

good revenue, unless that revenue was well and judiciously expended. With reference to the question of improving the water supply at Fremantle, by the expenditure of £7,000 out of general revenue, he was not prepared to express an opinion with regard to this subject until they were placed in possession of the details of the scheme; and he only made this remark in order to protect himself in the event of the question of providing the necessary means for carrying out the work being brought before them. At this late hour he did not propose to go into any further details, or to trespass any longer upon the time of the House. He had very great pleasure in seconding the motion before the House.

MR. SHENTON moved the adjournment of the debate until Wednesday.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at five o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 23rd June, 1886.

Opium Duty Bill: first reading—Legislative Council Act Amendment (Increase of Members) Bill: first reading—Excess Bill, 1885: first reading—Breaksea Island Telephone—Boat Licensing Amendment Bill: motion for second reading; referred to Select Committee—Address in Reply: Adjourned debate: Adoption of Address—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

OPIUM DUTY BILL.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to impose a Duty on the importation of Opium.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to increase the number of Members to serve in the Legislative Council.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

EXCESS BILL, 1885.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), pursuant to notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year 1885, beyond the grants for that year.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BREAKSEA ISLAND TELEPHONE.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) informed the House that he had received a telegram from the Inspector of Telephones at Albany, stating that telephonic communication had been established between Breaksea Island and the pilot station on the mainland, and that the line was working splendidly: so that any vessel now passing in sight of the island could be reported.

BOAT LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in moving the second reading of a bill to amend "The Boat Licensing Act, 1878," said that owing to certain representations which had been made to the Government, and certain facts which had been elicited upon inquiry, it had been deemed desirable to introduce the present bill, so as to give licensing boats certain additional powers as regards regulating the legal number of persons to be employed in the working of any licensed boat or steamer, and regulating the mode of stowing cargo, the Act now in force containing no provisions on that subject. Under the present Act, also, steamers that were licensed had to carry, or tow astern, a boat; but, since the Act was passed, in 1878, a good many steam launches had

been introduced into the colony, and, owing to the fact that no distinction was made in the Act in the definition of a steamer and a steam launch, the latter class of vessels, as well as the former, were compelled to carry a boat or to tow one astern. This being very often quite unnecessary—in fact it had been pointed out that it was sometimes attended with danger, owing to the boat becoming foul of the propeller of the launch—it was desirable to amend the Act in this respect, while at the same time adopting other precautionary measures for the protection of passengers. It was now proposed to give the licensing boards power to exempt steamers from carrying boats, or from towing one astern, on condition of their carrying a sufficient number of life-buoys. He thought the bill would commend itself to hon. members, and he begged to move that it be now read a second time.

MR. SHOLL said he should like to see a clause introduced altering the time for the licensing boards to meet for the granting of licenses. His reason for wishing to do so was the great inconvenience and loss to the public and to boatowners entailed, owing to the fact that the boards met at present just about the time when the wool ships were in, and the boats were most busily employed. The boats had to stop working, in order to undergo the necessary examination, just at the busiest time of the year. This might be remedied by altering the date of the licensing meeting.

MR. CROWTHER said if it was intended to regulate the number of persons to be employed, and to amend the Act at all, they ought to have some clause dealing with the constitution of these licensing boards. If they were to search throughout the length and breadth of the land they could not—with the exception, perhaps, of at Fremantle—find a number of gentlemen less competent to deal with the question of boat licensing than those now appointed members of these boards. One had to be the Resident Magistrate,—who probably knew nothing about boats, while another had to be somebody else, who probably knew less than nothing; and he would suggest that a clause be introduced defining the class of men to sit on these boards, who certainly ought to be men who could tell

the difference between a dingey and a lighter.

MR. SHENTON thought that, while they had the Act before them, there were other desirable amendments besides those proposed in the present bill. As to the constitution of licensing boards, the same anomaly existed at Fremantle as existed at other ports, the board there consisting of the Harbor Master, the Resident Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police. What knowledge the Resident Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police were likely to possess of boats he never could understand. Therefore, if the status of these boards was to be altered in the outlying ports of the colony the same thing ought to be done at Fremantle, the principal port. With reference to what had fallen from the hon. member for the Gascoyne, he himself was aware of the great inconvenience that owners of boats, and also the public, were put to, owing to the time fixed by the licensing boards for granting licenses being at the very time when the boats were most busily employed, with the result that the loading and discharging of vessels were delayed, to the loss and inconvenience of all parties. With a few alterations and additions, he thought the bill might be made a very useful bill.

MR. MARMION thought it was just possible that there might be other alterations desirable besides those already suggested. It was a pity to be constantly tinkering with these bills, and it might be as well now that they were dealing with the matter to consider the whole question of boat licensing; and, probably, it might be of assistance in doing this, if, instead of reading the bill now a second time, it were referred to a select committee. He thought himself there were other amendments desirable in the present statute, and he was sure it was the wish of the Government that the Act should be made as perfect as possible. Therefore, without offering any objection to the bill itself, but simply with a desire to improve it, he would move, as an amendment upon the motion for the second reading, that the bill be now referred to a select committee.

MR. PEARSE seconded the amendment.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said, before the

question was put, he should like to call the attention of hon. members to this fact: Hon. members would see at once that all the law upon the subject of boat licensing was contained in this Act of 1878—an Act passed not so very long ago certainly, but which had been in operation for nearly ten years, and, if any portion of it had met with any appreciable amount of disfavor among those who were chiefly concerned or chiefly interested, surely the subject would have been brought under the consideration of the Government before now. The only portions of the Act to which attention had been directed were those dealt with in the Bill now before the House. As to referring the bill to a select committee, he did not gather from the hon. member for Fremantle that the hon. member desired the committee to consider the bill as it stood, but to consider what other provisions might be brought forward, and have a general overhauling of the Act. Unless the hon. member was prepared to tell the House, or to indicate to the House, the direction in which he desired to move, why, really, for the same reasons, they might have a select committee on every statute in the statute book. It really seemed to him to be rather seeking for an alteration in the law, to propose to employ a select committee on a small bill like this, containing but two clauses, dealing with a not very important subject. The bill did not deal in any way with boats engaged in the coasting trade; it was confined merely to lighters and boats carrying passengers about the harbor. The point mentioned by the hon. member for the Gascoyne could easily be dealt with. The hon. member proposed to alter the date for holding the licensing meetings; those dates were fixed by the boards themselves, and it only required the name of the month to be altered, during which the boards should meet for issuing licenses. These licenses now expired in December, and the boards met early in January to renew them; if the licenses were made to expire say a month later the inconveniences referred to would be obviated; and, unless the member for Fremantle could show in what other respect the present Act pinched anybody, it seemed to him rather a waste of energy to refer the whole of the licensing law to

be overhauled by a select committee. The objection referred to by the hon. member for Greenough as to the constitution of these licensing boards was another matter very easily dealt with, but it could not be effected by any amendment that could be introduced into the present bill, because these boards were appointed by His Excellency the Governor; and, no doubt, if it were represented to His Excellency that magistrates and other people who sat on the boards were not competent to discharge their duties, some other appointments would be made; but the bill required no amendment to accomplish that.

