

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 24th September, 1885.

Law and Parliamentary Library Committee—Meeting of Council—Tramways Bill: third reading—Federal Council (Adopting) Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill, 1886: third reading—Message (No. 28): Replying to addresses—Message (No. 29): Assenting to Bills—Lady Barlee's Gratuity: Acknowledgment—Spread of Rabbits from South Australia towards Encla—Kimberley Goldfields: Public information as to best route—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in accordance with notice, moved that the following members be appointed unofficial members of the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee:—Mr. Brown, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Harper.

Agreed to.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

MR. BROWN said he wished to take the sense of the House as to the most convenient time for hon. members generally to meet in session for the despatch of public business. Some time ago it was notified to the Government that early in June would be the most convenient period of the year; and he was given to understand by the hon. member for Toodyay that many hon. members had again spoken to him on the subject, and that it had been intended to have brought the question before the House this session, before so many members took their departure. He regretted that was not done, and he brought the matter forward now merely for the purpose of intimating to the Government what, in the opinion of the members present, would be the most convenient time for summoning the Council to meet for the despatch of business. Of course there was no intention to dictate to the Government as to the period of the year when members should be called together. Although one particular time might be convenient to hon. members in general, still there might be circumstances which might render it inexpedient or inconvenient to call them together at that particular time. He begged to move, with leave, without notice, "That, in the opinion of the House, the most convenient time to the

"majority of the members of the Legislature for the meeting of Council in each year would be the middle of June."

MR. SHENTON said that as a rule July and August were the two slackest months of the year for country members, but when the session extended over September it interfered seriously with the avocations of country settlers. He thought it would be more satisfactory to all parties if the session commenced early enough to admit of its being prorogued before the end of August.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) regretted that this motion was not brought forward when there was a fuller attendance of members. The resolution itself was a very proper one, and, some years ago, they had one much to the same effect, and he saw no reason himself why they should not pass this one. He understood that, although it was done in the absence of a large number of members, the resolution itself was in accord with the expressed wish of those country members who were now absent.

The resolution was then put and passed.

TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

FEDERAL COUNCIL (ADOPTING) BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1886.

Read a third time and passed.

MESSAGE (No. 28): REPLYING TO ADDRESSES.

MR. SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor has the honor to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he will carry out, or endeavor to carry out, the recommendations contained in the following Addresses:—

"No. 35, dated 16th September, 1885
"(Public Works under Loan of "1884).

"No. 41, dated 21st September, 1885
"(Resolutions respecting Public "Works, Immigration, Surveys, "&c.)

"No. 43, dated the 23rd September, 1885 (Land Regulations).

"2. With regard to Address No. 42, dated 23rd September, 1885 (enforcement of Rabbit Acts), the Governor believes that the Rabbit Act of 1883 is being properly enforced, inspectors having been appointed and instructions issued. But the matter shall receive renewed attention.

"3. Address No. 40 (exclusion of Chinese from Goldfields) will be carefully considered.

"4. The Governor will bear in mind Address No. 44, dated 24th September, 1885, pointing out that the middle of June is the date most convenient to the majority of the members of Your Honorable House for the annual Session.

"Government House, Perth, 24th September, 1885."

MESSAGE (No. 29): ASSENTING TO BILLS.

MR. SPEAKER also notified that he had received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"The Governor informs the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day assented, in Her Majesty's name, to the undermentioned Bills:—

"16. *An Act to consolidate and amend the law with respect to the manufacturing, importing, keeping, carrying, and selling of Gunpowder and other Explosive and Dangerous Substances.*

"17. *An Act to amend 'The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876.'*

"18. *An Act to provide for the Licensing of certain Persons using Guns.*

"19. *An Act to Dissolve the Corporation of 'The Governors of the Perth Church of England Collegiate School,' and for other purposes.*

"20. *An Act for the Re-appropriation of certain moneys appropriated for the purposes of a Telegraph from Roebourne to Derby, and for certain Miscellaneous purposes.*

"21. *An Act to repeal 'The Scab Act, 1882,' and to re-enact the same with amendments.*

"22. *An Act to further amend 'The Customs Ordinance, 1860.'*

"23. *An Act to facilitate the Construction and Working of Tramways.*

"24. *An Act to bring into operation, in respect of the Colony of Western Australia, an Act of the Imperial Parliament, entitled 'An Act to constitute a Federal Council of Australasia.'*

"25. *An Act to appropriate the sum of 'Two Hundred and Seventy-seven Thousand One Hundred and Seven Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five Pence out of the General Revenue of the Colony for such Services as shall come in course of payment during the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-six.'*

"Government House, Perth, 24th September, 1885."

LETTER FROM LADY BARLEE, ACKNOWLEDGING GRATUITY.

MR. SPEAKER informed the Council that he had received the following communication from Lady Barlee:

"Lady Barlee has received an official announcement from the Secretary of State, informing her of the most liberal and thoughtful act on the part of the honorable members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia in voting her a pension of £150.

"Lady Barlee begs to express her most grateful thanks to the honorable members for the tribute paid by them to the memory of her late husband, Sir Frederick Barlee.

