

say any more, beyond again expressing the pleasure he felt in seconding the motion before the House.

MR. STEERE moved that the debate be adjourned until Friday, the 20th July. Agreed to.

The House adjourned at half-past four o'clock, p.m.

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### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, *Friday, 20th July, 1883.*

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New Member—Law relating to Gaming and Wagering, also relating to Apprentices—Eastern Railway deviation, Second Section—Excess Bill, 1882: first reading—Boat Licensing Bill: first reading—Grand Jury Abolition Bill: first reading—Imperial Pauper Invalids Bill—Address in Reply: Adjourned Debate—Messago (No. 1): Forwarding papers relating to Sir Julius Vogel's proposal re Submarine Telegraph—Messago (No. 2): Forwarding Despatches re Stocking Clause, Kimberley Land Regulations, and Prior Claims of Lessees of Crown Lands, etc.—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Edward Horne Wittenoom took and subscribed the usual Oath of Allegiance, and, having delivered to the Clerk the necessary Declaration as to property qualification, took his seat as member for Geraldton.

#### LAW RELATING TO APPRENTICES AND TO GAMING AND WAGERING.

MR. S. H. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether the Government intend, during the present Session of the Legislature, to introduce Bills dealing with the law relating to apprentices, and also with the law relating to gaming and wagering?" The hon. member said he asked the question, in view of the discussion which took place on these subjects, during the Session of 1882. On the

11th of August, that year, he asked the Attorney General whether the Government intended introducing a Bill that Session to amend the law relating to apprentices, and the reply he received was that, although there was no intention on the part of the Government to bring in a Bill then, "no doubt it might be desirable that we should have an Act of our own, dealing explicitly with the question." With regard to the law relating to gambling, the hon. member for Plantagenet, on the 22nd of September last year, asked the Government whether they intended taking any steps during the recess to amend the law, with a view to the introduction of a Bill dealing with the subject this Session. The reply which the hon. baronet received was to the effect that the law as it now stood was a very doubtful question. That being the case, he wished to know whether the Government this Session proposed to introduce a Bill to remove this doubt.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) replied that the subjects referred to by the hon. member had not been placed on the list of intended Bills for this Session; but the Government would be glad to deal with them if other business permitted, or to afford every facility to the hon. member himself if the hon. member should desire to introduce a measure dealing with either of the matters named.

MR. PARKER: Thank you.

#### EASTERN RAILWAY: DEVIATION ON SECOND SECTION.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Commissioner of Railways, "To lay on the Table of the House a copy of the correspondence relative to the deviation made on the Second Section of the Eastern Railway, and all papers connected with the sanctioning of such deviation." He found, on reference to the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session, that this deviation would entail a considerable extra expenditure upon the Colony, and he thought it was very desirable the House should be informed of the grounds upon which such expenditure was sanctioned, especially as he understood it was done in the absence from the Colony of the

Commissioner of Railways, the responsible officer.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. H. Thomas) said the correspondence between the Contractor and the Acting Commissioner of Railways respecting the deviation would be laid on the Table as soon as it was copied. The departmental minutes and reports in the matter had already been before the Committee of Advice under the Audit Act, and could be perused at the Colonial Secretary's Office, by any other hon. member who might wish to see them.

#### EXCESS BILL, 1882.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a Bill to confirm the Expenditure for the Services of the year 1882, beyond the grants for that year.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### BOAT LICENSING BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of a Bill to make provision for the Recovery of the Expenses of the Inspection of Licensed Vessels.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### GRAND JURY ABOLITION BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. P. Hensman) moved the first reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws providing for the Abolition of Grand Juries, and for the summary discharge, in certain cases, of persons under committal for trial for felonies and misdemeanors.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### IMPERIAL PAUPER INVALIDS BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this Bill, said the necessity for it had arisen in consequence of a difficulty having occurred in respect of the punishment of the inmates of the Imperial Invalid Depot at Fremantle, for what was regarded as breaches of the house regulations, such as bringing into the establishment intoxi-

cating liquors. In order to empower the local magistrates to inflict punishment for such offences it was found necessary to have recourse to legislation, and that was the reason why the Government had brought in this Bill.

The motion being agreed to, without opposition, the Bill was read a second time, *sub silentio*.

