

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Session of 1884.

Opened on Thursday, 16th July, 1884.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 10th July, 1884.

Opening of Council—Governor's Speech—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—Adjournment.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

THE Council was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor on the 8th September, 1883, to the 12th December next ensuing; thence to 2nd April, 1884; thence to 4th June; thence to Thursday, 10th July, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

The Council assembled at 3 o'clock, p.m.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Shortly after 3 o'clock, His Excellency the Governor entered the Chamber and took the Chair.

HIS EXCELLENCY, having desired that hon. members be seated, was pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

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

"I meet you with pleasure at the beginning of another Session.

"2. On receiving the news of the lamented death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany, I forwarded, for submission to Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, a telegraphic message conveying the profound sympathy of the people of Western Australia. This was quickly followed by addresses of

"condolence from the various constituted bodies of our loyal community; and gracious replies have been received, thanking the Colony for these prompt expressions of feeling.

"3. The Intercolonial Convention which met at Sydney during the recess, and at which this Government was represented, has made important proposals respecting the Pacific Islands, and the constitution of a Federal Council for the Australasian colonies. Papers and despatches on the subject will be laid before you, and you will be asked to concur in the resolutions of the Convention, and to join with the other Colonies in moving Her Majesty's Government to take the requisite action. You will be asked to contribute to the expense attending the immediate employment of an Imperial Commissioner on the coasts of New Guinea.

"4. I am again able to say that the Government is in a good financial position. The current year began with a treasury balance of £76,152, or more than double the sum in the chest on the previous 1st of January. The Revenue to the 30th of June has been £167,628, and the Expenditure (including £20,000 carried to the Immigration Fund) £141,010. The unappropriated cash balance at the end of last month was therefore £102,770.

"5. It appears probable that the Revenue estimated for 1884 will be realised, or nearly so. But, should you pass the supplementary estimate of £24,235 which will be presented to you,

"and which, from causes I will not now enter into, I have been unable to avoid, the original estimate of Expenditure will be considerably exceeded. After making every possible allowance, the cash balance at the end of this year may, however, be safely computed at over £30,000, the sum I have named in a previous speech as the limit below which I do not think the floating capital of the Government can prudently be reduced.

"6. The Estimates of ordinary Revenue and Expenditure, and of Loan Expenditure, for 1885, are in course of preparation, and will be laid before you at an early period.

"7. The Exports of the Colony during 1883 were valued at £447,010, and the Imports at £516,846, making a total trade of £963,856. These figures show a decrease in the Exports, as compared with 1882, of £136,045, due chiefly to the lesser quantity and price of the wool exported, and to the very depressed state of the sandalwood market. The exports of timber and pearl shell were also considerably less than in 1882. This depression in some of our industries still, I regret to state, exists, but I trust it may not long continue. The amount of wool exported must steadily and largely increase, and the deficiency recorded last year is only an accidental circumstance, due to the dates of the departures of the wool ships. I see no reason to abate our confidence in the future of the Colony, though the facts mentioned show the necessity of proceeding in our finances with caution.

"8. During the recess, the Railway and Telegraph Loan of £254,000 has been floated in London, and is now being expended in the extension of the Eastern Railway to York, and of the telegraph to Roebourne. Both of these works are progressing satisfactorily. The second section of the Eastern Railway, 21½ miles in length, was opened to Chidlow's Well in March last.

"9. I lost no time in requesting the Secretary of State to enter into contracts, subject to your approval, with the promoters of the Land Grant Railway and Sub-marine Telegraph schemes, which you so carefully considered last Session. I regret to say that these schemes are still in an inconclusive

state. The latest telegraphic information I have obtained on the subject has been made public, and the correspondence which has passed will be laid before you, as also papers relative to a further proposal to construct a Land Grant Railway from York to Geraldton via Northam and Newcastle. I am still in good hope that, at all events, the Beverley-Albany Railway may go forward at an early date. The promoter of that scheme will, I understand, shortly arrive in the Colony, which will facilitate the settlement of the matter.

"10. The modifications proposed by you last Session in the land regulations relating to the Kimberley District, and as regards the renewal of pastoral leases generally, have been approved in their entirety by Her Majesty's Government. The despatches on the subject will be laid before you. During the recess, I have received sundry representations, having for their object certain further changes in the regulations. The papers will be laid before you. Considering the various important interests involved, and the diversity of opinion on the subject, I am inclined to think that the land regulations should not be again dealt with until they have been discussed at the approaching general election. But I shall be quite ready to consider any recommendations you may make.