"Lady Barlee does not hesitate to say that the form of the proof of their appreciation of the efforts made by Sir Frederick Barlee to benefit the colony during his residence of 20 years, is accepted by her with gratitude."

"Lady Barlee desires to express her sincere sense of their liberality, and the kind thought of the honorable members tends to increase the deep interest and esteem she has ever entertained for the people of Western Australia, and most heartily does she hope that prosperity may attend the efforts of the honorable members towards the advancement of their colony."

SPREAD OF RABBITS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA TOWARDS EUCLA.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL called the attention of the Government to a statement contained in the *Albany Mail*, just received, to the effect that rabbits were rapidly advancing from beyond Fowler's Bay towards Eucla. The hon. baronet expressed a hope that the Government would lose no time in communicating on the subject with the South Australian Government, with a

view to prevent the spread of these pests towards our own territory. At the present reported rate of advance—about 50 miles a year—it was believed that, unless some steps were taken to check their progress, a few years hence would find them on our border.

KIMBERLEY GOLD FIELDS.

MR. MARMION, in view of the possible influx of gold prospectors and gold diggers from the other colonies to the Kimberley district, called the attention of the Government to the desirability of publishing some information as to the best point of departure for the locality where the gold had been discovered,—which probably would be Derby. He thought there should be a declared track, and intermediate stations established between Derby and the site of the alleged goldfield, with one or two policemen and a native constable or two at each station, where also there might be a supply of provisions kept, so that parties who might seek their fortunes on these goldfields might, if unsuccessful, have a depôt or depôts to fall back upon in case of emergency. He made the suggestion in the interests of humanity as much as anything else; and, if anything was going to be done in the matter, he thought prompt action was necessary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) thought the suggestion a very apt and opportune one, and it would be his duty to place the matter before His Excellency the Governor; and, no doubt, it would receive the consideration which it deserved.

MR. RANDELL asked whether the discovery of gold in the Kimberley district had been authenticated to the satisfaction of the Government?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said he had a formal statutory declaration made by the two men, Hall and Slattery, before the Police Magistrate, Perth, in which they specified the exact position in which the gold was found; but, for obvious reasons, it would be unfair to these men to publish the information at present. But there was no reason at all that he was aware of to doubt their statements.

The House then adjourned until 3 o'clock.

PROROGATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber shortly after 3 o'clock, and delivered the following speech:

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE
"LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"At the close of another session, I have, as formerly, to thank you for much valuable assistance, and to record my appreciation of the indefatigable manner in which you have devoted your time and energies to the public service.

"In virtue of the law passed by you for the purpose of adopting the Imperial Act establishing a Federal Council for Australasia, this colony will take part in the first sitting of that Council, expected shortly to be held at Hobart. It will be a matter for congratulation in the future that the Legislature of Western Australia has from the first heartily supported a scheme which, as I believe, will, in course of time, result in uniting the whole of this portion of the empire in a political organisation, similar to that which has given strength and greatness to the Dominion of Canada.

"Your recommendations respecting the defences of Albany and Fremantle will be duly furthered by me. It is satisfactory to feel that the more peaceful aspect of European politics allows us to carefully consider these important matters, which should, however, be settled as promptly as is consistent with the adoption of the best measures. To the defence of Albany the Federal Council will doubtless give its attention.

"I will endeavor to carry out without delay the recommendations you have made respecting the public works provided for in the schedule to the Loan Act of 1884.

"The proposals for the amendment of the present Land Regulations involved so many important changes, that I think you have acted wisely in deferring the final consideration of the question until another session. In accordance with your recommendation, I shall provide for the temporary extension of the few pastoral leases which will expire before the subject can be dealt with.

"The resolution which you have placed in my hands respecting the additional representation of the Kimberley district in your Honorable House will receive careful consideration.

"From my replies to the numerous addresses which I have received from you, you will have learned that your wishes in almost every matter have been complied with, or that they are in course of being complied with. You may rest assured that the few questions upon which I have not yet been able to express a definite opinion will be considered with the most favorable regard to your recommendations.

"I have been able to assent to all the bills, twenty-five in number, passed by you during the present session. Though most of these measures are, perhaps, of a minor character from a political point of view, they nevertheless deal with subjects on which legislation was required, and they will doubtless prove a useful addition to the statute book. I have not been able to bring forward the bill, mentioned in my speech at the opening of the session, for consolidating

and revising the Acts relating to roads. The question was found to present some difficulty, and it seemed expedient that it should be carefully and fully examined, and that the District Roads Boards should be consulted. I propose, therefore, to appoint a Commission, to make an inquiry, and prepare the draft of the necessary bill, during the recess.

MR SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,—

"I thank you for the supplies which you have so liberally granted for the public service, and which it will be my duty to administer with watchful economy.

"When I have the pleasure of again meeting you, I trust it may be in my power to congratulate you on the continued advance and welfare of the colony in which we are all so deeply interested.

"I now prorogue this Council to Wednesday, the 13th of day January next."

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed a copy of the speech to Mr. Speaker, retired from the Council Chamber, and the session closed.