#### THE ADDRESS IN REPLY: ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. STEERE, in resuming the debate upon the Address in Reply, said it must have been satisfactory to hon. members to find His Excellency the Governor opening the Session with a speech containing allusions, as it did, to so many important subjects, which were commended to their favorable consideration. The Speech contained evidence to him that the matters referred to in it had received very careful thought on the part of His Excellency, and he had no doubt whatever that these matters would be dealt with by the House in such a manner as, in its opinion, would conduce most effectually to further the prosperity of the Colony. He might say that, personally, he felt deeply indebted to His Excellency for his having called the Council together so soon after his arrival. He thought His Excellency had every legitimate excuse, had he been inclined to shelter himself behind excuses, for deferring the Session until he had had a further opportunity of considering the various measures which had to be submitted for legislation, and he thought the House was under an obligation to His Excellency in this matter. With regard to the Speech itself, he thought it was a matter for hearty congratulation that the finances of the Colony were in such a flourishing condition as was disclosed by the Speech,—much more so, in fact, than they had ever been before in the history of the Colony. He was glad, however, to find that His Excellency, in dealing with the question of revenue, recognised the fact—which he did not think had ever been recognised before in any vice-regal utterance of this character—that the balance now standing to our credit must be expected to diminish considerably as the year goes on, inasmuch as some of the most important heads of revenue accrued

during the first half of the year, while, at the same time, there was some heavy expenditure still to be met. He quite concurred with His Excellency in the wisdom of confining Supplementary Estimates—which he regretted to find were unusually heavy this year—within the narrowest limits; but there was this to be said as regards these supplementary votes, they were estimates for money which had not yet been expended, and it was still within the province of that House to say whether it shall be expended. In this respect these Supplementary Estimates differed essentially from an Excess Bill, dealing with money which had already been spent, before the sanction of the House had been obtained to such expenditure. He was sure it must have been with a feeling of some regret that hon. members had heard that the last loan we had placed on the London market had not been taken up so readily as we could have wished; but he thought the result was one that ought to teach us to be careful in putting forward another loan, following that recently put on the market, without our being able to show very good reason for doing so. The hon. member for Newcastle had already moved for the papers relating to the deviation in the railway route on the second section of the York line, which, they were told, would cost the country an extra £5,000, and, until the correspondence on the subject was placed on the Table, he would refrain from further observation on this matter. He should be very glad to see that correspondence, which he believed would tend to show that the Government were justified in agreeing to this excess of expenditure. He had observed, with some regret, in this paragraph of the Governor's Speech, that the necessary rolling stock for this section of the Eastern Railway was not indented for until the 15th of March last, and he hoped the hon. gentleman opposite (the Commissioner of Railways) would be able to give the House some information with reference to that circumstance, for it was quite evident to him that, had the railway been completed and opened within the time which the contractors were originally bound to complete it, there would have been no rolling stock in the Colony to work the line. No doubt the Commissioner of Railways would be able to explain why this was the case, but, at present, it appeared, on the face of it, inexplicable and inexcusable. With reference to the construction of railways on the land grant system, he had read the report of the Commission that was appointed to report upon this subject, with reference to Mr. Hordern's proposal, and also with reference to the system of land grant railways generally; and he might say he agreed almost entirely with the report of that Commission. He thought it laid down the right bases on which we may be prepared to deal with any proposal of this character. They had now several proposals before them,—Mr. Hordern's, Colonel McMurdo's, and Sir Julius Vogel's. The first-named and the last appeared to him to be substantially the same, as regards the terms they required from this Colony in return for railway construction, and they were evidently far more favorable to the Colony than Colonel McMurdo's proposals, which, among other things, required us to give a guarantee of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest on every thousand pounds expended per mile. The Governor concluded his remarks on this subject by suggesting that the Council should merely express its views generally on the subject, and state upon what basis they were ready to agree to the construction of land grant railways, leaving the final negotiation with the promoters to be concluded by the Government. He was not disposed exactly, at present, to think that this would be altogether an advisable proceeding. In Queensland, where the Ministry had been empowered by the Legislature to conclude arrangements with a syndicate for the construction of the transcontinental line, the Legislature, at the same time, reserved to itself the right to approve and to ratify any agreement so made; and he noticed by the late telegrams that the Legislature of that colony had, by a very considerable majority, vetoed the agreement concluded by the Ministry with the syndicate, represented by General Fielding. He certainly thought that House ought to have a voice in the final consideration of any agreement proposed to be entered into. He did not think the Council would have any objection to offer to the other scheme put forward by Sir Julius Vogel, for landing a telegraph

