "20. *An Act for the Incorporation of certain Office Bearers of the Presbyterian Church in the Colony of Western Australia as Commissioners for the management of the real and personal Estate of the said Church, and for other purposes.*
- "21. *An Act to authorize the Construction of a Railway from Beverley to Albany, on the Land Grant System.*
- "22. *An Act to amend 'The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1861.'*
- "23. *An Act to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-one Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Elevenpence out of the General Revenue of the Colony for such Services as shall come in course of payment during the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.*

"2. The Governor has reserved the undermentioned Bills for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon:—

- "1. *An Act for raising the sum of Five Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Pounds by Loan for the Construction of certain Public Works.*

"2. *An Act to provide for the Registration of certain Persons who shall be imported into Western Australia or employed in any manner within the Territorial Dominion thereof, and for certain other matters in connection therewith.*

"3. The several Bills, sealed and noted as necessary, are enclosed herewith.

"Government House, Perth, 13th September, 1884."

PROROGATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR shortly afterwards entered the Council Chamber, and delivered the following Speech:

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"I have now to terminate a Session conspicuous for the numerous and important questions which have occupied your attention, and which have been dealt with by Your Honorable House in a manner calculated, as I earnestly hope and believe, to advance in no small degree the interests and welfare of Western Australia.

"I have already congratulated you upon the final settlement of the terms of the contract for a Railway on the land grant system from Beverley to Albany, 220 miles in length. The execution of this work, and the completion by the Government of the connecting link of twenty miles, will establish an unbroken line of 330 miles of railway communication between Fremantle and Albany, *via* Perth and York, and cannot fail to bring the Colony a rich, if indirect, return for its expenditure of capital and land.

"The Bill to raise a further Public Works Loan of £525,000 will, if assented to by Her Majesty, provide the Government with ample funds for the execution, during the next three or four years, of many necessary undertakings. In framing the allotment of the Loan contained in the Schedule to the Bill, you have had a difficult task. You have considered the matter carefully, and have endeavored to do justice to all

"interests and districts, as far as the amount of the Loan allowed.

"In dealing with the current expenditure of this and next year, you have liberally met the claims of many civil servants to an increase of salary.

"I have addressed the Secretary of State respecting the new appointments necessary to carry out the re-organisation of the Public Works and Railways Departments, as approved by Your Honorable Council.

"The legislation of the Session has been adequate. The Imported Labor Bill is a valuable measure. I have felt obliged to reserve this Bill, because it has been passed with some variation from the draft approved by Her Majesty's Government. But I shall recommend that it be allowed; and I consider that, as it now stands, it fairly meets the circumstances of the case, and is an improvement on the present law. Among the other measures which have been enacted, the Bills relating to Land Quarantine, to the Inscription of Loans, to Bills of Exchange, to Designs and Trademarks, to Bank Holidays, to Buildings in towns, to Newspaper Libel, and to the Sale of Wine, Beer, and Spirits, are laws of importance.

"The variety and extent of your recent labors would be apparent from a mere enumeration of the subjects you have considered. You have advised me upon Imperial action in the Pacific and a Federal Council for Australasia, upon the renewal of our present intercolonial and local subsidies to Mail Steamers, upon the Submarine Telegraph and the Eucla Railway schemes, upon restrictions on the importation of stock, upon various proposals of magnitude made by the promoters of land grant enterprises of different kinds, upon the regulation of our Pearl Shell Fishery grounds, and upon not a few other important questions.

"In accordance with your Address on the subject, I shall shortly appoint a Commission to consider the terms on which the Imperial Convict Establishment may prudently be taken over by the Colonial Government.

"In consequence of the appearance of small-pox in some of the Eastern Colonies, special precautions have been taken for securing the public health. I trust

"they may prove successful. The recent outbreak of scarlatina in Perth appears to have yielded to the stringent measures which were adopted.

"The discovery, by the Government Geologist, of good specimens of gold over a considerable tract of country in the Kimberley District, and the report by that officer of the likelihood of a payable gold field, is an event which may prove of high importance to the Colony. Public attention will doubtless be attracted to the gold-bearing probabilities of this little-known region, which offers every inducement to the prospector.

"In the course of the Session, I have replied to many Addresses which you have presented to me. In nearly every instance, I have been able to accede to your requests. Should the finances warrant, I shall be ready to place on the Supplementary Estimates of 1885 those sums which I have not been able to include in the expenditure at present proposed for next year.

"I look forward with pleasure to the visit I am about to pay to the Northern portion of the Colony.

"The legal period of the existence of this Council being near its termination, I have considered carefully what course it will be best to adopt, and I have come to the conclusion that the elections should be held as soon as possible, in order that a Legislature, recredited after public discussion of the many important subjects which have lately been occupying, or which still occupy, the attention of the people and Government of the Colony, may at any time be summoned in case it should be necessary. A dissolution will therefore take place without delay. I find that on two previous occasions a general election has occurred in the months of September and October.

"If the question of Responsible Government should be discussed during the elections, I trust that it may be approached with very careful consideration of the circumstances of the day, and of the despatches from Her Majesty's Government presented to you during this and last Session. If it should appear that the Colony has before it a period of activity and progress under the present Constitution,

"and that political changes might disturb the elements of immediate success, the constituencies may, perhaps, arrive at a conclusion not very different from that expressed in my recent printed despatch, namely, that the transition to a new form of Government had better, under existing circumstances, be deferred for a time, and that it would be inexpedient, just now, to open important political and financial questions, which must solve themselves naturally in a few years, but which are at present full of difficulty.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,

"I thank you for the supplies which you have so liberally voted for the public service, and which it shall be my

"endeavor to administer with due economy.

"You have provided for very large disbursements, and the revenue will require to be watched, in order that, should there be any falling off, the expenditure may be held in hand. Considering the progress of the Colony, our anticipations are not, however, unreasonable, and I have every hope they will be realised.

"I now prorogue this Council to Wednesday, the fifteenth day of October next."

HIS EXCELLENCY having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, retired from the Council Chamber, and the Session closed.

Addendum.

By Proclamation issued in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary*, on the 15th September, the Legislative Council was dissolved from and after that date.