

fied that if the Government would allow a private company to construct the line, a company would be found ready to do it. Only two days ago, a gentleman connected with a company there told me his company were prepared to lay down a line, providing they had the necessary authority from the Government. I believe it would be far better for the Government themselves to undertake the work. They would get a return from the day the line was opened more than would pay the interest; and twelve miles of line would give access to almost unlimited timber and other lands which have been applied for and would be taken up. I know one settler in that vicinity, who, believing the railway would shortly be made, has taken up land. To show what might be done if facilities were given, I may say that man in a short time has produced an enormous quantity of vegetables, and is going in largely for fruit. On a very small area of land he has recently raised ten tons of cabbages, one single heart of which weighed 40lbs. Where such country is obtainable, a line of twelve miles would be well justified. I hope that such facts will be laid before the Government in the near future as to induce them to commence the work. Before I conclude my remarks, I desire to offer my hearty congratulations to the gentleman who fills the position of leader for the Government in this House. Mr. Randell, by his long and honourable career in this colony, has gained the well-earned respect and confidence of the whole community, and his appointment to a Government portfolio has, I am sure, met with general approval. I confess that when I came here to-day I felt some regret that our old friend, Mr. Wittenoom, was with us no longer. That gentleman's courtesy to hon. members, and the great ability he showed as leader for the Government in the House, will long be remembered by every member who has the honour of his acquaintance. I also feel that hon. members will give to Mr. Randell all the assistance they can in the onerous and responsible duties which he has undertaken, and which he will be found quite capable of fulfilling in the way we all desire. I have much pleasure, sir, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: I move that the debate be adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

Put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) moved that the House at its rising do adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21st March.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 4 p.m. until the next Tuesday afternoon.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th June, 1898.

Meeting of the Assembly—Message: The Governor's Speech—Papers presented—Shipping Casualties Inquiry Bill: first reading—Orders of the Day and Sudden Alterations: Statement by the Speaker as to future practice—Motion: Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Opening Speech: first day of debate—Adjournment.

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which Proclamation was read by the Clerk.

MESSAGE—THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Black Rod having appeared at the Bar and delivered a summons from the Governor,

Mr. SPEAKER and hon. members repaired to the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency delivered a Speech on the opening of the third session of the third Parliament. [*Vide* p. 1, *ante*.] Mr. Speaker and hon. members having re-

turned to the Assembly Chamber, the business of the session was proceeded with

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Annual Reports—(1) Customs and Shipping, (2) Chief Inspector of Explosives and Government Analyst, (3) Lands and Surveys, Under-Secretary's Report, (4) Lands and Surveys, Surveyor-General's Report, (5) Stock Department, (6) Marine Fisheries, (7) Relief and Charitable Institutions, (8) Fremantle Lunatic Asylum; also, Statistical Register for 1896.

By the COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS: Plans showing proposed alterations to Legislative Assembly, alternative schemes.

Ordered to lie on the table.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES INQUIRY BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER, without notice, and read a first time.

ORDERS OF THE DAY AND SUDDEN ALTERATIONS.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. members will collect that, near the termination of last session, I stated that in consequence of complaints made to me by some hon. members as to the manner in which Orders of the Day were sometimes taken—an Order of the Day standing low on the list, in the Notice Paper as printed, being sometimes taken first or out of its order, thus placing those members who might be interested in it at a disadvantage when they arrived and found the particular Order had been disposed of unexpectedly—I intended in the next (that is the present) session to adopt the practice of the Imperial Parliament, which I find, from information I have received, is also the practice adhered to by Parliaments all over the colonies, namely, that all Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day shall be in the Notice Paper, and that, if not taken in such order and disposed of on that day, they shall be adjourned to the next sitting day, or some future day which may be fixed. Hon. members will understand that it is very inconvenient for those members who are interested in a Bill or Notice of Motion, on entering the House perhaps

