

inestimable. The assistance proposed to be afforded to gold prospecting will, I fancy, be deemed a desirable expenditure. I should be glad to see a similar movement as regards coal. There can, I think, exist no difference of opinion as to the propriety of steps being taken to induce an immigration to these shores. In conclusion, the only portion of His Excellency's Speech which may, at first sight appear unpalatable, is that which alludes to the necessity for some addition taxation; but we cannot have all good, and we must cheerfully bear such burthens as may appear to be necessary, recollecting that they cannot be avoided, and looking upon them as an evil only that good may arise. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address.

Mr. BUSSELL seconded the adoption of the resolution, briefly adverting to the various subjects alluded to in the Vice-Regal Address.

Mr. STEERE moved the adjournment of the debate until 6 p.m. the following day.

Mr. CARR seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 31st July, 1872.

Election Petition—Swearing in of Members—Standing Orders—Chairman of Committees—Address to Her Most Gracious Majesty—Public House and Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors Bill: first reading—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) presented a petition on the part of Mr Gray, of Geraldton, one of the candidates for the representation of that district, against the return of the elected member, Mr. George Shenton, on the grounds of bribery, corruption, and undue influence on the part of his electioneering agents and committee. The Attorney General, in submitting the petition, did not wish to be understood that he identified himself with its contents; he was actuated by no other motive than the principle that no man should be denied the constitutional right of appealing to the House by petition, which could only be done through the agency of one

of the members. He was merely prepared to vouch that the petition contained nothing of a scandalous or impertinent nature.

A conversation ensued as to whether or not the petition should be read, and it appearing that there was a general desire that it should,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved, and the ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) seconded, that the memorial be read. This being carried, the Clerk of the Council read it, and a motion that it be forwarded in due course to His Honor the Chief Justice was adopted.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a Commission from his Excellency the Governor, empowering him to administer the usual Oath of Allegiance to members.

The Commission was read.

STANDING ORDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved that the Standing Orders of the last session of the last Council be now adopted.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) seconded the motion.

Mr. STEERE intimated that he wished to propose certain amendments in some of the rules, and a conversational discussion ensued as to whether the Standing Orders should be accepted, *pro tem.* in their present form, or whether the House should proceed to consider the proposed amendments of the hon. member for Wellington. Ultimately, it was agreed that the motion of the hon. the Colonial Secretary be adopted, and Mr. Steere gave notice that on Thursday he would propose that the Standing Orders be amended.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. NEWMAN, in eulogistic terms, proposed that Mr. Carr be appointed to the position of Chairman of Committees. Mr. DRUMMOND seconded the motion, which was adopted *nem. con.* Mr. CARR thanked the House for the confidence placed in him, which was a guarantee to him that he had, during the last Council, conducted the business efficiently. He would further endeavor to discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability. Mr. Carr also entered into an explanation to show that though his colleague and himself had consented to accept office, the electorate which they had the

honor of representing would not, as some persons imagined, be virtually unrepresented in the House.

ADDRESS TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved that an humble and loyal Address be presented by the members of the Council to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, expressing their sense of the mercy vouchsafed by Almighty Providence in the restoration to health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; and that such Address be engrossed and illuminated, and presented to His Excellency the Governor, with an humble Address, asking him to forward the same to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that he will be pleased to lay it before Her Most Gracious Majesty, and if such be her pleasure, to communicate a copy of it to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Mr. CARR seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, as was also the following address:—

May it please Your Majesty,—We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the members of the Legislature of Western Australia, in Council assembled, lay before Your Majesty the sincere expression of our most devoted loyalty and attachment.

We take this occasion of our first meeting since the providential and happy restoration to health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to assure your Majesty that we, in common with your Majesty's subjects throughout the world, thank God most earnestly for the mercy He has vouchsafed in preserving His Royal Highness to your Majesty, to his family, and to the whole British nation; and we humbly pray that your Majesty will be pleased graciously to accept this assurance of the entire, firm, and inviolable devotion of all classes of this portion of your Majesty's dominions to your Majesty's person, family, and throne.

PUBLIC HOUSE AND SALE OF FERMENTED AND SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS BILL.

First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice moved for leave to bring in a Bill to consolidate and

amend the laws relating to the licensing of public houses, and the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors.

The Bill was read a first time.

CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE BILL.

First Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved for leave to bring in a Bill to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year 1871, beyond the grant for that year.

The Bill was read a first time.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Resumed debate.

