

the benefit of Western Australia. Paragraphs 17 and 18, referring to the extension of the railways and of the post and telegraph system, enable us to still further understand how careful the Government have been to see that all parts of the colony are supplied with the necessary means of development, and with the accommodation required for commercial and other purposes. We are told that it has been the object of the Government to extend the post and telegraph service to every place of importance in the colony; and it is quite right and proper there should be these extensions. Another paragraph informs us that the Government propose to submit measures dealing with a dividend tax, rural land improvement, and other subjects; and I hope the rural land improvement measure will be as successful as similar legislation has been in New Zealand. Then, we must bear in mind that we are sending away from the colony large shipments of timber; and I would like to point out to the Government the desirability of replanting on the land thus cleared, in order to recoup the country for the present loss of trees. There is only one other item to which I would like to refer, namely, the proposal to construct a graving dock. This is a matter of great importance to the shipping interests of Western Australia, and I hope the Government will not lose sight of the proposal, but will carry it into effect. I do not know I need speak further than to repeat that I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

On the motion of the Hon. F. M. Stone, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at five minutes past four o'clock until 4:30 p.m. the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 21st June, 1899.

Opening of Session.—Message; Governor's Speech. Papers presented—Evidence (Proof of Colonial Acts) Bill, first reading—Address-in-Reply to Governor's Speech, first day of debate—Adjournment.

OPENING OF THE SESSION.

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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. C. Harper) took the Chair, in the absence of Sir Jas. G. Lee Steere (visiting England).

MESSAGE—THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER and hon. members repaired to the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency delivered a Speech on the opening of the fourth session of the third Parliament. [*Vide* p. 1, *ante*.] Mr. Deputy Speaker and hon. members having returned to the Assembly Chamber, the business of the session was proceeded with. Several notices of motion, and of questions to Ministers, were given.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the DEPUTY SPEAKER: Public Accounts, showing the revenue and expenditure of the colony for the financial year 1897-8, accompanied by the Auditor-General's Report: in accordance with statute.

By the PREMIER: 1. By-laws of Municipalities of Albany, Bulong, Cue, Coolgardie, Claremont, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Menzies, Newcastle, Northam, Norseman, Roebourne, Subiaco, and Southern Cross. 2. By-laws of Local Boards of Health of Coolgardie, Field's Find, Gullewa, Lenonville, Red Hill, Woodarra, and Yalgoo. 3. Report of the Collector of Customs, etc. (1898). 4. Report of the Chief Inspector of Explosives and Government Analyst (1898). 5. Report on Rottnest Prison (1898). 6. Report by the Inspector of Charitable Institutions, etc.

(1898). 7. Report on Fremantle Lunatic Asylum (1898). 8. Report of the Registrar General relative to Industrial Establishments (1897). 9. Report of Department of Lands and Surveys (1898). 10. Report of the Chief Inspector of Stock (1898). 11. Statement of Operations of the London Agency (1898). 12. Statistical Register (1897).

Ordered to lie on the table.

EVIDENCE (PROOF OF COLONIAL ACTS) BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER, upon leave given, and read a first time.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER 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 of His Excellency on the opening of Parliament; and, having obtained a copy of the Speech, he read it to hon. members.

MR. A. E. MORGANS (Coolgardie) said: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, especially so when I realise the importance of the measures which the Government have brought forward for the consideration of the House this session. I am assured of one fact by the happy faces of my friends on the other side of the House, that this programme which has been brought forward meets, to a very large extent, with their commendation.

MR. GEORGE: I see a good chance for a shot.

MR. MORGANS: It cannot be denied that the programme drawn out by the Government on this occasion is one that must commend itself to all who desire to further the best interests of this colony, and who are always looking forward to its progress in this world. There is one question that is brought forward in the programme of the Government—the subject of federation—which is certainly occupying the attention of the public to a very large extent at the present moment, and I desire to express some views in reference to this important matter to the House to-day. We know quite well that on the other side of the House there are

the hon. member for East Perth (Mr. James) and one or two others—Mr. George, for instance, although he is in the opposite camp—who have taken a lively interest in this question.

