

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th July, 1903.

	Page
Opening of Session	11
Message: The Governor's Speech	11
Election Returns: Swearing-in	11
Papers Presented	11
Federal Senate: A Vacancy	11
Notices	11
Railway Traffic Bill: first reading	11
Address-in-Reply	11
Adjournment	18

OPENING OF SESSION.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 o'clock, p.m., pursuant to Proclamation, read by the Clerk.

MESSAGE—THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

In obedience to summons, the Speaker and hon. members proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber: and having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech [*vide* Council report, *ante*], they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

ELECTION RETURNS—SWEARING-IN.

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Sir James G. Lee Steere, K.C.M.G.) reported the following election returns having been received in response to writs for new elections issued by him since Parliament last met, namely: Boulder electoral district, John Marquis Hopkins, re-elected on acceptance of office as Minister for Lands; Pilbarra, Mr. James Isdell, in room of Hon. W. Kingsmill (resigned); York, Mr. Richard Goldsmith Burges, in room of Mr. F. C. Monger (resigned). These members, being duly sworn, took the oath and their seats.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By MR. SPEAKER: Report of Auditor General on the Public Accounts for the year 1902.

By the PREMIER: Annual Reports, Woods and Forests Department, Education Department; Superintendent of Labour Bureau, Department of Land Titles, Superintendent of Public Charities and Industrial Schools; also Progress Reports (five) of Royal Commission on the Public Service; also Rules

and Regulations of Perth Public Hospital; By-laws of Municipalities of Victoria Park, Boulder, Perth, Leonora, Collie, Busselton, Coolgardie, Mount Magnet.

By the MINISTER FOR MINES: Amended Regulations for Mining on Private Property; Regulations for Purchase of Auriferous Copper Ores (Act, 1902); Annual Report of Mines Department.

By the MINISTER FOR WORKS: By-laws (Width of Tires Act) of Darling Range and Victoria Plains Roads Boards; also Phillips River Roads Board Classification of Rates.

Ordered to lie on the table.

FEDERAL SENATE, A VACANCY.

The PREMIER presented a Message (transmitted through the Governor) from the President of the Federal Senate, intimating that Senator Ewing's seat had become vacant by resignation.

Ordered, that the message be considered at the next sitting.

The PREMIER gave notice to move, at the next sitting, that Standing Orders (printed and circulated), for regulating the election of a Senator by the State Parliament, be adopted.

NOTICES.

Numerous notices were given by Ministers and other members, relating to sittings of the House, Committees, Bills, and motions.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC BILL.

The PREMIER (Hon. Walter James, K.C., Attorney General), by leave, introduced a Bill for the better regulation of traffic on railways, and other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

MR. SPEAKER reported that, accompanied by hon. members, he had attended in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech on opening the Session; and having obtained a copy of the Speech, he read it to the House.

MR. J. C. G. FOULKES (Claremont): Mr. Speaker, having heard his Excel-

lency's Speech, I beg to move the adoption of the following Address-in-reply :—

To His Excellency Admiral Sir Frederick George Denham Bedford, etc.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Since we last met, a new Governor has been appointed for this State, Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford. He comes here as the representative of His Majesty the King, and as the representative of the mother country, and I feel sure the members of this House and the people of the State gladly welcome him. I have also to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your partial restoration to health (applause) : and I assure you that all members of the House are exceedingly glad to have you presiding over them once more, and that it is the sincere wish of every member that you may preside over us for many sessions to come. There is a paragraph in the Speech which refers to the desirability of having closer trade relations between the various parts of the Empire, and to the movement which has been originated in the mother country with that object. That movement, we are told, has been welcomed in this State with feelings of warm sympathy and sincere hopes for its ultimate success. I hope every member in this House strongly approves of that paragraph. There can be no doubt it is a great problem for the statesmen of the British Empire ; a problem which will tax the ability and intellect of the statesmen in the various colonies, and also of those in the mother country. I have no doubt that the proposal will be opposed ; indeed, it is already being opposed in the mother country to a considerable extent ; still, I hope that the warm feelings which exist in the different colonies towards the mother country—I know the mother country strongly reciprocates those feelings—and the warm feelings of loyalty and affection existing between the different States of the Empire, will be able to overcome any difficulties with regard to trade. Another important question referred to is that of the Transcontinental Railway. To my mind, the Speech refers in a very sanguine