somewhat late in the sitting, to find that the particular subject has been transposed to a different position in the list, and may thus have been brought on earlier than could have been expected if the printed list had been adhered to; those members having relied on the fact that the particular subject had been placed in a certain part of the business for the day. The Notice Paper which is issued to members is intended to be an authentic guide as to the business for each sitting of the House, and the order in which such business will be taken; but, of course, it cannot be an authentic guide if the Orders of the Day or list of Notices can be altered suddenly, and inconvenience thereby be caused to members, as was the case last session. I propose for the future to adopt the practice of the Imperial Parliament, by taking the business for each day in the order in which it is printed on the Notice Paper, and any Orders of the Day or Notices of Motion not disposed of on that day to be adjourned till the next or a future day. This can easily be arranged, and I think it will be a great convenience, if the Government in regard to business for Government days, and if private members in regard to business for private days, will arrange with the Clerk as to the order in which they may desire particular Bills or Notices of Motion, when postponed, to be taken on a future day.

MOTION—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

FIRST DAY OF DEBATE.

MR. SPEAKER having reported that he had, with members of the Assembly, attended His Excellency the Governor in the Chamber of the Legislative Council to hear the Speech on the opening of Parliament, and a copy of the Speech having been now read to hon. members,

MR. GREGORY (North Coolgardie): Mr. Speaker—Sir, I rise to move the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech, and I do so with certain feelings of pleasure, because the Speech contains that for which I would sacrifice a good deal—electoral reform. As the Speech states, we have been called together at an earlier period than usual,

and I sincerely hope hon. members will assist the Government in the important legislation which is to be brought forward. It is highly imperative that hon. members should assist the Government at the present juncture, because there is a certain stagnation in trade and decline in values generally, and we should all try to do what we can to bring the colony back to that position which it so lately occupied. The business last session was greatly hampered, owing to the necessary absence of the Premier in London to attend the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, and the necessity for members of both Houses having to leave the colony to attend the Federal Convention. There is no excuse this session, and I hope the business will be promptly brought before the House, and that we shall have an opportunity of removing many of the disabilities which we at present labour under. Under the present Enabling Act, it is not possible for Western Australia to join the Federation proposed, unless New South Wales is one of the federating colonies. In view of the negotiations which have been opened between Mr. Reid, the Premier of New South Wales, and the other Premiers, it would be wise for Western Australia to await the result of the negotiations. In the event of the negotiations not tending towards Federation, I hope a new Enabling Bill will be introduced, and the issue placed directly before the country. The Parliament ought not to take upon itself to say whether the colony of Western Australia should join the Federation or not. The Parliaments of the other colonies have seen fit to lay the issue before the people, and the same thing should be done here. The people are the judges, and since we find that New South Wales will not federate, I think the people of Western Australia should be asked to say whether they are in favor of Federation or not. The Speech tells us that the Coolgardie water scheme is now well in hand, and it is hoped that within a short time the whole of the work will be in progress. I hope the Director of Public Works will try and get the pipes for the work made in the colony, which would mean work for hundreds of people. Special facilities should, if necessary, be given to enable the contractor for the

pipes to manufacture them in the colony. The charges for the transit of the raw material by railway might be made very much less cost than the cost of transit of the manufactured pipes. Even at the expense of paying a little larger price, I think the pipes should be made here. I hope the Director of Public Works will do his best to have the pipes manufactured within the colony. The completion of the Coolgardie water scheme must be of great value to the goldfields generally. It will be of great value in this sense: it will induce the working miners to bring their families to this colony, and to settle them on the goldfields. This will indirectly benefit the farmers, and generally it must be of advantage to the working men themselves. This water supply will enable the mine owners to work the low-grade ores at a profit. I hope every effort will be made to speedily complete the work. The Speech tells us that it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Mines Amendment Bill. I think a certain amount of censure is due, from me at any rate, on one of the Ministers, for having made Regulation 103, but I thank the Government for rescinding it, also for the alterations in the Mines Department which have taken place. I am sure the industry will now be on a better footing. I think the appointment of Mr. Gill as Under-Secretary of Mines will be of great advantage to the Department, and if the new Minister of Mines, with his well-known rectitude, will only place himself in touch with the long business experience of his new Under-Secretary, there will be an end to the bungling and the foolish regulations which have been made in the past. The Government have also done well in deciding to erect public batteries on the outside goldfields. It is necessary that something should be done for those on the goldfields in out-of-the-way places. The erection of batteries will place the prospectors and leaseholders in quite a different position. Instead of men who have fairly good leases endeavoring to shepherd them, they can have every ton of stone crushed, and be thus provided with the sinews of war—the ready cash—to develop their mines. Instead of relying upon the introduction

