

dignity of the House, but also add to the the prosperity of the colony.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES moved the adjournment of the debate.

Question—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 3.45 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, 26th July, at 3 o'clock p.m.

### Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 25th July, 1894.

Meeting of the Assembly—Message from Commissioners—Members Sworn—Election of Speaker—Presentation of the Speaker-elect—Temporary Adjournment—Message from the Governor—Supply Bill (£150,000)—Report of the Auditor-General—Fencing Bill, 1894: first reading—The Governor's Speech—The Address-in-Reply—Adjournment.

#### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The House met at noon, pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, which was read by the Clerk.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS.

A Message from the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:—

Mr. Gale,—

“The Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of the present Parliament, request the attendance of the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber, to hear the Commission read.”

Accordingly members of the Legislative Assembly went to the Legislative Council, where, the Commissioners being present, the Clerk of the Council read the Letters Patent.

The Senior Commissioner (His Honour Chief Justice Onslow) then said:—

“HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“We have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, at three o'clock this afternoon, the causes of His Excellency's calling this Parliament will be declared to you; and it being necessary that a President of the Legislative Council and a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, having been duly sworn by the Commissioner appointed by His Excellency, do elect your President, and notify the same to His Excellency; and that you, Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly, repair to the place where you are to sit, and having been duly sworn by the Commissioner appointed by His Excellency, you do elect your Speaker and notify the same to His Excellency.”

Members of the Assembly then returned to their own Chamber.

#### MEMBERS SWORN.

His Honour Mr. Justice Stone having entered the House, and having been conducted by the Clerk-Assistant (in the absence of the Sergeant-at-Arms) to the chair, handed to the Clerk at the table the commission authorising His Honour to administer to members the prescribed oath or affirmation prescribed by the 52nd Vic., cap. 23, sec. 22. This having been done, the Commissioner withdrew.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Mr. Gale,—I have very great pleasure in proposing that our old friend Sir James George Lee Steere should be appointed Speaker of this House. He is well known to all of us in this colony; and I think I am right in saying that he is the oldest member of Parliament in our midst at the present time. His entrance into Parliament dates so far back as a quarter of a century ago, and during all that time he has held a prominent position in the Legislature, and has been highly re-

spected by all those who have associated with him. During the last eight years he has presided over this House, not only under the present Constitution but also under the old Constitution; and I think I may say that during the whole of that time he has presided over the deliberations of this Chamber with ability, with impartiality, and with great dignity. I think it is of great importance, in these early days under a new Constitution, that this House should be presided over by a gentleman of experience and ability, and one who can preside over it with dignity. Sir James Lee Steere, as Speaker, has always been most courteous, and has always been glad to assist in every way, not only the old members but particularly (I think I may say) those who were new to the forms and ceremonies of the House. In fact, he is easily approachable by all members; and I think I may congratulate this House in having the opportunity of again asking Sir James Lee Steere to preside over it. I think I may not only congratulate this House but congratulate the colony upon having a gentleman amongst us so well qualified as he is to fill the important position of Speaker; and I have much pleasure in proposing that Sir James George Lee Steere be again appointed Speaker of this House.

MR. LOTON: Mr. Gale,—I have very much pleasure, sir, in rising to second the motion made by the Premier. I believe that every member who has sat in the Parliament of this colony at all, under any form of Government, must have sat there alongside Sir James Steere. He has occupied a position in the political history of this colony for a longer period than any other member amongst us, at the present time, either of the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly. I believe that as long ago as 1868, Sir James Steere commenced to take part in the political life of Western Australia; and, in the year 1870—the year when the people of this colony first had the opportunity of electing members to represent them in the Legislature of the colony—Sir James Steere continued to take an active part in politics. I believe he also occupied a very prominent position, for a considerable number of years, under the old Constitution, as the recognised leader of the Opposition party. I am not pre-

