

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Session of 1886.

Opened on Monday, 21st June, 1886.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 21st June, 1886.*

Opening of Council—New Members: Oath of Allegiance—Election of Speaker—Governor's Speech—Boat Licensing Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech—Adjournment.

#### OPENING OF COUNCIL.

The Council was prorogued by His Excellency the Governor on September 24th, 1885, until the 13th day of January, 1886; thence to the 31st day of March; thence to the 16th day of June; thence to the 21st June, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. Matthew Skinner Smith); the Acting Attorney General (Hon. Septimus Burt); Mr. Edward Scott, member for Perth; Mr. Robert Frederick Sholl, member for the Gascoyne; and Capt. Fawcett, member for Murray and Williams, took and subscribed the usual oath of allegiance.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), rising in his place, said (addressing the Clerk): Mr. Knight,—the lamented death of Sir Luke Leake has created a vacancy in the Speakership of this House, and it behoves hon. members now to proceed to fill up the vacancy. It is a duty which, it will be admitted, should be approached with the utmost care. The Speaker is invested with considerable powers, for

various purposes, and, amongst others, that the proceedings of this House shall be conducted with dignity and decorum; and, so much depends upon the manner in which that power is exercised, that it affords me great pleasure on this occasion to propose to hon. members the name of Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, the Chairman of Committees, to occupy the position of Speaker of this House. It is needless for me, I am sure, to dilate upon the hon. baronet's merits, and his qualifications for that position: they are known to us all. Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell has held the high position of Chairman of Committees in this honorable House for some years; and the zeal, assiduity, and ability he has brought to bear in the discharge of the various duties appertaining to that important position have earned for him the confidence and respect of all hon. members. The knowledge which the hon. baronet possesses of parliamentary procedure, and the great experience he has acquired of the method of conducting the business of this House, pre-eminently qualifies him for the position of Speaker. There are other qualifications necessary to that high position, and of these I may mention four,—prompt decision, firmness, strict impartiality, and courtesy. I feel confident from what we know of Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell that we shall find the hon. baronet is possessed of these qualifications to an eminent degree. I beg therefore to move that Sir Thomas Campbell do take the chair as Speaker of this Legislative Council.

MR. MARMION said: Mr. Knight,—I feel very much pleasure in rising to second the proposal made by the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, who has left but little for me to say. In seconding the proposal that the hon. baronet, the hon. member for Plantagenet, should occupy the dignified position of Speaker of this Council, I think there will not be a single dissentient voice when I endorse all that has fallen from the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, to the effect that there is no one—I will not say more capable, I will go further and say there is no hon. gentleman in this House who is so capable of filling the position of Speaker as the hon. baronet. The able manner in which he has filled, for so many years, the chair as Chairman of Committees, the dignity with which he has discharged the duties of that position, the zeal which he has shown in the work of the Council, and his other qualifications render him in the fullest degree fit for the honorable position of Speaker of the House. I can only say that, should we be successful in obtaining Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell to preside over the deliberations of this House, as its Speaker, I believe we shall have a gentleman in whom everybody will repose the greatest confidence; and we shall feel that at all events the regret that we all feel in having been called upon to-day to elect one to fill that position, through the death of our late much respected and still more lamented friend, Sir Luke Leake—we shall feel at all events some satisfaction in knowing that the mantle of our departed friend has fallen upon such worthy shoulders as those of the present Chairman of Committees. I have therefore much pleasure in seconding the proposal made by the hon. the Acting Colonial Secretary, that Sir Thomas Campbell be elected by this House to preside over its deliberations as its Speaker.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: Mr. Clerk of the Council, I have to thank the Acting Colonial Secretary, and the hon. member for Fremantle, for the kind way in which they have proposed me as Speaker of the House. I very much regret indeed that it should be necessary that a fresh choice should have to be made, in consequence of the lamented death of one who was a friend of all of us.