cable on our shores. No doubt this would be a very advantageous arrangement for this Colony, adding, as it would, materially to the revenue of our telegraph department. He did not know whether hon. members would consider the time asked for (twenty-one years) too long a period in respect of which to grant a monopoly to any company; but, with this exception, he did not think there could be any opposition to the proposal. He was unable to form any opinion as to what they were told the Secretary of State would be ready to approve with regard to the Kimberley stocking clause. If the wording of the clause was so ambiguous that Lord Derby was prepared "to approve of any amendment of which the language of the clause may be susceptible," how on earth they were likely to frame a regulation which would meet the definite wishes of the majority of hon. members he was unable to conceive, and he looked forward with some interest to the production of the Secretary of State's despatch on the subject. He thought most hon. members would join in the view expressed by the Governor as regards these Kimberley Regulations—that the policy which should guide us in framing them should be protection against mere speculation, coupled with every facility being afforded to *bond fide* settlers. That, he was sure, was the object which they had had in view all along, in dealing with these regulations, and if the Secretary of State was prepared to approve of a regulation drawn up in accordance with that principle, he did not think there would be any difference between that House and the Secretary of State in the matter. He was exceedingly glad to hear, and he thought other members would be glad to hear, that the Secretary of State had approved of the proposal that greater security of tenure be given to the lessees of Crown Lands in the settled districts of the Colony. He noticed, by the Governor's Speech, that a good anchorage and a townsite had been fixed upon by Mr. Fairbairn in the Kimberley District; but, from information he had received, he thought it would be prudent to wait before definitively deciding upon the proposed site of the townsite until they had received further information on the subject, for he understood there were

some serious drawbacks, on sanitary and other grounds, to the site said to have been fixed upon. He should be rather anxious himself to see the correspondence, which, he supposed, would be placed before them, with regard to the circumstances which had led to the bungling in connection with the building materials intended for the Kimberley party being sent back to Cossack, thereby entailing such a large amount of unnecessary expenditure. Unless some very foolish and lax arrangement indeed was entered into by the Government for conveying these materials to Kimberley, and landing them when they got there, he thought the country ought not to be put to any further expense in the matter. He was sure the settlers of that district, and our settlers generally, would be very pleased to hear that they would always receive the sympathy and consideration of the Governor in the difficulties which they had to encounter. That was just what, he believed, they felt they had not hitherto received at the hands of the Government. With regard to harbor works, he had been in hopes that in view of the recommendation of the Select Committee, which recommendation was affirmed by the House, last year, with reference to obtaining statistics relating to shipping matters at Fremantle, the Government would by this time have been in a position to furnish the Legislature with the data asked for, with a view to enable them to determine whether it would be advisable to enter upon the scheme of improvements recommended by Sir John Coode. But he understood these statistics had not yet been collected, and probably it would not be in the power of the Council to take any definite proceedings this Session to carry out this work. In fact, he rather agreed himself with His Excellency that, under all the circumstances, it would be advisable to wait another Session before we entered upon such an expensive undertaking, in order to see whether the present flourishing condition of our revenue was likely to be permanently maintained, before entering upon any further loans. He was also disappointed to find that nothing had been done by the Government to carry out the wishes of the House as expressed in the Report of the Select Committee appointed to deal with the

question of improved jetty accommodation at Fremantle. Great inconvenience had resulted to the public in consequence of the delay which had occurred in carrying out this very necessary work,—a delay which he regretted to say was due altogether to an official error in underestimating the amount which would be required for the work. It appeared to him that Her Majesty's Imperial Government was taking a very considerable time to come to any decision with reference to the Water Police expenditure. This matter had been going on for some two or three years, and it seemed a most extraordinary circumstance that the Colony could not be informed what decision the Home Government had arrived at in the matter. He hoped that, before the Session closed, unless some definite answer were received in the meantime, the House would set its foot down, and let the Imperial Government know that unless they continued the grant-in-aid the Water Police Service must be abolished. He was glad to find that the Government intended taking up the Bill which he introduced last Session, and which was disallowed by Sir William Robinson; he alluded to the Bill for the registration of dogs. Every hon. member was well aware of the reason why that measure had been introduced and pressed upon the previous Administration; they all knew of the nuisance and destruction caused by unregistered dogs—and the evil had increased since last Session, and was increasing every year—and there was not a country member in the House who was not convinced of the absolute necessity of some means being taken to abate the nuisance. In the other colonies the Governments were far more liberal and energetic in this matter than the Government here. In Victoria, they offered a reward of £3 for every native dog killed, because the Government there saw the necessity of protecting the flocks of the settlers from the ravages of these pests, which not only caused such serious losses to private owners of stock, but also a national loss by reducing the value of our wool exports. He hoped the Bill about to be introduced by the Government would be one which would be sufficient for its purpose, and, if so, he should be glad to co-operate with the Government in pass-