Mr. STEERE said that in moving the adjournment of the debate on the previous day he had done so, inasmuch as he had considered such a course respectful towards His Excellency himself, and necessary to a due consideration of the subjects embodied in the Speech, on the part of hon. members. Though he was not prepared to concur altogether in the observations made by the mover of the Address, he did not oppose the motion for the mere sake of disagreeing, but because he could not conscientiously endorse his remarks. His Excellency in the prefatory clause of the Address congratulated the House upon the generally sound financial position of the colony, and upon improved prospects. He (Mr. Steere) was not prepared to contradict this assumption, but he must say, that it appeared to him that there never had been more depression than at present existed among the country settlers of this colony. With regard to the proposed Loan Bill, he would reserve his observations until such time as the Bill was laid before the House; for the present he was content to say that he considered it necessary, if we contracted a Loan Bill at all, it should be for such an amount as would enable the colony at once to inaugurate some reproductive work of magnitude and of national importance. He deprecated the initiation of a paltry loan to be frittered away on public works which should be carried out by means of the local revenue. He failed to understand how His Excellency could have been led to state that the late Council by an unanimous vote had recommended the purchase of the telegraph lines. He might say, he had been thunderstruck at such a statement, in the face of the fact that the proposed transfer of the telegraph plant had only been carried by a single

majority, and that without the scheme having ever been under the consideration of the House. He was pleased to find that it was the intention of the Government to lay before the Council information regarding a railway to the eastern districts, and with regard to the establishment of steam communication along our coasts, he considered, that a most desirable object, so long as the proposed subsidy was proportionate to the probable consequent advantages; but he certainly would not support so preposterous a *bonus* as had been suggested some time ago. No one would rejoice more than himself if the negotiations with the P. & O. Royal Mail Steamship Company relative to the selection of a position in the vicinity of Fremantle as their port of call and coaling depot would result in the removal of the present port of call, but he must say he had his doubts as to the success of such a proposal. As regarded the question of gold prospecting, he thought we had already frittered away and wasted very considerable sums of money for that purpose, and all of no avail; he was therefore not prepared to sanction any further expenditure in that direction, beyond the renewal of the *bonus* formerly offered for the discovery of a payable goldfield, on certain conditions. Any scheme for the encouragement of immigration to our shores would receive his most cordial support, so long as due regard be had to the class of immigrants proposed to be encouraged. He thought there were three classes of immigrants which would really prove useful to the colony; namely, capitalists, good farm laborers, and female domestic servants. With regard to the first, he thought we were not in a position to hold out any inducements; to that class there were more promising fields of enterprise less distant and afforded a more advantageous scope for investment than Western Australia. As to the second class, he believed that efficient farm laborers were even very scarce in the mother country, and would become still more so. With regard to female domestic servants, we might be more successful, and he thought we would find no difficulty in the introduction of that really useful class of immigrants. He could not give his consent to the proposed exploration of the country extending from the Murchison to the eastward, for, although he would be very sorry to throw any discouragement in the way of enterprising and patriotic individuals desirous of penetrating the interior of the colony for the purpose of exploration, he could not, looking at the result of what had already been expended in that direction, support a proposal to spend any further sum from the public funds to that end. It did not appear to him

that any benefit, present or prospective, would be derived by the colony from the suggested expedition, and he deprecated any further expenditure for such an undertaking. He was much surprised at the omission in the Vice-Regal Speech of any reference whatever to the question of a duty on flour—a question which had agitated the colony for a considerable time past. He thought the country, appealed to at the recent elections, had unmistakably declared in favor of the imposition of a duty on flour, as opposed to the policy of the Government. He did not think it at all necessary, nor would it, in his opinion, be advantageous to increase the number of representatives, as proposed in His Excellency's Address. He thought it would be unreasonable to expect that any gentleman residing at so remote a district as Roebourne would come all that distance to attend the sittings of the Legislature, and he saw no present reason for proposing an additional elected member for the Murray and Williams. In the course of a few years, doubtless, it would be found necessary to make considerable modifications in our existing representative system, but he did deprecate this tinkering with the Constitution. He would have been glad to have seen introduced into the Vice-Regal Speech some reference to a modification in the existing Petty Debts Act, which he considered required amending. He had thus rapidly reviewed the most salient features in the Governor's Address, and though there were some portions of it which he could not conscientiously approve, he was prepared to give the various measures referred to in the Speech every consideration when they were submitted for the deliberation of the House.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) said there was an outspokenness in His Excellency's Address which could not otherwise than favorably commend it to the consideration of hon. members, and he thought it would not be gainsaid that it was more elaborate, comprehensive, and went further into details than the generality of such utterances. His Excellency, with that honesty of purpose and disingenuousness which singularly characterised all his actions, had introduced into his Address all the various measures which the Government contemplated to initiate, and for this alone His Excellency deserved the thanks of the House. Under his command our political ship would yet go ahead, notwithstanding adverse gales. On the previous day, on the occasion of the opening of the session, he had observed that all the elected representatives arranged themselves, as it were, on the windward gunwale of

the good ship, perhaps thinking that in case of a storm it was less dangerous than the leeward (laughter); but he assured them there was no cause for alarm; the vessel of State was perfectly safe in the hands of her gallant captain. Without particularising the several items referred to in His Excellency's Speech, he must say that it appeared to him that not a single loophole had been left for the most fastidious critic; and as, when the various measures adverted to would be brought before the House, an opportunity would be afforded hon. members to dilate upon them, he did not think it would be wise to enter into further details at this early stage of the session. He would merely say that as an independent and individual member of that House, and speaking his own opinion altogether, apart from any official influence or consideration, he must say that he most conscientiously concurred in the sentiments expressed in the Vice-Regal Address.