pared to say what amount of success attended his efforts and ability while occupying that position, but I am quite satisfied of this: that he brought to the discharge of his public duties the whole of his power and intellect, with the object, according to his view, of advancing the best interests of the colony. We know that under the old *régime* he was not able to do more than that, for, although he might have had a majority at his back, and might have been able to carry measures in opposition to the Government of the day, the Opposition party at that time were not able to go any further. They could not turn out the Government in those days, and put another Government in. However, circumstances have changed since then. We have arrived at a more advanced stage in our Parliamentary life: I suppose it will be said—and I hope it will prove so—a more beneficial stage for all of us. It surely should be so, seeing that under our present form of Government an opportunity is afforded, and encouragement is given, to every person in the community to take an active part or an active interest in political affairs. In addition to Sir James Steere having occupied a prominent position in the old Legislature as leader of the Opposition, he was, upon the lamented death of our first Speaker (Sir Luke Leake), unanimously elected to that honourable position—a position which he has since continued to fill with ability, with impartiality, and with integrity during the whole of that time. I feel sure, sir, that the experience of the past will justify members on this occasion in giving their unanimous vote in favour of Sir James Lee Steere being again elected Speaker. I have much pleasure myself in seconding the motion, recognising as I do at the same time that it is the highest honour that it is possible for the members of this House to confer upon one of their fellow members.

No other member being proposed,

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE rose in his place and said: Mr. Gale,—I am deeply sensible of the honour which it is proposed to confer upon me by again electing me as Speaker of this House. It cannot but be extremely gratifying to me to feel that after my long legislative career of (as the leader of the House, Sir John Forrest,

has pointed out) over a quarter of a century, and having been twice previously elected Speaker, once in the old Legislative Council, and once in this Assembly under the new Constitution; it cannot, I say, but be extremely gratifying to me to feel that I still continue to retain the confidence of the members of this House, which has been given expression to, to-day, by the proposal that I should again take the Chair. I quite recognise what has been said by the hon. member for the Swan (Mr. Loton) that it is the highest dignity which this Assembly can confer upon any of its members. It is a dignity which I am proud to enjoy, and, although the duties connected with it have great responsibilities attached to them, I feel that I shall be able to discharge them with satisfaction to the House, if I am only granted the same support from hon. members as I have hitherto received. That support I confidently feel will be extended to me. I beg members to remember this: that, whoever they may place in that Chair as their Speaker, he will be perfectly powerless to maintain order unless he has the support of members at his back. That support has been freely given to me in the past, and I feel confident it will be continued in the future. It will be my endeavour so to preside in that Chair as to try to merit the approbation of all the members of this House, and also to preserve the dignity of the House. I can only hope that when the time comes when I shall cease to occupy that position, I shall still retain the same confidence as members have been good enough to place in me to-day. Gentlemen, I thank you for the honour you have again conferred upon me by electing me as your Speaker.

The Speaker-elect was then conducted to the Chair by his proposer and seconder.

SIR J. G. LEE STEERE: Gentlemen, once more I thank you for having placed me in this honourable position. It will always be my endeavour to conduct the proceedings of the House so as to facilitate the business and to maintain the dignity of the House so far as I can. I only hope that any member who wishes for my assistance or advice will not hesitate, on all occasions, to approach me, when it will be my great pleasure, and also my duty, to give them what assistance and advice I am able to do.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER-ELECT.

Hon. members then proceeded to Government House to present the Speaker-elect to His Excellency.

Upon their return,

MR. SPEAKER said: I have to inform the House that, accompanied by hon. members, I proceeded to Government House and acquainted His Excellency the Governor that, in pursuance of the Constitution Act, the Assembly had elected me their Speaker. In the name, and on behalf of the House, I also laid claim to the undoubted rights and privileges of the House—freedom of debate, and access to His Excellency—and requested that the most favourable construction may be put upon all our proceedings. His Excellency was pleased to approve of your choice, and also to confirm the constitutional rights and privileges of the House.

The House then adjourned until 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m. Mr. Speaker and hon. members proceeded to the Legislative Council Chambers, when His Excellency the Governor delivered a Speech (*vide page 2, ante*), opening Parliament. Hon. members then returned to their own Chamber.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR: SUPPLY (£150,000).