ing it through the House,—indeed, he should feel thankful to them for taking the responsibility off his shoulders. He also noticed that the Government proposed to rob his hon. friend on the left (Mr. S. H. Parker) of his little Bill dealing with the property of married women, and, he might add, he was glad to find the Government showing itself alive to the necessity of legislation in this direction, upon the lines already suggested by members of that House. He was sure that a feeling of general satisfaction would result from the expressed intention of the Governor to publish, in future, drafts of Government Bills in the *Gazette* some time before the beginning of the Session. Of course there would be some Bills with regard to which it would be impossible to do this, Bills the necessity for which might only become apparent while the House was in Session, or immediately before the Council met; but His Excellency had announced his intention of meeting the wishes of the House, so far as he was able, in this matter—an announcement which he was sure would give general satisfaction not only to the members of that House but to the public at large. He believed himself that such an arrangement would prove very beneficial to the country. They would no longer be under the constant necessity of having recourse to amending Bills, owing to members being called upon to discuss measures of which they had heard nothing until they came to the House to pass them. While entirely agreeing with His Excellency as regards the views expressed in the Speech with reference to a great many of the subjects dealt with, there was one proposal to which he could not give his support. That was the proposal that we should retain some £30,000 at our bankers to commence the new year with. He certainly did not think—looking at the fact that the revenue was expected to more than cover the expenditure—he certainly did not think it would be advisable that so large a sum should be laid by. He thought it would be much better it should be expended on such works as the Legislature might consider most desirable in the interests of the Colony. He observed that as to the balance of the £50,000 which it was expected we shall have on hand at the

end of the year, the Governor proposed that £20,000 shall be expended on immigration purposes. There were very few members, he thought, who were not aware of the great difficulty now experienced in procuring labor in this Colony. He was aware it had been said there would be no such difficulty if our settlers would only give permanent employment and provide decent accommodation for their men, and treat them properly; but he could say, without any hesitation at all, that there are numbers of settlers who do give permanent employment—who never engage men for less than a year—who do provide decent accommodation, and who do treat their laborers properly; yet these employers find just as much difficulty in securing labor as those who only hire men for a few weeks. There could be no doubt that the country generally was suffering very much from this great scarcity of labor, and that the various industries of the Colony were paralysed by it. No doubt the question was one surrounded with much difficulty—he might say there was no more difficult question to be dealt with—but some steps must certainly be taken to get labor of some description here. As to Maltese labor, to which reference was made in His Excellency's Speech, he did not know whether that class of labor would be suitable or not. He had never had any personal experience of Maltese labor, but he had been informed that they were not a desirable or suitable class. In conclusion, he could only express a hope that in this, as in all matters, the Legislature and the Government would cordially co-operate in advancing the best interests of the Colony. He hoped at the same time that, while co-operating with the Government, hon. members would still act independently, and that they would not be influenced by certain sentiments expressed not long ago by a late Governor,—that the measure of the assistance which the Government would give to a district would depend upon the measure of support received by the Government from the representative of that district. That was a sentiment which he thought was unworthy of Her Majesty's representative, for the Governor of a colony was supposed to act with perfect impartiality towards all sections of the community.

MR. CROWTHER said, while prepared to reiterate almost every word that had fallen from the hon. member for the Swan, he thought there was something which required explanation about this large balance which they were told the Colony had to its credit. He did not quite understand whether it was supposed to include all the money promised to the various districts of the Colony for some years past, and voted, but which had never been expended. For instance, it was a matter of notoriety that during the last two years considerable sums had been voted for expenditure in the Northern districts of the Colony, votes for a jetty and for a hospital at Geraldton, votes for Cossack, votes for the Gascoyne, and sundry other votes, none of which, in some instances, had been expended, and the works still remained uncompleted. If all this money was included in the very handsome balance which the Colony was said to have to its credit, all he could say was—this balance was to a certain extent a fiction. It was not available for fresh undertakings which that House might think fit to initiate; and, if this surplus included all the money already voted by the Council for works not yet completed, he was afraid our actual credit balance would be found to be considerably less than the Government anticipated. No doubt the financial condition of the Colony was such as gave cause for legitimate satisfaction, and must be very gratifying to the public to whom all this money belonged; but he thought the settlers generally would derive quite as much satisfaction from that part of the Governor's Speech in which His Excellency assured them of his sympathy in all their difficulties. This would encourage them to hope that the time had at last arrived when all ill-feeling on their part and obstruction on the part of the Government would become a thing of the past. Agreeing as he did with almost everything that had been said by the hon. member who had just sat down, he did not propose to travel over the same ground again, but he might add, with regard to the employment of native prisoners, that he considered the present system a bad one, and he was glad to find a suggestion made by the Superintendent of Police that these men, instead of being sent to Rottnest from the furthestmost

