

himself open to censure for a breach of the provisions of this clause. Joking apart, he trusted that those hon. members who would have seats in the House next Session would not be called upon to vote any larger amount in excess of the grant for the year.

MR. S. H. PARKER hoped they would not have any excess at all, and that there would be no necessity to introduce an over-expenditure Bill. By a resolution of that House the Government were at any rate requested not to spend more than £3,000 over and above the parliamentary grant made for the year; nor, indeed, did it necessarily follow that because that House voted the money all of it must necessarily be expended. He thought the Government should at all events restrict themselves within the amount of the votes of the House, and if any excess did occur it should be in connection with some extraordinary and unforeseen service.

MR. CAREY: We had the assurance of the leader of the Government last Session that there should be no over-expenditure Bills in future; yet this year we have had the largest Excess Bill on record. I do trust that next year the House will not be called upon to pass a Bill of that character.

Clause 2 was then agreed to, and the Bill reported.

The Standing Orders being suspended, the Bill was then read a third time and passed.

CONCESSIONS TO CULTIVATORS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTIONS IN NORTH TERRITORY.

The Order of the Day for the further consideration of this question being read,

MR. BROWN moved, That the Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Agreed to.

IN COMMITTEE.

MR. HARPER formally moved the following amended resolution:—"That it is desirable that encouragement should be given which may hasten settlement in the Northern portion of this territory, and that liberal terms should be offered. This Council there-

fore resolves that it is desirable that the terms for the occupation of the lands by the first pioneer agricultural settlers on our North-West Coast should be on the following basis:—That Crown Grants of sufficient area for plantations be offered at the expiration of a certain number of years, on condition of a certain amount of cultivation, and that a bonus be offered to the first producer of any considerable amount of merchantable produce from such lands."

MR. BROWN—who had moved to report Progress when the resolution was submitted the other day—said it was couched in such general terms,—it did not refer to any particular kind of settlement, nor any specific terms of occupation,—that he saw nothing in it to quarrel with. The resolution merely affirmed the desirability of encouraging settlement, and suggested to the Government the basis upon which the terms of occupation should be made to the pioneer settlers. He said pioneer settlers, for he wished it to be distinctly understood that, so far as he was concerned, he merely wished that the advantages here proposed should be confined to those settlers, and should not continue in force any great number of years.

The resolution was then adopted.

The House at its rising adjourned until half-past two o'clock next day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 8th October, 1879.

Personal Explanation—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

MR. S. H. PARKER rose to make a personal explanation. He said: The other

evening, in the presence of a crowded House, I was led, in the heat of debate, to make some hasty remarks relating to my hon. friend on the right, the member for Geraldton. Like other hon. members, being human, I am not superior to human infirmities, and on the occasion in question I made use of a statement in haste which I have since repented at leisure. I stated that the hon. member for Geraldton was neither able to lead or to drive the elected members of this House. I now feel bound to say that when the hon. gentleman referred to consented to accept the position which he holds in this House, in his relation to the elected members, he did so on the distinct understanding that he should not be expected either to lead or to drive us—that in fact he was not to be regarded in any sense as the leader of a party, but merely as what I may call our executive officer. In justice to the hon. member I feel bound to say that, from first to last, he has acted in strict accordance with this principle: he has never attempted to lead us or to drive us, or to press his views upon us, but has always behaved towards us with the utmost courtesy. To myself he has always been a “guide, philosopher, and friend,” and I very much regret having given utterance to the remarks which, in the heat and excitement of debate, I did, the other evening. It affords me much pleasure to retract what I said on the occasion referred to, and I do so in all sincerity and without the slightest reservation. I trust that when this House meets again, we shall find the hon. member for Geraldton occupying a seat in it, and not only occupying a seat, but that he will be prepared to lead a party indeed and in fact, a party prepared to advocate a change from the present form of Government to one of ministerial responsibility—a form of Government under which the hon. member is peculiarly fitted to shine.

PROROGATION.

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

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

“The Session which I am about to close is, I believe, the longest on record in the history of the Colony,—nearly two months having been continuously devoted by you to your legislative duties—and this has not arisen from there being any special matter of magnitude or importance demanding your attention, but chiefly from your having deemed it necessary that there should be a careful investigation by a Committee of Your Honorable Body, unconnected with the Government, into the circumstances which led to so large an excess of expenditure during the previous year. Such an investigation was in my opinion a most useful measure, and the Select Committee by which it was undertaken merit the acknowledgments of the House and the Government for the thorough way in which they carried out their laborious duty. The result was of course foreseen by the Government, but it is no doubt satisfactory to the public to learn how completely Your Honorable Body exonerate the Government from any extravagance in the management of the finances you entrust to its charge.

