

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that a select committee be appointed to draw up an Address to His Excellency, in reply to His Excellency's Speech, and that such committee consist of Mr. Marmion, Mr. Newman, Mr. Gull, Mr. Drummond, and the Mover.

Question put and passed.

The committee then retired to prepare the Address. On returning to the House the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. P. Barlee) brought up the Address prepared by the committee and moved that the same be read. The Address, read at the table by the Clerk, was as follows:—

**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCEL-
LENCY:**

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Council assembled, thanking Your Excellency for the address with which you have been pleased to open this our Second Session, concur in the belief that the present financial depression is of a temporary nature, but nevertheless we assure Your Excellency that you may rely on our assistance and co-operation in the endeavor to reduce expenditure so far as may be practicable, and to such extent as the circumstances of the Colony may seem to require.

We will carefully weigh and consider any further suggestions for prospective and contingent reductions that may be submitted to us.

Our best attention will be devoted to any proposed scheme of public works that it may be within the probable means of the Colony to project.

We concur with Your Excellency in attaching a high importance to the establishment of steam communication along our coast, and with other countries.

We hear with satisfaction that a Bill to permit and regulate distillation within the Colony, and a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws regarding the Licensing of Public Houses and the Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors, will be introduced during the present Session.

Our attention will be given to the proposed measure by which Your Excellency desires to bring our educational system into a more complete uniformity with the spirit of our present political institutions.

It will be our duty to respond to the invitation given us by Your Excellency to express our opinion upon a modification

and alteration of the Land Regulations, and we thank Your Excellency for the assurance that you will be actuated by a sincere desire to meet the wishes of the Council so far as may be consistent with the rules laid down by the Imperial Government for your guidance.

The proposed plan to effect reductions in the departmental Staff of the Land Office will be carefully considered.

We learn with satisfaction that The Government Geologist has been enabled to report on the existence of geological formations closely analogous to those of the rich Victorian auriferous districts.

In declining to expend money upon various purposes of public utility without an appropriation for those purposes, Your Excellency has recognized the legitimate function of this Council as appropriator of the public revenue.

We see with gratification the progress of industries calculated to advance the prosperity of this country, and we concur with Your Excellency in hoping that the restoration and maintenance of peace in Europe may exercise a beneficial influence on commerce and on Colonial interests, and we trust that renewed prosperity may rest on a basis but the sounder for this period of trial, and we shall gladly unite with Your Excellency's Government in steadily looking to the good of the Colony, and join in Your Excellency's prayer that our deliberations may, under Divine Providence, tend to promote the advent of an era of prosperity.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Address be now adopted.

Question put and passed.

Mr. CARR moved that the Address be presented by the Speaker and such members of the House as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 5.10 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Tuesday, 11th July, 1871.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—Minutes of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council—First Readings—Survey Department Re-organization.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER announced to the Council that the Address to His Excellency the Governor, adopted on the 10th instant, had been presented in accordance with the resolution of the House to His Excellency the Governor.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved that the first proceeding of each day shall be the reading and confirmation of the Minutes of the preceding sitting day.

Question put and passed.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motions by the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. P. Barlee): Confirmation of Expenditure Bill, Dangerous Goods Bill, Exportation of Arms and Munitions of War Bill, Maintenance of Bastard Children Bill, Licensing of Public Houses Bill, Distillation Bill, Powers to Grant Commissions given to Chief Justice Bill, and Elementary Education Bill.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT RE-ORGANIZATION.

Mr. LOGUE, with leave, without notice, moved that the Surveyor General's proposition for the re-organization of the Survey Department be printed, and a copy placed in the hands of each hon. member before discussion takes place.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 12th July, 1871.

Circular Warrants—Papers Tabled—Standing Orders—
Customs Tariff: select committee—Trial of Kenneth
McLean and Others—Lucifer Matches Bill: leave to
introduce—Scab in Sheep Bill: first read-
ing—Refreshment Room.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4 p.m.

PRAYERS.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

CIRCULAR WARRANTS.

In reply to Mr. STEERE,

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that as, in all probability, he would be unable to attend the sittings of the Council on the following day, he would, with the permission of the House, at once proceed to answer the questions propounded by the hon. member for Wellington. With regard to the first of these queries, he would state that the particular case alluded to had not been brought under his notice, officially. A short time ago he had a very lengthy correspondence with the late Attorney General on the subject of circular warrants, and he then discovered that that gentleman had imparted very good advice indeed to the Superintendent of Police with reference to these warrants, to the effect that police constables should always take a certain amount of responsibility upon themselves. In the case of a person guilty of some heinous offence it might often be advisable that the police should be empowered, at any time and place, to arrest the offender under a circular warrant, and cause him to be transmitted to that part of the colony where the offence was committed, and where the original warrant for his apprehension had been issued. Some discrimination, however, should be exercised in the execution of such warrants, and in no cases should an arrest be made where the enormity or peculiarity of the offence, the exigencies of justice, and the public weal did not demand it. The only case that had been brought under his cognizance was one that occurred at Dongarra, two months ago, where a servant had been arrested under a circular warrant on the information of the employer for breach of contract. The hon. and learned gentleman was proceeding to make some observations with reference to the 4th Victoria which relates to the practice of issuing circular warrants, when

Mr. STEERE rose and said that as he had some observations to offer on the questions upon which he had notified his intention of interrogating the Attorney General on the following day, it was very inconvenient that the hon. and learned gentleman should then enter into any explanations. If the hon. member would be unable to attend at the House next day, the Colonial Secretary, in his absence, would, doubtless, be able to supply the information which he required.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) stated that he was tolerably conversant with the questions before the House, and, in the absence of his honorable and learned colleague, he would endeavor to answer them to the satisfaction of the hon. member opposite.