

THE PREMIER said the House might meet, perhaps, for the giving of notices.

THE SPEAKER said that could be done.

MR. RANDELL said that business of a formal nature might go on. The House might be adjourned until the next day, on the understanding that only formal notices should be taken.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (by leave) withdrew his motion, and in lieu thereof he moved—"That this debate be adjourned until to-morrow." He moved this on the understanding that, when the House met on the morrow, the debate would be further adjourned.

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned accordingly, at six minutes past 5 o'clock p.m., until next day.

Legislative Council.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1896.

Address-in-Reply: Adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: When I bear in mind, Sir, that this is the first time in the history of the colonies since the establishment of representative institutions in 1870 that Parliament has met without the presence of a gentleman who so well and ably represented Fremantle for a great number of years, I feel that, although he did not belong to this House, it is almost incumbent on me who knew him so well, and who was so intimately acquainted with him, not to

allow this opportunity to pass without recording my views as to the great loss the colony has sustained through his death. Mr. Marmion was nominated to the first Legislative Council when a representative constitution was granted to this colony. Shortly afterwards he was elected to represent Fremantle, and he continued to represent that important town in the old Legislative Council until 1890, when he became the member for Fremantle in the Legislative Assembly. I feel sure, Sir, we all recognise, and I am certain the people of Fremantle recognise, that no more able advocate could be returned to represent Fremantle than the late Mr. Marmion. I knew him for a great number of years, and I was associated with him in the old Legislative Council. I was for some time the leader of the elected members of the House, and Mr. Marmion was amongst those who were good enough to elect me. I had also been associated with him on a number of committees. I was associated with him as a member of the Government for some two years, and I can safely say that Mr. Marmion had no enemy in the whole community. He was a man without guile. I hope and trust Fremantle will now return a member who will be able to represent its interests, but I feel sure the people there will have to look far and wide before they are able to find another gentleman whose interests are so wrapped up in Fremantle, and who is as anxious to advance the well-being of the town and promote its welfare as the late Mr. Marmion. I repeat, Sir, I feel sure it will be long before the people of Fremantle find a gentleman who will prove so capable and earnest in his work as my late friend. I am, perhaps, somewhat digressing, but I do so from a strong feeling of the great loss which not only Fremantle, but the Parliament and the country generally, will sustain by his death, and I trust hon. members will therefore pardon me for the digression. I may also be permitted to congratulate the hon. gentleman who moved the Address-in-Reply in having been elected to the position he now occupies. I feel sure he will give all the learning and efforts he possesses to promote the interests of Western Australia and the constituency which has been good enough to elect him. With respect to

the Speech which his Excellency the Governor was good enough to deliver. I do not know that the members of this House are called upon to express any opinion on the various proposals which the Government intend to make to Parliament. It will be quite time enough for us to express an opinion when the matters we are asked to decide or determine come before us in a more direct shape. We are told that it is proposed that this colony shall take part in a convention in regard to the question of the federation of Australia. At the present time it seems to me that it is only wise and proper that Western Australia should take part in any movement to promote federation generally. I say this without intending to commit myself as to whether federation, as far as Western Australia is concerned, is now expedient. It will be time to express an opinion when we are definitely asked to form one. I observe also the Government propose to increase the representation of the goldfields in both Houses. I may be permitted to say I think they are wise in the determination they have arrived at. We all recognise that in a large population, such as we have on the goldfields, it is only reasonable they should demand to be properly represented in the Parliament of the country, and I think no reasonable person will object to such proper representation. With regard to the paragraphs in this Speech which refer to the water supply for the goldfields, and to the Bill which is to be submitted to provide loan funds for railways and other works, it seems to me there has been some error either on the part of Ministers, or on the part of the printer in placing them where they are. Hon. members will observe that the portion of the Speech referring to general matters was delivered to the members of both Houses, but the financial portions as shown in paragraphs 10, 11, and 12 were specially addressed to members of the Legislative Assembly. This question of providing loan funds for water supply and railways is essentially a financial one, and the Speech says that Bills will be submitted to the members of the Lower House in regard to it. Of course no Bill on such questions can be submitted to the Legislative Council; it must be submitted to the Legislative