manner to the probability of the construction of that railway ; but one cannot help seeing that South Australia is practically the stumbling-block in the way of the construction of that railway. We in this State cannot forget that two years and a half ago, when the referendum was taken on the question of Federation, the Premier of this State, Sir John Forrest, communicated with the Premier of South Australia, Sir Frederick Holder, asking him whether the Government of South Australia would agree to the construction of a railway in South Australia to the South Australian boundary, if we constructed a railway to our boundary, and the reply was that the South Australian Government would give consent to a measure for that purpose. To-day the Government here say, " we may with confidence rely for a solution of this temporary difficulty upon those ties of friendship and commerce which have always been so close between the two States." I have no such feeling of confidence in the friendship, judging from the manner in which the South Australian Government has treated us. We can never forget that a distinct pledge was given by the Government of South Australia to deal with the question of the construction of that railway. Relying greatly on that promise, a very large number of the people of this State agreed to federate with the other States. I feel certain that, if we had known there would be such a gross repudiation of the obligation which the South Australian Government entered into, if we had ever dreamt that the word of the Premier of South Australia was not to be relied upon, the majority of the people of Western Australia would never have agreed to federate with the other States. There is a paragraph in this Speech which also throws a great light upon the unfortunate and unhappy position in which we are placed. That paragraph is to the effect that members of this Government will, on all occasions, gladly welcome members of the Federal Parliament to this State, if they desire to gain, by personal experience, a better knowledge of the resources and possibilities of Western Australia. I feel absolutely certain that there is not a paragraph of that kind in any of the Governor's Speeches delivered

in any of the other States. The reason of it is that members of the Federal Parliament have every means of access to the other States, because they have railways uniting the seat of Government and the respective States. But here we are placed in this unhappy position that, owing to the want of railway communication, members of the Federal Parliament are hopelessly ignorant of the possibilities of this State and the circumstances under which we live. I think nothing throws a greater light upon our position than the fact that the Ministers of the State are obliged to say they are glad to welcome members of the Federal Parliament, if they come over here. It shows how rare is their appearance here that during the last two years and a half only two Ministers of the Federal Parliament have come to Western Australia, one of them being our own representative. Out of the large number of Ministers in that Federal Parliament, only one, excluding our own representative, has visited this State. There is another matter which to my mind is of importance to all classes of this community, and that is the cost of living here. In my opinion, there is only one remedy for that state of affairs, and that is to deal with the land settlement of this State. We can never expect to have cheap living in Western Australia until more of our agricultural lands are properly settled. There are millions of acres in the South-Western district and along the Great Southern line that are available and most suitable for agricultural settlement, and I welcome, therefore, with very great pleasure the announcement that the Government propose to construct a line from Collie to some point on the Great Southern Railway. I feel sure it is impossible to get farmers and settlers to take up land in the far-off country districts unless satisfactory provision is made to enable them to bring their produce to market. There is also another matter which I hope the Government will take up. I hope they will be able to provide a satisfactory motor service in some of these agricultural districts. I know that in Ireland during the last two and a half years a large amount of money has been spent, by private persons as well as by the Government, in the purchase of motor cars designed to enable the Irish farmer to bring his produce to

market. This means of transport is not one involving great expense, relatively, and I see no reason why it should not be adopted by the Government of this State.

HON. F. H. PRESSE: But the roads are good in Ireland.

MR. DIAMOND: The motor services have all broken down.