The motion for the second reading, upon being put, was negatived, on the voices, and the bill was referred to a select committee, consisting of the Acting Attorney General, Mr. Randell, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Sholl, and Mr. Marmion.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech,

THE SPEAKER—after a long pause, no hon. member rising—said: Does no hon. member wish to speak to the Address before I put the question?

After a further pause,

MR. WITTENOOM rose, and said he should like to make a few remarks upon His Excellency's speech, but he did not intend to detain the House long. He thought they might look with satisfaction upon the programme laid before them, though no special or exceptional legislation was contemplated. There were a great many important questions otherwise awaiting their consideration, and the session he trusted would be anything but a barren one. He noted with satisfaction the fact that His Excellency, on the part of this colony, had joined with the other Australian colonies in protesting against the annexation of the New Hebrides by the French. He thought it would be a very great mistake to allow these islands to pass into the hands of a foreign power, which could not fail to be detrimental to Imperial policy. He was glad to see that the Government proposed to bring for-

ward a proposition for the appointment of a Government Geologist; he hoped the proposal would meet with favor, and that we should have the colony thoroughly tested, to see what mineral resources it really possessed. He also viewed with satisfaction the announcement that it was proposed to have a steamer for the Admiralty coast survey. A great deal of time was now wasted, owing to the surveyors having only a sailing vessel. But the chief reason which had led him to rise had been the subject of the arrangements made by the Government in connection with the Kimberley goldfields. He did not think the Government had exercised their usual sagacity and foresight in making these arrangements. He referred more particularly to the extension of the coastal steam service to Cambridge Gulf. If that matter had been considered a little more carefully he felt sure that the Government must have seen that in extending this service they were doing injustice to other parts of the colony, and particularly to the Victoria District. At present they had a line of steamers subsidised,—subsidised very heavily too, so heavily that no other line could compete with it satisfactorily. These steamers loaded up at Melbourne and Adelaide with goods for Fremantle and sometimes for Derby, or if they did not fill up at Adelaide or Melbourne they did so at Fremantle, leaving goods for the Northern ports, from Geraldton, behind; the consequence was that the whole trade of the Victoria district with the Northern ports of the colony was neglected. This state of affairs was one that really required altering, and he hoped the Government would give it their consideration and endeavor to make fresh arrangements. He did not suppose that he could blame them because the steamship company under the old contract did not take goods from Geraldton to the North—probably their contract never was to do so, and, in filling up at Melbourne, Adelaide, or Fremantle, they were doing that which paid them best. But he thought the Government might have taken the opportunity of getting another steamer, which, by paying £300 or £400 more than the subsidy now paid Lilly & Co. for the Cambridge Gulf service (£1,700), they would probably have got.

The public were not aware whether any endeavors had been made to obtain another steamer, beyond that tenders were invited and the lowest accepted. But he did not think that on this occasion it was a wise movement to have accepted the lowest tender. On account of the want of competition the prices were very high, and if they had another steamer it would probably be the means of reducing the prices in many ways. He did not wish to find fault with the present company in any way; they had their contract to protect them; and, although their rates were high, he knew they had a good deal to contend against. He did not wish to expect them to fix their rates at a scale that would not pay them, but he certainly should like to see them reduced to a reasonable rate, bearing in mind that they could always rely upon freights both ways. This would remove all reasonable cause of dissatisfaction, which at present was very strong in the district to which he belonged. At present the fact stood that to get goods North from Geraldton they had to be sent to Fremantle first, which of course was simply disastrous to the trade of the Victoria district. He had simply brought the matter forward so that, if he was wrong in any statement he had made, the Government, he hoped, would correct him, and place the matter before the public in its proper light. He should like to suggest that, if possible, some arrangement should be made with the steamship company that space should be left for cargo from Geraldton—say 40 or 50 tons each trip, which, if not required, the fact might easily be wired down before the steamer started. That would be one good way of getting rid of what at present was a source of great dissatisfaction at Geraldton, and of giving the Victoria district the same chance of sending their goods to the North by these steamers—to which they contributed like any other district—as the Southern people had. He felt sure that the Government would endeavor, as they always did, to act with promptness in removing this cause of dissatisfaction, and endeavor to make some better arrangement with the steamer company, so that Geraldton should not be left out in the cold any longer. He had no intention now of making any

further reference to the speech of His Excellency.

MR. SHENTON said he felt sure that every hon. member who had occupied a seat in that House prior to the present session must, upon their reassembling, have felt very keenly the loss they had sustained in the lamented death of their late Speaker. They all had expected to see him resume his seat, and retain it, as their late friend himself used to say, so long as the present Council lasted. With regard to His Excellency's speech, he thought they might congratulate themselves on the able manner in which their Executive Commissioner had carried out his arrangements for the representation of this colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. They were afraid at one time that Western Australia would have made but a very poor show in comparison with her more wealthy neighbors; but, from all accounts, our court had been so arranged as to attract unusual attention. Of course this interest in the Western Australian court had been increased by reason of the telegram forwarded to England by the Governor, announcing the discovery of goldfields in the Kimberley district, which would be sure to bring the colony prominently before the English people. He thought this had done more to bring Western Australia into prominence than any other occurrence that could have happened, and he believed they had every reason to hope that it would result in a large influx of population and of capital from the mother country. His Excellency in his speech referred to the large expenditure that had been incurred during the recess in connection with these gold discoveries in the Kimberley district; but he (Mr. Shenton) felt sure that when hon. members saw the way in which that expenditure had been incurred, they would agree that the Finance Committee did perfectly right in agreeing to the expenditure, one of the largest items, of course, being the outlay in connection with the extra police force necessary, and also the providing of proper wharf accommodation at Derby. Speaking as one of the members of the Finance Committee he thought that, in view of the probability of a large influx of population and of the reports received from the goldfields, it was the bounden duty of the Government to provide every facility for the port of