corners of the Colony, should be kept in the districts where they committed their depredations, and that their labor should be there utilised. With regard to immigration, our main difficulty would be, as he had often said before, not so much in getting people to come out as in keeping them when we got them to come out. He did not exactly know what was the cause of this. They earned better wages here than anywhere else; for the majority of them, although they had not a penny to bless themselves with when they arrived, were able to pay their passages to the other colonies before they had been here a twelvemonth. Their excuse for going away was that they had no place to go to enjoy themselves, when they had money in their pockets, except the public house, and if they went to the public house they were pretty sure to get drunk, and if they got drunk they were quite sure to get locked up. He really believed—the idea no doubt would be regarded as utopian—but he really believed the Government might do a much worse thing than to subsidise some legitimate means of amusement for these men, where they could enjoy themselves in a rational way. There was no colony in the world where a man could do better than he can do here, if he be honest, if he be industrious, and if he be thrifty: the one great drawback was the lack of amusement, and, until this was provided, as was the case elsewhere, no matter what we expended in bringing people out here they would not remain with us, until they find here some means of gratifying that taste for amusement and recreation which is common to all classes. With regard to the promise made by His Excellency to publish drafts of Government Bills in the *Gazette* before the Council assembled, he wished His Excellency could be induced to go a step further. He wished it were possible not only for the Bills to be published before they came on for discussion in the House, but that, after they are discussed, and after they are altered and amended, as most of them are in Committee, all further action upon them should be suspended until the following Session,—unless there should be some immediate and pressing necessity for passing them into law at once. This would give the outside public an opportunity of seeing the Bills in the

shape into which they had been licked in their passage through Committee, and before they became the law of the land. He noticed that a measure something after this sort had been submitted for the consideration of the House of Commons, and he would be very glad to see the principle adopted here; for, with all due deference to hon. members, he was sure there were as many people outside that House who were quite as capable of knowing and saying what was good for the Colony as there were inside. On the whole, however, he must say he was very pleased indeed with the statesmanlike Speech which His Excellency the Governor had opened the Session with.

MR. SHENTON congratulated the Colony upon the highly satisfactory statement as to its present position and future prospects which the Governor had placed before them. Notwithstanding adverse seasons, he noticed that our exports had not only kept up, but that last year they exceeded in value the exports of the previous year by no less a sum than £74,000. The Supplementary Estimates referred to in the Speech would require the careful attention of the House. He was afraid the necessity for these supplemental votes was in a great measure caused by a desire on the part of the House to cut down expenditure, and by the inadequate provision made on the annual Estimates to meet the requirements of the public service. The failure of the attempt made to float our new loan was a result much to be regretted, and he thought perhaps there had been some little mismanagement and error of judgment in placing the loan on the market at the time it was placed. For some months past, it was known that it was the intention of some of the other colonies to float loans of considerable magnitude, and he thought it would have been far more advisable if our small loan had been placed on the market at an earlier date, more especially as the amount of interest now allowed by our local Banks upon fixed deposits was so high. If our loan had been floated some months ago, and reinvested in the Colony, we should now be making at least two per cent. profit on the investment. Of course, it was hardly fair to criticise the action of the Crown Agents in this matter, until the correspondence

on the subject had been received by the Government, and no doubt we should have it in our possession before the Council closed. He thought it was to be regretted that the completion of the second section of the Eastern Railway had been delayed another three months, owing to the deviation which had been sanctioned during the recess; but, after all, he noticed that, apart from this source of delay, it was not at all likely the line could have been opened for traffic any sooner than it is now likely to be. This was owing to no fault of the contractors, but to the delay which had taken place in ordering the locomotives for working the traffic on the steep gradients up York Green Mount. He noticed by the report of the Commissioner of Railways that the contract for these two locomotives was not let until March last, and that the firm who had undertaken the work were allowed forty weeks to complete the contract. There was, therefore, no probability of the locomotives being ready for shipment until towards the end of the year, so that, in any case, deviation or no deviation, he failed to see how the line could be opened for traffic before March or April next. With regard to railway construction on the land grant system, he was glad to find that, in addition to Mr. Hordern's scheme, there were other offers now before the House, and no doubt the Council would be able to recommend one of them for the acceptance of the Government. These syndicates offered to construct our railways on a system which we could never ourselves adopt, and without our being called upon to raise one penny of extra taxation to pay for the cost of construction. We had millions of acres of land, a large quantity of which was at the present time only bringing in a revenue of £1 per thousand acres, and if this land were given to a syndicate it would never pay them to keep it lying idle. They would be obliged to bring out immigrants to settle upon it, and these immigrants when they came here would, being consumers, contribute their quota to swell the public revenue, to a larger extent than we now derive from our land at £1 per thousand acres. He was glad to notice that Sir Julius Vogel's scheme embraced, in addition to a railway from Beverley to Albany, a line from Albany