The following Message from His Excellency the Governor was presented by Sir John Forrest, and the same was read:

"In accordance with the provisions of Section 67 of 'The Constitution Act, 1889,' the Governor recommends to the Legislative Assembly that provision be made to the extent of £150,000 towards defraying the expenses of the various departments and services of the colony during the year ending the last day of June, 1895.

"Government House, Perth, 25th July, 1894."

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be referred to the Committee of Supply, so soon as constituted.

#### FENCING BILL, 1894.

Introduced by Sir JOHN FORREST, and read a first time.

## HIS EXCELLENCY'S OPENING SPEECH.

MR. SPEAKER reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor in the Chamber of the Legislative Council, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament; of which Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he read to the House.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. WOOD: Mr. Speaker,—It is with much pleasure that I rise to move an Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor that has just been read. I esteem the honour, sir, that has been conferred upon me, and upon the district of West Perth, which I represent, in my having been asked to undertake this task. I approach it with a certain amount of diffidence, born of the knowledge of my want of experience in the usages of this Assembly; but I trust that my hon. friends I see around me will bear with me, with a little patience, and be merciful in their criticism. The Speech of His Excellency is, in a great measure, a reflex of that admirable address that was so recently delivered by the Premier to his constituents at Bunbury. It is brimful of confidence in the present prospects of the colony. It alludes in modest terms to the past successful administration, and it boldly and fearlessly anticipates a bright and prosperous future. The policy of the Government, as now disclosed, is only what might be expected from a Government having the interest of the colony at heart, and who are bent upon the development of the resources of the vast territory such as we possess. The policy of the Government may, to some extent, sir, be considered a policy of public works only; but I submit that no other policy, at the present moment, would have been acceptable to this or any other House. The policy of any Ministry wanting the support of the majority of members in this Assembly must of necessity be a progressive policy, as the days for standing still are happily passed away for ever. More especially must the country's movement be a forward one when we take into consideration the splendid addition to our

population that has taken place lately. Nearly 15,000 souls have been added to our population during the last twelve months, and most of these are men who have lived under liberal and free institutions, and under progressive Governments. The country is to be congratulated on the recent discoveries of gold, in almost every part of the colony. Every week seems to eclipse the preceding one in the glowing reports we hear of gold discoveries, and of other indications of mineral wealth. It has been truly said that at the present moment our gold discoveries are a great factor in the colony's prosperity. But, in order to derive the full advantage of these discoveries, and to make them of permanent benefit, the country must carry out its duty to itself, and also its duty to those hardy pioneers who have ventured into the far interior to develop these discoveries; and that duty, sir, is the annihilation of distance, by the construction of railways to connect our goldfields with the centres of population, which the Governor's Speech provides for, so far as Coolgardie and the Murchison districts are concerned. In doing this, sir, the Government is only echoing the beating of the great heart of this country, inasmuch as 95 per cent. of the whole population are desirous that these works should be commenced at once. It is satisfactory to know from His Excellency's Speech that the coal measures in the Collie district give promise of turning out of value to the colony; and I trust that further development of this important discovery will justify the action of the Government in proposing to connect that coalfield with, I suppose, the port of Bunbury, by railway. The need and importance of coal discoveries of commercial value, to my mind, cannot be over-estimated, and I think that a large expenditure of public money would be justifiable in testing the value of these coalfields, and, if the result warranted it, in fully developing them. I can fully support the Ministry in their desire to promote the progress of the colony by the development of its mineral and other resources by the construction of reproductive railways, the extension of telegraph communication and of postal communication, water conservation, and boring. I hope to see a distinct effort made in the direction of artesian boring

