

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

**Legislative Council—Session of 1875-76.**

**Opened on Tuesday, 30th November, 1875.**

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 30th November, 1875.*

Opening of the Council—Election of Acting Speaker—Swearing in of Members—The Governor's Speech—Colonial Passengers' Ordinance, 1861, Amendment Bill: first reading—Papers Tabled—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—House Committee.

### OPENING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor on the 26th January, 1875 to the 1st June, 1875; thence to the 24th July, 1875; thence to the 24th August, 1875; thence to the 30th September, 1875; thence to the 30th October, 1875; thence to the 30th November 1875, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

The Council met at 3 p.m.

### PRAYERS.

### ELECTION OF ACTING SPEAKER.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) intimated that as the Speaker was still unavoidably absent, it would be necessary to elect an Acting Speaker *pro tem*.

Mr. RANDELL moved that Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell be elected Acting Speaker during the temporary absence of the Speaker.

Mr. SHENTON seconded the motion.

Sir THOMAS COCKBURN-CAMPBELL returned thanks for the honour proposed.

Question put and passed.

The Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) and Mr. Shenton conducted the Acting Speaker to the Chair.

THE ACTING SPEAKER returned thanks for the honour conferred.

### SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The ACTING SPEAKER administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), Mr Monger, Mr. W. Burges, Mr. T. Burges, and Mr. Shenton.

### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Sergeant-at-Arms announced the approach of His Excellency the Governor. The Governor entered the Council Chamber.

His EXCELLENCY was then pleased to deliver the following speech:—

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

I have much pleasure in meeting you again, and in availing myself of your advice and assistance in the enactment of measures for promoting the welfare of the Colony.

I duly forwarded to the Secretary of State your Resolutions of last Session relative to the proposed introduction of Responsible Government, and I have now to inform you that His Lordship, having carefully considered the whole question, has been unable to arrive at the conclusion that the circumstances of the Colony are at present such as would justify him in advising Her Majesty to assent to the desired reform. The correspondence on this important subject will be submitted to you without delay, and I trust that His Lordship's decision, in the wisdom of which it is my duty to say that personally I entirely concur, will be accepted in the spirit in which it has been arrived at, and that even those who may feel some disappointment at the postponement of the accomplishment of their wishes will on calm reflection admit that the change would be somewhat premature.

The financial position of the Colony is highly satisfactory. The revenue of 1874, exclusive of the Imperial Grant-in-aid, amounted to £134 225, and exceeded the estimate by £33 545; customs and land revenue having mainly contributed to the improvement. The expenditure was also in excess of the estimate, but the overdraft of £20 925 was chiefly occasioned by remittances to the Crown Agents for services chargeable to 1875, and by the payment of the December accounts in that month instead of in the following January; a change of system which caused the expenditure of thirteen months to be charged against 1874.

The present year commenced with an available balance to the credit of the Colony of £38 000. Adding to this the actual receipts for the nine months ended the 30th September last (£114 000), and the probable receipts for the current quarter (£38 000), you will perceive that the total assets for the twelve months, including the balance from last year, will not fall short of £190 000. The actual and estimated expenditure for the same period will probably amount to £151 000; and therefore, notwithstanding an outlay of £25 000 on account of the Eucla Telegraph and Immigration, charged against current revenue, we shall carry on to next year a balance somewhat in excess of that brought forward from 1874.

Comparative statements in detail of the revenue and expenditure will be submitted to you, together with the estimates for 1876; and I rely on your readiness to grant such supplies as may be necessary for the maintenance of the public credit and the efficient support of the public service.

I may here observe that the authorised debt of the Colony, incurred for the construction of Railways and other public works, is £135,000; being at the rate of £5 3s. 1d. per head on the population. Of the loan of 1873 a balance of £14,600 remains still unfloated, and will be raised by the sale of debentures when required to be expended on the Railway.

I am happy to inform you that the revenue derived from Crown Lands during the last twelve months was the largest ever collected in the Colony, and exceeded the estimate by fifty per cent. The total amount received was £35,000, against £17,000 in 1871, the year immediately preceding the introduction of the new regulations, showing that the progress of settlement has been satisfactory. On lands taken up on deferred payments, for tillage, which now amount to considerably over 100,000 acres, a large number of settlers have already established themselves, and while the

withdrawal of these men from the labor market has been doubtless severely felt, the policy was a wise one which encouraged them to remain and settle in the Colony.