"11. The settlement of the Kimberley District is progressing, and there seems every reason to expect that the success of its pastoral occupation will soon be completely assured. The survey will this season be carried as far as Cambridge Gulf. Unforeseen difficulties have had to be contended with in the construction of a jetty and tramway at Derby, and some further expenditure will be necessary. Until it becomes possible to connect this part of the Colony with the seat of Government by telegraph, its proper administration from Perth must remain beset with difficulty. The ultimate success of the Eucla District still, to a great extent, depends upon the undetermined question of the water supply. The excellence of the pasture over a large portion of the country taken up is undoubted.

"12. Looking to the fact that the transactions of the Government for the

"years 1882 and 1883 left surpluses of £44,921, and £43,797 respectively, and that the land rents in certain districts will shortly increase under the terms of the leases, I have requested the Secretary of State to sanction a further Loan for public works. His Lordship's reply may be expected in time to allow of action being taken this Session. Should a Loan be approved, you will be fully consulted as to the particular works to be executed. Some selection there must be, as it is impossible that the whole of the various undertakings which have been advocated, and which are very necessary in themselves, can be brought within our present resources. Since you last met, the surveys of railway lines from Geraldton to the Irwin, and from Bunbury to the timber ranges, have been completed; and the survey of the route from York to Beverley is now in progress.

"13. During the spring and summer, I visited many parts of the Colony. As the impressions gathered on my journeys are recorded in a published despatch, I will not now refer to them; but I must repeat that my travels in Western Australia have been a source of great pleasure to me, and that I shall ever cherish a warm remembrance of the many kind friends I have met in each district, and of the honour and hospitality with which I have been everywhere received. I have been looking forward to a visit, later in this year, to the Gascoyne, Roebourne, and Kimberley Districts. But my request for one of Her Majesty's ships for the necessary voyage, though strongly supported by the Earl of Derby, has not been successful, and I fear it may be some time before I am able to carry out my wish. Despatches on the subject will be laid before you.

"14. The epidemic of measles, which appeared at Albany last July, and which prevailed so extensively in Perth and Fremantle, has not yet entirely disappeared from all parts of the Colony. It has, I deeply regret to say, occasioned considerable loss of life. Papers on the subject will be laid before you.

"15. I have directed a large portion of my correspondence with Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for the Colonial and Home Departments to be printed for your information. You

"will perceive, from the despatches, the manner in which many of the subjects which occupied your Honorable House last Session have been dealt with.

"16. Among the more important action resulting from the laws and resolutions of 1883, I may particularly mention the establishment of the Immigration Board. You will gain full information of its proceedings from the papers and financial estimates which will be laid before you. During the past six months, 375 nominations have been approved by the Board, and 181 immigrants have been introduced from England, while 108 statute adults are now on their way to the Colony. The supply of labor is at present very insufficient, and employers, in the country districts especially, find great difficulty in procuring hands.

"17. Large numbers of dogs are being destroyed under the new Dog Act, and I shall have to ask you for a supplementary vote for the reward money payable by law.

"18. Papers which will be presented to you will show the manner in which I have proceeded upon your Address of last Session respecting the increase of salaries in the Civil Service, and you will be requested to vote considerable additional sums on this head.

"19. The provision of a supply of pure drinking water for this city and the town of Fremantle is a matter which cannot much longer be delayed. I shall ask your advice upon it.

"20. London and Singapore are now connected with Fremantle by direct lines of steamers, which are a convenience to our trade. The terms of your Address on the subject have been to some extent departed from, and this will require notice, in connection with the payment of the subsidy which you authorised. The renewal of the contracts for the present coastal steam service will be a matter for your consideration, and, in order that your hands may be free, I have caused the contractors' agents to be served with a *pro forma* notice of the termination of the contracts in February next.

"21. The transfer of the whole of the Imperial Convict Establishment to this Government has been proposed by me to the Home Department, on terms

"which, if accepted, will of course require your ratification. Despatches on the subject will be presented, and also despatches showing the reason of the delay which has taken place in carrying out the approved transfer of the Lunatic Asylum. Upon the Water Police question, I have not yet obtained a reply, although I have pressed for it.