Derby. Probably the most important subject they would have to deal with during the session would be the land regulations, on which the future of the colony so much depended. He trusted that when the matter had been carefully considered in committee of the whole House they would be able to arrive at some satisfactory decision. They wanted not only to give encouragement to the agricultural settler, who was rightly looked upon as the backbone of the colony, they must also give certainty of tenure to the pastoral leaseholder, in order to encourage this important section of the community to make permanent improvements on their runs, so as to render them more productive than they were at present, and thus increase their carrying capabilities. These were the main points they had to consider in dealing with the land regulations. The minute surveys required by Sir John Coode had, he was afraid, absorbed a much greater length of time than hon. members had expected, and this unfortunately would lead to some delay in their hearing from Sir John Coode; but he did trust that before the session closed we would receive, either by letter or by wire, from Sir John Coode, at any rate an outline of the scheme which he proposed for the port of Fremantle, a scheme which he trusted would be within our means to carry out at once. The long delay in the initiation of these harbor works was, he was sure, acting very prejudicially to this portion of the colony. Everyone acquainted with the harbor must have noticed the great drawback it was to the trade of the colony, owing to the want of wharfage accommodation at Fremantle. Vessels were delayed, and the port was getting a worse name than ever it had before. He thought that in some respects the complaint against the want of wharfage accommodation at Fremantle might be obviated if a little more concession were given by the Government to the lightermen in the way of discharging their goods, at the time when the steamers were in harbor, or when there was an extra press of work. All the time the last steamer was in, the jetty was quite blocked up and it was impossible to land cargo, and, unfortunately, at the same time it happened to be a special holiday given by the Government, which

of course tended to make matters worse. The transfer of the Imperial establishment to the Colonial Government, he was glad to find from His Excellency's speech, had been fully carried out, and this he thought was a matter they ought to be glad of. He thought it was satisfactory to find that they had heard the last of the Imperial establishment, and that the whole affair had been placed in the hands of the local Government. The credit balance of £89,529, at the end of the year, afforded proof of the continued prosperity of the colony. It had also induced the hon. member who moved the address (Mr. Scott) to suggest that there should be a reduction made in the Customs tariff; but he would point out to the hon. member that it was absolutely necessary for the Government of this colony to have a considerable cash balance in hand. Take, for instance, the large and unexpected expenditure connected with the Kimberley district; if the Government had not had a good round balance in hand, the £25,000 expended during the recess, and which was absolutely necessary to be incurred, would have placed them in some difficulty, and the colony would have had to suffer. Then, again, there was the interest upon our loans, and the sinking fund to be provided for. This of itself was becoming a great drag upon our revenue, and it was a charge that must be provided against. He should like himself to see the tariff of the colony reduced in many instances, but he hardly saw how it could be done at the present time, when so many public works were required throughout the colony; and, unless a great many of these works were constructed out of revenue, he did not see where the money was to come from. He was glad to see that a bill dealing with the public health was to be brought in. Soaking in his position as the Mayor of Perth, he considered that such a measure was urgently required, for, if preventive steps of some kind were not taken without delay, he felt sure that before long some serious epidemic would break out in Perth. He noticed that it was proposed to provide £7,000 for the purpose of improving the water supply of Fremantle. He would draw attention to the fact that in certain portions of Perth a supply of pure water was quite as much required as in the town of Fremantle; he

therefore thought that some provision in this respect should be made in the case of Perth as well as Fremantle. The proposal to have a steamer for the use of the Admiralty coast surveyors was one that had been before the Council for years past, and he was glad to find the Government at last bringing the subject forward. He thought it was the members of that House who, in the past, had always pressed upon the Government the necessity of having this steamer, in order that the survey of the coast might be completed in a more expeditious manner than at present possible. At present, when the surveying schooner went to our northern waters it was at times delayed for days together, owing to the want of wind and the very heavy tides. All this waste of time would be obviated by employing a steamer. He therefore hoped that the Admiralty would at last make some offer to this colony whereby we might be able to get a steamer for this service, so as to have the work completed as early as possible. The importance of the service could not be over-estimated, and, without the aid of steam, it might be prolonged indefinitely. The question of the employment of a Government Geologist was one that should receive their careful attention. The result of the examination made by Mr. Hardman in the Kimberley District had been so satisfactory, and the prospects of the colony as regards gold-finding were so good, that he thought the time had arrived when a geologist should be employed to make a more careful examination of the country in this part of the colony. Judging from the opinion expressed by Mr. Hardman himself, after a cursory examination of the country, there were good indications of the existence of gold-bearing reefs to be found in the Darling Range. He noticed that, in the draft address-in-reply, reference was made to Wyndham as the "newly-founded capital" of the Kimberley District. He thought that, having regard to the interests of the southern portion of the colony, they ought to try to make Derby the principal port and capital of the district. They wanted it to be as near this part of the colony as possible, in order that they might derive some benefit from these gold discoveries. He felt sure that if the capital and seat of

Government were finally settled at Cambridge Gulf, the bulk of the trade of the Kimberley District would go to other portions of Australia, and not to this side. Therefore they ought to give every encouragement to make Derby the capital and the principal port of the district, so as to divert the trade that must be opened up, in the direction of this part of the colony, rather than let strangers monopolise it. One hon. member had referred to the contract made with the Adelaide Steamship Company for the conveyance of mails to Cambridge Gulf. In that contract it would be found that a clause was inserted making it compulsory upon the company to provide an extra steamer for that service, in addition to those employed at present carrying the mails. He thought it was to be regretted that more competition had not taken place with reference to this service, but time was an object when the tenders were invited; therefore the first offer that came before the Council had to be taken. He quite agreed with the hon. member for Geraldton that a company that received such a large subsidy as this company did from the Government of the colony should provide proper facilities for trade at the outports. He hoped, before the present session was over, they should have another offer made by the owners of the s.s. *Natal*, who, as hon. members were aware, were now building a new boat specially adapted for the service between Fremantle and our Northern ports, and Singapore. Considering the small subsidy that this company received in comparison with the Adelaide Steamship Company he thought they had a right to expect from the latter company far greater facilities and conveniences than they had at present. In conclusion, he would simply express the hope that all the measures they might pass this session might be such as would tend to promote the welfare of the colony; and, above all, he hoped that they would be able to arrive at some satisfactory conclusion with reference to the land regulations.