That confidence is felt in the wool-producing capabilities of our natural pasture grounds is evidenced by the large areas of land which have recently been taken up by sheep farmers in every direction; and there is every reason to expect that the importation of flocks from the neighboring colonies will lead to very considerable increase in this industry. With this end in view, I have had under my consideration the propriety of offering still further inducements to settlers in outlying districts; and additional regulations, which have been prepared by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, will be laid before you, in order that your opinion thereon may go forward to the Secretary of State, and that in considering the proposed regulations His Lordship may have the benefit of your local knowledge and experience. The opportunity may also be taken to place the small farmer in a better position than at present, as regards the depasturing of his stock, and I hope to suggest an arrangement which will accomplish this desirable object and prove at the same time satisfactory to all parties concerned.

It is expected that a considerable impetus to the occupation and working of the mineral lands of the Champion Bay district will result from the completion of the Railway from Geraldton to the Mines, but I understand that mining operations, both there and at Nickol Bay, have been retarded by the scarcity of labor.

Our forests appear to yield profitable returns to the companies and others embarked in the timber trade, which may now be regarded as a well-established industry. Regulations for the granting of Special Timber Licenses on favourable terms were brought into operation a few months ago, and under them much timber country has been advantageously taken up in the southern districts. The conservation of the forests is a question which has engaged the serious attention of the other Australian Colonies. Here, too, it will shortly be desirable to prevent unnecessary havoc, and to put a stop to the undue destruction of a valuable public property.

From returns made up to the 30th September last, I regret to find that the Imports and Exports have slightly decreased in value as compared with the preceding twelve months; but there is good reason to believe that the depression—traceable, as regards the Imports, to some previous undue importation—is merely a transitory one, and

that the further development of the various industries to which I have already referred will lead to an early improvement in the Exports under those heads.

Turning to the question of Public Works, I have to inform you that papers relative to the progress of the works on the Geraldton and Northampton Railway will be handed to you, and further explained, by the Commissioner. Acting on the advice of the Consulting Engineer, in whose opinion the original designs were faulty, I have sanctioned such alterations in the construction of the bridges and culverts as were necessary for their future stability. These alterations have been agreed to by the contractor, at prices which I doubt not you will approve, and are now in course of completion. Others of a more expensive character, and which admitted of delay, I have thought proper to reserve for your consideration; and I shall be glad if you will give your early attention to the subject.

The extension of the telegraph from Albany to the South Australian frontier, for which you will be asked to make further provision in the estimates, is progressing in a favourable manner, one hundred and fifty miles having been poled, and the station at Bremer Bay erected. The whole of the wire and other materials required have now been supplied by the contractors, and their erection will be commenced forthwith, and carried on systematically to completion. The survey of the remainder of the line has been entrusted to a competent officer, who will at the same time conduct a general reconnaissance of the country within several miles of the coast, with a view to a better knowledge than we at present possess of the southern seaboard of the Colony. On the South Australian side I understand that the work is fast advancing, and I feel sure that I only echo your sentiments when I say that we look forward with the utmost interest to the time when the completion of this great and important undertaking shall at length place this Colony in telegraphic communication with the rest of the civilized world.

The erection of lighthouses, the extension of jetties, and other authorised works, have been as rapidly and economically proceeded with as the high price of both labor and materials would permit.

My views on the Harbor question are identical with those of my predecessor, and I believe of the country at large. Complete security for shipping in close proximity to Fremantle is essential to the full development of our resources; but I cannot on that account advise you to undertake works beyond the

means of the Colony, or to adopt any scheme of Harbor improvements without well considering the cost. The report of Mr. Wardell, Inspector General of Public Works for the Colony of Victoria, has been before the public since the last Session of Council. He, as you are aware, estimates the cost of a breakwater at about £900,000, and this scheme, excellent as it is in itself, may therefore be put aside as entirely beyond the means of the Colony. Recently another and a less expensive scheme has been proposed, which will in due course be laid before you, with various memoranda and reports; but, as at present advised I am not prepared to recommend it for final adoption, and would suggest that the whole question of Harbor Works be submitted, accompanied by the excellent charts which we are now in a position to furnish, to some eminent authority in England, on whose character and experience in works of this nature we may rely for a practical solution of the difficulty. If you concur in this suggestion, I shall be prepared to add a sufficient sum to the estimates for carrying it into effect; and I certainly think that the course proposed would be a far safer one than to accept the theories or the calculations of less experienced or non-professional men.