MR. FOULKES: I suggest to the Government that one district in which a motor service might be instituted is beyond Grass Valley and the Goomalling district. An important subject touched on is that of metropolitan water supply. The latest census returns give Perth and its suburbs, with the metropolitan area, a total population of 73,000 approximately. Of these people, the great majority are without an adequate supply of water, which is but sparsely doled out to them by the Waterworks Board, in a number of cases: this scarcity applies especially to suburban residents, who must have recourse to the more or less haphazard supply afforded by wells and windmills. This latter source of supply represents a heavy tax, for the sinking of a well and the erection of a windmill mean, on an average, an outlay of fifty pounds. Such a charge, in my opinion, bears too heavily on metropolitan residents beyond the boundaries of Perth; therefore I am glad to learn that the Government purpose taking steps which will effectively overcome existing difficulties and deficiencies. I need hardly remind hon. members—doubtless the reflection has already presented itself to them—that we shall shortly have a general election. We sit, so to speak, in the shadow of an early dissolution.

MEMBER: Yes; in the shadow of death, some of them.

MR. FOULKES: I am glad to think that some hon. members rather welcome the prospect of a general election. Certainly, they do well to put the best face on an awkward situation; for in some cases the situation is awkward. However, I assure such hon. members that the best of goodwill is felt towards them, and that one hopes all will be for the best. The fact must not be lost sight of that before this Parliament comes to an end some vitally important measures will have to be dealt with. One is a Bill to amend the Constitution, another will revise the electoral laws, and a third is designed to

regulate shops and factories. One cannot forget, in this connection, that during last session the House devoted many hours to the consideration and discussion of three such measures; and it is almost heartbreaking that in another place they should have been rejected without even the shadow of a semblance of consideration.

MR. TAYLOR: You knew beforehand that would happen.

MR. FOULKES: Our duty is to insist that these three measures shall become law, and unless they receive a fairly unanimous support here there is but little hope of their being passed by another place. A failure to pass the measures in question will not redound to the credit of this Parliament.

MR. F. CONNOR: You are not too unanimous on the Government side of the House.

MR. FOULKES: Other important measures to be considered relate to secular education and to hospital administration. One paragraph of the Speech touches on the interim reports presented by the Royal Commission on the Public Service, and promises that "His Excellency's advisers will as far as practicable give effect to such of the Commission's recommendations as are applicable to the real circumstances and needs of the State." It is hardly necessary for me to explain to hon. members the inner meaning of that paragraph.

MEMBER: What does it mean?

MR. DAGLISH: It means that the Commission's reports are not much good.

MR. FOULKES: One matter to which I must call attention is the illiberal, almost shabby, manner in which various Ministries have treated the religious denominations as regards grants of land for churches. Neither this Ministry nor the two or three preceding Ministries have shown themselves sufficiently generous in that respect. The practice here has been, in proclaiming a townsite of several hundred acres, to grant a quarter of an acre to various churches. That, to my mind, is not sufficient. Liberality towards the churches is the best policy, and liberal grants of land to them represent a splendid investment, to put the matter from merely the material aspect—I do not deem it necessary to refer to the other aspect. Unquestionably many de-

nominations are hampered by reason of the smallness of the grants made to them on the declaration of various townsites. I feel bound to congratulate the Ministry on their conduct of affairs during the recess. Members of the Government have not spared themselves in the performance of their duties. I congratulate the Premier on the example of tact and good tone which he has set in his leadership of the House. One cannot but remember that a short time back this Assembly was becoming somewhat notorious for the exhibition of disagreements, and even for "scenes." Now, however, the utmost good-feeling prevails between all sections of the Chamber. Such a spirit conduces to good government. Undoubtedly this State, in which all of us are interested, has splendid prospects; and all that is needed for the realisation of those prospects is good administration, towards the attainment of which every member of the House should lend his assistance. I beg to move the motion which I have brought forward. (General applause.)

MR. R. G. BURGESS (York): Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure I rise for the first time in this House to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply; for I am satisfied that the present Government are doing their utmost for the advancement of every portion of the State. As regards the first paragraph of His Excellency's Speech, I may say that Western Australia has reason to congratulate itself on the appointment of Sir Frederick Bedford as Governor; for he is a man with knowledge of naval matters, and is not afraid to let the Federal Government know that we here require some protection. Recent telegrams leave no room for doubt that Fremantle is to receive rather more attention from the Federal Defence Department in the future than has been paid to it in the past. There is another important subject, but I do not know that it has much to do with us yet in this or the other States—I refer to the question of assisting the great promoter of the movement for securing closer trade relations between the various parts of the Empire—initiated by one of the leading men in the world, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who has caused such great destruction amongst

the Ministry of which he is a member, and such a widespread feeling of unrest as regards the present British Government. I do not know that I can say much concerning this, because I think it goes beyond me; but doubtless the time is coming when it will have to be dealt with, if the country is to be as strong as it should be, and if the mother land and the colonies are to be as closely connected as they ought to be after the great help afforded by the colonies during the war in South Africa. The next paragraph is one with which I cannot altogether agree.