MR. GEORGE: Oh, yes; very lively.

MR. MORGANS: We are aware that this question is being brought very prominently before the public of Western Australia, and the time has arrived when all the matters involved in the issue will have to be laid before the inhabitants and electors of the colony.

MR. JAMES: Stick to that.

MR. MORGANS: The member for East Perth says, "Stick to that," and I will do so.

MR. JAMES: You shuffle so.

MR. MORGANS: I desire now to state that there is no more ardent federationist in this House than myself, there is no one who believes more in the principles of federation than I do; and I am prepared to support all the principles which are advocated by the member for East Perth with so much enthusiasm, and I am quite prepared to accept and follow them when the time arrives. We have first to deal with the sentimental side of federation, with which I entirely agree. I am entirely in accord with all the views expressed by the member for East Perth on the sentimental side of the question, and am prepared to admit that the sentimental side of the subject is one that must be considered when federation is dealt with. I admit that no great question, involving national interests, has ever been carried out in any part of the world without the support of sentiment; and therefore I think my friends opposite will agree with me that I am, at heart, a federationist. Having admitted that the sentimental side of federation is proper, having admitted that there are good grounds for its existence, I want to look at the other side of the question, and that is, what will be the effect of federation on the colony of Western Australia? From a financial point of view, and notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary by the Hon. A. P. Matheson, who is an authority on finance, I am prepared to assert in this House, and I desire to call the attention of all the electors and inhabitants of this colony to the fact, that the figures which have been given to

the public by those interested in the federal movement are absolutely and entirely wrong. [Mr. GEORGE: Hear, hear.] There can be no doubt that the position as stated by them is not correct. I do not think it is necessary for me to say more than this in support of my assertion that Mr. Matheson, who has been one of the leaders of the financial discussion, has changed his front three or four times.

MR. A. FORREST: He does not understand it.

MR. MORGANS: That may be so, but I can only assert what I know. I would not go so far as to say that Mr. Matheson does not understand the question, but he has found himself in this position, that on three separate occasions the figures he has given us as a basis of what the true position of Western Australia would be under federation are absolutely erroneous, and he has been obliged to change his figures on three occasions.

MR. JAMES: I deny that absolutely and entirely.

MR. MORGANS: It will be easy for me, when the time comes, to show that what I say is correct.

MR. JAMES: Why not say it now?

MR. MORGANS: No: we are not to settle this question at the present time, but I will give the House one instance of what I referred to. Mr. Matheson said on one occasion that federation would cost the inhabitants of the colony 1s. 6d. per head, and afterwards he changed it to 5s.

MR. OLDHAM: Well, it is cheap at 5s.

MR. MORGANS: The hon. member says it is cheap at 5s.

A MEMBER: Cheap and nasty.

MR. SIMPSON: Less than it costs to register a dog.

MR. MORGANS: I am disposed to think it is altogether too cheap, and I do not want to touch it because cheap things are nasty, as a rule. To revert to the question, I think I have answered the member for East Perth. I have given an instance in which Mr. A. P. Matheson was entirely wrong in his calculations, and in which he had to alter his calculations to suit the Federal League.

MR. JAMES: Go on the platform and answer him.

MR. GEORGE: We are not discussing the League.

MR. MORGANS: I am quite prepared to go on the platform when it suits my convenience to do so, and I am quite sure, when I ascend the platform and measure swords with the member for East Perth, he will get the better of me: but, at the same time, I shall always be prepared to stand to facts, which the members of the Federal League have not stuck to up to the present time. With regard to the loss to this colony, we have heard and we have seen various statements with regard to the financial loss to the colony under federation, and it is strange to say that, with the divergence of views, we have had a change of front too. I am speaking of those on the other side of the House, because those opposed to federation have not said much about the question yet. It is strange what a multiplicity of figures we have had, and what a divergence of opinions there seems to be amongst the members of the Federal League. It would appear that those gentlemen who are advocating this cause with so much enthusiasm have not got figures on which they all agree. In order that the public of this colony may not be misled on the question of federation, I hope and desire that the Government will appoint a financial commission to go into the whole matter of the finances of the colony, as they would be affected by federation.

