

days of the Macgregor, as a contract boat under the Government, have come to an end; that new tenders have been invited, returnable on the 15th of this month; and that, in the meantime, the Government are negotiating for the services of the steamship Flinders, to run the trip between this date and the 15th. Therefore I hope that the dissatisfaction which has been so often expressed in regard to the Macgregor will now be at an end, and that a better service for mails and passengers along that coast will be provided.

At 4:37 o'clock the SPEAKER left the chair, and at 5:10 he resumed the chair.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—THE PRESENTATION.

THE SPEAKER reported that, accompanied by hon. members, he had waited upon His Excellency at Government House, and there presented the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's opening speech; also, that His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

“MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“I thank you for your address in reply to my opening speech, and for the assurance of your careful consideration and attention to the matters therein referred to.

“Government House, Perth, 11th
“March, 1897.”

At 5:15 o'clock the Speaker left the chair, and at 7:30 o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair. After awaiting a Message from the Legislative Council, the Speaker again left the chair, and resumed it at 8 o'clock.

MESSAGE—CONCURRENCE IN BILLS.

A Message from the Legislative Council was received and read, intimating that the Council concurred in the Supply Bill and the Australasian Federation Enabling Act Amendment Bill.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:5 o'clock, the House adjourned until 3 o'clock the next afternoon.

Legislative Council,

Friday, 12th March, 1897.

Illness of Acting President and appointment of Acting President—Address-in-Reply: presentation of—Address to Her Majesty—Prorogation.

ILLNESS OF ACTING PRESIDENT.

THE CLERK OF PARLIAMENTS (Mr. C. Lee Steere): I have to report to hon. members that I have received a notification from the Acting President, to the effect that, owing to indisposition, he is unable to attend the House this afternoon.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Owing to the regrettable indisposition of the hon. the Acting President, I beg to move that the Hon. Mr. Hackett do take the chair for the remainder of the present session. I hope, in the circumstances, the hon. member will accede to my request.

Question put and passed.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I have to thank hon. members for their vote, and I submit myself to the House.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. J. W. Hackett) then took the chair.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION OF.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. J. W. Hackett), accompanied by hon. members, proceeded to Government House for the purpose of presenting the Address-in-Reply.

On resuming,

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. J. W. Hackett) reported that His Excellency had been graciously pleased to receive hon. members, and had made the following reply:—

“MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE
“GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE
“COUNCIL,—

“I thank you for your Address to my
“opening speech, and assurances of your
“careful consideration and attention to
“the matters therein referred to.”

ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): I beg to move, by leave, without notice, that the following resolution be adopted:—

"The members of the Legislative Council, moved by loyalty and affection for Her Majesty the Queen, desire to present an address of congratulation on the completion of Her Majesty's long and beneficent reign. They therefore authorise the President, in conjunction with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to prepare such an address on their behalf, embodying the above sentiments, for transmission to Her Majesty."

Question put and passed.

MESSAGE—ASSENT TO BILLS.

A Message from the Governor was received and read, assenting to the following Bills:—Supply Bill (£750,000); Australasian Federation Enabling Act Amendment Bill.

THE PROROGATION.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (Hon. J. W. Hackett) announced the receipt of the following proclamation proroguing Parliament until the 12th day of April, 1897:—

"Western Australia, }
"to wit, }
"GERARD SMITH, }
" (L.R.) }
"Proclamation by His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerard Smith, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c."

"Whereas under the provisions of 'The Constitution Act, 1889,' and 'The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1893,' it is made lawful for the Governor of Western Australia for the time being to fix the place and time for holding the first and every other Session of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of the said Colony as he may judge advisable, and also to prorogue the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly from time to time, by Proclamation or otherwise, whenever he shall think fit: Now there-

"fore I, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerard Smith, K.C.M.G., being Governor as aforesaid, in exercise of the powers so in me vested, deeming it advisable to prorogue the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, do hereby announce and proclaim that the said Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly are prorogued accordingly to Monday, the twelfth day of April next."

"Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the said Colony, at Government House, Perth, this 12th day of March, 1897."

"By His Excellency's Command,

"JOHN FORREST.

"God save the Queen!!!"

The session then closed.

Legislative Assembly,

Friday, 12th March, 1897.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration: Address to the Queen—
Harmony of the Proceedings: Expression of Thanks
—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION— ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Sir,—As this Assembly will probably not be in session on the 21st or 22nd of June, when Her Majesty will complete the sixtieth year of her reign, and when the people of the whole British Empire will be rejoicing and congratulating Her Majesty on that very important and happy event, it seems desirable that this Legislative Assembly, being now in session, should take steps—and I am sure the same course will be taken by the Legislative Council—to arrange that an