"22. The legislation of the Session will include some useful measures. You will be requested to consider a Master and Servants Bill, raising the question whether the legal position of the working classes in Western Australia towards their employers should not now be brought into harmony with the laws affecting those classes in England and in the other colonies of this Continent. An Imported Labor Bill will also be introduced. It has been framed with the object of protecting alien laborers, and also of placing the employer in possession of a secure and easily enforced agreement, and of relieving him, in certain cases, of the obligation to defray a return passage. The existing law is deficient in these respects.

"23. Among the other measures of the Session, a Bill to regulate the Raising and Inscription of Loans is intended to simplify any future borrowing transaction of the Government, and to place Western Australian Stock in a better position on the London market; while a Bill to regulate Buildings in Towns has been prepared in concert with the municipalities of Perth and Fremantle. You will also be requested to consider Bills on the following subjects:—Bank Holidays, the Law of Libel, the Customs Law, the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, Desertion from Her Majesty's Ships, Designs and Trade Marks, Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes, together with some minor enactments. The drafts of most of these Bills have already been published in the *Government Gazette*.

"24. I hope soon to receive the report of the Native Commission. This report, as well as the usual annual departmental reports and returns, and several reports of a special nature from Committees I have appointed, and the members of which I thank for their freely-rendered and conscientious ser-

vices, will be laid before you, with my remarks.

"25. During the Session, I shall communicate with you on the question of the future organisation of the Public Works and Railway Departments, on the question of the purchase of a steam tug or launch for the port of Fremantle, on the question of the resumption of the Fremantle Jetty traffic by the Government, and on various other matters; and I feel sure I may reckon confidently upon your valuable assistance.

"26. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, I have only to add that, so long as I am at the head of this Government, it will be my object to administer your affairs in harmony with the laws of the Colony and the wishes of its people, to recognise the legitimate powers and responsibilities of your Honorable House, and to adhere in all things to a basis of sound financial economy.

"27. I trust that our mutual labors may, by the blessing of Providence, tend to the advancement of Western Australia and the welfare of its people."

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, withdrew from the Council Chamber.

GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), with leave, without notice, moved the first reading of a Bill to declare the terms and conditions applicable to Loans authorised to be raised by the Government of Western Australia, and to provide for the creation of West Australian Incribed Stock.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. MAITLAND BROWN: Sir—I have the honor to move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the gracious Speech with which he has been pleased to open this Session. I am sorry that the Speech has not been longer in the hands of hon. members, but no doubt we shall hear their views upon it at a later

stage. They will see upon perusal of it that, apart from the fact that I have the privilege to propose the address in reply, my remarks upon the Speech itself must be solely of a congratulatory character, because, in my opinion, the bill of fare which His Excellency has treated the Legislative Council to, upon its opening day, is one that disarms hostile criticism. Hon. members will have heard, I am sure, with melancholy satisfaction of the steps which have been taken by His Excellency, in connection with the lamented death of the late Duke of Albany, in promptly conveying to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duchess of Albany an expression of the profound sympathy of the people of this Colony; and I doubt not that this honorable House will also take advantage of the first opportunity afforded it of expressing its condolence with Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness in their recent bereavement. The Governor's Speech at the opening of the Council is always looked forward to in this Colony with the greatest amount of interest, but, perhaps, never has there been an occasion when the public interest has been greater than at the present time, when from all parts of the Colony there comes an earnest, an intelligent appeal, I may say, for the prosecution of large public works, from one end of the Colony to the other—all works which I think it is generally agreed require only to be grappled with earnestly to become ere long facts accomplished. The Government has heard the public voice in reference to these works and measures, and it has had time to mature its own views with regard to most of them, and I think it would be as well that I should now mention some of the matters more particularly referred to. Well, sir, first of all there is that grand fabric, Federated Australia, which we and our sons I believe shall yet be proud of, and from which this portion of the continent has everything to gain and very little, if anything, to lose. Next comes the question of railway extension, north, south, east, and west, upon a scale which hitherto at any rate has not been within our grasp. Then we have the great question—which I am sure interests the hon. members for Fremantle—that great question of providing a harbor which shall accommodate large ocean-going