Mr. LAYMAN (who was very imperfectly heard) said that, in rising to make a few remarks on the Governor's speech, he should like, with the permission of the House, to refer to the 23rd paragraph of His Excellency's speech at the opening of last session, in which His

Excellency said: "The Governments of New South Wales and Victoria having intimated their willingness to share in the cost of erecting a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, I am taking steps, subject to your approval, to place a light of the first order on that important promontory. Your sanction of the expenditure required from this colony will of course be asked for in the usual way." After that clause in His Excellency's speech last session, he fully expected that the Government would have come down with some proposal on the subject last year; but, when the Estimates came on, he found there was nothing at all for this lighthouse. He saw by the speech delivered by His Excellency this session that papers respecting the recent session of the Federal Council would be laid before the House, together with the report of our own representative. That report, no doubt, would be a very interesting one, and very complete, considering that the gentleman who drafted it was a practical man. But he did not think they were likely to hear anything satisfactory with reference to this proposed lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin. He believed the question was introduced at the Federal Council meeting, but it was afterwards withdrawn, and, what became of it since, the public of this colony were not at all aware. Pending the receipt of the report of the proceedings, he would leave the matter as it stood. He would go on to the 6th clause of His Excellency's speech, where they were told that "a bill imposing upon Chinese immigrants similar restrictions to those in force in the other colonies of this continent" would be brought before them. He was glad to hear it. He was not aware what those restrictions were in the other colonies, but he was rather afraid that they would not meet the requirements of our own colony, as regards the Kimberley goldfields. They must remember that these goldfields were a long way off, reaching almost to Cambridge Gulf; and, whatever was done, he thought that every possible means should be resorted to, to prevent the country being flooded with Chinamen. They must remember that Kimberley possessed a tropical climate, much better adapted for Chinamen than Englishmen, and that once the Chinese got a footing there they would

thrive where an Englishman would starve. He thought if these goldfields turned out as well as they expected, and there was a large influx of diggers there, so long as those diggers were Europeans the Government no doubt would not find much difficulty in dealing with them; but if the population on the goldfields comprised fifty or a hundred per cent. of Chinese, the Government, he was afraid, would find their hands pretty full. He should be very happy to consider and support any measure that would restrict the introduction of Chinese to that part of the colony. There was one other subject he should like to refer to. His Excellency told them that several public works had been put in hand since last session, out of the Public Works Loan of 1884, and that some of these works were completed. He (Mr. Layman) was sorry to say that there were some works provided for in that loan that had not yet been taken in hand at all. He alluded particularly to jetty extensions, at Geraldton, Bunbury, and Busselton. So far as Geraldton went, he knew it had been decided to wait for Sir John Coode's report before doing anything there; and this might be a very good excuse for the delay so far as Geraldton was concerned. But it was altogether different with regard to the Bunbury and Busselton jetties. These works, he thought, should have been commenced before some of the works that had since been undertaken and completed, or which were still on hand; and he only hoped that before long these jetties would be proceeded with. It might be said that, if they were put in hand now, during the winter months, the contractors would leave a large margin; and he thought it would be a loss to the Government if they were to commence these works at this season of the year. At the same time he could not understand why the work should not have been put in hand before now.

MR. CROWTHER said that in the few remarks he intended making he should endeavor to travel over the ground already travelled over by previous speakers, as little as he possibly could. In the first place, he must confirm the complaints of the hon. member for Geraldton and the hon. member for Toodyay as to the manner in which the Victoria district was treated by the Adelaide Steamship Company. That very grave complaints did

exist, there was no doubt. It was a solid fact, which could not be got over; and he thought it could not be denied that the management of these steamers might be improved. They must of course admit—they must of course give the company credit for doing what hon. members themselves would probably do in the same position—do what was best for themselves. It was no doubt a fact that since the company first came here the value of their shares had been reduced, and their dividends also had been reduced; at the same time, it could not be denied that the trade on this coast was the only real tangible trade that the company now had in their hands. He thought, if that House thought fit, or the Government thought fit, to make any fresh arrangement, that competition might be invited and tenders called for carrying out the steam work on the coast generally. Let it include the work of the present company and also the work of the *Natal* steamship company. One steamer was not sufficient for the service between Fremantle, the Nor' West, and Singapore, the vessel engaged in that service being frequently precluded from calling at our northern ports, in consequence of being loaded up at Fremantle at one end, or at Singapore and Cossack at the other end. It would be a very easy matter to open up negotiations for a combined service. The hon. member for Toodyay mentioned the desirability of diverting the traffic to Cossack and Derby, from the other colonies, round this way. He confessed that would be a very good thing indeed, if it could be done; but he was afraid it would be found a very difficult matter. When a company had goods to carry from one point to another they would be pretty sure to go by that route which best paid them. As to the land regulations, His Excellency told them that with the assistance of that House he hoped to have this important subject settled in such a way as would prove satisfactory for some time. In his (Mr. Crowther's) humble opinion this land question was the question of all questions. He was quite certain in his own mind that, if we did not at once make a very liberal reduction in favor of those who lived upon the cultivation of the soil, or who depended upon pastoral pursuits, we should have to increase the accommodation of our

poor houses. No one could get over this bare fact, that twenty bales of wool today, compared with twenty bales of wool forty years ago, did not yield to the grower anything like the same profit. The sheep farmers were handicapped now on all sides; they had to pay a higher price for their labor, their rent was doubled, competition was keener, and the prices lower; and, if we wanted them to live—not to grow rich and rolling in wealth, as was stated the other day in another building not far off—if we wanted these people to live, we must give them some encouragement. In the central districts of the colony we must give our farmers ample security of tenure, and let them have their land on such terms that they could at any rate earn a bare subsistence out of it, and at the same time improve it. As to the pastoral leaseholders, he confessed there was a great difficulty indeed in dealing satisfactorily with that class. Unless the alterations in the land regulations were made retrospective—and he did not see how that could be done—the present lessees would be handicapped by the more liberal concessions granted to lessees under the new regulations. But as this subject would have to be threshed out in the House on another occasion, he should not now occupy the time of the House with any further remarks upon it. He thought it was only right to give hon. members just an outline of his views on the subject, and that, in his opinion, land in all cases must be greatly reduced if we intended to retain in the colony the population we were now getting and which we hoped to get. His Excellency in his speech said that the Board of Immigration had been “conducting its operations with prudence and success.” Now he was very certain that this paragraph could only refer to the Western Australian board, because the board or the commissioners in London decidedly did not conduct their operations with either prudence or success. The board in London as now constituted was not available to the very men who wanted to make use of it. These men had a vast amount of trouble, an immensity of red tape, and a great deal of running about to contend against, involving an expense which they could ill afford, before they could get at this