MR. VOSPER: Why should not the House do it?

MR. MORGANS: If members opposite desire that the House should make this inquiry, I have no objection to that; and as long as the member for Central Murchison (Mr. Illingworth) is on the commission, I shall be perfectly satisfied, and be delighted to see him on it. I think it would be only a fair thing to the colony, in order that the public may not be misled by wild statements on one side and the other, to have a commission of well-known commercial and financial men appointed for the purpose of investigating this question, so that we may have the true and real facts to lay before the public of Western Australia.

MR. JAMES: I thought you had them.

MR. MORGANS: The member for East Perth says he thought I had the facts. As far as I am concerned, I have

them; but I have not the assurance of my hon. friend to present my facts to the public with so much confidence as he does; therefore, I want some strong financial and commercial commission to support me. That is what I desire with regard to the financial part of federation. With reference to the commercial and industrial part of the question, I was pleased the other day to read a very interesting speech by the member for East Perth (Mr. James), in which that gentleman admitted that the industries of this colony would suffer severely by federation. This was in the speech which my friend made before his constituents, and he admitted, and he was perfectly right, and I am glad to agree with him, that the industries and manufactures of the colony will suffer severely by entering into federation at the present time.

MR. A. FORREST: Where does the sentiment come in there?

MR. MORGANS: The sentiment is only one side. Every big question has more than one side, and I admit that the sentimental side of the question is absolutely a correct one. In what way are the industries and manufactories and commerce of the country to suffer from federation? They will suffer from the mere fact that the industries in this colony are young; they are struggling into existence, and they will simply be swamped by the industries and manufactories of the other colonies. Everyone will agree to such a proposition as that. The member for East Perth will, I am sure, agree to that proposition. If there are established manufactories in the other colonies, and we have free trade here, then I say the young manufactories which have recently been established in this country must suffer from the competition with the older industries.

MR. JAMES: What are our manufactories?

MR. MORGANS: There are 500 manufactories in this country, employing from 10,000 to 15,000 persons; and, in a population of 170,000 people, these manufactories merit the considerations of the House and the country. As soon as we are in a position to meet the competition from outside, I say let us enter into this federation. Federation is an excellent thing, because it means unity, and unity is strength: that is the reason I

believe in federation. At the same time there are certain local conditions that must be considered by all sensible men, not only inside this House, but outside of it, and these things must be considered before the dictum and before the judgment of this great colony. I assert that it is the duty of every member of the House not to mislead the public, but to assist them in arriving at a fair conclusion as to the facts and merits of this great subject. If my friends who are opposed to my way of thinking were to do this, I have no word to offer in opposition to them; but if they attempt to show, as some have done, that there is only one side to this question, and that is the sentimental side, then they may safely be charged with misleading the public on one of the most momentous issues that have ever come before an Australian public.

MR. JAMES: Some men can hold two views at the same time.

MR. MORGANS: My friend, the member for East Perth, interjects a good deal. His interjections are always pleasant to myself, and I do not object to them even when they are frequent, because directly I turn to look at his face, all the sting of his interjections is taken out of them; therefore, I do not regard them severely, nor do they embarrass me very much generally, although, to an inexperienced speaker like myself, it is a little difficult at times to be interrupted. Another industry in this colony I wish to call special attention to is the wine industry, and I contend it is one of the most important infant industries in Western Australia, because it has the merits of an industry that will, at a date not far distant, be an exporting industry, and therefore it has special claims to the attention of the public and the Parliament of this colony. Among the articles which this colony can produce is wheat, but I do not think wheat will ever become a large product for export; for while we shall be able to produce all the wheat required within the colony, and may be able to export some wheat when prices are very good for the grower, yet I do not think the exporting of wheat is an industry from which we can expect much return in this colony. But the prospects of the wine exporting industry are entirely different.

MR. OLDHAM: There are 29 people engaged in it, according to the return.