of English capital, men will then be able to work their own property, and the gold will be retained in the colony. Paragraph 17 of the Governor's Speech tells us of the great development which has recently taken place in connection with the Collie Coalfield. I hope the Government will do their best to help along this industry, as it is identified so much with the success of the gold-mining industry. The Speech also tells us that the agricultural prospects are encouraging. We must admit that there has been a great deal of settlement on the agricultural areas of late. [MR. GEORGE: Where?] Throughout the whole of the colony. I have written many letters to the Commissioner of Crown Lands in reference to people who want to take up land—people from the other side, who have come to this colony and wish to settle on the soil. I am satisfied there has been a general increase in quantity of the land taken up. I regret that the Government have not seen fit to promise in the Speech that a tax would be placed on unimproved land values. Until such a tax is imposed, there will be no permanent increase in the agricultural industry. The tax is essential, and the Ministry will have to knuckle down to it. To my mind it is eminently necessary that large estates should be broken up: people would be forced to sell or develop their land. [MR. GEORGE: What about absentees?] As promised last session, it is the intention of the Government to bring forward a Bill to amend the tariff. I hope when this measure is before the House the Premier will let us have full facilities for discussing it, and that nothing of a party nature will be introduced so as to induce certain supporters to vote in a certain way. I hope nothing of that sort will be done.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): You mean that for the other side, I suppose?

MR. GREGORY: I for one am going to try and get the tax taken absolutely off meat. It is necessary that we should have our food as cheap as possible.

MR. SIMPSON (Geraldton): You are sure you have made up your mind this time?

MR. GREGORY: The duty on our meat supplies must be absolutely removed. At

present there is a tax on tinned meat, and I believe the Premier himself stated that a small premium should be paid to the men who eat tinned meat.

THE PREMIER: I always said that it was good stuff.

MR. GREGORY: We should protect the farmers in the production of their cereals. There should be some protection to the production of wheat and barley, but it is absurd to have duties on butter and eggs and such things, and I hope these duties will be removed altogether. The Government have promised to bring forward a measure of electoral reform, and I hope they will be prompt in introducing it. The present Electoral Act is simply a farce, a delusion, and a snare. From what has been seen during the last week in the Perth Revision Court, it must be admitted that the Act is a fraud on the people. I do not think the people of Western Australia will long allow such an injustice to remain. [MR. VOSPER: The Government are responsible.] The Act is responsible. The Government have promised to bring forward a new Act. I want a new Electoral Act on the basis of the abolition of plural voting, one man one vote, and facilities for people registering. I do not want the disabilities that exist to remain. Men have been known to make out claims to be put on the electoral roll, and nothing more has been heard of them; probably they have found their way into the waste paper basket. Let every man who makes out a claim and lodges it obtain a receipt, and then, if he does not find his name on the roll, the reason can be ascertained, and if anyone is to blame it will be known who that person is. I also want to see representation on a graduated basis of population. There are a few things which the Government have not seen fit to bring forward in the Governor's Speech. One is a Civil Service Bill, which was asked for last session. The developments which have occurred of late show that the appointment of a Civil Service Board is necessary. I think it would be wise for the Government to establish a Government Labour Bureau, and we want a Bill introduced for the settlement of industrial disputes. Generally I accept the promises of the Government for the coming session, and I have much pleasure

in moving the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply:—

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerard Smith, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the colony of Western Australia and its Dependencies, etc., etc., etc.