MR. TAYLOR: Come over here (Opposition cross-bench).

MR. BURGESS: I am not going over. The party we have here can do good work.

THE PREMIER: He is not an office-seeker.

MR. BURGESS: With reference to this subject, the Speech says: "There can be no room to doubt that we shall, at no distant date, witness the construction of a work which is of vital importance." Well, no doubt it will be of importance when we have a larger population in this State; but my humble opinion is that when we have built all the railways necessary in our own State and have a larger population, it will be of importance to this State to have railway communication with the other States; but until that is accomplished I for one will not be a supporter of this line. No doubt this will come, like everything else, faster than many of us expect; but we want other important works in our own State before expending so large a sum for the construction of a 4ft. 8in. railway from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie. I am afraid that we shall have to wait a considerable time before the Federal Parliament will construct their part of the transcontinental line. I do not think there is much necessity to trouble about this matter at present. Another important subject is that of the opening of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. I am glad the scheme has at last been opened. I do not know that it is doing very much yet, but we hope it will. From what has occurred in the last few days in reference to the goldfields, I consider they are unworthy people. When the country has spent this enormous amount of money, people there object to pay the rate charged

for the water. [MR. THOMAS: How much do they get?] It is nearly time for the people of the State to say they can find some other way of turning this water to account, which no doubt can be done, if the people on the goldfields do not want it. We shall have to look for other means of disposing of it, if the people for whom it was intended do not require it. With regard to the Royal Commission on the Public Service, I do not think it has done a great deal of good, nor am I of opinion that the members of the commission have altogether been acquainted with the surrounding circumstances of the country. Doubtless they have saved money in many ways, but the little alterations they make are not worth the cost of the commission. It is satisfactory to know "the progress made during the year has been steady and continuous. The mining industry is yielding an increased output, and agricultural development is proceeding at a rate unprecedented in our history." Population also has increased. With reference to that, one of the most necessary steps to take—although it is not mentioned in the Speech—is to get all the land we can into the hands of the Government, so that the sale of it will be under their control, and not that of private owners, such as the Midland Railway Company. The sooner that is brought about the better. The Minister for Lands must, I am sure, have regretted to see, when he was there lately or previously, the state of affairs existing in regard to the land on both sides of the railway. Where the land is in the hands of the Government it is already cut up into large holdings, but that which is not in their hands is nothing but a wilderness growing scrub and trees. [MR. TAYLOR: Why not tax it.] This matter is a more important one to the country in general than the construction of the line from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie which I have already mentioned. The near approach of the general election seems to trouble my hon. friend, the mover of the Address-in-Reply; but I myself have no trouble on that score, because if these questions of reform have to be dealt with, they will be dealt with as the circumstances of the State require. In fact, I myself last year told the Premier that, if he brought in a Bill fixing the number

of members in this House at 40 and the number in the other at 20, I would support him. I think, however, that with the growing population and the undeveloped country it is better to retain the present numbers. We have large and varied interests to represent here. We have our gold-mining, pastoral, agricultural, timber, and other industries. We have the towns and ports to represent, and there are other important matters. We have great possibilities in Western Australia, and there is plenty of country to develop. We are not in the same position as other States, which have all their land cut up, and find it a hard matter to keep their population up to the standard which existed a few years back; particularly so with regard to Victoria. Victoria is a small rich patch, but almost the whole of the lands have been settled on. Another question is that of public works. The railway from Laverton to Morgans is mentioned. That is a project which I have been most happy to support, and I hope the railway will not only go on to Morgans, but that it will go from there to the Murchison, and that in the near future it will be continued from the Murchison to the North. The development of our goldfields promotes the general welfare of the State, and I am sure we all wish them to prosper, and to give them every assistance in our power so long as the goldfields people will work with us as they should do, which is not always the case. The construction of a railway from Collie to a point on the Great Southern line is another subject mentioned in the Speech. I believe a great extent of country exists there. We do not know what are the exact intentions of the Government: whether this line is to be a feeder, or whether it is only to carry coal to the fields. A better line than the present one is needed to carry the coal. The Government will do right in constructing a line of railway wherever there is any large extent of country to be opened up, so that the State may supply its people with food grown within the borders. I should go even farther: I should advocate the extension of certain small lines which are said not to pay, but which I claim are not given a fair chance to pay. The returns from these short lines should be calculated, not on the 10 or 12 miles