Mr. LOGUE, complained as to the bad taste displayed by the Surveyor General in alluding to the seats taken by the elected members on the opening day of the Council, which he (Mr. Logue) considered was a purely accidental circumstance.

Mr. NEWMAN said he thought it was hardly worth while devoting any further time in discussing a speech in which it was not proposed to make any alterations. He thought the House would agree with the hon. the Surveyor General that the Address was as comprehensive as could possibly be expected in such utterances, and so far the House must feel obliged to His Excellency. But there were some portions of the Speech with which he did not agree, such as the proposition to construct a line of railway from Geraldton to the mines. Thousands of pounds had been expended in the prosecution of the mining industry in the district mentioned, but with no permanent success; and he did not believe that even with increased facilities of transport our mines would at present be developed. In fact, he might say, we had no mines. The most careful consideration should be given before the consent of the House should be accorded to any company to construct a line of railway as proposed without care being taken that provision be made that the colony be reimbursed any expenditure so incurred. Without for a moment wishing to under-rate the advantages of steam communication along our coasts, he yet maintained that our first attention should be devoted to the improvement of internal communication. He would be disinclined to vote in favor of a subsidy for further gold prospecting, but would not oppose the expenditure of a small sum in aid of

exploration. Nor was he opposed to the introduction of another member of the Legislature for the northern as well as the Murray and Williams district, so long as such a change would not involve the necessity of another dissolution.

Mr. DRUMMOND next briefly reviewed the Address.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) said that with regard to the remarks of the hon. member for Wellington as to the desirability of amending the Petty Debts Act, and other law reforms alleged to be necessary, but omitted in the Speech, had the hon. gentleman thought fit to address himself to His Excellency or to him (the Attorney General) on the subject, doubtless such matters would have been introduced into the Address. If the hon. member would be good enough to point out in what manner his wishes in these respects could be met, the utmost consideration would be given to his suggestions. As to the question of immigration and the three desirable classes of immigrants alluded to, he was of opinion that what the colony really needed was, firstly, capital; secondly, capital; and, thirdly, capital. With regard to the difficulty of obtaining good domestic servants in the colony, the same difficulty obtained in England; in fact it appeared that the breed was exhausted. (Laughter.) To induce capitalists to come amongst us some encouragement would have to be held out to them. On the principle of employing a herring to bait a whale, or a sprat to catch a mackerel, he would suggest the expenditure of a trifling sum in exploring for good country, in developing our mineral resources, and in gold prospecting, so that we might be able to hook that very desirable animal the whale-capitalist. Without some such bait there was but little prospect of his ever being hooked.

Mr. MARMION reviewed the Vice-Regal Speech at some length, commenting favorably on its various clauses.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that exception had been taken by an hon. member to remarks made by his hon. friend the Surveyor General as to the fact that all the elected members had seated themselves on the "opposition" side of the House. He ventured to say that the remarks made by the Surveyor General were only intended as a joke, and that the idea of real opposition never entered his head. He, (the Colonial Secretary) too, had noticed the strange coincidence, but it had only struck him that it was intended as a compliment, and that the country members, after all that they had heard of the occupants of the Government

benches were desirous of having a good look at them. The more they looked the more he believed, they would be pleased, both at the men and their measures. He would carry on the metaphor and would assure those of the elected members who had not already come across to the "leeward" side, that they should receive a cordial welcome when they did come. If they came in a friendly spirit they should meet with a warm reception, and if they came in any other way than a friendly spirit, he would venture to say for himself and those associated with him that they should also meet with a "warm" reception. He had certainly heard some extraordinary assertions made during the debate with regard to the Governor's Speech, as well as to the colony. He had heard it said that our newspapers sometimes, in their desire to promote the welfare of the colony, were in the habit of decrying it; but he must say he never heard the colony so detracted and "run down" as by some hon. members that evening. He had been told that we had no mines, no land, and no harbors. Really he could not allow such statements to go forth uncontradicted. Hon. members were surely joking when they gave utterance to them; at any rate he was prepared to give an unqualified denial to such damaging assertions. He would not then enter into arguments, but would content himself by flatly contradicting what had fallen from some hon. members on these points. Hon. members were evidently laboring under a misconception as to a considerable portion of His Excellency's Speech, and were arguing in the dark as to most, if not all, of the contemplated measures alluded to therein. Until the House was in possession of the details of those measures he must ask hon. members to suspend their judgment. The Colonial Secretary having cursorily replied to the observations which had fallen from the majority of those who had spoken throughout the debate, concluded by intimating his intention of dilating at greater length upon the various subjects embodied in the Vice-Regal Address, when submitting the programme of the Government on Friday evening.