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and devotion to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been good enough to address to Parliament, and we beg to assure Your Excellency that our most careful consideration will be given to the important matters you have referred to, and also to all other matters that may be submitted to us, and it shall be our earnest endeavor to so deal with them that our labors may result in the permanent advancement and prosperity of the colony.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: "He rose to bless, and lo! he hath cursed them altogether."

MR. HUBBLE (the Gascayne): In rising to second the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I feel that I have little left to say, after the able manner in which the member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) has addressed us. However, I will take this opportunity of referring to a few matters in connection with the, doubtless, very lengthy Speech of the Governor. In the first place, I feel certain that all the members of both Houses of Parliament will be grateful that the present session has been commenced at this early period of the year—much earlier than last year—so that we may fully consider and discuss the various Bills that may be placed before us, and thus produce good legislation that will be for the welfare of the colony. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Speech, dealing with Australian federation, I am pleased indeed to think that this colony took the opportunity of sending delegates to the several Conventions which have been held in other colonies, to assist in framing a federal constitution for Australasia. But, on the other hand,

I am not in favor of federation for this colony at the present time, and I will give a few reasons to show why I think it is not an opportune time for this colony to join in federation. Western Australia is a very young colony, having only a few years ago undertaken Responsible Government; and now that we are making progress we want to foster our industries of all descriptions. I do not mind in what way it is done, as long as we keep the people in the colony and encourage others to come here. We want factories of all descriptions to be started here, the same as in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia; we want foundries also, and manufactories of all kinds, so that, while encouraging people to come here, we may be in a position to provide employment for an increasing population. I am pretty certain that, if this colony were to enter into federation at the present time, the people, instead of coming here, would be gradually leaving us. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: No, no.] Well, taking the agricultural parts of this colony, which I am sure deserve every support from all classes of people, there are a number of farmers coming from other colonies to settle in our midst; and I think it would be a crying shame if we were to go into federation just when these farmers have come here with their families, their horses, their vehicles, and implements. Take also the pastoral industry, which is commencing to reap some little benefit, after years of toil and struggle under adverse conditions. These considerations show that the present time is very inopportune for this colony to enter into federation. Therefore, I am very pleased to learn that the Government do not consider it desirable to bring before this House the federation question in the present session. As we are all aware, this colony could not possibly enter into a federation of Australia unless New South Wales agreed to do so; and as the mother colony has not done so, that fact practically shelves the question for the time being. While saying that I do not wish this colony to join in federation at the present time, I do not mean that we should never do so in the future; because the moment we are placed on the same footing as

other colonies that are now more advanced, such as South Australia with its wheat growing and other industries, and such as Victoria and New South Wales with their various established industries, then will be our time to enter federation.

MR. VONPER: You will have to import their soil first.

MR. HUBBLE: A few years ago, if federation had been then in view, the other colonies would not have thought much of asking Western Australia to federate with them; but now that this colony is progressing and developing, they will be glad to receive us into federation on the terms which have been arranged by the recent Convention. The Speech refers, by way of explanation, to the necessity for enlarging the Mint before it is opened; and I am very pleased that an extension has already become necessary, for it sounds well to say that the new building was not big enough to coin all the sovereigns we require. With the output of gold that is going on in this colony, amounting to some 400,000 ounces during the first five months of this year, and which the Government lead us to expect will reach a million ounces within the year, I think the establishing of a Mint in this colony will be a very good advertisement. If they had such a thing in South Australia—

MR. SIMPSON: They have no gold mines in South Australia.