“During the Session twenty-eight Acts have passed the Council. To twenty-seven of them I have been able to assent in the Queen’s name, and one, the Marriage Act, it is also my intention to assent to in a few days, being desirous to afford the public the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the alteration it effects in the notice required to be given before the celebration of marriage, and thus obviate the chance of any breach of the law through ignorance of its provisions.

“So much has been said respecting the inconvenience likely to arise from the delay of seven days which this Act necessitates before a marriage can take place, that it is right to point out that all civilised communities require some such delay, as an important check to illegal and objectionable marriages, and insist upon its observance. The objection which has been raised to its introduction here is based upon the supposition that persons will be compelled to lodge personally with the Registrar notice of their intention to

"be married, and that application for a certificate of such notice having been entered will also have to be made personally, thus entailing two journeys, which to a person residing up the country might be a serious inconvenience, if not obstacle, to the marriage. I am happy to be able to state that this impression of the requirements of the Act is altogether a mistaken one. Notice of the intention to marry can be given, and the necessary certificate received, without any personal application.

"Amongst the other Acts passed are a valuable and comprehensive measure for dealing with that serious danger in a country like this—Scab in Sheep. Important additions have also been made to our Railway Laws. The sale of Poisons has been surrounded with some safeguards; and improvements introduced into the law which affects Absconding Debtors and those who favour their evasion. A number of small but important amendments in the administration of the law regarding real and personal estate have been introduced and passed. For some of these measures the Colony is indebted to a private member of Your Honorable House, and the Government gladly acknowledges the services which have thus been rendered.

"Thirty-three Addresses have been presented to the Governor by Your Honorable Body, and to thirty-one of them I have had the honor to respond in the affirmative. Resolution No. 32 expresses an opinion that it is inadvisable that the Governor should, in dealing with Crown Lands, enter into arrangements pledging the Colony to the remission of any duties hereafter to be imposed, without the concurrence of the Legislature. I have no hesitation in recognising the justice of the principle here laid down, but it is right that I should point out that an arrangement of this nature was entered into by the Government in 1870 with the Western Australian Timber Company, and, so far as I am aware, no exception has ever been taken to its action. It has not therefore been led to suppose that the Legislature entertained any objection to the adoption of the course in question, and it has

"followed it in a recent case when circumstances seemed to justify the concession. Resolution No. 33 prays that Guano for use in the Colony may be admitted without the payment of royalty or duty. It is certainly very desirable that assistance should be given to our Agricultural interest, but I fear that an alteration in the law will be necessary to give it effect; as, however, there is no immediate prospect of any Guano being available for the purpose, the delay which will interpose is of less consequence. The views expressed in Your Address No. 34, respecting the occupation of land in the North-West Coast, have my entire concurrence.

"The votes you have appropriated for Immigration, Steam Communication, and the proper representation of our industries at the forthcoming Exhibition at Melbourne, clearly evidence the recognition by Your Honorable House that in measures of this nature, having so material an influence on the prosperity of the Colony, too strict an economy would be false economy. Indeed, I think you will agree with me that the interests of the country demand that every opportunity should be taken advantage of to develop, and make as extensively known as possible, the great resources which it undoubtedly possesses.

"The transfer of a further portion of the Inland Mail Service to the Police is a step which I believe will be found to conduce largely to the public convenience at little, if any, additional cost.

"The short account that we have received of Mr. A. Forrest's Expedition shows that that Officer has successfully carried out the important duty with which he was entrusted.

"The ability and perseverance displayed, under trying circumstances and great hardships, have met the reward they deserved, and Mr. A. Forrest has the satisfaction of announcing the discovery of large tracts of well-watered land suitable for pastoral and agricultural purposes.

"Although full details are yet wanting, enough is known to justify the Government in expressing, in its own name and on behalf of the Colony, its

"gratification at the manner in which
"Mr. Forrest and the officers and men
"of his party have executed the duty
"with which they were charged, and to
"offer to them its cordial thanks.

"Mr. A. Forrest has added one more
"to the many important Explorations
"with which Western Australia is al-
"ready credited, and has well maintained
"the distinguished position which the
"name he bears holds amongst Austra-
"lian Explorers.

"In my Speech to Your Honorable
"Body at the close of the last Session,
"I felt it my duty to allude to the
"decision at which Your Honorable
"House had arrived in respect to the
"proposed change in the constitution
"which had been recently brought
"under your consideration, and to ex-
"press my sincere belief that in refusing
"to listen to the proposal, you had
"adopted the only course consistent
"with the best and truest interests of
"the Colony.