this year, both on the goldfields and also in the North-West districts of the colony, in order (in our northern territory) to avert, if possible, the disastrous effects of those dreadful droughts with which it is too often visited. As was expected, sir, provision is made in the Governor's Speech for the raising of a loan of £1,500,000. This is a loan of great magnitude, and no doubt members will consider that it involves a grave responsibility; but my opinion, sir, is that the responsibility commences when we begin to allot or distribute that loan and begin to spend it, and I think it is the duty of this Assembly to closely criticise the various items to be included in the schedule of public works contemplated by the Government. Of these, outside the goldfields lines, there can be but one opinion as regards the extension of the harbour works at Fremantle, and the improvement of our coastal ports by providing extra jetty accommodation, additional lighthouses, and increased shed accommodation. Whilst on this subject, I cannot refrain from saying a word or two with reference to the harbour works now going on at Fremantle, and expressing the great satisfaction we must all feel at the splendid work which is being prosecuted at the mouth of the river—a work which reflects credit upon all concerned, and a work that will be a lasting monument to the skill and ability of those who projected the scheme. The proposed line of railway from Donnybrook towards Bridgetown, and the branch line to the Collie coalfield, are projects which will have to be well considered. I trust that the Government will be able, by statistics and otherwise, to justify their intentions in these directions. The public works undertaken and completed during the past year, and referred to in His Excellency's Speech, show a record of which any Ministry might be proud. That paragraph of the Speech tells a tale of wonderful progress, and shows that every part of our big colony has received due consideration at the hands of the Government. It is particularly cheering to find that measures of domestic legislation will be dealt with during this session, and that, amongst other matters, the Municipal Act will receive attention. I trust that the new Act will contain powers to enable Municipalities to deal

in a more comprehensive manner with matters concerning them than they now possess, and empower them to incur loans for special purposes. I hope also that the rating of town and city properties will be placed on a better basis than it is at present; and, in regard to the city of Perth, I trust that the Bill will include such powers as will enable the municipal authorities to deal with such subjects as deep drainage and the waterworks. The Employers' Liability Bill, which we are promised, should prove a most useful measure, and will no doubt furnish a vast amount of material for discussion. I trust that it will be framed on very strict lines of justice, and be fair to both employer and employé. Whilst dealing with this question of domestic legislation, I trust that the Government will see their way during the session to deal with the Electoral Act, with the better regulation of the liquor traffic, and to introduce some further legislation with regard to Chinese and Asiatics, and also dealing with the closing of shops at certain times and regulating the hours of labour therein. A foremost plank in the policy of any Government in a country like this must almost of necessity be one dealing with the settlement and development of the soil; and I congratulate the Ministry on their intention to introduce further legislation in this direction, by which monetary assistance may be granted to farmers, on certain conditions, in order that the agricultural lands of the colony may be utilised and increased production encouraged. The details of the proposals of the Government in this direction will no doubt be fully given to us when their scheme for the establishment of a Land Bank is brought forward. I trust that the conditions will be such as will commend themselves to the good opinion of this House. The financial condition of the colony, as disclosed in the Governor's Speech, is such that might be envied by any country. It proves able and careful administration on the part of the Treasury, when we find that all the estimates of revenue have been exceeded, while at the same time the items of expenditure have been kept within bounds. If anything were wanted to add to the confidence due to the present Ministry, it is the successful floating of the balance of our

last Loan, proving beyond a doubt the good opinion held by the great financiers of the world as to the stability of our Government and the unbounded resources of our colony. We must one and all deplore the dry season we are now experiencing—I do not know that I should say that *now*, looking at the welcome change that has taken place since this morning—but the dry season we have had up to to-day. More especially has the want of rain been felt on our Eastern goldfields, where, I believe, ample provision has been made by the Government for the storage of storm waters. I join in the hope expressed by His Excellency that we may yet be favoured with a bountiful season. Mr. Speaker, I have now nearly finished. I will merely add that if the past good work done by the Government is an indication of what they will do in the future, we shall be justified in giving them a very full measure of support, at all events as regards their general policy. In minor matters of administration their actions may not always commend themselves to many of us. Even the warmest supporters of the Government may honestly differ from them occasionally; and, so far as I am concerned, I reserve to myself the right of full, but I trust impartial, criticism. I am sure that so long as members confine themselves to these lines the Government will respect their convictions. I trust, sir, that the present Ministry will long continue to hold the confidence of this Assembly, and of the country, because I think that in them we have an Administration whose integrity and good intentions are beyond question. I will now read the Address which I propose to submit for the approval of the House in reply to His Excellency's Speech, and which, I feel certain, will be carried unanimously:—