steamers, a harbor which shall be constituted the chief port of the Colony. Then we have wharfage accommodation in connection with that harbor. The necessity is also pointed out to us in this Speech—a necessity which has often been alluded to publicly, and not only alluded to publicly but sought by the public—the extension of the jetties at the chief outports of the Colony, so that vessels of a reasonable size may be taken alongside, and thus facilitate trade. Then we have telegraphic extension upon land. Hon. members know many places where that extension would be of great service to the Colony. We have also the question of submarine telegraphy to grapple with, and to make up our minds in reference to. Turning from public works to other measures that will demand our attention, and which are foreshadowed in this Speech, we have the question of the increase of salaries in the civil service. These and numberless other measures, more or less important, are detailed in the Governor's Speech—measures which are in the balance at the present time, and upon the speedy fulfilment of which I think all will agree greatly depends the measure of progress which this Colony is to make in the immediate future. A glance at the finances of the Colony, as referred to in His Excellency's Speech, will show that, although it may not be possible for us to compass all the works that we may desire to see gone forward with at once, still that a very great deal can be accomplished. Fortunately, or otherwise, the Governor under this Constitution is omnipotent to decide whether the Colony shall march forward or stand still, and he who holds such supreme power, if he wields it conscientiously and wisely, well deserves the sympathy, the encouragement, and the support of every loyal person amongst us—of every person amongst us who is loyal to his country and to the Crown. I believe that, in Western Australia, His Excellency will find this sympathy and will find this support accorded to him. It is to the Governor's Speech that we must look for some account of what has been done in the interests of the Colony, by the Government, during the recess. We must look to that Speech for some insight not only into what the Government have been doing but also into what they

intend to do. I have looked carefully into this Speech myself, and I think hon. members will agree with me that it affords a most satisfactory account by the Government of the stewardship, of the high trust, which has been committed to their charge. Nothing of great importance that I can think of appears to have escaped attention. We have information upon many matters, and we are promised information upon all matters upon which we may desire to have it. Again, sir, the aspirations of the Legislature appear to have been faithfully considered. The Government has not been idle with regard to the views which have been expressed by the representatives of the people in this House, and we find ready to our hands that work which we have been looking for. More than that, we find upon reference to the Governor's Speech that timely steps have been taken with a view to avoid any unnecessary delay in carrying out such works as the Legislature and the Government together may agree upon as necessary. But, sir, there is another side to the picture. The Government, whilst recognising its own duties and performing them, plainly calls upon the members of this House to come forward and take their due and fair share of the responsibility of the work of legislation. It is a high responsibility, and one cast upon us by the Constitution. Shall we be found equal to it? I think so. I think hon. members will hail the day when they have the opportunities afforded them which they now have. Sir, within the four corners of this Speech, from the first paragraph to the last sentence, there breathes a policy. We have often heard the Government twitted with not having a policy. Well, sir, here it is, and it is a policy which I venture to say is fraught with an immense deal of good to Western Australia, during the fast vanishing days of the existing Constitution. I look upon the course here taken by the Governor as the best shaft which has ever yet been shot out of the Government bow, in defence, or justification, or palliation of the existing Constitution. Here (holding up the Speech) is that shaft. Let hon. members examine it carefully. Let them read every line of it, and let them also read between the lines, and they will see these encouraging

words: 'The rights of the people of Western Australia, as represented in this Legislature, are not a mere name, a sham, a delusion, and a snare, impotent for good, but are real and substantial, and as such are recognised and guarded by the Governor of the Colony.' Sir, the 26th paragraph of His Excellency's Speech is but the natural and fitting conclusion to this spirit which I say breathes throughout the whole Speech. Had this paragraph stood alone I should have attached little or no value to it, but the spirit which prompted it pervades the whole Speech. I shall read it, and when hon. members have had an opportunity of considering the Speech itself, I feel certain they will agree with me in attaching very high value to these words, and in accepting them in all seriousness and earnestness. They are these: "I have only to add," His Excellency says, "—in conclusion I have only to add that, so long as I am at the head of this Government, it will be my object to administer your affairs in harmony with the laws of the Colony and the wishes of its people, to recognise the legitimate powers and responsibilities of your honorable House, and to adhere in all things to a basis of sound financial economy." Sir, I now formally move the following Address in Reply, and, in doing so, I cordially reciprocate His Excellency's trust that our mutual labors may, by the blessing of Providence, tend to the advancement of the Colony and the welfare of its people:

"To His Excellency Sir Frederick Napier Broome, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c."

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, have to express our thanks for the Address with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open the Session, and assure you that our assistance in advancing all measures which may conduce to the welfare of this Colony will be earnestly rendered.

"2. It was with deep regret that members heard of the lamented death

"of His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany, and they have observed with satisfaction the promptitude with which Your Excellency forwarded, for submission to Her Majesty the Queen and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany, an expression of the profound sympathy of the people of Western Australia, and to which they are pleased to learn gracious replies have been received.