board at all. One particular instance had come within his own knowledge. A mechanic from this colony went home for the special purpose of getting out some labor; but he got so boxed about from one office to another that the poor man almost went off his head. As luck would have it, he eventually ran across Capt. Sangster, whom he had known in this colony, who put him on the right track; but, even then, he did not get the aid which he hoped to have got and which he had a right to have got, and the only mechanic that the poor man succeeded in bringing out was his own sister. Hon. members might laugh, but he assured them it was a very difficult matter indeed to get the ear of these London commissioners unless you had a very differently cut coat and a very superior bearing to the generality of men that were likely to come out to Western Australia. Unless you were a very superior person indeed it was no easy matter to gain admission within the portals of these emigration commissioners. His Excellency told them in his speech that he thought “further legislation respecting labor engagements” was required. There was no doubt about that, especially as regards the labor engagements of their Asiatic friends. The present Act was simply a dead letter; and, if their Malay friends or their Celestial friends only knew it, they had only to put on their hats and clear out of their situations tomorrow, and their employers would have to grin and bear it. These Celestial gentlemen instead of being servants were masters of the situation, if they only knew it, so far as the present Act was concerned. They had a test case in his own district the other day, when it was laid down by the law officers of the Crown that employers had no control over these men when they came here, if one single condition of the agreement required to be entered at Singapore should be overlooked. He quite agreed with the Governor that the time had certainly arrived for further legislation respecting labor engagements. There was one important matter, which perhaps could not have been included in the Governor's address but which he desired to refer to: we must have a revision of the law offices of the colony, or an increase in the judicial bench.

Some time ago they voted a large sum under the impression that the appointment of a second Judge would prevent the heavy expense of having cases sent down from distant parts of the colony to the Supreme Court. They were now told by the Government, and the statement was borne out by the Chief Justice and also by Mr. Justice Stone, that the work of the Supreme Court now was so heavy that it was impossible for the two Judges to keep up with it, and attend to the other judicial requirements of the colony. All he could say was, if such was the fact, we should have to vote the salary of a third Judge; so that we might have an independent referee in case of dispute or difference of opinion between the two Judges, and so that we may have courts of quarter sessions held in every district in the colony, attended by a circuit Judge. He did not think many would object to the extra cost of a third Judge, if the present hardships and inconvenience to which suitors were put to were removed. He also noticed that there was nothing in the Governor's speech about Responsible Government. That omission had not escaped the eagle eye of his worthy friend, the junior member for Perth,—the "genial doctor." Now with regard to this question of Responsible Government all he had to say was this: if the worthy doctor and those who belonged to the same persuasion as him really wanted Responsible Government they must go about it in earnest, and not in their present half-hearted way. They must grasp it as a reality, and not fool about with it as if it were a myth. He was quite certain that with the ability, and the energy, and the influence which they had in this country—and when he spoke of this country of course he meant Perth—they ought to be able to secure what they wanted, if they showed they were really in earnest. It was quite time the question should be disposed of, once for all, one way or the other. At the present moment he was not prepared to say that he approved of it, but he should like to see it decided one way or the other, and got out of the way, by an appeal to the country at large. Not that the country at large cared one straw for it, but in order that the whole thing might be disposed of, once for all. He would tell his hon. friends opposite this: if he

should happen to be in that House when it did come about he would go for it pure and simple. He would have Responsible Government complete or none at all—a House of Lords, payment of members, universal suffrage, and all. He would have no compromise. There had been enough talk about this question of Responsible Government with very little serious idea of getting it. That was his own private opinion. One very serious objection alleged against our present constitution had been removed by the announcement in His Excellency's speech that a bill was to be brought in for imposing upon Chinese immigrants the same restrictions as were in force in the other colonies. That, however, was a question he would not enter upon now. What he wished to be borne in mind was this: in the event of an appeal to the country, and the country saying Yes—in that event, if no one would take the lead in bringing about Responsible Government, or if no one would become their leader, he himself would do so. He himself would just try if he could not get them Responsible Government pure and simple. They should have their fill of it. If it was a blessing in disguise as some people made out, they would get the full benefit of it; on the other hand, should it prove to be the reverse of a blessing, they would have to pay for their mistake. That was all. He would have a full blown constitution, and nothing less. He would get them Responsible Government, pure and simple, and, with Responsible Government, payment of members and universal suffrage.

MR. MARMION said it had not been his intention to have spoken to the address, but, unless it should be thought hereafter, should he find it necessary to make some remarks more especially with reference to the subject of the Kimberley goldfields, that he had allowed this opportunity to pass without finding any fault with the allusion made to the subject in His Excellency's speech, he proposed to say a few words. He thought they had very much cause to congratulate themselves upon the discovery of what seemed on all sides to be considered probably one of the most extensive goldfields yet discovered; but, it seemed to him, and it had seemed to him for some time past, that the Government had failed to realise

the importance of the occasion, and that the steps that should have been taken were not taken sufficiently early, and that the steps that were taken did not go far enough,—did not go far enough to suit him at any rate. He thought the Government had not made the most of the opportunity offered, to make the greatest amount of capital possible out of this important discovery. He might here perhaps refer to what he had stated on the subject just at the close of last session, pointing out the desirability of the Government publishing some information as to the best point of departure for the goldfields, declaring a track, and establishing intermediate stations or depots. The then Colonial Secretary said he thought the suggestion a very apt and opportune one, and it would be his duty to place it before the Governor, and, no doubt, it would receive the consideration it deserved. He could only say, from subsequent events, that it appeared to have deserved very little consideration indeed, for it was very little that had been done in the matter. He thought the course of action he had suggested last session would, had it been acted upon, have resulted in very much good, and he thought it was a subject for regret that, though nine months had elapsed since he had made the suggestion, which was approved at the time by the leader of the Government, yet the Government were in a very little better position now than they were nine months ago to inform the other colonies and the rest of the world as to the richness or otherwise of these goldfields, or as to the best point of departure for them. If his suggestion had been acted upon at the time, the Government would have been in a position to have furnished this information six months ago. Better late, however, than never, and he was still of opinion that even at this late stage it would be advisable to establish depôts at stated distances between Derby and the goldfields, and also if necessary between Cambridge Gulf and the goldfields, not only in the interests of humanity, but also in order that communication might be established between our ports, where steamers call at, and the goldfields, so that the Government might be informed of what was going on, the value of the discoveries made, the number of people