MR. MORGANS: The member for North Perth is looking at a paper that was presented some time ago, and it does not show the present condition of the industry. The wine industry is one that merits the attention of this House, because it will some day become a great exporting industry; and that is one of the foundations of the prosperity of this or any other country, when you can establish some industry which will result in the export of large quantities of a product such as wine. I contend that this industry will suffer; that the effect of federation will be fatal to the prospects of the wine industry of this colony; and there is no doubt that there will not be room during many years to come for the establishment of the wine industry in this colony. I could name many other industries that will be affected in the same way by federation, but time will not admit of my doing so now. One thing of which I can assure this House is that any industry which is fostered now under the small protective duties of this colony must suffer severely by our joining in federation. I think no member of the House will object to that proposition. Another feature of federation, and one which the working man has not looked at, is that the federation of this young colony with older colonies means a reduction of wages. That is bound to come with federation. I do not mean to say this is a feature of federation, but that federation means a reduction of wages in this colony. I observe my friend, the member for Geraldton (Mr. Simpson), is looking seriously at me; but I say that if we have producing and manufacturing industries in Perth and other parts of the colony, which are protected to-day by import duties, the benefit being considerable, and if you wipe away those duties you will have to face the competition of other colonies which are more advanced in these industries, and which can produce the same articles cheaper than we can, because the factories there have had the benefit of protection for many years. I do not think the member for Geraldton can object to that statement. You cannot possibly introduce the element of competition into protected industries without

reducing prices—you cannot do it—and, therefore, I think this is a feature of the question that has been entirely lost sight of by the masses in this colony, and I think it is one that is well worthy their best attention. My friend, the member for East Perth (Mr. James), has entirely overlooked, in all his speeches, this phase of the question, and has never told the working men that one certain result of federation will be to reduce wages.

MR. JAMES: I do not believe it.

MR. MORGANS: Why is it that the hon. member and other advocates of federation never mention these facts, in order that the public may have an intelligent view of the case?

MR. JAMES: Are they facts?

MR. MORGANS: They are facts, and no one can get away from them. Then we are to have, as a condition of federation, the Inter-State Commission; and that is another feature which will be most serious for this colony, because it means that no preferential rates on the railways of this colony can be given for assisting any industry under federation. Is there a progressive country in the world that has not encouraged its infant industries by granting preferential rates and bounties? I have had some experience of an Inter-State Commission in the United States of America; and I say that, after federation, you will not be able to carry a ton of ore from the goldfields of this colony, even for one mile, except under the same conditions as it can be carried in one of the other federating colonies. That is a fact.

MR. JAMES: I deny that.

MR. EWING: Because you do not adopt their railway scale.

MR. MORGANS: No; it is because the Inter-State Commission will fix the rates, and every colony must stick to those rates. These are the facts, and hon. members cannot deny them.

MR. OLDHAM: Must there be that uniform rate throughout the colonies?

MR. MORGANS: Yes.

MR. SIMPSON: It applies only to Riverina.

THE PREMIER: It applies everywhere.

MR. SIMPSON: No; it applies where there is competition.

MR. WILSON: It does not apply to Western Australia.

MR. MORGANS: It applies everywhere, and nobody knows it better than the member for Geraldton (Mr. Simpson). It applies exactly on the terms I have stated; and I say, here is a colony, practically nine years old under Responsible Government, and this colony is asked to go into competition with colonies that have had the advantage of Responsible Government for more than 40 years, and have been able to make laws for assisting their industries during all those years, by giving bounties and bringing to bear other means. In Victoria, for instance, see what the Government have done in the way of giving bounties to industries! Yet this colony of Western Australia, only nine years old, is asked to go into federation and compete with its infant industries against colonies that have been established 40 years or more, colonies that have their industries fully established, and have the accumulated wealth of Australia available for their use, whereas Western Australia is poor to-day, and not able to compete against these older colonies. I say Western Australia cannot stand against this competition, and that such competition will drain the life-blood from this colony. Will any member deny that the other colonies have established their industries under the influence of bounties and protective duties?

MR. SIMPSON: I deny it. In New South Wales, under free-trade.

MR. MORGANS: It cannot be denied. The facts are against it. New South Wales has been free-trade some time, but not always.

MR. SIMPSON: Forty years, bar three.