"3. Being fully satisfied that this Colony should co-operate with other Australian Colonies in matters of Federal concern, we shall be prepared to carefully consider the resolutions of the Convention held at Sydney last year, with a view to their adoption.

"4. It was with much satisfaction we heard that the finances are in a good condition, that the revenue estimated for 1884 will probably be realised, and that, in Your Excellency's opinion, the cash balance of £30,000 named in your opening speech of last Session need not be entrenched upon.

"5. The Estimates, when placed before us, will secure our most careful attention.

"6. It is gratifying, on the one hand, to know that some of the products of the Colony exported have increased in quantity during the last year, though, from decline of prices, unfortunately the value realised has fallen, and from the accidental circumstance due to the sailing of wool ships outside the actual year, the wool exports being shown as a decrease, the total value compares unfavorably with 1882. It is to be anticipated that the markets will rise, and that our sandalwood and other exports which have been and are still depressed in price, will again realise satisfactory rates.

"7. The floating of the Loan of £254,000, and the progress of the works being now constructed with the money raised, appears very satisfactory.

"8. That there is an early prospect of the construction of railways being undertaken by syndicates or companies on the Land Grant System we are gratified to learn, and hope that the promoter of the Beverley and Albany Railway will on his arrival be prepared to accept terms which can be agreed to.

"9. The successful settlement of the Kimberley District, we are glad to learn, is progressing. The extension of the telegraph from Roebourne we agree is a work which should be shortly carried out if funds are available.

"10. It is with great satisfaction we learn that Your Excellency has already taken steps to obtain the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the raising of further loans to be expended upon such works as shall be mutually agreed upon by the Government and the Legislative Council, and that His Lordship's reply may be expected in time to allow of action being taken this Session.

"11. The printed despatches promised by Your Excellency will doubtless be perused with great interest and advantage by us.

"12. The various other questions and Bills brought before us will receive our earnest and most careful consideration, and before concluding, we take this opportunity of offering our congratulations to Your Excellency on the distinction recently conferred on you by Her Majesty promoting you to the rank of Knight Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George, which we accept not only as an acknowledgment of Her Majesty's approval of your services, but as complimentary to the Colony you govern."

MR. BURT said: I rise, sir, with some pleasure to second the motion made by the hon. member opposite, that this Address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech with which he has favored the House. I think that the mover and seconder of the Address on these occasions are rather disadvantageously placed in some respects, compared with other members, for they find themselves cramped in a great measure by the exigencies of the occasion, limited as they are by the time at their disposal, in any remarks they may have to make. I am sure, had time permitted it, we should have heard from the hon. member who has just sat down, a much more exhaustive commentary on the various questions touched upon in the Speech than we have had this afternoon. But I find no fault with him whatever for confining his remarks within as small a compass as possible, and I myself shall endeavor to

be even more brief. It is a source of pleasure to me to find that this Speech meets with the sincere approval of the hon. member for the Gascoyne. I think if I heard him rightly, the hon. member said it was the best shaft that was ever shot in defence of the present Constitution. [Mr. BROWN: Hear, hear.] That being so, I think that for this Session at least we may be spared those insincere movements in favor of Responsible Government—I say insincere for I honestly believe them to be insincere. [Mr. BROWN: No, no.] The country settled that question at the last general election when it returned a majority opposed to the proposed change. I declared my own opinion at the time, an opinion which I do not wish to repeat to-day, though I am quite ready to repeat it—but the country having returned a majority against Responsible Government, I think the question may be left with advantage to slumber until the next general election—[Mr. BROWN: Hear, hear.]—which no doubt will take place next year, when we shall have an opportunity of meeting the hon. member for Gascoyne and the hon. member for Perth (who I regret not to see in his place this afternoon), and be able to argue the real merits and demerits of this movement. [Mr. BROWN: Hear, hear.] His Excellency, in his Speech, directs our attention to the land regulations, which I think we may take it need amending; but His Excellency deprecates any interference with them this session, on the ground that the elections are coming on next year. I think perhaps His Excellency is wise in that respect—wise to defer any further meddling with such an important matter until an opportunity is afforded him of placing the whole question before the country, at the general election now at hand. I say this is an important matter, because I consider the land regulations of the colony of very great importance indeed, and, inasmuch as we are attempting to extend our immigration operations, I think the two subjects can very well be considered together, and, in fact, should go hand in hand. It can scarcely be considered that the steps we took last year to encourage immigration have met with any great success, if we have only introduced some 300 people into the colony during the last twelve months.