Of course I knew that, probably, I should be asked to take the place that our late lamented friend occupied, but, in many respects I feel—and hon. members know, some of them to whom I have communicated my views know—that there are reasons why I should prefer not to occupy that position. I feel that, without being more free and unfettered in the course of life with which I am connected, I ought not to accept the position of Speaker of this House, and, for that reason, I would rather that I should not occupy that position, and perhaps the House, under these circumstances, will allow me to propose the name of a gentleman who, I feel sure every hon. member will agree with me, is as well qualified to fill the post of Speaker as anyone could possibly be; and that is the hon. member, Mr. Steere. He has been a member of this House ever since this form of constitution was introduced; he has a thorough knowledge of parliamentary practice; he is thoroughly well able to fill the high office with dignity, and I feel sure that hon. members will agree with me that no one could fill it in a better manner than Mr. Steere. There are, I believe, two objections made to his candidature, and with regard to these it is perhaps well that I should make a short statement. One objection raised is that he is a member of the Federal Council; but I may inform hon. members that the late lamented and regretted Sir Archibald Paull Burt informed me that when he was Speaker of a House similar to this, in the West India Islands, he was frequently selected by the Government to represent it in the colony to which he then belonged, at meetings of the same character as those of the Federal Council. That removes one objection. The second objection is that Mr. Steere is a member of the Executive Council. With regard to that, we all know that in a House like the House of Commons, or where the Government is carried on by Ministries, it is objectionable that the Speaker should be a party politician. But in this House—which far more resembles the House of Lords than the House of Commons, the former a Chamber which legislates much as we do, and which does not make or unmake Ministries—such an objection loses its force. The House of Lords is presided over invariably by a Cabinet Minister,—the

Lord Chancellor, or, in his absence, the Lord Privy Seal; and, therefore, there is constitutional precedent for the course which I am inviting hon. members to take, in selecting the hon. member, Mr. Steere, as Speaker of the House. I feel certain that no one will preside over our deliberations with more dignity and a greater amount of ability, and I beg to ask hon. members to support me in the proposal I have to make, that Mr. Steere be appointed Speaker of our Council.

**MR. SHOLL:** I have much pleasure in seconding Mr. Steere's nomination. From a parliamentary point of view I cannot speak with any degree of experience as to Mr. Steere's qualifications, but of this I feel certain—and I am sure I shall be borne out by the hon. members of this House—that Mr. Steere, from many points of view, his long parliamentary experience, his knowledge of the colony and his qualifications generally, is eminently fitted for the position of Speaker. With reference to the objection of his being a member of the Federal Council, I cannot see that that is any objection at all. The mere fact of Mr. Steere occupying the position of Speaker of this House need not, I think, affect his position as member of the Federal Council, when this House is not in session. As has already been said, Mr. Steere has had a long parliamentary experience, and I think he has gained the respect and good-will not only of the members of this House but of a great majority of the population of the colony. Therefore, I have much pleasure in seconding the hon. baronet's proposal.

**THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL:** The question before the House is, "That Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell do take the Chair of this House as Speaker"; to which an amendment has been proposed, "That Mr. Steere do take the Chair of this House as Speaker." The question I will now put to the House is, "That Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell do take the Chair of this House as Speaker"; those who are of that opinion will say Aye; on the contrary, No. I think the Noes have it. The question now before the House is, "That Mr. Steere do take the Chair of this House as Speaker."

The question was affirmed, *nem. con.*

The Speaker-elect was then conducted

by his mover and secondor to the Chair. Addressing the House from the steps,

**THE SPEAKER** said: Honorable members, I desire to return you my sincere thanks for the honor that you have conferred upon me in electing me as Speaker of your honorable House. I feel that I shall have some difficulty in filling the Speakership, coming as I do after a gentleman who filled the position for so many years, and who filled it so ably, and who in such a marked degree possessed your confidence and esteem. I trust, however, that with your support and assistance I may be able to carry out the duties of the office, and to preside over the deliberations of your honorable House, in a manner that will give you satisfaction and in such a way as to gain your confidence. But in order to enable me to do this, I shall have to obtain—and I hope I shall succeed in doing so—your support and assistance. Without that, the Speaker in this House or in any other Assembly is powerless. I desire also to say that it is my desire to make myself of as much assistance as I possibly can be to the House, and, therefore, whenever the House considers it desirable, I shall be prepared to take my place in working on select committees of the House. The Standing Orders, I am aware, state that it is not compulsory on the part of the Speaker to serve on such committees, but there is nothing to prevent him from doing so; and I should like, myself, whenever the House desires it, to be of as much service to the House as I can. Honorable members, I again thank you for the proud position in which you have placed me, and I hope you will never have reason to regret the confidence you have this day shown in me. It is my duty now to proceed to Government House to obtain the approval of His Excellency the Governor.

Honorable members then proceeded to Government House, in a body, to submit the newly elected Speaker for the approval of His Excellency the Governor. Upon their returning to the Council Chamber,

**THE SPEAKER** said: Honorable members, I have to acquaint you that I have just been to see His Excellency the Governor and informed him that you had elected me as your Speaker, and that His Excellency has been pleased to approve of your choice. Once more I thank you

for having placed me in this honorable position.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber at a quarter to four o'clock, and, having taken the Chair, delivered the following Speech:

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

"The satisfaction with which I again meet the Legislature of Western Australia is accompanied by a deep sense of the loss Your Honorable House has recently sustained by the death of the much respected Colonist who had so long and honorably filled the Speaker's chair.