"On receipt of my Despatch, covering
"copies of this Speech, the Secretary of
"State addressed a reply, approving of
"the reference I had made to the subject,
"and expressing his concurrence in its
"views; and I have recently received a
"further communication from the Secre-
"tary of State, reiterating the grave
"reasons, which he is satisfied exist,
"against the adoption of the proposed
"change.

"These Despatches are as follow :—

"WESTERN AUSTRALIA, }
No. 62.

"Downing Street, 8th October, 1878.

"SIR,

"I have the honor to acknowledge the
"receipt of your Despatch, No. 77, of the
"1st August, transmitting printed copies
"of the Speech with which you closed the
"Legislative Council on the 24th July
"last. I fully approve of the reference
"which you made on that occasion to the
"subject of Responsible Government, and
"I trust that the ability shown by the
"present Council in considering the re-
"quirements of the Colony and the liberal
"provision (to which Her Majesty's Go-
"vernment has cheerfully consented)
"made for important public works, will go
"very far to satisfy the community that
"there is no justification at present for a

"constitutional change which could not
"fail to endanger the financial position of
"the Country.

"I have, &c.,

"M. E. HICKS BEACH.

"Governor Sir H. St. George Ord,
"K.C.M.G., C.B., &c., &c., &c.

"WESTERN AUSTRALIA, }
No. 74.

"Downing Street, 3rd July, 1879.

"SIR,

* * * "But even if Responsible
"Government were more strongly and
"generally desired than has yet been the
"case, I am satisfied that grave reasons
"would exist, in the present condition of
"the Colony, against the adoption of any
"steps with a view to the immediate, or
"even the early introduction of a system
"for which Western Australia appears to
"be as yet very far from ripe. Its
"population is, both in regard of num-
"bers, and including very few persons of
"capacity, experience, and leisure, un-
"suited for the successful conduct of
"Responsible Government; and moreover,
"even if the circumstances of Western
"Australia were different in this respect,
"strong arguments might be adduced
"against handing over to the small num-
"ber of persons who now reside in the
"Colony all the vast territory now com-
"prised within its limits. The financial
"condition of the Colony is equally an
"impediment to the change, which would
"entail large additional expenses on its
"already over burdened revenues. * * *

"I have, &c.,

"M. E. HICKS BEACH.

"Governor Sir H. St. George Ord,
"K.C.M.G., C.B., &c., &c., &c.

"Although the question has not been
"raised in the Legislative Council this
"Session, it is apparent that it continues
"to engage the attention of a portion
"of the community; and I deem it right
"to avail myself of this opportunity of
"assuring you, and through you the
"people at large, by the publication of
"these despatches, how entirely Her
"Majesty's Government is in accord
"with Your Honorable Body, respecting
"the introduction of Responsible Go-
"vernment in the existing circumstances
"of the Colony.

"As this is the last occasion on
"which I shall have the honor of meet-

"ing Your Honorable Body in your
 "present capacity, it is right that I
 "should gratefully recognise the assist-
 "ance and support I have always re-
 "ceived from Your Honorable House
 "in my Administration of the Govern-
 "ment of the Colony. The readiness
 "you have ever evinced to consider
 "any measure conducive to its interest,
 "which I have thought it my duty to
 "submit to you, merits my sincere
 "acknowledgment, and I shall always
 "look back with pleasure and satisfac-
 "tion upon the relations which have
 "existed between us since my arrival
 "here.

"In bidding you farewell, I am glad
 "to be able to congratulate you on the
 "prospect held out of a favorable and
 "prosperous season; and I earnestly
 "trust that it may please God to realise
 "these anticipations, to the great benefit
 "of the Colony and all classes of its
 "inhabitants.

"I now declare this Council prorogued
 "until Thursday, the 23rd day of Octo-
 "ber, 1879."

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

Addendum.

[Omitted in Proceedings of 8th Sept., p. 155.]

FREE SALE OF COLONIAL WINE.

MR. CAREY, in accordance with notice,
 asked the Colonial Secretary, If it is the
 intention of the Government, during this
 Session, to introduce a Bill making pro-
 vision for the free sale of Colonial
 Wine.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon.
 R. T. Goldsworthy): It is not.

MR. CAREY thereupon moved, That
 an humble address be presented to His
 Excellency the Governor, praying that
 he will be pleased to introduce a Bill
 making provision for the free sale of
 Colonial Wine.

MR. S. H. PARKER moved, That the
 debate on this question be postponed
 until Tuesday, the 9th September.

Agreed to. [*Vide* p. 156.]