*“To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver  
Francis Robinson, Knight Grand  
Cross of the Most Distinguished  
Order of St. Michael and St. George,  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief  
in and over the Colony of Western  
Australia and its Dependencies, &c.,  
&c., &c.”*

*“We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia,*

*in Parliament assembled, beg to assure  
Your Excellency of our continued  
loyalty and affection to our Most  
Gracious Sovereign.*

*“We thank Your Excellency for the  
gracious Speech which you have been  
pleased to address to Parliament.*

*“Our most careful consideration and  
attention will be given to the impor-  
tant matters referred to by Your  
Excellency, and all other matters that  
may be brought before us; and it  
shall be our earnest endeavour to so  
deal with them that our labours may  
result in the advancement and welfare  
of the colony.”*

MR. KEEPE: Mr. Speaker,—In rising to second the Address-in-Reply, I have to acknowledge with thanks the courtesy and the honour extended to myself and also to the constituents which I represent, in being asked to do so. I feel the honour all the more because I am one of the infant members of the House, and the constituency I represent is one of the new-born children of the Constitution Act of last year. I may say that I felt some hesitation in accepting this honour. As I sit here, an independent member on the Opposition side of the House, I had some doubt as to whether I should be able to agree with the policy sketched out in His Excellency's Speech. But, on a perusal of it, I am glad to say that I find nothing, or very little, to which I can take much exception, and I think it will meet with the approval of the majority of the members of this House. As we have heard from His Excellency's Speech, and also from the mover of the Address-in-Reply, the population of the colony has been added to, during the last twelve months, by some 15,000 souls. I think everyone will agree that this influx of population may be attributed to the attractions of our goldfields. It will be necessary, therefore, and wise policy on the part of the Government, to give every facility and encouragement to capitalists and to working miners who come here from the Eastern colonies either to invest their capital or to put in manual work in the development of our goldfields. I think it is the duty of the Government to give these people absolutely every facility that is possible for the successful carrying out of their operations. These facilities have, to a large extent, been provided for, or

are contemplated, by the Government, as set forth in His Excellency's Speech. The returns lately coming in from the goldfields amply warrant the Government in the proposed construction of railways both from Southern Cross to Coolgardie and from Mullewa to Cue. Whilst on the subject of gold-mining, I should have liked to have seen some mention made in the Governor's Speech of the intention of the Government to make some reduction in the fees now charged, not only with regard to miners' rights, but other mining fees, and also business licenses, on our different goldfields, and more especially those outside our Southern boundaries. The Government, I notice, propose to expend a considerable sum of money on the goldfields; I trust that when they are apportioning this expenditure they will not forget the claims of the parent goldfields of Western Australia. I refer to the Kimberley goldfields and also the Pilbarra goldfield. The former, no doubt, first of all attracted population to the colony. It was the first goldfield discovered in Western Australia, and a very large number of people were attracted to it. Many of them, no doubt, went back disappointed; others went down to Pilbarra, and prospered—some of them exceedingly so; and many of them are now on our Southern or Eastern goldfields. I think that a substantial proportion of the Government grant devoted for the development of the goldfields should be allotted to the development of the Northern fields, both as regards providing facilities for carrying on the work of mining generally and for the construction of roads and the conservation of water. So far as the Collie coalfields are concerned, I am very glad to learn from His Excellency's Speech that the coal is of commercial value, and that it is likely in the future that a large coal-mining industry may be established in that district. I am given to understand that the Government have accepted a contract for boring on this coalfield, to test the value of the deposits. Should this test be favourable, and the field is proved to be a payable field, no doubt the railway proposed to be constructed to the field by the Government will be justified. With regard to the Loan policy of the Government, I see it is proposed to borrow another million and a half. Many