"2. Before the close of the present Session I shall have the pleasure of asking you to consider what arrangements should be made to celebrate in this loyal Colony the Jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty, our beloved Sovereign, which will occur next year.

"3. The accounts received of the most successful Colonial and Indian Exhibition now being held in London show that the West Australian Court has attracted attention, and that the arrangements made by our Executive Commissioner have been all that could be desired. You will have learned with gratification of the extreme interest taken by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in the Exhibition, and of the notice accorded the contributions of this Colony. A further report from the local Commissioners will be laid before you, and I have little doubt you will sanction the additional expense which has been incurred in order to make thorough use of so good an opportunity of promoting the interests of the Colony.

"4. Papers respecting the recent Session of the Federal Council of Australasia will be laid before you, including the instructions issued to, and a report received from, the Representative of Western Australia. You will be asked to advise as to any business which may usefully be brought forward on the part of this Colony at the next Session of the Council.

"5. I have to congratulate you on the discovery of an extensive goldfield of rich promise in the Kimberley District. The necessity of immediately providing for the administration of the goldfield, for the preservation of law and order, for public works, and for other requirements consequent upon an influx of population, has compelled me to incur a large expenditure in anticipation of your sanction, but with the concurrence of the Finance Committee under the Audit Act. I trust you may approve of the measures which have been taken, and I have every hope that this goldfield will not only rapidly develop our Northern districts, but will add to the material prosperity of every part of the Colony.

"6. A Bill for regulating the administration and working of the goldfield, and a Bill imposing upon Chinese immigrants similar restrictions to those in force in other Colonies of this Continent, will be presented for your consideration.

"7. I have carefully considered the draft Land Regulations which were before Your Honorable House last Session, and I shall suggest to you some modifications of the proposals of your Committee, chiefly in the direction of a less rigid restriction from sale of the lands in the outer districts of the Colony. Other alterations of importance have occurred to me, and, should you consider, after mature deliberation, that a comprehensive change in the system of dealing with Crown Lands is required, I shall be prepared to act with you in the direction indicated, in representing the matter to Her Majesty's Government.

"8. During the recess, the contract for the Land Grant Railway from Guildford to the Greenough Flats has been executed, and the works have been begun. The terms of the contract, which will be laid before you, are in accordance with your Resolutions on the subject.

"9. I have also assisted at the commencement of the railway now being constructed by the Government between Geraldton and Walkaway. The line between York and Beverley is nearly completed, and the line between Spencer's Brook and Northam has been begun. Tenders will shortly be called for a

"further line from Clackline to Newcastle, and for the Bunbury Railway. The tramway between Roebourne and Cos-sack is now under construction. Other important contracts have been let and are in progress, and Bills for legalising the construction of certain of the lines of Railway will be introduced. It will be seen that the large expenditure under the Public Works Loan of 1884 is actively proceeding throughout the Colony.

"10. The minute survey required in connection with the proposed Harbor Works at Fremantle has been made, and Sir John Coode's report on the undertaking may shortly be expected.

"11. Papers will be laid before you showing the action which has been taken to further your recommendations respecting the fortification of King George's Sound and Fremantle, and the appointment of an officer of Artillery to the command of our local forces. I regret to say that the Imperial and Intercolonial arrangement respecting the defence of King George's Sound has not yet been completely settled.

"12. The terms advised by you respecting the transfer of the Imperial Convict Establishment to the Colonial Government having been accepted by the Imperial authorities, the transfer was carried out on the 31st of March last. The arrears of Water Police charges have also been paid to the Colony.

"13. The usual Financial Returns for 1885 have been published, and I hope shortly to lay before you those for the first half of the current year. The financial position of the Government, and the prices of Western Australian securities in the London market, is very satisfactory. The credit balance on the 31st December last amounted to £89,529, and the estimate of revenue for 1886 cannot fail to be considerably exceeded.

"14. The failure of the Commercial Bank of South Australia, which held deposits of this Government amounting to over £50,000, was at first a source of some anxiety. I felt it right to press a prior claim on the part of the Government as a Crown creditor, and this was acknowledged by the Bank, which has paid the whole of the balance due.

"15. The Board of Immigration has been conducting its operations with

"prudence and success, and a considerable number of desirable immigrants have been added to the community since last Session.

"16. Papers respecting the Naval Defence of the Australasian Colonies will be laid before you.