to the South Australian border, and he hoped the day was not far distant when this Colony will be connected in this manner with the railway systems of our neighbors. This would, undoubtedly, do more than anything to advance Western Australia, for, if we looked at the splendid geographical position of the Colony, it must be evident that a line of railway running across our territory would become the highway to all the other Australian colonies. He looked upon Sir Julius Vogel's other proposal, as to landing a cable on our shores, with much favor; not only would it tend to increase our revenue, but it would also bring the Colony more prominently before the outside world, which was just what it required. He was glad to find that the Secretary of State seemed willing to accede to the wishes of the House to grant some more liberal concessions to the settlers in the Kimberley district. He judged from the published correspondence on this subject that the majority of hon. members would be in favor of increasing the rent, in the event of the stocking regulations not being carried out, rather than that the runs should be absolutely forfeited; and he thought himself that would be the fairest way to meet the difficulty. As to the non-landing of the building materials sent up for the Government party, the question arose as to whether those who had the framing of the ship's charter-party had been sufficiently careful in wording it; at any rate a very grave mistake had been made somewhere. He regretted to find from His Excellency's Speech that he considers it would not be advisable at present to do anything in the way of harbor improvements at Fremantle. Until some steps were taken to improve the principal port of the Colony, he was afraid it would prove a great drawback to the profitable working of the Eastern Railway, as the two works were intimately connected. A difference of opinion, he knew, existed outside the Colony as to whether harbor works at Fremantle should consist of a breakwater or of a river dock. He understood that steam dredges had now arrived at such a state of perfection that there would be very little difficulty in keeping a channel open between the sea and the river, and probably a dock would cost less than



a breakwater. He also regretted that nothing had been done to carry out the wish of the House as regards improving the jetty accommodation at Fremantle. It was a year since the money was voted, and yet no steps whatever had been taken to repair the South jetty. He hoped something would be done at once in the matter. He thought every member in the House would be glad to hear that the Road Loan had died out, and that, in future, our roads will revert to the control of the District Boards. He thought this was the most unfortunate loan ever brought into the Colony; it had caused more ill-feeling and resulted in more mismanagement than anything else, and our roads now were in a worse condition than they were in before. He hoped that, before the Session closed, some portion of the credit balance now in the Treasury chest would be handed over to the various district road boards, in order to enable them to place the roads in the same state of repair as they were in before the Central Board took over the management. He noticed that His Excellency proposed to spend £20,000 out of our credit balance upon immigration. No doubt this question of immigration would be one of the most important questions they would have to consider this Session. The necessity of taking some immediate steps in this direction was increased by the prospect of the construction of the third section of the Eastern Railway being undertaken. This would absorb what little labor was now available for farming work in that part of the Colony, and our settlers would be in a worse position than they are even now in. He regretted to hear that the late Administrator had put a stop to the nomination system; he was informed that several people had nominated persons to come out here, but that instructions had been sent home to abolish the system. Unless the immigration vote was expended, he thought a step of this kind should not have been taken without the sanction of the Legislature. He noticed a proposal made as regards introducing Maltese labor. When returning from the other colonies a short time ago, he happened to travel with the gentleman who represented the Maltese Government in this matter, and as His Excellency the Governor was also on

board the same steamer, he had an opportunity of learning what this scheme of immigration was. He understood that the class of people who would be willing to emigrate to these colonies would be just the class of people we require—house servants, gardeners, and tradesmen. Arrangements had been made for several of them to emigrate to Queensland, the Maltese Government paying two-thirds of their passage money and the colony receiving them the other third. He thought the matter was well worthy the consideration of our own Legislature.

MR. WITTENOOM said it gave him much pleasure, on reading His Excellency's Speech, to find that he was already favorably impressed with the public spirit and intelligence of the "leading colonists" he had met since his arrival. He hoped that when His Excellency came into contact with the lesser lights of the community, he would be as favorably impressed with their good qualities. He noticed that, while congratulating the Colony upon its flourishing condition, and the development of its resources, His Excellency referred to the somewhat depressed state of the sandalwood trade. He (Mr. Wittenoom) thought it was a great pity that the Government had not exercised the power they possessed to protect immature wood by declaring certain areas within which sandalwood shall not be cut. It was within his knowledge that a representation had been sent to the Government from the district which he represented, showing the boundaries within which wood ought not to be cut; but no area had been proclaimed, and the consequent loss to the district had been very considerable. He thought it was a great pity that when this memo. was sent down to the Government, it was not acted upon. With reference to our financial condition, no doubt it was a matter for congratulation to find that we had such a large amount to our credit, but on this subject the hon. member for the Greenough had taken the wind out of his sails in referring to the votes which had been passed by that House but which had never been expended. No wonder our credit balances were accumulating, when sums voted for jetties, for hospitals, and other public