After some further remarks from Mr. BICKLEY, the COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved the adoption of the Address, which was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that a select committee be appointed to prepare the Address in Reply, such committee to consist of Mr. Bickley, Mr. Bussell, Mr. Steere, Mr. Logue, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Monger, and the Mover.

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, thank Your Excellency for the Address with which you have been pleased to open the first Session of the second Representative Legislative Council of Western Australia, and assure you of our earnest desire to co-operate with you in all measures tending to the advancement of this colony.

We view with pleasure the admittedly sound financial position of the colony and its improved material prospects, and we trust that they will not be greatly affected by the visitations of Providence, to which you have alluded.

We recognize that the great political advance which has marked your term of Government must be followed by efforts to forward the material progress of the country, which, though principally depending upon the exertion of the colonists, may yet be much promoted by the co-operation of the Legislature with the Government in undertaking Public Works which are of acknowledged utility; and we will give our best and most dispassionate consideration to the measures which you propose for that end, and to the other measures to which reference has been made in Your Excellency's Address.

We concur with Your Excellency in desiring to take this our first opportunity to loyally testify to the Queen our devotion to Her Majesty and to the Royal Family, and to assure Her of our deep sense of the mercy which it has pleased God to show to the great nation of which this colony is a part, in preserving to its prayers the life of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

We gladly believe that the improvement which has taken place in the prices of Colonial Produce, the great development of the Pearl-shell industry, and, we may hope, next season, the increased production of all our exports, is enabling the colony to bear up against the very great reduction of Convict Expenditure which it has been your duty to effect; and it is a subject of thankfulness to us that if the progress of this colony be but gradual, its advance is no longer adventitious and dependent on Imperial Expenditure, but such as may warrant

the anticipation that at no distant time Western Australia may, like her sister colonies, go forward, leaning upon no other aid than that of the efforts of her own colonists and the help of Divine Providence.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved the adoption of the reply, which was seconded by Mr. STEERE.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 9.50 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Thursday, 1st August, 1872.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—Ballarat Timber Company—Arrangement of the House—Standing Orders.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.
PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER informed the Council that the Address to His Excellency the Governor, adopted yesterday, had been presented in accordance with the resolution of the House.

BALLARAT TIMBER COMPANY.

Mr. NEWMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House, as early as possible, the agreement and all correspondence with the Ballarat Timber Company.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) notified that the agreement and all correspondence between the Government and the Ballarat Timber Company were lying at his office, and were open for the inspection of hon. members. The correspondence was so voluminous that when once seen, he thought that the hon. member for Fremantle would not press that a copy be laid on the table.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. BICKLEY, in accordance with notice, moved for a committee consisting of Mr. Carr, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Monger, Mr. Marmion, and the Mover to be appointed to consider the question of the better arrangement of the House, with a view to members sitting in a more compact body.

After some debate a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes 13

Noes 4

Majority for 9

Ayes.	Noes.
The Hon. R. J. Walcott	Mr. Steere
The Hon. M. Fraser	Mr. Logue
Mr. Bickley	Mr. Hassell
Mr. Marmion	Mr. Carr (Teller.)
Mr. Russell	
Mr. Monger	
Mr. Shenton	
Mr. Carey	
Mr. Brockman	
Mr. Pearse	
Mr. Newman	
Mr. Drummond	
The Hon. F. P. Barlee	
(Teller.)	

Question thus passed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, moved for certain alterations in the Standing Orders of this House, and the following amendments:—In Section 2, and line 3, to strike out the word "six," and insert the word "eight" instead thereof. Section 3, and line 3, to strike out all the words between "present" and "Members," and to insert the word "eight" instead thereof. Section 9, at the end of the first line, after the word "shall," to insert "if directed by the Speaker." Section 47, and line 2, to strike out the words between "if" and "the," and to insert instead thereof "within two hours after the meeting of Council." Section 69,—To omit all the words as far as the word "such," in line 2, and to insert the following words instead thereof:—"That upon any motion for a Select Committee, it shall be competent for any Member to move as an amendment that such Committee be appointed by ballot; and the question shall then be put to the House, and if resolved in the affirmative," And that the same be taken into consideration on Tuesday, 6th August.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 1 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Friday, 2nd August, 1872.

Election Petition—Immigration—Trespass by Live Stock: select committee—Correspondence with Magistrates—Financial Statement: in committee.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.
PRAYERS.