MR. MORGANS: Victoria has had protective duties, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent., for years; and after those industries have been brought to their present condition, under protection, it is now sought to bring those highly developed industries into competition with the industries of Western Australia, which are still in their swaddling clothes.

MR. GEORGE: How do the wages compare?

[Several interjections by Members.]

MR. MORGANS: I was wondering who was addressing the House—my hon. friends on the other (Opposition) side or myself.

MR. JAMES: They find the brains; you find the voice.

MR. MORGANS: On the question of the food duties in this colony, I do not look at that as a serious matter, nor is it really an essential feature of federation; and I say that in a very short time—on this point my hon. friends opposite will agree with me—sufficient food will be produced in this colony for all our purposes. Practically, it is so now. Therefore, the question of a reduction of the food duties is not worthy of any position in the discussion of federation. I am confining myself to the consideration of commerce, industries, and manufactures, as affected by federation, and am not looking at the question of food at all, because that will find its level.

MR. VOSPER: We are told that federation is going to lead to a continuance of the food duties.

MR. MORGANS: That may be so, but I do not think it is at all likely that food duties will be of much value to this colony after two or three years, when we have produced all that the colony requires, and when there will be a superabundance; so that when that time comes the cost of food and the cost of living in the colony will go down, and of course the amount of the food duties will then have no effect on prices. The question of defence is, I admit, an argument in favour of federation. That is one of the arguments that may, perhaps, not be quite sentimental, for if we once federate under proper conditions, the argument as to federating for defence will be a good one. But how are the other colonies of Australia to defend Western Australia against an invading foe, with a thousand miles of sand and desert between us and the nearest capital—Adelaide? How are they to do that, unless that intercolonial railway is to be built from Adelaide to Perth? Would any member of this House venture to say the other colonies could lend us even the smallest assistance against invasion, if we were attacked, unless we had that intercolonial railway built?

MR. JAMES: That all depends on the warships.

MR. MORGANS: But we shall have the help of those warships whether we federate or not. We rely on those warships, and I say that if the question of federa-

tion depended upon the defence of the colony by the British navy, then we should go into federation at once, because we want that navy to defend our shores. But federation does not depend upon that, nor would federation assist in any way in the defence of the Australian colonies, because we are a British colony, and the British navy has to defend us against all comers whether we are federated or not. I agree with an article which was written by the member for North-East Coolgardie (Mr. Vosper)—I expressed the same opinion before the article appeared—in which it was stated that one of the conditions of federation must be that a railway should be built to connect the capital of Western Australia with the capitals of the other colonies. That is one of the conditions that I would attach to federation, and until the Federal Government decide to build that railway I oppose any proposal to federate, because the federation would be of no use to us without that railway.

MR. JAMES: Should that railway go through Bonnie Vale or Coolgardie?

MR. MORGANS: I think it might go through Coolgardie, and then to North-East Coolgardie. It is the aim of the member for East Perth, when these hard and knotty facts are brought under his notice, to try and throw ridicule on them; but these are facts which the hon. member cannot answer, and they have not been answered. We are told in regard to the intercolonial railway that we must trust the Federal Parliament. I am not prepared to trust them.

MR. GEORGE: It would be trusting to a broken reed.

MR. MORGANS: Why am I not prepared to trust the Federal Parliament on this point? Because this question was brought before the Conference of Premiers by our own Premier, and what did the other Premiers say: "We cannot agree to that; we sympathise with your desires, but we cannot agree with them." If they cannot agree to our wishes, in order to get us into the federation, is it likely that we, who would have such a small number of votes in the House of Representatives, would have power to gain our end afterwards? No sound business man in this colony, or any other colony, who tries to conduct his business on common sense, would agree to it. There is a great deal to be said on

federation, but I shall have another opportunity in this House of speaking on the question, so that I will not go further into the matter now. I have a great many facts upon which I wish to enlighten the member for East Perth, but there is not time on the present occasion. There is one thing I would like to say before departing from the question of federation, and that is with regard to the "brotherly love" spoken of by the member for the Swan (Mr. Ewing), when addressing his constituents some time ago. That is all very fine so far as the sentimental side of the question is concerned, but it has no application to the business or commercial aspect of the subject.