of the line itself alone, but on the basis of the railage over which the traffic originating on the line eventually travels—to Perth, Fremantle, or the goldfields. One of the hon. members representing Fremantle constituencies, in speaking of a proposed railway recently, said that he would not support it because it would be merely another Greenhills line, which had been built for the benefit of farmers who continued to cart their produce to York. I give that statement a most emphatic denial, based on personal knowledge. Hon. members who make such statements ought to go to the Greenhills district and see for themselves. As a result of the building of that railway the settlers are all increasing their holdings and land is being taken up everywhere in the neighbourhood of the line, as far as 20 miles to the eastward, where but for the railway no settlement at all would have taken place. I should like to know whether these facts do not justify the construction of the Greenhills line. Is not the extension of that railway more justified than the building of the small line to Woodmans' Point? I shall be glad to take the active and energetic Minister for Lands through the Greenhills country and show him how much good land remains to be taken up to the eastward, and how the laying of a short length of railway will tend to promote settlement. I am pleased to learn from the Speech that the growth of the export trade in timber at Bunbury has made it necessary to provide additional harbour facilities. No doubt that part of the country will eventually be one of the most thickly populated. I believe that those who live for another 15 or 20 years will see Bunbury the second port of the State, with a large population. Both climate and land there are good. I am glad to see that the Government propose to give another sop to the goldfields, for the Speech states that—

The result of the administration of our railways, under the system approved by Parliament last session, will render it possible to make farther reductions in the rates of carriage of foodstuffs to our goldfields.

However, there is plenty of room yet for improvement in the administration of the State railways. I trust the goldfields will recognise that other portions of

Western Australia endeavour to give them every advantage, and try to work hand in hand with them.

MR. THOMAS: Why don't you knock off the food duties, then?

MR. BURGESS: Because they are required for revenue purposes. An important paragraph of the Speech is that which refers to the establishment of a water supply and sewerage system for the Metropolitan area. No doubt a water supply is necessary, but from what little I know of Perth and Fremantle I should say that a sewerage system is a great deal more necessary still. If the sewerage question is not attended to Perth and Fremantle will soon not be fit to live in. I do not know who is responsible for them, but I will say that the sanitary arrangements of the Metropolitan area are not a credit either to the townspeople or to the Central Board of Health. No wonder Fremantle was a hotbed of plague during last summer. It is pleasant to learn that the educational system of the State is to be pushed ahead. I hope that the Government will not forget the country districts in this respect, and that a better class of teachers will be appointed to country schools in the future than has occasionally been the case in the past. People will not easily be induced to settle in the country districts unless their children can have there the same educational facilities as are obtainable in large towns. Again, I am glad to see that the present Government at last are going to give effect to a proposal which has frequently been mooted in another place, namely to give an endowment of land towards the establishment of a University. There is nothing which is more needed than a University, so that our children may have the same educational advantages as are enjoyed by the children of other States of the Commonwealth. In this prosperous State it is the duty of every man and every woman to foster the project in all possible ways. The paragraph relative to the establishment of a University I consider the most progressive in the whole Speech, and I congratulate the Premier and other Ministers on it, and only hope that the whole House will fall in with their views. The Speech states that we are to be asked to pass a few Bills which were under consideration