You are probably aware that a memorial has recently been presented to me, praying for the introduction of a Bill to provide for a Government guarantee of six per cent. for ten years on the amount of capital proposed to be expended in the construction of a Railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford, with a view to its ultimate extension to the eastern districts. In laying the papers before you, I would invite you thoroughly to examine the statistics from which its promoters deduce that the line would be likely to pay, and to consider and report on the expediency of the proposed undertaking, on the basis of a Government guarantee.

The question of the supervision and control of Public Works is one which has occupied my attention, and on which my correspondence with the Secretary of State will be presented to you. I propose to amalgamate the Offices of Surveyor General and Superintendent of Public Works, the present Commissioner of Crown Lands having charge of the joint department; to recognise the services of a meritorious subordinate officer by appointing him Deputy Surveyor General, with a small addition to his salary; and to provide for the appointment of a duly qualified Engineer who, under the Commissioner, shall be responsible for the direction of all Public Works for the future. I consider that with one department

presided over by an Officer capable of directing both Surveys and Works, greater efficiency and economy are likely to be obtained than by the maintenance of two separate establishments. Moreover, the Public Works are now of sufficient importance to render it exceedingly desirable that the Officer in charge of them should have a seat in this Council, which would not be the case if a separate department were established, with a separate officer at the head of it.

In further recognition of the services of Mr. Forrest (in whose case it is proposed that the title of Deputy Surveyor General shall be revived) I am happy to inform you that the Secretary of State has authorised me to issue to him a block of five thousand acres of land, in consideration of the great courage and ability displayed by him in his recent expedition; and I feel sure you will view this act on His Lordship's part as a mark of his interest in the success of those of whom the Colony has reason to be proud.

It is but fitting that I should here refer to the recent arrival in our midst of another distinguished explorer, whose latest achievement will add to his own reputation, and furnish us with valuable information as to the character of the country in the interior. I need not, however, detain you with many remarks upon this subject, for the people of Western Australia have already shown that they appreciate alike the qualities which have contributed to the success of Mr. Giles and his brave companions, and the enterprising public spirit of the prominent colonist who equipped them and sent them forth.

Papers on the subject of Immigration have been printed for your information, and will serve to explain to you how the Immigration vote of last Session has been expended. In view of the accounts of the scarcity of labour which continue to reach me from all parts of the Colony, and of the ready manner in which the recent arrivals have been absorbed into the labour market, I have felt justified in placing a further sum of £7,000 on the estimates for Immigration purposes for the ensuing year; and I doubt not that the course which I have adopted will be confirmed by Your Honorable House, and meet with general approval.

Steps have been taken to introduce, as an experimental measure, a limited number of boys from the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum, where difficulties are experienced in properly providing for the children when the time comes for them to leave the establishment. The boys now expected vary in age from 16 to

18 years, and are said to be healthy, able-bodied, and fairly educated. The cost of transport will, in this instance, be defrayed by the Committee of the Lawrence Asylum, on condition that on arrival the boys are received by the Government and duly taken care of until they enter service, or are apprenticed to respectable tradesmen. Further batches of an apparently promising class of Immigrant can be procured from the same source on the Colony undertaking to pay the cost, and agreeing to certain specified conditions; and I therefore desire to take the sense of Your Honorable House on the questions raised in the correspondence.

The fisheries on the North West Coast continue to be prosecuted with success. Last season 189 vessels were employed on the pearling grounds, and the yield amounted to 308 tons of shells, valued at £61,000, with pearls to the value of £12,100 in addition. Questions connected with the employment of Native and Malay labor, by persons engaged in pearling, have occupied much of my attention, and I will ask you to sanction a Bill to enable the Governor to put a stop to the practice of Sunday diving (the prevalence of which has been brought to my notice by a deputation of gentlemen interested in the Northern Settlements), and to make such further regulations as may be necessary for the general management of the fisheries. The correspondence which will be communicated to you on this subject will acquaint you with the steps which have been taken to procure a suitable vessel for service on the North West Coast.