Assembly, and it may be that it will never reach this House at all. As these paragraphs referring to water supply and other matters involve financial questions, they should have been addressed to the members of the Legislative Assembly. Whether it is necessary or not for the Government to spend $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 millions of money in providing a water supply is quite another question. So far as I am concerned, as at present advised, the Government seem anxious to qualify us for federation by loading us with a heap of debt. We are told by many that Western Australia is the most solvent colony of the group, and therefore it would not be wise for us to federate; but it seems now that the Government do not intend to let our solvency stand in the way, but rather wish to qualify us by loading us up with debt as soon as possible. Victoria, we are told, is indebted to the extent of about £50 per head, but the Government of Western Australia propose that we shall incur responsibilities to the extent of £90 per head. There is no doubt that many of the works proposed will be most beneficial to the colony at large. I am not going to indicate them at the present time, because there is no necessity to do so. It will be quite time enough for this House to express an opinion when matters come before us in a more definite shape. Passing from the works, it is highly satisfactory to find that the financial position of the colony is so good. We must bear in mind, however, that while the revenue has considerably exceeded that of past years, a great portion of it is due to land rents, land sales, and revenue derived from railways. It is obvious that if we borrow money and build railways our revenue will considerably increase, and it must be so in order to enable us to pay our interest. Therefore it is absurd to compare the revenue of to-day with that of a few years ago when there were no railways, and no need to pay interest, and also when our land did not sell as it does now. I think the time has arrived when the land revenue should be set apart for works of a definite character, perhaps for the building of roads or railways, but it is hardly fair to treat money so derived as current revenue and devote it to ordinary purposes. We know that our railway receipts have largely in-

creased on account of the lines to Southern Cross and Coolgardie, and it must also be borne in mind that considerably enhanced freights were charged both for goods and passengers, because it was said there was no return freight, and it was necessary to make a higher charge in order to recoup the country the cost of construction of the lines should the goldfields die out in the course of ten or twelve years. We find, however, that instead of setting this surplus freight aside it has all been treated as revenue. I think the money should be kept separate from the ordinary revenue, and should be devoted to the purpose originally intended, that is, to repay the cost of constructing the lines. Again, the Customs revenue has largely increased. I hope and trust that we shall soon see a decrease in consequence of our being able to produce for ourselves those articles of food which we now largely import, and I cannot but think it would be more to the interests of this colony, and more conducive to the prosperity of the settlers, if the duties on articles of consumption which we are able to produce were reduced year by year. I have no doubt the Government are doing their best to foster the agricultural industry, and I am glad to see that they propose to construct further agricultural lines. When these questions come before the House, I feel that members will take an intelligent view of the matter, and will assist the settlers to produce what we now get from the other colonies, but which we are well able to produce ourselves. The Governor's Speech does not refer to the favorable season we are having, but I can only hope that the next few months will be equally as good as the last few, and if it be so, it will largely decrease the importation of food and other cereals. I was extremely sorry, Sir, to find it intimated to hon. members that the Government were so strongly bound to their opinion with regard to the method of supplying the goldfields with water that, in the event of Parliament coming to a conclusion that they had formed an erroneous impression, Ministers were prepared to resign. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman who intimated that had any authority for so doing.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I do not think the hon. gentleman heard my words. Perhaps he will read them.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I heard what the hon. member said. What he intimated was that the Government were so strongly of opinion that this particular work was necessary that, if Parliament came to the conclusion, it should not be carried out, Ministers were prepared to resign, and leave others to carry on the Government.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I must correct the hon. member. What I did say was that I hoped the Government would make this a plank in their platform which they were not prepared to surrender, and I hoped that if they were beaten they would be prepared to resign and hand over the reins of government to others.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: Perhaps I have come to the conclusion erroneously that the hon. gentleman has been inspired by the Government. If so, I regret what I have said. At the same time, I can hardly imagine any member of this House intimating that the Government would resign unless he had authority for saying so. It seems to me that to intimate to this House, which has nothing to do with the resignation of Governments, and which has no influence on the Government, that Ministers had better resign appears to me to be ridiculous. If the hon. gentleman occupied a seat in the Lower House it might be good policy in advocating the cause of the Government to threaten resignation if a certain scheme were not carried out, but to intimate such a thing to this House appears to be absurd, because we have nothing to do with the Government. We cannot make or unmake Governments. This House is not a House of parties, but every member of it is entirely independent, and should deal with all questions solely in the interests of the colony at large, and I hope, therefore, that, notwithstanding the intimation of the hon. member, and notwithstanding the suggestion that the Government should resign, we shall not regard this matter of water supply, or any other matter brought before us, from the standpoint of whether the Government will go out of office or not, but that we shall do our duty to the country and the constituencies irrespective of what the result may be.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: What is all this about? We all agree on that.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: We are told also in this Speech that various industries are progressing, particularly the timber industry. I am sure we are all pleased to hear this, and it must be gratifying to hear that it is flourishing, and that the timber of which we have so large a stock is being exported at a profit to those interested in the trade. I think, also, the Government have been wise in engaging the services of an Admiralty surveyor to undertake the surveys of our coast, and we should congratulate them also on doing their best to place sufficient lighthouses on our coast. I do not pretend to speak with authority on behalf of this House, but I feel sure that we desire in doing our duty to the country not to hamper the Government in the slightest way in their endeavors to promote the best interests of Western Australia. At the same time, the question of how the Government will take the determination of this House or of the Assembly on any point should not influence our votes or actions. With his Excellency, I hope and trust that the colony will go on and progress. It seems to me we have a great future, with magnificent goldfields which are being rapidly developed, and which will, no doubt, be still more fully developed as time goes on and as water is found and as railway communication is provided. To those who have lived in the colony as long as I have, it must be a matter of sincere congratulation to find that Western Australia is at last moving, and that she will in a short time take a prominent position among the Australian colonies.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I am sure that we shall all agree with the hon. and learned gentleman who has just sat down in the remarks he made as to the removal by death of the late Mr. Marmion. I have only had the pleasure of his acquaintance for a few years, but during that time I learned to respect and admire his many good and sterling qualities, and I feel sure that the colony has received a severe blow through his death at the present juncture. We cannot afford to lose men of his calibre, and Fremantle especially will suffer a loss through his demise. I have listened with pleasure to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Parker on the