during last session, and I dare say we shall have a good many more measures cropping up before this session closes. On one measure, which passed this House but failed to get through another place, namely the Factories and Shops Bill, I may say that though in many countries it may be required, this State is not far enough advanced to need such legislation. However, I have not yet seen the Bill, and therefore I shall make no farther reference to it. I congratulate the Government on the satisfactory position into which they have brought the finances since taking office. There is a highly satisfactory surplus, but I believe that if one looked into it and asked questions one would find that pretty well the whole of it has already been swallowed by various votes which have been promised. Proposed railway extensions absorb nearly half the amount, and other works already under way will absorb the rest. I was once accused of having made on the goldfields a speech in which I said that in view of our mineral resources and in view of our having the pick of the Australian people we ought not to be afraid to borrow any reasonable amount in order to develop the country. At all events I have perfect faith in the country; and I have proved my faith in it. We have plenty of wealth besides that of the goldfields: we have wealth in our agricultural lands, which may not be so immediately attractive as that of the mines, but which nevertheless is there for the man who sticks to his work: it is the stickler who comes out right in the end. I believe, indeed, that Western Australia holds a greater area of auriferous than of agricultural or pastoral country. I only hope to live to see the day when the Government will build a railway into our northern districts.

MR. THOMAS: What about the southern parts?

MR. BURGESS: The hon. member is always harping on the South. If he would go to the North and see the extent of mineral country there, he would be silenced for ever.

MR. THOMAS: He has been.

MR. BURGESS: The hon. member has only been on a patch or two, and looked around mines. There is an enormous amount of auriferous country in the North, and not only is there gold, but

tin, copper, and other things. The hon. member would find minerals all over it. I have been over a large extent of it. When travelling about one cannot shut his eyes to the deposits of mineral wealth which exist in the North-West district. There is not the slightest doubt that goldfields have been a great attraction here, and it is to the interests of all of us to keep them going; but at the same time, if we have other goldfields, let us do all we can to develop them, because the more goldfields we have, the greater and quicker will be the increase of prosperity, population, and wealth, which we all wish for. I apologise to the House for the time I have taken on my first appearance here. I thank members for the kind way they received me when I got up, and I hope we shall all be able to work together for the good of this State. Whatever may crop up, all we are working for is the general advancement of Western Australia and of the people who come to this growing State. (General applause.) I may congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your restoration to health, and I, like the mover of the Address-in-Reply, hope we shall long live to see you still presiding over this House. (General applause.) The Speaker has done lengthy and good service for this State as long as I can remember. I remember his coming to the State first, and almost ever since he has been in the State he has taken a leading part in its politics. I also trust that the Government will be returned to power at the general election stronger than ever, because in my opinion the stronger a Government is the more and the better is the work it can do. Without taking up the time of the House any more, I beg to second the Address-in-reply, and to thank members for the hearing they have given me. (General applause.)

On motion by Mr. PIGOTT, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until the next Wednesday afternoon, at half-past 4 o'clock.

Question put and passed.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned accordingly.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 21st July, 1903.

	PAGE
Papers Presented	18
Federal Senate Vacancy, Standing Orders	18
Address-in-Reply, second day of debate	19
Adjournment	31

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: Regulations under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902.

Ordered, to lie on the table.

FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

STANDING ORDERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. W. Kingsmill) moved:—

That the following Joint Standing Rules and Orders relating to the election of a Senator to the Federal Parliament be adopted, and that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor praying that he will be pleased to approve of the same. [Six Standing Orders, as printed in Votes and Proceedings.]

He said: In moving the motion I feel that not many words are needed. The object is to provide Rules and Standing Orders for the election of a member to fill a vacancy in the Federal Parliament caused by the resignation of Senator Ewing. The Standing Orders now before the House comply with the requirements of the section of the Commonwealth Constitution Act which provides for the election of a member to fill any vacancy; in the first place, if the House is sitting, by directly exercising the powers of the House regarding the election of such a member; and in the second place, it is provided that if the House is not in session at the time of such resignation, the Government shall in the first instance appoint the member, and that within 14 days of the meeting of Parliament the question shall be referred to a joint sitting of both Houses. The proposed Standing Orders have, I understand, been framed as and are practically a replica of the Standing Orders introduced into the Victorian Parliament on the recent occurrence of the resignation of a Victorian