works were not expended. Reference was made in His Excellency's Speech to the balance which would be on hand at the end of the year, and His Excellency told them that the best use to be made of this balance demanded their careful consideration, and the Governor advised them not to "fritter" the money away. There was not the slightest necessity, that he could see, for frittering the money away: there were many works at the North upon which it could be judiciously expended, without being frittered away, amongst other things in keeping together the public buildings, which were now in a very bad state, some of them actually tumbling down. He was glad to see reference to native legislation in His Excellency's Speech, and a Bill promised dealing with the native question. It would have simplified matters very considerably in the past, if the Bill introduced by a member of that House last Session had been adopted, and he hoped the Government Bill would be based on the lines of that measure. With regard to immigration, he could only echo what the hon. member for the Greenough had said. He had had considerable experience with the laboring classes, immigrants and others, and he knew the greatest difficulty we had was to keep them here. This was specially the case with really good men, who, having saved enough money to take them elsewhere, left the Colony, because there were no amusements for them. If we wished to retain these men, we must endeavor to provide them with some means of recreation. The other parts of His Excellency's Speech had already been dealt with, and he need not further trespass on the time of the House.

MR. BROWN: I desire to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations with which His Excellency's Speech has been received. To my mind it bespeaks an Administrator who thinks well before he gives utterance to his opinions, and who when he has spoken has the courage of his convictions. It bespeaks an Administrator who I think understands, recognises, and appreciates to the full the high responsibilities of the position in which he has been placed by Her Majesty the Queen, and, while doing so, an Administrator who I think is prepared, on the other hand, to recognise the

constitutional privileges granted to the representatives of the people under our existing form of Government. If my augury should prove correct, if my estimate of the Governor is a right one, I believe the closing days of this constitution, days which I think are nearly numbered—I trust that they are now nearly numbered—will be memorable for the cordial relations that His Excellency Governor Broome has established and maintained between the Government and the representatives of the people, and with every section of a community which I am proud to see His Excellency has already recognised as being thoroughly English in its character. The financial position of the country, as disclosed in the Governor's Speech, must be a source of sincere congratulation to every well-wisher of the Colony; at the same time, I do not think that the best friends of the present constitution—and I was one of them, at one time—or the warmest admirers of the late Administration, can rightly attribute the present satisfactory state of our finances to the careful husbanding of those finances by the Government. On the contrary, I think that our late Administrations have been marked by egregious errors—errors which have entailed considerable losses on the Colony, and extreme waste of public funds. (Cries of "No, no," and counter cries of "Hear, hear.") I am in a position to prove, I have ample evidence to support, the allegation; but I do not think that this is the occasion for doing so. Whilst I am exceedingly pleased to find that His Excellency is able to assure us that we may be able to begin the year 1884 with a credit balance of something over £50,000, and also that the estimated expenditure for 1884 will be more than covered by the estimated revenue for the same period, I cannot congratulate the Government upon what I conceive to be a waste of the means so liberally provided by the public of this Colony,—the proposal to allow this money to lie idle, to serve no better purpose than filling the coffers of the Treasury. If the aspirations of the people had not been stifled by the Government, if the earnest solicitations made in this House by the representatives of the people had not been disregarded, had they met with that sympathy and

encouragement on the part of the Government which His Excellency the present Governor assures us our pioneer settlers will always receive at his hands, it is possible we might not have had such a large amount at the present moment in the Treasury chest, but we should have had other important results to congratulate ourselves upon. We should have had a railway completed to the Eastern Districts to point to: we should have had a telegraph line connecting us with Roebourne to point to, and surely the accomplishment of these undertakings would have been of vastly greater advantage to the Colony than the mere fact of having a large balance hoarded up in the Treasury chest. I am not sure—it is quite possible, that, if these works had been carried out, as this House desired they should be carried out, long ago, we should, notwithstanding the expenditure of heavy amounts upon them, have still as large a balance to our credit. I said it is quite possible this would have been the case: I will go further than that,—if the policy which the representatives of the people in this House desired to see adopted had been carried out, my firm conviction is that we should have more money in the Treasury chest than we now have,—unless of course we had undertaken other works in addition to those already provided for. I am satisfied that the benefits which would have accrued to the Colony from these two works would have given such a stimulus to trade and to every industry in the Colony that the additional expense entailed in connection with these undertakings would have been more than covered by the extra receipts which we would have derived from them. Sir, I pose in a new attitude before the House this evening. I have hitherto appeared before it as a staunch supporter, and I hope an honest and loyal supporter, of the existing constitution; but this evening I stand before you as a staunch opponent, but I hope an honest and loyal opponent, of that constitution. And in the few words I have already expressed, I have given one reason for this change of front, namely, the idle locking up of funds which were provided by the people, and desired by the people to be devoted to public works. On a further occasion I hope to be able to afford additional