programme put forward in the Governor's Speech. For myself, I may say that the policy set out is of so large and stupendous a character that it is impossible for me to touch more than upon the fringe of the most serious items in it. As far as I am concerned, I trust Parliament will consent to the sending of delegates to the convention which is to be held upon the question of federation. It may not be expedient for us to join in the scheme now, but the time may come when it will be wise for us to join with our neighbors and become part of a nation instead of remaining a petty state. As regards the second paragraph of the Speech, I think the goldfields are insufficiently represented, but at the same time I hope that in the scheme which is submitted an overwhelming preponderance will not be given to the mining industry over other interests. The fourth paragraph, referring to the water supply on the goldfields, I may say astounded me when I heard it read. In my opinion, the colony is not in a position to warrant so large an expenditure, either from a financial or numerical aspect, and I therefore think the matter is one which should be dealt with by private enterprise. The Government have already dealt liberally with the goldfields. They have given them railways and conserved water to a considerable extent. I have met a great many mining men who have spoken in the highest terms as to the liberal spirit in which the mining industry has been treated by the Government. I do not agree, therefore, with the Hon. Mr. Hackett that if this gigantic water scheme is not passed capitalists will leave the colony, for it is not likely they will leave and leave all their large interests behind them.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Will you quote my words?

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: I understood the hon. member to say that if this scheme were not passed the colony would make no headway, but I differ from him because I think private enterprise will find all the capital necessary to provide the fields with water. If I read the papers correctly, capitalists are already prepared, and we may thus be able to save raising this large loan for the purpose. Many of the other matters mentioned I am in accord with. Additional rolling-stock is required, as are also the many

useful measures set forth in paragraph 6 of the Speech. Provision is made for a further extension of the Fremantle harbor works. The colony is, I know, bound to the scheme, although I have been of opinion that we cannot afford it. An evidence that the former estimates were not correct is shown by the fact that it is now proposed to extend the mole one thousand feet further. As regards the railways, I shall be prepared to support those lines which show a probability of being reproductive within a reasonable period. The survey of the coast and the construction of lighthouses will, I think, meet with the approval of hon. members. I would point out, however, that if we include the water scheme we shall involve ourselves in a further loan of $5\frac{1}{2}$ millions of money. We owe at present $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and with a population of only about 130,000 souls I do not think the colony is in a position to raise further money to the extent suggested. Apart from this, there is the labor difficulty. At the present time many works cannot be carried on for the want of the necessary labor.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): More people will come here.

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: However, I shall support all the reasonable measures that I can, and if the Government are going to incur this expenditure I trust no mistake will be made. At the same time, I reiterate that the proposals are too great for our present population and our present position.

THE HON. F. D. CROWDER moved that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House at 5.30 o'clock p.m. adjourned until Tuesday, July 14th, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1896.

Sessional Orders; Business days and hours — Precedence of Government Business—Sessional Committees—Message recommending appropriations of Revenue re Bills (2)—Address-in-Reply; adjournment of the debate—Next Sitting of the House—Adjournment.

The Speaker took the chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

SESSIONAL ORDERS—BUSINESS DAYS AND HOURS

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), in accordance with notice, moved—"That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 4.30 p.m., and shall sit until 6.30 p.m., if necessary; and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards. He said this was the rule adopted last year, and it had worked very well. Some hon. members might consider the time very short for the work which had to be done, and he did not know whether those hon. members wished to have sittings on four days per week instead of three. So far as the Government were concerned, either plan would suit.

Motion put and passed.

PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir John Forrest), in accordance with notice, moved—"That, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all motions and orders of the day."

Agreed to.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) in accordance with notice, moved—"That the Standing Orders Committee for the present session shall consist of the following members, viz., Mr. Speaker, Mr. Burt, and the Chairman of Com-