"17. In compliance with your request, a Bill will be introduced for the purpose of adding to Your Honorable House an elected member for the Kimberley District. By the terms of the Constitution Act, this will also entail the addition of a nominated member.

"18. In accordance with a resolution unanimously adopted by the Federal Council, and with your expressed wishes on the subject, I joined, at the request of the Premier of Queensland, who is the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Federal Council, in the representation recently made to Her Majesty's Government by the Governments of Victoria and Queensland on the subject of the New Hebrides Islands. These representations will, it may be hoped, contribute to the desired result, namely, of preventing these islands passing into the possession of a foreign power.

"19. An important Bill relative to Public Health will be presented for your consideration, and you will also be requested to provide from general revenue a sum of £7,000 for the purpose of improving the present defective water supply of the town of Fremantle.

"20. A proposal for advancing more rapidly the marine survey of the coasts of the Colony, by the employment of a steamer instead of the present sailing schooner, will be laid before you for consideration.

"21. I shall venture again to request you to advise me upon the subject of intercolonial regulations respecting the importation of stock. There appear to be some strong reasons why Western Australia should adopt the policy of the rest of the continent in this matter.

"22. The report of the Commission appointed to consider the state of the law as to Roads will be laid before you, and a consolidating and amending Bill on the subject will be introduced.

"23. Further legislation respecting labor engagements, and other matters affecting the welfare of the aboriginal

"natives, is, I am led to think, required. I have been carefully considering the matter, and a Bill is in course of preparation.

"24. The forty-four Addresses presented to me by you during last Session have had my careful attention, and I have in almost every case been able to carry out your wishes.

"25. I shall ask you to consider whether it is not desirable to provide for the permanent employment of a Government Geologist.

"26. In addition to the measures already mentioned, Bills on the following subjects, among others, will be presented for your consideration:—Criminal Law Procedure, Pearling Duties, Patent Office, Opium Duties, Magisterial Districts, Certificates of Surveyors, Boat Licenses, Hawkers' Licenses, Leasing of Pearling Banks.

"27. The Estimates of Expenditure for the coming year are in preparation, and will be laid before you in due course. The Supplementary Estimates for the current year will, owing to the causes before mentioned, show a large total, but I believe that you will be satisfied of the necessity of the outlay.

"28. During the recess, a new centre of Government has been established at Cambridge Gulf, where the town of Wyndham has been founded. The district thus provided for cannot fail, from its proximity to the goldfields and its other resources, to have an important future. Under a contract arranged with the Adelaide Steamship Company, which I trust you may approve, the present mail service on our Northern coast will be extended to Cambridge Gulf, four times a year.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,

"29. I rejoice to think that the community you represent is rapidly growing in numbers and in importance, and I feel assured that your best efforts, under the guidance of Providence, will not be wanting during the Session now begun, to increase and to secure good government and prosperity throughout the vast extent of Her Majesty's dominions in so great a degree committed to your care."

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

#### BOAT LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in order to assert the privileges of the House, presented a bill to amend "The Boat Licensing Act, 1878," and moved that it be read a first time.

The motion was agreed to.  
Bill read a first time.

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

MR. SCOTT said he had the pleasure of proposing that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the gracious speech with which he had been pleased to open the session. That speech, he thought, must be admitted to contain elements that were likely to be generally satisfactory to the House, and also to the community at large. It was comprehensive, and, being somewhat comprehensive, it would be strange if in all its details it met with the approval of all the members of this very large community, a community, although sparsely distributed, having many different callings, occupations, and interests. He felt, himself—and in this he thought he should be backed up by the majority at all events of the elected members—he felt himself that it would have been perhaps satisfactory if His Excellency had been able to have brought forward a bill tending to give an advance in the direction of putting us on a level with the other colonies as to our form of Government. But as His Excellency had not been able to do so, it only remained for those members who, like himself, were pledged not only to support, but to endeavor to introduce such a measure, to do their best to put that movement into active motion. With regard to the first paragraph of the speech, in common with every hon. member of that House, and in common he might say with every member of the community, he deeply lamented the death of his late friend, Sir Luke Leake, and he did hope that that House would extend some mark of its sympathy to Lady Leake in her bereavement. With reference to the suggestion that