people consider that this amount is more than the colony can at present stand; but I am of opinion that when we find an increase of 20 per cent. in the population of the colony within twelve months, and when we look at the very satisfactory financial position of the colony, that this amount is not at all too large to embark in to develop the vast resources of the country. The Government and the country at large are to be congratulated upon the public works that have been prosecuted and completed during the past year. One of these undertakings, the Fremantle harbour works—and I speak feelingly on this matter—is a work of the utmost importance; it is a national work, and a work that is being carried out in such a way as I am sure must commend it to everybody. The absolute necessity for the immediate completion of these harbour works was, I think, accentuated by the recent block in the goods traffic at Fremantle, though I am pleased to say that the vigorous steps taken by the Government within the last few days to cope with the congestion of traffic have reduced it considerably. Turning to another part of His Excellency's Speech, there can be no doubt that the agricultural interest in this colony should be assisted and fostered in every legitimate way, and I think that the proposed Land Bank, if established and carried out on a thoroughly commercial basis, will prove of vast advantage and benefit to agriculturists, in the Southern parts of the colony. The Government are, no doubt, to be sincerely congratulated upon the very satisfactory financial statement they have put before us to-day. I only trust that in the future the colony will continue to go on prospering and progressing, so that the Government may be able to show the same satisfactory balance-sheet at the commencement of future sessions. In conclusion, sir, I must congratulate the members of the Ministry, individually and collectively, on their return to power. I can only express the hope that the same kind Providence, which has assisted them in the past, may continue to do so throughout the remainder of their term of office. [MR. R. F. SHOLL: They'll want it.] I now, sir, formally second the Address-in-Reply, moved by my hon. friend the member for West Perth.

MR. LOTON: As this is the first occasion of meeting of the new Parliament, and as the Speech we have had presented to us contains items of considerable magnitude and importance, and as very few members have had the opportunity which Ministers have had, and the two hon. members who have proposed and seconded the Address-in-Reply, of perusing the Speech previously, and, such being the desire of several members on this side of the House, I beg to move that the debate be adjourned. I do not know what day it will be convenient to adjourn it to, but as there seems to be no other business before us, I think we might adjourn the debate until Monday. I therefore move that the debate be now adjourned until Monday evening.

MR. RICHARDSON: I think that the convenience of members living at a distance from Perth should be studied in this matter, and that this debate might be continued to-morrow and brought to a close, to avoid the necessity of country members returning here on Monday, when there is not likely to be any other business requiring their presence. So far as I am aware, there is nothing now before us but the Address-in-Reply and the temporary Supply Bill; and I should say we might get through the business if we meet again to-morrow. I think it is most unusual—I do not think we ever had an instance before of the debate on the Address-in-Reply being adjourned for so long as proposed by the hon. member for the Swan. We have always continued the debate on the following day, or the next sitting day of the House. For all that is contained in the Address-in-Reply on this occasion, or in the Speech itself, that is new to any of us, I think every member should be able to master it by to-morrow, otherwise he must be either very dense or very lazy.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The Speech, although only just delivered, contains nothing that is very new, and I should like to have the Supply Bill passed before the end of the month, otherwise the Government will not be able to pay anybody. I am quite prepared, however, to meet the wishes of the House, though I should prefer to adjourn only till to-morrow instead of Monday.

MR. R. F. SHOLL: I think it is very unusual to continue the debate on the

Governor's Speech without some interval for considering it. I expect the Government will be able to carry their Supply Bill without putting the hon. member for the DeGrey to the inconvenience of coming back on Monday. There are some very important subjects dealt with in His Excellency's Speech, and it is only right that members should have an opportunity of considering them.

MR. CLARKSON: I shall oppose the motion to adjourn this debate until Monday. I must protest against these constant adjournments. It is all very well for town members who have nothing else to do; but there are several country members here whose convenience should be studied, and who cannot run up and down to Perth every day. I see nothing to prevent this debate being resumed to-morrow.