By direction of the Secretary of State, a Bill to amend the Ordinances relating to the Post Office Savings Bank will be submitted for your favourable consideration, together with copies of the correspondence which has passed between His Lordship and myself on this important subject. I may take this opportunity of mentioning that the deposits in the Savings Bank have risen steadily from £2,487 in 1863, the year the Bank was established, to £18,715 in 1874; a state of things which in itself speaks well for the thrift and progress of the people.

Despatches relative to the sanitary condition of Perth will be communicated to you, with a Bill to enlarge the powers of the various Municipal Councils with respect to the removal of nuisances, and the steps necessary to be taken to prevent the contamination of drinking water by the soakage of impurities into wells. I trust that this measure, treating, as it does, of a subject which so closely affects the health and general well-being of the community, will receive your early attention.

The want of a high-class school is much and increasingly felt. It is well known that colonists desirous of providing a superior education for their children are obliged to send them elsewhere for the purpose, and that many youths of good natural abilities, whose parents are unable to meet the expense of maintaining them away from home, are deprived of the opportunity of attaining to that position in society which a higher education than the Colony at present affords would doubtless enable them to reach. A school of the character suggested would be an attractive feature in the estimation of intending settlers, and, under proper management, its influence on the future social condition of the Colony would be incalculable. The salaries of the principal and assistant masters should be guaranteed by Government, in order to secure the services of properly qualified men, and the education, which of course would be strictly secular, should be at least sufficient to enable the students to matriculate at the Universities in the neighbouring Colonies. Viewing this subject as one of considerable importance, I have caused a Bill to be prepared to enable me to give effect to the proposal, and I think you will agree with me that, regard being had to the favourable condition and prospects of the Colony, the suggestion is in no way premature.

The propriety of extending the Post Office Money Order system to the country districts having been suggested to me by the Postmaster General, I have had much pleasure in directing that the system shall be extended to the principal country towns, as soon as the necessary preliminaries can be accomplished. The extension will probably take effect from the 1st January next. The total amount of Money Orders issued and paid in 1874 was £6,546, against £7,422 in 1873; the decrease being attributable, I am informed, to additional accommodation afforded by the Banks in the issue of drafts on England and the Colonies.

In addition to the Bills which have been referred to in the course of my speech, the following, with others, have been prepared, and will be submitted for your consideration and approval:

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Election Petitions, and to provide more effectually for the prevention of corrupt practices at the Election of Members of the Legislative Council.

An Act to amend the Bastardy Laws.

An Act to amend "The Colonial Passengers Ordinance, 1861."

An Act to further amend the Law of Evidence.

An Act to empower the Governor under certain circumstances to authorise persons to have and use distilling apparatus without a License.

An Act to relieve persons engaged in Pearl Shell fishing from payment of Customs Duties on stores of vessels employed by them.

An Act to make provision for the maintenance of discipline among the crews of coasting vessels.

With reference to certain proposed amendments of the Education and Licensing Acts, I shall probably have occasion to address you by message during the course of the Session.

The usual reports from the various heads of departments will also be laid on the table, with numerous papers which I have directed to be printed for presentation to Your Honorable House.

Gentlemen, I have now brought to your notice a large number of questions, many of which are intimately connected with the social well-being of the Colony committed to my care; and I feel sure that you will approach their consideration in that spirit of liberality, prudence and forethought which has heretofore characterised your deliberations. I am of course aware that the Government must ever be responsible for the general conduct of legislation, especially in matters of finance; but, recognising as I do the constitutional privileges of the people, you may be well assured that their wishes, as expressed through their representatives in Council, will at all times receive at my hands the most respectful and impartial consideration. It is my wish that those officers who represent me in this House should afford you the fullest information on all points, and I sincerely hope that cordial relations may be established and maintained between the different branches of the Legislature.

I leave you to the labors of the Session with a strong confidence in your ability and earnest desire faithfully to acquit yourselves of the highly important duties which are imposed upon you by the constitution of the Colony; and I earnestly pray that you may be guided by Divine Providence to the adoption of measures which shall conduce to the honor of the Crown, the happiness of the people, and to your own reputation as statesmen and representatives.

Having handed the copy of the Vice-Regal Speech to the Acting Speaker, His Excellency, accompanied by the Commandant and Mr. Burt, his private secretary, withdrew from the House.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair.