they should consider what arrangements should be made to celebrate in this colony the jubilee of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, they knew quite well that, in such a matter as that, this colony would act as loyally and as enthusiastically as it had done in the past. The reports received of the successful representation of the colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition must be regarded as eminently satisfactory to them all, although he knew that some members of the House, and a great many outside the House, considered, when the subject was first mooted, that it was inadvisable, seeing the comparative smallness of our colony, that we should attempt to make any representation at all at this Exhibition. Seeing, however, that it had excited the greatest interest not only on the part of the British public generally but also on the part of Her Majesty the Queen and of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and that the report of our Executive Commissioner was so satisfactory, he did not think that any hon. member of that House, or any member of the community, would hesitate to vote and to approve of any additional expense that might have been judiciously incurred, to bring this colony through with its honor untarnished. With regard to the discovery of a goldfield in the Kimberley district, the hon. member said he thought the Government need have little fear that the House would not act liberally towards it with respect to voting or sanctioning any sum that may have been incurred in connection therewith. The question to his mind would not be one of the expenditure incurred and involved in such a crisis as this—a crisis that might almost revolutionise the state of the colony—but rather whether the Government had acted with that promptness, that energy, and decision so urgent upon such an occasion. With reference to land grant railways, he noticed that the line from Guildford to Geraldton had been commenced, and he thought that was very satisfactory so far as that line was concerned; but it would have been more satisfactory if the Governor had been able to inform them that the line from Albany to Beverley had also been commenced. He was glad to find that the line between York and Beverley was nearly completed, and that

the other lines referred to were progressing satisfactorily. With regard to harbor works at Fremantle, it would have been perhaps more satisfactory had the Governor been able to put upon the table of the House Sir John Coode's report; and he could only hope that the reason of his not having been able to do so had not been due to any delay or indolence on the part of those connected with the marine surveys. The usual financial returns for the past year were in themselves most satisfactory, and it was gratifying to learn that the financial position of the Government and the prices of Western Australian securities in the London market were, as His Excellency told them, highly satisfactory, and a source of sincere congratulation for this colony. But it would have been more satisfactory, perhaps, to many hon. members of the House and to the community generally, if His Excellency had been able, in this connection, to have brought forward some measure for the reduction of the very exorbitant, if not disastrous, tariff now in operation. That tariff, he thought, had a great deal more to do with the rate of the increase, or perhaps he should say decrease, of our population, than might at first be imagined. They must know and they must all feel—all those at all events who lived in the towns must feel—that our present high tariff was one very serious reason why many immigrants that came here did not remain. With reference to the land regulations, he thought it was a matter for congratulation that His Excellency had evidently been carefully considering this great question during the recess, and the seventh paragraph of His Excellency's speech foreshadowed a policy which he trusted might do something towards satisfactorily settling that question. He could not pass this paragraph without, as a new member, complimenting the select committee that undertook last session to deal with the subject, and if their recommendations were not satisfactory, he was sure it was not the fault of the members of that committee. He himself was opposed to such a momentous question being dealt with by a select committee; he thought the subject ought to have been thoroughly threshed out in a more public manner. The hon. member expressed his regret, in connection with the subject of immigration, that

the House last session did not sanction a proposed increase of expenditure of something like £8 per head, in order to secure a healthy and carefully selected class of immigrants for the colony. He thought no one occupying his position as a professional man but must agree with him that an extra expenditure of £8 per head would have been money very wisely expended, if by that extra expenditure we could have ensured that we could have got a healthy and physically capable body of immigrants introduced here, instead of getting one out of every ten, he might say, perhaps, if not actually incapable, at any rate in a very indifferent state of health. The local Board of Immigration, they were told, had been conducting its operations with prudence and success; he thought they all felt that that was a certainty. What, perhaps, would have been regarded of more importance was the question whether those connected with the department in England were doing their duty in as effective a manner. He could not hope to touch upon all the paragraphs in His Excellency's speech; nor did he think it at all necessary that he should do so. He therefore passed to the important bill promised dealing with the public health. He did hope that the House would this session give its serious attention to that question. Last session the question was shelved upon, to his mind, a very minor point, the point of whether the members of the Central Board of Health should be paid out of general revenue or out of local funds. It seemed to him that it was a most unfortunate thing that such an important question should have been shelved upon such a petty consideration as that. They knew perfectly well that health was the most precious thing both for the individual and for the community; and, in order to preserve the public health in their cities and towns, as they increased in population, it was necessary to provide certain protective measures, involving a considerable expenditure, and he could not conceive that such towns as Perth and Fremantle could be fairly called upon to meet this expenditure entirely out of their own local funds. With reference to the sum of £7,000 which His Excellency said he would ask the House to provide from general revenue for the purpose of improving the present defective