on the ground, and any emergencies that might arise calling for the interference or assistance of the authorities. He was afraid that in some other respects, too, this question had not been regarded by the Government as being invested with the same importance and magnitude that he himself invested it; and that a sufficient staff of officials had not been sent to the district, to ensure, for instance, that the Customs revenue was properly protected. It had been hinted to him, from sources which he considered good ones, that at the present time large quantities of goods were being introduced into some of our Kimberley ports without any supervision on the part of the Government as to whether any duties were collected or not. If such was the case it was very hard indeed for this colony, from several points of view. It was very hard, in the first instance, that while we were expending large sums of money, and were likely to be called upon to spend a great deal more—it was a very hard thing that this colony should lose one single penny of the revenue which it should derive from the Customs. Another and a greater hardship still was the knowledge that, while everything sent from this part was subjected to a duty at this end, goods coming from the other colonies found their way into the district free of duty, thus handicapping, and seriously handicapping, for some time to come, all trade from this direction—which must be a source of mischief and loss to our mercantile community. With reference to the question of working the goldfields, he thought the Government should lose no time in acquainting the Council what had been done, and what was proposed to be done, and to ask the House to suggest a course of action in the future. He regarded this as an important epoch in the history of the colony, and an opportunity that should not be lost. We should make the most we could of this grand chance to attract population to our shores, and to endeavor by every possible means to keep them here after we got them. The question of imposing a tax upon Chinese was, he was sure, one that would receive the utmost consideration at the hands of that House, and, if it was possible under this constitution—and he saw no reason why it should be impossible—he thought that certainly we

should endeavor by every means to keep out a large rush of these Celestials. We knew the evil results that had happened in the other colonies from the influx of large numbers of Chinese to the goldfields, and we ought to profit by the experience of our neighbors, and, by the imposition of a poll-tax or otherwise, endeavor to restrict their number as far as possible. From information which he had received from various sources, he knew that a very strong feeling indeed existed upon this point within the Kimberley District. People had gone so far as to say that if Chinese were once to be allowed to get on the goldfield in large numbers—and these people spoke from their experiences on other goldfields—they would not be prepared to answer for the consequences. That was one of the reasons why he thought the Government should take prompt action to prevent a large influx of these Chinese at the outset, and, in the next place, prepare themselves for any emergency that might arise, by providing some means of communication between the goldfields and the ports. With reference to the land regulations, he thought that this was a very opportune time to say a few words with reference to the necessity for liberally dealing with our lands. He did not wish to harp upon what had already been alluded to by several hon. members, but it must strike them all that the opportunity offered itself now for the Government to deal liberally with the holders of agricultural land, at a time when the price of almost everything in the shape of produce, cereals of every description, was, and had been for at least the last year or two, at the lowest possible point. In the other colonies it was almost impossible to sell at a price remunerative to the grower. Trade of every kind was suffering from the severe depression, and all classes of the community felt it. So far as our agriculturists were concerned, an opportunity was now offered to the Government to assist at any rate that section of the community. With reference to the pastoralists, it had already been very tersely put by the hon. member for the Greenough how this class, who were popularly supposed to be rolling in riches and the wealthiest class in the community, were at the present time suffering from the effects of that

great wave of oppression which appeared to have passed over almost every part of the civilised world. He need not here refer to the great reduction that of late years had taken place in the price of that commodity upon which these pastoralists depended for their existence. They knew that wool of a certain description which three years ago would realise 1s. 8d. or 1s. 10d. per lb., this last year only realised 10d. or 11d., a difference of 50 per cent. He could himself produce vouchers showing that the same quality of wool from the very same station realised last year 33½ per cent. less than it realised three years ago. That was the present position of the pastoral settler. They must bear in mind, too, that a large proportion of our squatters in this colony were a struggling class, people who commenced with small means, and who leaving their homes to penetrate into the far interior risked all they had of their worldly possessions, and, in some cases, their lives, and, in all cases, all the comforts and conveniences of civilisation. Surely these people had some claim upon the Government; surely these people had some claim upon that honorable Council; surely they had some claim upon the sympathies of the community at large; and, surely, the Government, and that House, and the community at large would listen and give ear to that claim, and be prepared, when the time came, to deal liberally with them, and give them everything which they consider was justly their due. In the first place they must endeavor to give security of tenure, as far as possible, to enable them to improve their leases, and give them compensation for such improvements as were of a permanent character. They must do what they could to help these people in their difficulties and to prop them up to enable them to tide over the great wave of adversity which now threatened to overwhelm them. Having said so much upon the land regulations, he did not think it was necessary he should at present say any more. With reference to the land grant railway schemes, he thought it was a great pity that they were not in a position to know that these great undertakings were certain to become accomplished facts. He did not wish for a moment to express any doubt as to either of them being carried

out, but it would have been very gratifying to them to have heard that the capital had been raised, and tenders called, and that the work was progressing satisfactorily in both instances. He noticed with gratification that in Mr. Hordern's case tenders were being called for, for the construction of what he might call the sea end of the railway at Albany, which looked something like business at all events. With regard to the other great work, which, in his opinion, was of as great and possibly of greater importance, rather than less—with regard to the other great undertaking, he hoped that before they separated they should be placed in possession of some definite news respecting it. Naturally, as hon. members might imagine, it was a source of regret to him as one of the representatives of Fremantle, and the subject being one in which he had always taken a great interest, that no information had yet been received from Sir John Coode with reference to the important question of harbor works. He trusted and felt sure that the Government had spared no effort to induce Sir John Coode to let us have some expression of opinion upon this great question within as short a space of time as possible; and he trusted to hear, later on, some statement from the Director of Public Works upon the subject, giving them possibly some idea as to when they were likely to receive Sir John Coode's report. With reference to the bill about to be introduced to give the Kimberley district a separate member, he had hoped that the Government might possibly have taken into consideration the whole question of representation, as affecting other parts of the colony, and have made a greater addition than one member. He thought himself the time had probably arrived when the number of members sitting there might be increased; and if there was one thing that would tend to gratify the people of the colony and in all probability to put an end to that outcry which in some cases—he hoped the hon. member for Perth would excuse him for saying so—which was hardly in some cases based upon a good foundation, namely, the outcry for Responsible Government; if there was one thing that would in all probability put an end to that outcry it was an increase of representation in that House.