MR. HUBBLE: They have a Mint in Victoria and in New South Wales, and of course South Australia would be glad to have a Mint. We have gold mines here and a Mint too, and I think this Mint will add greatly to the prestige of the colony. In reference to the public works that have been going on during the past twelve months, I think this colony can boast of having given more facilities in the way of railways, telegraph wires, and public buildings, than have been given to any goldfield in the eastern colonies within the same space of time. There can be no doubt that the facilities now provided for getting to the back blocks of our colony, which practically were regarded, until a few years ago, as an unopened wilderness, have so altered the conditions of the country that the

Government are greatly to be praised for the extent to which they have pushed on the construction of railways and telegraphs. There are also many public buildings erected at centres in those newly-developed districts—court-houses, police stations, hospitals, and public buildings of various descriptions—and I am sure that no town in the other colonies can show that the same extensions have been given to them in so short a time. I notice in the Speech, also, that it is the intention of the Government to proceed with more public works in various parts of the colony; and I really hope the Government will see their way to place on the Estimates this year a sum of money to provide a new prison in Fremantle, or elsewhere. I am speaking on this subject because I happen to know more about it than perhaps many members of this House. What is wanted is a place for the classification of prisoners, and this cannot be done in the present prison. I do not consider that prisoners ought to be allowed outside the walls, for any purpose; and, having regard to the number of robberies lately reported, it must be evident that many first offenders are being mixed with prisoners who are probably the worst class of criminals known in Australia. When a young man makes a mistake and gets a term of imprisonment here, he may be mixed with the worst class of criminals in the prison; therefore I hope the Government will see their way to provide facilities for the proper classification of prisoners. The member for North Coolgardie (Mr. Gregory) spoke of the need for a new Mining Act; and, in reference to the Bill which is promised in the Speech, I would like to say that I hope the question will be gone into thoroughly, in the present session, and that there shall be no dual titles granted to any mining area. It is scandalous to think that companies formed in England for working gold mines in this colony do not know how they stand in regard to the titles they have acquired; and I am certain more harm will be done to the mining interests of this colony if dual titles are given, by permitting the leaseholder and the alluvial miner to enter on the same area of lease. I quite sympathise with the Government in regard to the position they were placed

in a short time ago, through something that cropped up unexpectedly; and while I have no doubt the Government did what they thought was best at the time, yet the new regulation had to be repealed, and we are back in pretty well the old position. I do hope this session of Parliament will see the matter put right. With regard to electoral rolls and the new Bill which is promised, I think there ought to be a much easier way of getting one's name placed on electoral rolls, and it should not be so easy to strike off electors' names in large numbers. I found myself disfranchised the other day; although I must say there was no great trouble in getting my name put on again. I think some improvement can be made in compiling and revising the rolls. With regard to the work done on the stock route north of Mullewa, I can only congratulate the Government on what they have done. I have seen a number of the wells that have been put down, the principal wells, and they are a credit to the Government and to the colony; and I am sure those persons who travel stock over the route will agree in congratulating the Government on the good work that has been done.

MR. GEORGE: Stock does not travel.

MR. HUBBLE: Yes, it does. I am sure the Government are to be congratulated also on the further progress made with the Fremantle Harbor Works, and there is now no doubt these large works are not the "white elephant" that many people thought they were going to be. Indeed it is now quite a treat for observers to see some nine or ten large steamers anchored at the new wharf; and I am sure that in a short time all the ocean mail steamers running to the eastern colonies will be calling regularly at Fremantle, as the North German Lloyd's steamers do at the present time. Another thing I am pleased to see is the increase in the timber trade, the export having increased some 65 per cent. in the past twelve months, as stated in the Speech. This industry employs a number of men; and, besides sending timber to other countries, I should like to see some of it used here for street paving, in which a start might well be made in Perth, the same as is done in Fremantle, by paving a roadway with wood blocks,