water supply at Fremantle,—having sat upon a commission appointed to consider this question, he could not hesitate in voting such a sum for such a purpose, upon any consideration, if he thought that for the want of that sum the question was likely to be further shelved. But he should prefer seeing a loan raised for supplying both Perth and Fremantle, if not Guildford, with a pure water supply from the Darling Range. He was certain that such a work would prove of vast benefit to the community, and at the same time prove productive to the Government, within a very limited term of years. With reference to the proposed appointment of a Government Geologist, he heartily concurred with His Excellency in the advisability of making such an appointment; and he should further have been glad to have heard that it would have been possible to have combined such an appointment with that of a public analyst. He looked upon the appointment of a public analyst as a question of very great importance. We were importing largely numerous articles of consumption, including flour, tea, sugar, spirits, and other so-called necessities of life, the quality of which might well form the subject of investigation and analysis, in the interests of public health; and he thought that the appointment of a public analyst, in conjunction with that of a public geologist, was one that ought to receive the immediate attention of the Government. He knew that Mr. Hardman, when he was here, felt himself capable of performing the duties of both appointments. He therefore presumed it would be possible to combine them in the person of some other individual. He should trouble that honorable House no further with any remarks. In conclusion, he heartily endorsed the sentiments expressed in the closing paragraph of His Excellency's speech, that, "under the guidance of Providence, their best efforts would not be wanting, during the session now begun, to increase and to secure good government and prosperity throughout the vast extent of Her Majesty's dominions," included in the territory of Western Australia. He now begged to move that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the speech he had been

pleased to deliver to the Council. The hon. member read the draft address, as follows :—

*"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, offer Your Excellency our thanks for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Council.

"2. Your Excellency's expression of a deep sense of the loss this House has sustained by the death of our late Speaker, Sir Luke Leake, is warmly reciprocated by every member of the House.

"3. The Jubilee year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty, our beloved Sovereign, is an event, the celebration of which in a fitting manner, we need hardly assure Your Excellency, will meet with our cordial coöperation, and will be taken up we feel certain with the utmost enthusiasm by every member of this Loyal Province of Her Majesty's Empire.

"4. A fitting preliminary to this auspicious event has been the holding in London, during the current year, of the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, in which we are deeply gratified to find that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales have taken so great an interest, an interest extended in so marked a manner to the West Australian Court.

"5. Our thanks are due to our Executive Commissioner for the extremely satisfactory manner in which the arrangements connected with our Court have been carried out.

"6. The meeting of the first Session of the Federal Council of Australasia marks an important epoch in the history of this group of Colonies. The report of our first Representative at the Council will be read with interest. We shall readily advise Your Excellency as to any business which may usefully be brought forward on the part of this Colony at the next Session of the Federal Council.

"7. The establishment of a new centre of Government at Cambridge Gulf, and the discovery of what promises to be a most extensive goldfield in the Kimberley District, are events which indicate a great future for this Colony. As it was essential that the Government should take immediate steps on such an occasion to provide for the cost of Government at Wyndham, the newly founded capital of the East Kimberley District, for the administration of the goldfield, for the preservation of law and order, and for other requirements consequent on the influx of population, we have but little doubt that the expenditure incurred in connection therewith was unavoidable, and that the sums sanctioned by the Finance Committee have been expended with a due regard to economy.

"8. Deeming it of vital importance to the Colony that the question of the revision of the Land Regulations should be set at rest without delay, any proposals on that subject referred to us by Your Excellency will meet with prompt consideration.

"9. The extension of the Railway System being so material to the development of the resources of the Colony, we hail with satisfaction the steps that have been taken in that direction during the recess.

"10. The improvement of our Harbors being equal in importance with the construction of Railways, we are pleased to hear that there is a prospect of Sir John Coode's Report being received shortly.

"11. We deeply regret to hear that the Imperial and Intercolonial arrangements respecting the Defence of King George's Sound have not yet been completely settled, involving as it does delay in the commencement of a work of grave importance to this Colony.

"12. Your Excellency may rest assured that any Papers that may be laid before us, on whatever subject, will receive due attention at our hands.

"13. The extremely satisfactory position of the Finances of the Colony is a source of congratulation. We venture to hope that, by the prudent administration of the affairs of the Colony in the future by Your Excellency, that position may not be impaired.

"14. The course adopted by Your Excellency in securing the prompt payment to this Colony of our deposits in the Commercial Bank of South Australia subsequent to its failure cannot fail to meet with approval.

"15. The recent influx of population from the other Colonies, necessitating, as it does, caution in limiting the number of immigrants to be introduced from England during the year, has doubtless received the attention of the Board of Immigration.

"16. The various Bills to be presented to us, notably those relative to Public Health; for regulating the administration and working of the Gold-fields; for imposing upon Chinese immigrants similar restrictions to those in force in other Colonies of this Continent; for adding to this House an Elected Member for the Kimberley District; and for consolidating and amending the law as to Roads, will receive our serious attention.