MR. H. SHOLL: I think that country members are asking too much from Parliament. They will next want to be spoon-fed. I see no reason at all why the debate should not be adjourned until Monday.

MR. PIESSE: I do not think this is a matter that should be turned into ridicule, as the hon. member for Roebourne has tried to do. I think the hon. member should take into consideration the convenience of country members, many of whom have travelled here to-day a long distance in order to be present at the opening of Parliament, and there will be no necessity for them to come back again on Monday if the business before us is disposed of to-morrow.

MR. RANDELL: I think it would be very undesirable to continue the debate on the Address-in-Reply to-morrow. We could scarcely be prepared to resume the discussion so early as that, and as there is no sitting of the House on Friday or Saturday, I think the debate may well be adjourned until Monday. There is no necessity to hurry the matter. Although the Speech is not very long, and although the policy of the Ministry has been sketched out before by the Premier when addressing his constituents, yet it must be borne in mind that we have it before us now in print for the first time officially, as the policy decided on by the Government, and no change, I take it, can now take place in that policy, so far as the Government are concerned. There is no reason that I know of why we should hurry this debate. Some of us are unprepared.



We have been waiting for the Address-in-Reply, which we have heard for the first time a few minutes ago; and some of us are anxious to consider the policy put forward by the Government before expressing our views upon it. Those views need not necessarily be hostile to the Address-in-Reply as moved, but I do think we should have some time to think over the matter. There is another reason why the debate should not be resumed to-morrow: several country members cannot be here to-morrow, and I think it is very desirable we should have a full House when considering the important matters placed before us in this Speech. The borrowing of a million and a half of money, and the construction of public works of such magnitude as are indicated in the Governor's Speech, are questions which require grave and careful consideration. I think the policy sketched out by the Government requires the gravest consideration at the hands of members, in several directions; and I do deprecate any hasty decision by proceeding to vote the Address-in-Reply to-morrow. With regard to the Supply Bill, it is for the Government to decide whether they want that measure passed to-morrow; if they do, there can be no objection to the House meeting to-morrow for that purpose; but it is not at all necessary that we should at the same time resume the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I think we are following the usual precedent of this House in adjourning the debate for two or three days, and in the meantime business of ordinary character may be proceeded with.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): If it is the wish of the House, there can be no great objection to adjourning this debate until Monday, and also adjourning the House. We shall have Monday and Tuesday in which to pass the Supply Bill, before the month closes; and, so far as the Government are concerned, we have no objection to the proposed adjournment.

Motion put and passed.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 26th July, 1894.

Address-in-Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I believe it is my privilege to speak first on the present occasion, as being the mover of the adjournment of the debate; but I propose to make my remarks as brief as possible. The facts set forth in His Excellency's Speech are indeed most gratifying, showing, as they do, a very rapid increase in population and revenue, whilst great progress has been made with our goldfields during the last twelve months. It is also exceedingly pleasing to know the good financial position this colony stands in at the present juncture, which is shown by the fact of our last Loan having been floated at a premium. With respect to the objects Ministers have mentioned in the Speech, I am sure all hon. members present are with them, and especially so in the efforts that are to be made to settle a large and prosperous population in this colony. Whilst, however, I heartily agree with this object, I, in some manner, differ in regard to the details by which the desired end is to be attained. I notice that a further Loan of £1,500,000 is proposed, and whilst, personally, not averse to borrowing, I think we should do so with great caution. In the present instance the amount proposed is somewhat larger than I had expected. I do not say the amount is not justifiable; but I hope it is. It is certainly a very large one. When Responsible Government was started our debt was one million and a third, and to-day that debt has doubled itself, whilst the population has gone up from 46,000 to 76,919. We now propose to borrow £1,500,000, in itself a larger amount than our total debt was three years ago. The policy of borrowing like this seems to me to be a policy of great expectations, which I hope may be realised. We must bear in mind, how-