as an advertisement for the colony's hardwoods. I regard this as an important step in the development of the timber industry. Reference has been made to public batteries, and as I was one of those who supported the action that was taken in this direction last session, I am pleased to learn from the Speech that a beginning has been made by ordering batteries for various goldfields, and that some have been placed at centres in outlying districts; also that the Government have offered a sum of £500 to encourage some private persons in erecting a battery at Pilbarra, as a bonus at per ton of ore crushed. I hope the Government will extend help on this principle to all persons who may be willing to put up private batteries to crush stone for the public, and thus benefit the prospectors in outlying places. I represent one of the largest gold-bearing districts in the colony, that is Bangamall; and the people there did not ask the Government for a public battery, but they formed a company, which intends to erect a battery: and it is my intention to approach the Government for assistance to be granted on the same lines as the £500 already promised in aid of a battery at Pilbarra. I am going to speak on the stock restrictions which have been applied to East Kimberley, and I only hope the inspector who has been sent to report on that district, and who is expected back shortly, will be able to give such a report to the Government as will induce them to remove the restrictions from East Kimberley. No one has been more against the imposing of restrictions on East Kimberley than I have, and I am certain my friends who have interests in that district will join with me in hoping that the report which the inspector, Mr. Hancock, may make to the Government will have the effect of inducing the Government to remove the restrictions from East Kimberley, and that fat cattle from there may be allowed to be brought to our southern markets. I hope, at the same time, that the Government will not allow cattle from any tick-infested country to come here. I am pleased to see the Government do not intend to put another Loan Bill before us this session for carrying out certain public works which are promised, but that they

intend to provide the necessary funds by reappropriating from other loan schedules certain sums already authorised by Parliament to be raised for public works. The question of deep drainage for Perth ought to be thoroughly gone into. The population of the city is increasing, and will, doubtless, continue to do so; and, although the fever may not be accounted for by the want of drainage, yet we must recognise that deep drainage is one of the principal means of improving the healthiness of a city. The work will involve a large expenditure, and I hope the Government will see their way to provide it at the present time. The revenue of the colony, I notice from the Speech, is falling off, but I have no doubt the Premier will be able to give some satisfactory explanations.

MR. SIMPSON: Satisfactory to you.

MR. HUBBLE: In reference to the large increase in the colony's exports, we must not forget that, besides the increase in the export of timber during the past year, there is an increase in wool and in pearl shell; so that I do not put down the year's increase entirely to gold. I only hope the next year's results will be still better. In conclusion, I hope that the good ship "Western Australia," which is now beginning the annual trip round the world, taking her products with her, will come back with her load of goods for this colony, and with a full list of passengers who are coming to settle in the colony; and I trust the officers of the good ship will do their duty well, and that the crew will not make a row or mutiny during the voyage. I hope also that the Premier, as captain of the ship, will be able to say, at the end of the voyage, that he has got a good credit balance for the shareholders. I am putting this in my own way, to express the idea that, if we work together for the benefit of the colony, instead of trying to oust the Government, and if we do what is right in trying to pull together, we can see our way clear to have a nice credit balance for the next year. I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

Question put by the SPEAKER, a long pause ensuing.

MR. LEAKE (Albany): I am not going to move the adjournment—nothing sufficient in the Speech.

THE PREMIER: Better go on, then.

Several interjections by Members, during a lengthy pause.

MR. GEORGE (the Murray): Will it be right if I move the adjournment of the debate now?

THE SPEAKER: Certainly.

MR. GEORGE: I have not my notes here, or I would go on myself. I did not think the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Leake) would have failed in his duty. I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. WOOD (West Perth): I second that.

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I think I shall be following the usual custom, and it will be in accordance with the wishes of hon. members, if I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until half-past 4 o'clock on Tuesday next. I beg to move accordingly.

Question put and passed.

The House adjourned at 4.32 p.m. until the next Tuesday afternoon.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 21st June, 1898.

Election Return, Central Province—Papers presented—Question: Petitions of Right—Motion: Address-in-Reply; Amendment moved—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.