MR. EWING: Did I say that?

MR. MORGANS: It was something like that, but I will give the exact words on some other occasion. It was something about the ties of blood and friendship. I am not prepared to place the destinies of this colony in such a balance as that. I am not prepared to say we will trust the Federal Parliament absolutely and entirely for ever. I would not be a man of business if I did that. As far as I can see, Western Australia, with federation, would be very much like a little mouse which was playing about in a room, watched by four great cats. What happened? For the edification of the member for East Perth, I will tell you.

A mouse went into a hole to spin:

Along came a cat, and she peeped in.

"What're you doing, my pretty little man?"

"I'm spinning a coat for a gentleman."

"Shall I come in and wind up your thread?"

"O no," said the mouse, "for you'll bite off my head."

"Indeed," said the cat, "I thought no such a thing."

"Ah! ah!" said the mouse, "but you shall not come in."

That is exactly the position of Western Australia in regard to federation.

MR. GEORGE: Who is the author of the poem?

MR. MORGANS: I believe the author of that poem is someone who has been dead a great number of years. Let me tell hon. members that is what federation will do for us. The cats want to come in; and I say our duty is to decide whether we will let the cats come in or not. We must decide whether or not our head is to be bitten off. We must look after Western Australia, in this question of federation. Let us look at sentiment, but let it be the last side of

the issue. If it is decided, after a proper consideration of the question, that we shall not suffer financially, commercially, and industrially under federation, then go and federate. If it is shown that to join the federation we shall cripple our resources and retard our development for years to come, then we must not enter into such a compact. I am going now to refer to Kalgoorlie and the output of gold. I quite agree with what the Governor's Speech says, that the output of gold has been extraordinary. I do not think the Speech gives the output, but it gives the profits. The profits last year, the dividends, from the gold mines of the country amounted to £800,000. That is an enormous sum for a colony which has been in existence as a gold-producer for so short a time. It is most satisfactory. I would like to state, for the information of this House, that there is every reason to believe that by the end of this year Kalgoorlie alone, which is the greatest gold-producing centre of the colony, far and away the greatest, will be turning out 100,000 ounces per month. When we consider that, and also add the production of the other great gold-mining centres, it is easy for hon. gentlemen to understand what a splendid result in the yield of gold this colony will have at the end of the year. In all probability the estimate which the Premier made of the production will be far exceeded. I believe the right hon. gentleman said the production of gold this year would be a million and a half ounces. In all probability, that will be far exceeded. That is a marvellous production for a young country, and we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on such a splendid result. The dividends from Western Australian mines last year, as far as I can make them out, amounted to £845,000; and as far as the figures can be ascertained, up to the middle of June this year, practically up to the present time, the dividends have been over £700,000 paid by Western Australian mining companies. I say this is an astounding fact, and one that should create in the breast of everyone in the House, and every one in the colony, the greatest confidence in our future. Where can you find any gold-producing country that has achieved such results as these. As far as I know

there is no gold-producing country in the world that has achieved such results in so short a time; therefore the House and the country are to be congratulated. I still believe that much as we may have been surprised by the gold-mining results in the past, greater surprises are in store for us. The time is not far distant when this colony will do what I predicted it would do. Two and a half or three years ago I said this country would within ten years be turning out 14 million pounds worth of gold yearly. With regard to the public batteries, I warmly congratulate the Government on having initiated the policy. I had my doubts as to the commercial advantages of public batteries; still I was most anxious to see a few tried, and I felt doubtful if all of them would be successful. Taking the batteries as a whole, I think the experiment has been justified, and that the country has reaped great advantages by the establishment of the public batteries by the Government. There is a still wider field for them, but I think the Government are aware of that fact, and within a short time we shall see other batteries established on the gold-fields. The batteries have done a great deal of good, and can still do more good. They, no doubt, greatly assist in increasing the output of gold in the country. One great feature about the public batteries has been the want of water. There is also the fact that the working man is able to hold on to his claim and work it on his own account. There can be nothing better for the gold-mining industry than to have a lot of working men proprietors of mines. I shall be glad to lend aid in developing the industry on these lines, for the purpose of seeing the working men the proprietors of mines. I wish to say one other word with regard to public batteries. No doubt many difficulties have arisen in regard to the erection and working of the batteries, but I would also say that a battery erected by private enterprise has difficulties; only there is this difference, that a public battery is erected under the public eye, and open to public criticism. I have known private batteries take a longer time in erection than some of the public batteries have taken. I do not say this for the purpose of whitewashing the Government, but I say it as a practical man who understands the subject, and