He believed himself that it might be possible to so re-arrange the various constituencies of the colony as to give general satisfaction and at the same without disturbing the balance of power, or giving any great preponderance of representation either to the North or to the South. He was certainly of opinion that, taking into consideration the importance of the Kimberley district and the fact that within a short time there will in all probability be within the boundaries of that district as large a population as there was now in all the rest of the colony—taking these things into consideration, he certainly did think that the district was entitled to a greater representation than one member. He thought it should have at least two members. He was perfectly well aware that some Southern members would be disposed to say, that would not be fair; but, he considered that representation ought to be based upon the importance of a district and its population at the time being. A paragraph in the Governor's speech that affected the district which he had the honor to represent informed them that a sum of £27,000 would be asked for, to improve the present defective water supply of the town of Fremantle. Several hon. members had alluded to this matter, and he felt sure that when the subject itself came up for consideration he should find a majority of hon. members voting in favor of the proposed expenditure. Some hon. members appeared to have forgotten the fact that this was simply carrying into effect the recommendations of a select committee which sat last session and whose report was unanimously approved in the House. Though there was no sum of money mentioned at the time, the work was recommended to be carried out, and, of course, it could not be carried out without an expenditure of money, and the House could not for a moment have imagined that it was to come out of the pockets of the poor ratepayers of Fremantle. The water pipes and all the materials required would afterwards be available for being utilised in carrying out that much greater scheme of supplying Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford with water from the Darling Range, a question which he understood had occupied the attention of the Director of Public Works, from whom he expected to hear something with refer-

ence to it, before the House rose. With regard to purchasing a steamer for the coast survey: that, he thought, was a question of some importance. The only objection he could see to a steamer was the vastly increased cost of keeping it, compared to a sailing vessel, and the necessity, if a steamer were used, for her being constantly employed, during the bulk of the time, otherwise the expense would be enormous. The hon. member for Toodyay stated that this question had been before the House for some years: he thought the hon. member was mixing it up with the question of the steam launch, which was intended to be used in conjunction with the present sailing schooner. As to the desirability of substituting a large steamer for the survey vessel now employed, he did not remember that question coming before them for their consideration. He quite agreed with all that had fallen from hon. members as to the desirability of this Government doing all it could to improve the port of Derby, and to endeavor, as far as possible, by all fair and legitimate means, to lead the traffic to and from the goldfields in that direction. They must all be well aware that the trade which went round from the other colonies left but little with us here; these people would go to the goldfields, gather the spoils, and in all probability return by the same route as they came; whereas, if they proceeded to the goldfields by coming round this way, we should at least have a chance of securing, on the outward trip, a share of the expenditure, and at the same time afford our visitors an opportunity of seeing the settled portion of the colony, where they could live in comfort. The revenue would thus reap some benefit, and, altogether, great advantages would accrue to the colony. At present, the Government were receiving a large sum of money even from the increased value of town allotments in the neighborhood of Derby, and he hoped that the Director of Public Works and the Executive Government would always keep in view the desirability of endeavoring to make Derby the principal port of the Kimberley district. He had no time now to go into the various reasons that he saw as to the necessity of giving attention to this subject; he had no doubt that its importance had dawned upon the minds of the members of the Executive

long ago, and that they were giving it their serious consideration. He could only hope, in conclusion, that their deliberations during the session now opened would tend to promote the welfare and prosperity of their common country.

THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had not been aware that he should have been called upon, as he had been by the hon. member for Fremantle, to furnish the House at this stage with any information. Before doing so, he might state that since he came into the House that evening he had received a telegram from the north, with reference to the works in progress up there, stating that the buoys at Cossack had all been laid, and that the tramway would be commenced on the 24th instant. With regard to the grievance of the hon. member for Fremantle, that the Government had not established depôts, police stations, relays, granaries for provisions, and taken other philanthropic measures to make the trip between Derby and the goldfields a pleasant one, he would call the hon. member's attention to the fact that, up to the present, neither the hon. member nor anyone else, so far as he could find out, could fix the exact locality of this goldfield. He had made inquiries of everybody whom he had come across who had been there, and he could get no definite information on the subject. One man appeared to be working at one creek, another at another creek, some at this gully and some at that, and, from what he could make out, the goldfield was scattered over an area of country extending over a hundred miles square, and that at the present there were not more than 200 or 300 people on the ground. It was impossible for the Government to have established these depôts and stations, under the circumstances. Moreover, it would cost a large amount of money, and he doubted very much whether the Finance Committee would have sanctioned such an expenditure, which would have been the only legitimate way for the Government to have obtained the money. He himself at the close of last session went to Cambridge Gulf, and the first body of diggers went up by the same steamer. Only eight ounces of gold had been previously brought down, and it was not for many months afterwards that a lucrative gold-

field was found and declared. Immediately the Government knew that a promising field had been discovered they took every step they could to place the thing on a proper footing. Money was voted for the necessary works at Derby, and, before three days, the rails and sleepers for a tramway were ordered, and they would be sent up before the end of this month. A police force had been organised, a warden appointed; and the Government could not be blamed in any way. As to the prevention of an influx of Chinese to the goldfields, hon. members would see from the Governor's speech that the Government proposed bringing in a bill dealing with the subject of levying a poll-tax upon Chinamen. This could not have been done until the Legislature had granted the Governor the necessary powers. As to the land grant railway schemes, he had received a letter by the engineer of Mr. Hordern's line (the Beverley-Albany line), in which the engineer informed him that the whole of the capital had been subscribed, and that they would commence the work before the date mentioned in the contract. He also said that they were already making arrangements to introduce a number of immigrants, and that one of the Orient Company's steamers would bring them to Albany. With regard to Sir John Coode's report as to Fremantle harbor, the surveys, which were very minute, had unfortunately not been completed until the 23rd April, as they had involved a large amount of work, in the shape of borings and soundings, the latter being taken at every fifty feet, to a distance of 9,000 feet out to sea. Sections had also to be taken and surveys made of the river and Rocky Bay. Everything that had to be done to enable Sir John Coode to prepare his plans had been done carefully and accurately, and he believed that with the details and data which Sir John now had he would be able, in a very short time, to make a comprehensive report and supply an estimate exactly as to how much the work would cost. When sending these details and plans to Sir John Coode, he wrote him a private letter, saying that the members of that House were very anxious to know what the result would be, and asking him, in the event of his not being able to send his formal report before the present

session closed, that he would kindly send him a letter, the contents of which he could communicate to the House, giving some idea as to what he thought of the scheme. As soon as he got that letter from Sir John Coode, he should have much pleasure in furnishing it to the House. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for the Vasse, if the hon. member only knew the amount of work that had been done in the Public Works department since last session he did not think the hon. member would say that any district in the colony had been neglected. The simple reason why the jetty at Busselton had not been done was because, in his ignorance, he had imagined there were other works of more pressing importance to the colony; but he could assure the hon. member that the work would be attended to with the smallest possible delay.