#### COLONIAL PASSENGERS' ORDINANCE, 1861, AMENDMENT BILL.

First Reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), with leave, without notice, and in order to assert the rights and privileges of the House, moved that leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Colonial Passengers' Ordinance, 1861.

The Bill was read a first time.

#### PAPERS TABLED.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) laid upon the Table of the House the following papers:—

1. Report on Blue Book for 1874.
2. Report of the Central Board of Education.
3. Correspondence relative to proposed introduction of orphan children from the Ootacamund Lawrence Asylum.
4. Further correspondence on the question of the future supervision and control of public works.
5. Despatches on the subject of a Bill to amend the ordinances relating to the Post Office Savings Bank.
6. Despatches relative to proposed increase of £100 per annum to salary of Attorney General.
7. Despatches, &c., relative to sanitary condition of the City of Perth.
8. Correspondence relative to state of affairs on north-west coast, and the treatment of the Malay and other labourers employed in the pearl fisheries.
9. Despatches relative to Philadelphia Exhibition of 1876.
10. Correspondence between His Excellency the Governor and the Right Honorable The Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of immigration; also correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and Mr. Laurence upon the same subject.
11. Despatches relative to the proposed introduction of Responsible Government.

12. Comparative Statements of the Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1874.
13. Blue Book for 1874.
14. Amended Land Regulations.
15. Return of the Perth Working Men's Benefit Society, for the year 1874.
16. Return of the City of Perth Lodge of Oddfellows, No. 4702, for the year 1874.
17. Return of the New Swan Lodge of Oddfellows, No. 4406, for the year 1874.
18. Return of the John Shipton Lodge of Oddfellows, No. 5796, for the year 1874.
19. Rules of the City Band of Hope and Temperance League.
20. Statistical tables relating to Western Australia.
21. Post Office Savings Bank return.
22. Post Office Savings Bank Deposit Account.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) laid upon the Table of the House the following papers:—

1. Correspondence relative to Geraldton and Northampton railway.
2. Plans and drawings of a scheme for harbor improvements at Fremantle, as designed by Mr. T. H. J. Browne.
3. Reports and memoranda on the above.
4. Supplementary plans, amending original design for harbor improvements, by Mr. T. H. J. Browne.
5. Papers relative to proposals made for the construction of a railway from Fremantle to Guildford.
6. Report on Crown Lands and Surveys for 1874.
7. Journal of an exploring expedition through the centre of Australia, by Mr. John Forrest.
8. Memorandum by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, proposing the amending of present Land Regulations for the northern and eastern districts of the colony.
9. Papers relative to Whitwell's patent hot blast, with letter thereon, by Mr. T. H. J. Browne.
10. Report on Princess Royal Harbor, King George's Sound, by Mr. W. W. Wardell, Inspector General of Public Works, Victoria.

Mr. BICKLEY laid upon the Table of the House the following paper:—

Plan of harbor works and other portal conveniences at Fremantle, designed by himself.

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

Mr. SHENTON rose to move that a respectful Address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech which he had been pleased to deliver. He craved the indulgence of the House while he briefly reviewed those important measures which were to be submitted for consideration, and, in an exhaustive speech, expressed his opinion with respect to them, giving his adhesion to most of the paragraphs, including that referring to the desirability of postponing the adoption of a change in the Constitution.

Mr. W. BURGESS seconded the motion, which, after some conversation, was adopted.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Steere, Brown, Padbury, Randell, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) seconded the motion.

The House then adjourned during pleasure, to enable the committee to prepare their Address. After an interval of half-an-hour,

The ACTING SPEAKER resumed the chair, when

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) brought up the report of the committee. The Address, read at the Table by the Clerk, was as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Council assembled, desire to express our thanks for the Address with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open this Second Session of this Honorable Council. The correspondence on the subject of Responsible Government will receive our careful attention. Those who are in favour of the immediate adoption of that form of Government will doubtless feel some disappointment at the postponement of the accomplishment of their wishes, but it is evident that further agitation at the present time and under

existing circumstances would be undesirable, and therefore His Lordship's decision will no doubt be accepted in the spirit in which it has been arrived at.