who has suffered in the past, especially through the shortness of water at batteries. At the present time I have a 20 stamper battery which has been erected for some months, but it cannot be started for the want of water. That is the reason why there has been some delay with the Government batteries. Now all the batteries are going, and giving satisfactory results. There is one point to which I wish to refer before closing, and I am sure it will commend itself to the member for East Perth, and that is the Coolgardie Exhibition. I congratulate the Government of this country on having established that exhibition, and I am perfectly sure, from what I have seen of the results, that the establishment of that exhibition and its very successful career has done more to advertise the importance of this colony all over the world than any other step that has ever been taken. It has done this colony great good, and I am perfectly safe in asserting that this Government and this colony never have expended money in any enterprise to greater advantage.

MR. JAMES: What has it cost?

MR. VOSPER: How much more do you want?

MR. MORGANS: I have not the figures before me, but I am desirous that the public shall know all about it.

MR. OLDHAM: You have not sent the bill in yet.

MR. MORGANS: The exhibition has been a great success. We have collected together in the exhibition the finest display of gold-bearing rocks that has ever been got together in the world's history.

MR. OLDHAM: That is all you have got.

MR. MORGANS: Then we have a collection of agricultural produce, which has been a matter of great and valuable interest to the colony; and I may say there are scores and hundreds of people on the goldfields to-day who thoroughly believe in the agricultural industry of the country and its importance, although they did not believe in it before. They had no idea, until the exhibition opened, that vegetables and fruits, such as are seen there, can be produced in the colony.

MR. GEORGE: I know one man who sends £10 worth of cabbages a day to Coolgardie.

MR. MORGANS: I say the inhabitants of the goldfields, through the exhibition, have been taught to realise what this colony can produce, and the final result will be a large investment in agricultural lands by the inhabitants of the goldfields. The investment is going on now. A good many people, who never thought of buying an acre of land before the exhibition was opened, are now investing in land. I contend that nothing could have brought the great gold-mining industry and the agricultural industry of the colony together in the same manner as the exhibition has done, and no other system or means could have been adopted in order to give information in regard to the mining and other industries of this colony, than the exhibition has done. With regard to the Collie coal, I would like to say it is a great asset, and I have often expressed myself in this House that it is so. Hon. members and the public have never realised the full importance to this colony of that great coalfield; and I am agreeably surprised at the results of the trials that have been made, for while I had always thought this coal would be useful as a domestic fuel, yet as an article for export and to be used on steamers I had very little confidence in it. I am glad to find that it is being used by steamers along the coast, and is giving satisfaction; and we may congratulate ourselves on possessing such a splendid asset as the Collie coalfield. While desiring not to weary the House, I would like to say I am pleased to see the Government have done something in the way of adding to the railway system of the colony during the past year. They have added 361 miles of finished railways, and I am delighted to find they intend to further extend the railway system this year. The extension of the goldfields line to Mount Leonora and to Mount Margaret is, I believe, an actual necessity; and I am perfectly sure that, if the funds can be provided, this extension will be commercially successful, and that the working will more than return a good interest on the outlay. I am perfectly sure that, as a sound commercial investment, the Government cannot find a better one at the present moment.

MR. GEORGE: Can they find the money?