MR. SCOTT said he should like to say a few words in reply to what had fallen from hon. members, with reference to his speech in moving the address. The hon. member for Toodyay, referring to his remarks about the tariff, suggested that it was very desirable that the Government should always have a "nest egg" in the shape of surplus revenue to fall back upon. No doubt of it. But he did not look upon such a large sum as £89,000 as a mere nest egg; he thought it was half of a very good sitting. He was quite in favor of having a nest egg on hand, but he thought that about £30,000 would answer for that purpose very well. It was evident that the Government did not look upon the present large balance as an ephemeral one, for His Excellency told them that the estimate of revenue for the current year could not fail to be considerably exceeded. Under these circumstances he thought it was highly expedient that the present disastrous tariff should be reduced, temporarily at any rate. It was possible to raise it again, if necessary. When he spoke of a disastrously high tariff, it could not be denied that the present tariff did hamper trade, and that it prevented us from keeping in the colony many people who came here from countries where the tariff was not so high. For his own part he questioned whether the result of lowering the tariff would be the means of lessening the revenue at all. It would give a

great stimulus to trade, and encourage people to buy when they would not buy now. He viewed the matter in much the same light as the leader of the Government when he suggested that the cost of telegrams should be reduced from 1s. to 6d.; the increased number of telegrams that would pass through would probably increase rather than diminish the receipts derived under the higher tariff. He believed the same result would happen if the Customs taxation were reduced. With regard to the 19th paragraph of His Excellency's speech, relating to the public health, and the proposal to expend £7,000 in improving the water supply at Fremantle, although he cordially agreed with the proposed expenditure, still he must say that he thought such expenditure should rather be a charge upon a loan than upon the general revenue. He was very glad indeed to find that the hon. member for the Greenough was so thorough a Radical as his speech that evening had proved him to be. It seemed now that the hon. member rather agreed with him that those who were pledged to their constituents to make a move in favor of Responsible Government should do so without delay. He was not at all afraid himself that we would not prosper under that form of Government as much as we had prospered under the present form of Government—and he agreed that we had prospered under this form of Government; but he would point out to the hon. member, Mr. Loton, that if he looked into the matter he would find that the colony had prospered principally (during the period referred to by the hon. member) under those Governors whose views had most nearly approached that form of Government which he (Mr. Scott) wished to see adopted. The hon. member for Fremantle, when alluding to this subject, said he hoped the hon. member for Perth would not take offence at any remarks of his on this subject. He assured the hon. member that he took no offence at all at what the hon. member was pleased to say. He did not look upon it that the members of that House were going to be guided by him,—at all events for some time to come; but he thought that the people of the colony had a right to ask for that change in the form of Government if

they wished it, and he believed that the majority of them did wish it. He congratulated the Government upon the news they had received as to the progress of the Albany-Beverley land grant railway project, as stated by the hon. gentleman opposite, the Engineer-in-Chief. He thought the hon. gentleman's statement was a very gratifying addition to His Excellency's speech. The hon. gentleman's explanation, too, with regard to Sir John Coode's report, would also, he trusted, do away with any feeling of apprehension that might have been entertained with regard to any want of diligence on the part of those who had been concerned in conducting the necessary marine surveys.

Question put—That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the Speech he had been pleased to deliver to the Council:

Agreed to.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) moved that a select committee be appointed to consider the address in reply; such committee to consist of Mr. Scott, Mr. Loton, Mr. Shenton, Capt. Fawcett, and the mover.

Agreed to.

The committee withdrew to prepare the address, and, upon their return,

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) brought up the address, and moved that it be read.

THE CLERK then read the address, which was the same as that moved by the hon. member for Perth (*vide* p. 9 *ante*), with the substitution of the word "township" for "capital," in the 7th clause, referring to Wyndham.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said, before moving the adoption of the address, he desired to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address for the able manner in which they had discharged their task. The difference of opinion between the two hon. members as to the merits of Responsible Government had given a little zest to the debate. He sincerely trusted that when that question did come before the House, it would be approached in a calm, deliberate, and statesmanlike manner, as the importance of the subject demanded. In the meantime there were a large number of other subjects before

the House, demanding the consideration of hon. members; and he had no doubt that hon. members would approach their consideration in the same attentive and thoughtful manner as they had approached the consideration of His Excellency's speech. With regard to what fell from the hon. member for Geraldton, as to Messrs. Lilly & Co.'s contract, if he mistook not, the hon. member said that proper steps had not been taken by the Government to invite tenders for this service. He could assure the hon. member that tenders were not only invited in this colony but also in the other colonies, and the reason the Adelaide Steamship Co's. tender was accepted was because it was thought it would be in the interests of the colony to accept it, in conjunction with the same company's tender to convey the survey party to Cambridge Gulf. His hon. friend the Engineer-in-Chief, he thought, had disposed of the little grievances of the hon. member for Fremantle, as to the alleged shortcomings of the Government in one or two directions. So far as the hon. member's suggestion for the establishment of depôts between Derby and the goldfields was concerned, he certainly approved of the suggestion himself, but the immense expenditure that would be involved in carrying out such a scheme as the hon. member contemplated rendered it almost impossible for this Government to undertake it.

The Address in Reply was then adopted.

The House adjourned at half-past nine o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 24th June, 1886.

Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1884, Amendment Bill: first reading—Pearl Shell Fishery Special Revenue Bill: first reading—Address in Reply: Presentation to the Governor—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

DESIGNS AND TRADE MARKS ACT, 1884, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to alter the law relating to the procedure under "The Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1884," and "An Act to regulate Grants of Patents for inventions in the colony of Western Australia."

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

PEARL SHELL FISHERY SPECIAL REVENUE BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in accordance with notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Pearl Shell Fishery Special Revenue.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY: PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR.

At half-past twelve o'clock, p.m., the Council adjourned, and hon. members proceeded to Government House, to present the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

The Council re-assembled at a quarter to one o'clock, p.m.

The Speaker took the Chair.

The Speaker announced to the Council that the Address in Reply had been presented to His Excellency the Governor 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 loyal and cordial Address in reply to my Speech, and I trust that our united labors, during the present session, may tend to promote the welfare of Western Australia."

"Government House, Perth, 24th June, 1886."

The House adjourned at ten minutes to one o'clock, p.m.