We receive with much gratification Your Excellency's opinion that the financial position of the Colony is highly satisfactory. We shall be prepared carefully to consider the Estimates when placed before us, and to vote such supplies as may be necessary to provide for the efficient support of the Public Service.

It is satisfactory to learn that there is so large an increase in the occupation of Crown Lands, both for Pastoral and Agricultural purposes. We view such an increase as a certain indication of the progressive settlement of the Colony. We shall gladly give our advice on any additional Land Regulations Your Excellency may lay before us, having it for their object to encourage a more extended occupation of the large pastoral areas yet unoccupied in remote districts, and to secure to small farmers greater facilities in depasturing their stock.

We learn with pleasure that there is an increasing demand for our Jarrah timber, and that Your Excellency considers that this industry may now be regarded as fully established. We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that steps should be taken, where necessary, to prevent an undue destruction of this valuable public property.

The papers connected with the Geraldton and Northampton railway shall receive our early attention and careful consideration.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency the satisfactory progress of the Eucla Telegraph Line, and we look forward with much interest to the completion of this large and important undertaking.

The question of Public Works, especially in regard to the formation of a harbor at Fremantle, and the construction of a railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford, will receive our earnest attention.

We cordially concur with Your Excellency in welcoming Mr. Giles and his companions on their arrival in this Colony, and congratulate them on the success that has attended their adventurous

exploit. At the same time we would express our gratification on learning that the Secretary of State has recognised the services of our own explorer Mr. Forrest.

The question of Immigration is one in which the future welfare of the Colony is deeply involved, and we are glad to perceive that Your Excellency is fully alive to its importance.

We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that the want of a high-class school in the Colony is largely felt; and the proposal to establish such a school at the public expense is well worthy the consideration of this Council.

The questions to which we have alluded, and the other questions referred to in Your Excellency's speech, are indeed intimately connected with the social welfare of the Colony, and we can assure you that we are fully prepared to consider them in the spirit indicated by Your Excellency.

We concur in the prayer that we may be guided by Divine Providence to the adoption of such measures as shall most conduce to the honour of the Crown and the happiness of the inhabitants of this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), in moving that the Address be adopted, said that it was a mere echo of the Vice-Regal Speech, and in moving its adoption the hon. member observed that while the majority had agreed to the reply in its entirety, two of the committee—the hon. member for Swan, and the hon. member for Wellington—had not given their personal adhesion to the second paragraph, relative to the postponement of the introduction of Responsible Government.

Mr. RANDELL seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. STEERE moved, as an amendment, that the question of the adoption of the reply be postponed until the following (this) evening.

Mr. BROWN, who saw no objection to the adjournment of the debate, seconded the amendment, which was adopted.

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), with leave, without notice, moved that Mr. Steere, Mr. Shenton, and Mr. Burt be appointed members of the House Committee.

The Council adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Wednesday, 1st December, 1875.

Election Petition—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### ELECTION PETITION.

The ACTING SPEAKER reported to the House the receipt from His Honor the Chief Justice of the following letter, announcing the action taken in the matter of the petition of Mr. S. S. Parker of York, against the return of Mr. Monger, presented to the Council on the 18th November, 1874, and referred to the Chief Justice on that date:—

Chief Justice's Chambers,  
30th November, 1875.

To The Honorable the Speaker of the Honorable the Legislative Council.

Sir,—I have the honor to report, for the information of the Honorable the Legislative Council, that the Petition of Stephen Stanley Parker, presented to the Council on the 18th November, 1874, against the Return of John Henry Monger, the then sitting Member for the Electoral District of York, and referred to the Chief Justice agreeably to the provisions of the Ordinance 33rd Vict., No. 13, remained without action thereon until the 26th day of December, 1874.

On that day I was attended at Chambers by the Attorneys of the Petitioner and Respondent respectively, and an Order was made for the delivery of Particulars in writing to the Respondent's Attorney.

On the 1st day of February, 1875, a further Order was applied for and made, directing that the hearing of the Petition should be taken at the Common Court Hall in Perth, on Wednesday, the 17th day of February, then instant.

On the 17th day of February, the day so appointed for the hearing of the Petition, a motion was made by Counsel for the Petitioner for leave to withdraw the Petition, on terms alleged to be set forth in a written Agreement between the parties, dated the 15th day of February. The Respondent did not appear in person, by Counsel, or Attorney.