MR. MORGANS: I think so. With regard to the Coolgardie-Norseman extension of the railway system, we discussed this in the House last year, and the proposal of the Government was rejected. Yet it was a most desirable railway to be built; for why should not that great goldfield of the Norseman district be connected by railway with the other goldfields of the colony? That goldfield has an output of 6,000 or 7,000 ounces of gold per month; and what possible objection can hon. members raise, in view of the advantages which must result from connecting another great goldfield with the railway system of the colony? We know the member for Dundas (Mr. Conolly), whose absence to-day I regret, has advocated the construction of a railway from Esperance Bay to Norseman, and I would have supported him if the Government could have seen their way to give to Norseman even a narrow-gauge railway from Esperance. I think it might have been done, and I regret it was not done. But, at the same time, the policy of the Government is to continue the railway system by connecting Norseman with the other goldfields; and, from the Government point of view, that is a correct policy, and it will also be an advantage to people at Norseman to be connected by railway with other gold centres. I hope the Government will ask this House for powers to construct that railway; and when hon. members look at the population of that goldfield and the output of the mines, and take into account the great prospects of the future, I think they will agree that this is a work which should be carried out. With regard to the Bonnie Vale railway, I have only to say I do not intend to advocate very strongly its construction at present, because my advocacy last year provoked the animosity of my friend, the member for East Perth (Mr. James); but I say this is another railway that can be constructed with advantage, that it will pay good interest on the outlay, and that it will be a benefit not only to the inhabitants of the district of Bonnie Vale, but to the colony. There are two points more, and then I shall have finished. One is the proposed tax on dividends, and I may say I strongly approve of a tax being levied in this way, for I think the time has come when the Government

should get something out of the enormous dividends that are paid from the gold mines of this colony. I am producing gold myself, and am connected with mines that pay dividends; and, speaking personally and for others, we shall be only too happy to pay a dividend tax. I think that mines which are paying cent. per cent., and even 120 to 150 per cent., to their shareholders can well afford to pay to the Government a five per cent. tax on dividends; and I shall give my strongest support to the Government in any measure for imposing a tax on dividends. The kind of tax I should oppose would be a tax on the export of gold, because to tax gold in that way would touch men who are working mines at a loss, and that would be an injustice. The other matter is a Bill relating to Sunday observance. I do not know what that means; but if the Government are going to make any attempt to interfere with the liberty of the subject in regard to work being done in mines on Sunday, and in regard to the arrangements between employers and workmen for Sunday labour, I say the Government should exercise great care. I do not believe, as a rule, in interfering with arrangements of this kind, because it is better to leave such matters to the employers and their workmen. I do not say a law cannot be brought in that will not interfere too much with liberties on either side; but the Government should not allow themselves to be controlled too much by religious sentiment in these matters. I shall await with much interest the appearance of the Bill which the Government intend to bring in; and, from what I know of the goldfields, I think there is no mine-owner who desires to keep his men at work on Sundays if it can be avoided. I do not know a single case of a mine-owner who has men working on Sunday, except those workmen who are attending to the pumps and the necessary machinery; and I do not think there is one mine-owner who employs men on Sunday, outside of those duties. Unless the Government touch that question with a tender hand, I do not think I shall be able to support the Bill. Any attempt to curb the liberty existing at present, in regard to arrangements made between mine-owners and their workmen for doing certain work on Sunday,

may break the good feeling that exists between employers and workmen at present.

MR. VOSPER: What about Sunday recreation?

MR. MORGANS: I think a man should do what he likes on a Sunday in the way of recreation; and I do not see that we have any right to control a man's actions on Sunday more than on Monday. If a man prefers to enter into the recreations of life on Sunday, nobody has any right to interfere with him.

MR. A. FORREST: Then you will have shops open on Sunday.

MR. MORGANS: I do not see why shops should not be open on Sunday, if people choose to open them. If you interfere between a workman and his employer, you will create difficulties, and you should avoid that. In conclusion, I have pleasure in moving the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply:—

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerald 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 endeavour to so deal with them that our labours may result in the permanent advancement and prosperity of the colony.

MR. J. J. HIGHAM (Fremantle): In lieu of seconding the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, and in deference to the expressed desire of a majority of hon.

members, I now beg to move that the debate be adjourned to the next sitting day.

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday next, at half-past four o'clock p.m.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 11 minutes past 5 o'clock until the next Tuesday afternoon.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 27th June, 1899.

Papers presented -- Return, Imports and Exports -- Address-in-reply; Second Day of debate -- Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1. Report of Commission, Ivanhoe Ven-