And I think what is at fault are the regulations which govern the sale and letting of the waste lands of the Crown, and I consider these subjects ought to receive very serious consideration indeed, not only at the hands of candidates at the next election, but also of every thinking man throughout the colony. A very ample “bill of fare” has no doubt been set before us by His Excellency in his Speech. We are all most gratified I am sure to hear that His Excellency has intimated to the Secretary of State that we propose to come forward with another loan, but I am afraid there will be some difficulty in arriving at the purposes for which the next loan should be applied. There are many works now before the House, such as the proposed railways, east, north, and south, and also that important question of harbor works at Fremantle [Mr. MARMION: Hear, hear.] We have a very great choice undoubtedly of works, and I do not think many hon. members are pledged to any particular work, and we can take each project upon its own merits. I noticed that the hon. member for Fremantle cheered just now when he heard me mention harbor works. But harbor works do not in my opinion necessarily mean a breakwater at Fremantle. We want, undoubtedly, accommodation for shipping to an extent we do not at present possess, so as to bring ocean-going steamers to the chief port of the colony, which, for the sake of argument, we will say is Fremantle. But that may be accomplished at a far less cost indeed than the construction of a breakwater, and I am sure the hon. member for Fremantle will excuse me if the House asks him not to jump too hastily to the conclusion that harbor works necessarily mean a breakwater, for it may mean something else. There is one matter mentioned by the Governor in his Speech, which needs very serious attention at the hands of this House, and that is the question of providing a supply of pure drinking water for Fremantle and Perth. I view this as a matter which the House should take up this session. It is a question that ought not to be deferred any longer, for, at Fremantle at any rate, there is not a more pressing want than a supply of pure water. This is a subject, perhaps, that none of us like to approach on account of the pro-

bable expense; but, when we have staring us in the face, as we have year by year, the reports of the health officer at Fremantle and of the health officer at Perth, and of the Colonial Surgeon himself, warning us that at any moment we may be visited by some epidemic, I think it is time we paid some heed to these warnings; and now that His Excellency has intimated that he intends to ask our advice on this subject, I think we ought to take the matter into serious consideration, and be prepared to deal with it at once. Another question that is likely to occupy the time of the House will be the bill to regulate the inscription of our loans, which is undoubtedly a most important measure indeed, and will have the effect, I believe, of raising the price at which our loans are quoted in the English market some one or two per cent. Towards the close of His Excellency's Speech it will be seen that he intimates his intention of asking the House its opinion upon the question of the future organisation of the Works and Railways Departments. That, I take it, is a matter this House will be ready to enter upon. It has been suggested that the two branches should be separated, in view of the fact that we are now entering so largely upon a system of public works and that our railways are extending, and the control of them becoming a question of importance and involving larger responsibilities. I think it will be admitted by the head of the Department himself that the time has arrived when the two should be separated. I am also glad to see that His Excellency intends to ask us to consider the question of the resumption of the Fremantle jetty traffic by the Government. No doubt the hon. member for Fremantle, when he speaks on this subject, will be able to tell us far more about it than I can, but I think it will not be denied that it will be most advantageous indeed to the interests of all persons engaged in trade that the traffic on this jetty should be resumed by the Government. There are many other subjects referred to in the Speech upon which I shall not remark at the present time. They will no doubt receive attention at the hands of other members of the House, who will speak to this motion another day. I can merely add, in conclusion, that I think I express the general opinion of the House when I

say that we are all very glad indeed to recognise the very painstaking manner in which His Excellency has given his attention during the recess to the various addresses and requests made by the Legislature last session. I am sure we are all also very glad to learn that he has had conferred upon him lately a distinction which he so well merited at the hands of Her Majesty. Sir, I can only add that I cordially join with the mover of the Address in the expression of a hope that the mutual labors of the House and of the Government may tend to the advancement of Western Australia and the welfare of its people.

MR. STEERE moved that the debate on the Address be adjourned until Wednesday next, which he believed was the general wish of the House, when all hon. members would be in attendance. He did not mean to move the adjournment of the other business, which he thought ought to be proceeded with from day to day.

Motion agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 14th July, 1884.

Excess Bill, 1883: first reading—Naval Deserters Bill: first reading—Bank Holidays Bill: first reading—Regulation of Whipping Bill: first reading—Designs and Trade Marks Bill: first reading—General Loan and Inscribed Stock Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

EXCESS BILL, 1883.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a