"17. The proposal as to providing from General Revenue a sum of £7,000 for the purpose of improving the present defective water supply of the town of Fremantle will meet with the consideration its importance deserves.

"18. We sincerely trust the representation made to Her Majesty's Government by this Government, in conjunction with those of Victoria and Queensland, on the subject of the New Hebrides Islands, may result in preventing these Islands from passing into the possession of a foreign power.

"19. As it is desirable that this Colony should, so far as she can consistently, coöperate with the rest of the Australian Colonies in any matters of intercolonial interest, we shall be prepared to advise Your Excellency upon the subject of intercolonial regulations respecting the importation of stock.

"20. To expedite the Marine Survey of the coasts of the Colony, a work of a most important nature, more especially at this juncture, it certainly seems desirable that a steamer instead of the present sailing schooner should be employed.

"21. The question of the permanent employment of a Government Geologist shall receive our careful attention.

"22. The Estimates of Expenditure for the ensuing year, as doubtless they will be framed with a due regard to economy, to the increasing wants of our rapidly extending Province, and, at the same time, to the future prospects of our Revenue, when laid before us shall receive our most earnest consideration.

"23. In conclusion, as it is our duty and will be our endeavor to apply ourselves conscientiously to the consideration of all measures that may be brought before us, we can only trust, with Your Excellency, that under God's guidance the result of our labors may tend to benefit and advance our common country."

MR. LOTON said he rose with some degree of pleasure to second the motion made by the hon. member Mr. Scott, that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the speech with which he had been pleased to favor the House. The hon. member who moved the address had so fully and exhaustively treated the various subjects referred to in the speech that the hon. member had left it necessary for him to say very little on the subject, and he promised the House that at that late hour at all events he should not detain them very long. He thought, having been intimately acquainted with the late Speaker of the House, privately as well as publicly, he might be allowed to join heartily in the expressions of regret made by the hon. member at the lamented death of their friend Sir Luke Leake—a regret that would be shared by the colony generally. With regard to the proposed celebration of Her Majesty's jubilee, he was quite sure—it was well known, not only in this colony but also in the old country—that Western Australia, if she was anything she was loyal; and there was no doubt that whatever measure might be necessary, so far as voting funds to celebrate Her Majesty's jubilee went, would be heartily voted by that honorable House, and he believed such expenditure would be approved by the large majority of the people of the colony. He would say this of our present Queen, "Long may Her Gracious Majesty reign, and reign over a united Empire, the Queen of Great Britain and of Ireland." He should not attempt to touch upon many points in His Excel-

lency's speech. He thought he might venture to say that on the whole the speech was one that afforded them much ground for congratulation, with regard to the material progress that was being made in nearly all matters contributing to the social and material welfare of the colony. The speech, he thought, was one that would commend itself to the favorable consideration and judgment of many hon. members, while at the same time, when it came to be subjected to the keen scrutiny of the learned politicians opposite, he had no doubt they would find room in it for the exercise of a little mild criticism. The hon. member who moved the address, if he understood the hon. member correctly, expressed some little regret that His Excellency had not, in the course of his speech, intimated that he was about to introduce a measure, which the hon. gentleman no doubt had very sincerely at heart, for giving Responsible Government to this colony. He thought the hon. member might be excused perhaps for giving expression to that feeling of regret on his part; but he would remind the hon. member that during the last session of Council, although the House counted among its members a number of those who were looked upon as the foremost reformers in the colony, there was not a motion of any description brought forward, or an address or a petition to His Excellency in any shape whatever, asking him to introduce such a measure, or to look into the question in any way; and he (Mr. Loton) himself—and, he thought, many more of the members of that House—would have been surprised, under the circumstances, if His Excellency had introduced such an Act. In the 24th paragraph of his speech His Excellency told them that the forty-four addresses presented to him by the House last session had received his careful attention, and that he had in almost every case been able to carry out their wishes. He did not know what the hon. member for Perth expected, whether he expected that under Responsible Government they would get the wishes of that House, as representing the country, carried out in every instance; he did not know really whether the hon. member expected that; but he (Mr. Loton) scarcely thought that the hon. mem-

