

Perth would bring a very handsome revenue indeed—about £6,000 a year—to the Municipal Council. But apart from the absence of local taxation, I maintain that, comparatively speaking, the general taxation for the purposes of Government is certainly nothing like so great here as it is in the other Australian Colonies, while our indebtedness per head of the population is very small indeed compared with that of our neighbours. I was rather surprised to find that amongst all the subjects touched upon in His Excellency's Speech no reference was made to the present satisfactory condition of most of the staple industries of the Colony. We have passed through an exceptionally prosperous season, and very satisfactory prices have been realised for most of our products. Sandalwood has been exported largely, and at very remunerative prices; our wool has realised a much higher price than it did last year, which must beneficially affect our sheep-farmers and agriculturists. Our timber trade is being largely developed; and pearl-shells, which have been sent home in large quantities, have realised good prices. Altogether, I think the future promises well. Our prospects are certainly brighter in this respect than they have been for some years past, and I think we may be thankful that such is the case, and that, although we may feel some little embarrassment in consequence of our financial difficulties, I think we have every reason to look forward with confidence and some degree of hopefulness to the future.

No other member rising, the question—That an address in reply to His Excellency's Speech be presented—was put and carried.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved that the following members be chosen as a special Committee to consider and report upon the Address: Messrs. Venn, Randell, S. H. Parker, Steere, Brown, Marmion, and the mover.

Agreed to.

The Committee, having retired for a few minutes, returned and reported that they had agreed to the Address without amendment.

The Report of the Committee was then adopted, and it was ordered that the

Address should be presented to His Excellency next day.

The House adjourned at a quarter past eight o'clock.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 22nd July, 1880.

Transfer of Imperial Convict Establishment to the Colony—Audit Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

TRANSFER OF IMPERIAL CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT TO THE COLONY.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an Humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to direct to be laid upon the Table of the Council a copy of all correspondence which has taken place during the years 1875-76-77-78-79 and 80, between the Imperial Government and the Government of this Colony, with reference to the transfer to the Colony of the control and management of the Imperial Convict Establishment at Fremantle." The hon. member said the question referred to was one that very materially concerned the interest of the Colony, and he could not conceive that His Excellency would have any hesitation in furnishing the correspondence asked for. He might say that, when in England recently, in the course of an interview with the Secretary of State, he mentioned the subject to that functionary, and he perfectly agreed with him that the Council should be informed of the correspondence that had taken place between the two Governments on the subject, and, in fact,

expressed his surprise that the House had not been consulted in the matter.

The motion was agreed to.

AUDIT BILL.

MR. STEERE obtained leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the receipt, custody, and issue of the public moneys, and to provide for the audit of the public accounts.

The Bill was read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At half-past twelve o'clock, the House adjourned, and Mr. Speaker and the other members present proceeded to Government House to present the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, as ordered the previous day.

On their return,

MR. SPEAKER announced to the Council that the Address to His Excellency the Governor had been presented in accordance with the Resolution of the House, and that His Excellency had been pleased to reply, as follows:—

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

"I thank you for your Address in reply to my opening speech, and for your congratulations on my return to Western Australia.

"I thank you also for the promise of your co-operation in all matters tending to the advancement of the Colony, and have no doubt that the attentive consideration which I am sure you will bestow on the questions which come before you will result in liberal and beneficial legislation."

The Council adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 23rd July, 1880.

Amendment of Standing Orders as to the sitting days of the Council—Excess Bill: first reading—Real Property Limitation Bill: first reading—Shipwrecked Colonial Seamen Bill: second reading: in committee—Destructive Insects and Substances Bill: second reading: in committee—Census Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

MR. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved, that the second Standing Order be amended, with a view to make Thursday the only morning sitting in the week, instead of having two morning sittings. He believed it was the wish of the House—at any rate of hon. members on his side of the House—that the sittings should be in the evening, which was much more convenient to those engaged in business than morning sittings. He understood it was the intention of the Colonial Secretary to substitute Wednesday instead of Thursday for the day of sitting; and if hon. members were agreeable, he (Mr. Steere) had no objection to offer to Wednesday being substituted.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) thought Wednesday would be a more convenient day than Thursday to have a morning sitting, and for that reason he would move, as an amendment, that the Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

MR. S. H. PARKER pointed out that Wednesday would be a very awkward day for the legal gentlemen who were members of the House, as the Supreme Court usually sat on that day.

The amendment, by leave, withdrawn, and the original question put and passed.

EXCESS BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year 1879, beyond the grant for that year.

Bill read a first time.