ber's expectations would be realised. Nor did he think that it would be a sound policy, on all occasions, to let even the colonists of Western Australia have everything they wanted. While on this matter of the form of Government, it occurred to him, some half-an-hour before he came into that room, just to look back to see what had been done during the existence of the present Constitution. They entered upon the present Constitution in the year 1870, fifteen years ago, and he would just give a few figures—they should not be tedious ones—showing what the progress of the colony had been under this Constitution, which some hon. members despised. In 1870 the population of the colony was 25,000—he spoke in round numbers; and the revenue at the same period, from all sources, including the Imperial grant, amounted to £98,131; while the imports and exports altogether amounted to £414,000. He now made a jump from 1870 to 1885. He was quite sure that hon. members would be surprised if they came to look into these figures and see the immense strides that the colony had made during that period. In 1885 the population of the colony had increased to 35,000, while the revenue had gone up to the sum of £323,213; and the imports and exports had increased to £1,097,000. These were indisputable facts, and they spoke for themselves. He was not prepared to say what the colony would have done under a different form of Government; but he was prepared to say this, that its progress and development under the present form of Government had been a remarkable progress and development. During the period referred to, the population had increased by something like forty per cent.; the revenue had increased two hundredfold; and the imports and exports had increased in nearly the same proportion. He had not got the exact credit balance which the Treasurer had in his chest at the end of 1870—he did not know whether the public accounts even were accurately kept in those days; but, if there was a credit balance at all, it was a very small one. The revenue at that time generally kept pace pretty well with the expenditure, and the expenditure kept pace with the revenue. But the

financial position of the colony at the end of 1885, as they had heard from His Excellency that day, and as they knew before, was this: that there was then a credit balance of over £89,000, on general account. That seemed to him to be a very satisfactory position for the colony to be placed in. There was of course another side to the picture, and he liked to look at both sides himself. In 1870 the colony was not in debt; there was a small balance, he believed, on current account. But what was the position of the colony now, as regards its indebtedness? They had raised by means of public loans no less than £1,290,000—a very nice little sum, equal to an indebtedness of something about £37 per head of the population. While on this subject, he should like here to refer to what had fallen from the hon. member who had moved the address in reply, with regard to the tariff. He understood the hon. member to advocate a reduction of the present tariff. He (Mr. Loton) had no doubt that every member in that House would be very glad indeed to see the tariff scale reduced in many important items. He should be very glad himself if they could have a free tariff altogether, but they had to face this fact—they had been borrowing money largely—they owed now over a million sterling—and they must provide for the interest upon that money, and also for a sinking fund to repay the principal, as well as to meet the interest; and they had to look at this tariff question very cautiously. Reverting to the comparison he had drawn between the position of the colony now and the position of the colony when it was first granted the present form of Government, and to the progress which it had made during that time, there were a few other items he should like to refer to, as showing the rapid strides that had been made during the last fifteen years. In 1870, what were the facilities of internal communication? What sort of postal arrangements had we between Albany and the northern portion of the colony, even as far as Champion Bay? A mail once a week or once a fortnight, carried in some cases on horseback. Telegraphs—not known. Railways—not known. As to the coastal service, if they wanted to get to Champion Bay they would have to face the dangers and dis-

comforts of a three-weeks' or a month's passage in a small sailing coaster, and possibly run the risk of ever getting there at all. Let them take the same items now. How were they situated with regard to the means of internal communication? Let them take the post office for example. Why, they were almost mailed to death. There was not a mercantile man in the colony, or a banker, or anyone intimately connected with business, but would bear him out in that. Their mail service might be capable of improvement no doubt, but no one could say that the facilities afforded were not ample to meet the requirements of the colony. Telegraphs, again,—let them look at the facilities they had now in the shape of telegraphic communication. They had at the end of last year 2288 miles of telegraph laid down and in working operation, and there was in addition to this something like 870 miles in course of construction, which would give them 3000 miles of telegraph communication. Let them also look at their foreign mail service. They had steamers now plying regularly, every week, to the other colonies, and direct steam communication with the old country, while, as regards the coastal trade, they had steamers continually running up and down the coasts. Who, in the face of these signs of progress and advancement, could say that the colony had not made rapid strides during the past fifteen years, under the present form of Government, which some hon. members despised? Referring to the paragraph in the Governor's speech relating to the land regulations, he was very glad to find that the Government had had this important question before them, and under their consideration, during the recess; he hoped that during this session the House would arrive at some satisfactory conclusion in connection therewith. He was in favor himself of liberal land regulations, giving security of tenure and affording protection to those who were desirous of improving their land. Without now going into detail, he thought that, next to the finances of the colony, the land regulations formed the most important subject that could possibly come before them. He put the finances first for this reason: it was no good their having first rate land regulations, bringing in a

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

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

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 23rd June, 1886.*

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

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

PRAYERS.

#### OPIUM DUTY BILL.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### EXCESS BILL, 1885.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### BREAKSEA ISLAND TELEPHONE.

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

#### BOAT LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL.

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