reasons, to show good and just grounds, for my defection, so to speak, from the ranks of the supporters of the present constitution,—a constitution which Western Australia has too long suffered from, and which must cease. Sir, a constitution which has suffered these things to be, must be swept away. Such are my feelings, and such I am satisfied will be the feelings of numbers of other members of this House. What is now predicted will, before long, be beyond the realms of mere probability; it will be a fact accomplished,—if those hon. members who are already pledged to the adoption of Responsible Government hold the same views as I do, and have made up their minds in the same way as I have made up my mind. I am exceedingly pleased to find that His Excellency the Governor is able to fall in with the desire of most of the members of this House, that we should have railways constructed, throughout the length and breadth of the land, opening up our almost boundless resources, by the only means in our power, and that His Excellency thinks the proposals laid before the Government are at any rate reasonable proposals. I quite agree with the Governor that we may look without fear on the alienation of 10,000 acres of land for every mile of railway opened. I have had an opportunity of reading some of these proposals, and I must say that the scheme which has been submitted by Sir Julius Vogel appears to me an exceedingly reasonable one. I am not sure that the Colony, looking at all the other works to be undertaken in connection with this railway, will be in a position to accept Sir Julius Vogel's proposal in its entirety. I see the syndicate which he represents will probably require us to make an allowance of £10 per head for the introduction of what they call a "limited number" of immigrants. It appears that this "limited number" contemplates the introduction of at least one thousand immigrants a year, which at £10 per head represents an allowance to the syndicate of £10,000 per annum out of the Treasury chest of this Colony. I have no doubt, however, there would be no difficulty in arranging this part of the scheme with the syndicate. It is a subject for congratulation that some one has at last come forward with

enterprise sufficient to propose to land a submarine cable on the coast of this Colony,—a work which I exceedingly regret the Colony itself has not been in a position to undertake. With regard to the announcement that the Secretary of State is prepared to agree to a modification of the Kimberley stocking clause, I cannot say that I agree with the remarks of the hon. member for the Vasse when referring to this subject in moving the Address in Reply. I did not fail to notice the irony with which the hon. member referred to the permission given by the Secretary of State for a reconsideration of this clause. The hon. member, while expressing very great pleasure that such a concession had been made to the wishes of a majority of this House, at the same time hinted that this concession in reality amounted after all to nothing, seeing that the language of the clause was so clear that it was not susceptible of any interpretation other than that already applied to it. I cannot think myself that things have come to such a pass as that, even yet. I do not think the Secretary of State would have been a party to having this subject again brought before the House, unless he had some intention of giving due weight to the recommendations of the House in the matter; and, for my own part, I have no doubt that, so far as the stocking clause is concerned, such a modification will be arrived at as will be satisfactory alike to this Council, to the Governor, and to the Secretary of State. It certainly is in the interest of Western Australia that such an alteration should be made. When I heard paragraph 23 of the Governor's Speech read—that relating to native offences—I could not help remarking to myself, What a change is here! I find that we have an Administrator now who recognises the desirability of applying the law to offences committed by natives, an Administrator who goes so far as to admit that "sheep stealing must be kept down," an Administrator who recognises, and shows himself ready to sympathise with, the difficulties which the settlers have to encounter. He tells us so himself, and I know how rejoiced the pioneer settlers of this Colony will be when they find that the Governor has in this marked manner expressed his sympathy with them in their difficulties, and that the

days have passed when the Government will content itself by sending up a policeman to inquire into the truth of allegations made by settlers, and then stay its hand. What may be intended by the present Administration with reference to the mention made in His Excellency's Speech as to the necessity of further legislation more clearly defining and consolidating the power of magistrates in native cases, of course I do not know, and I shall take considerable interest in the perusal of the Bill which I suppose will in due course be submitted for our consideration by the Attorney General. I am satisfied that, if reasonable alterations are made in the law, and if magistrates are given reasonable powers to deal with native cases, very great advantages will accrue, not only to the white settlers, but also to the black settlers, and likewise to the community at large, by saving an immense amount of unnecessary expense. I will defer any further remarks on this question until I see the Bill which His Excellency informs us has been prepared on the subject. With regard to harbor works at Fremantle, I am pleased to find that His Excellency looks upon this work as one of such an important nature as to render it desirable, in his opinion, that its consideration should be postponed until next year. In my opinion the Colony can do very well without it at the present moment; but I do believe it is a work which ought undoubtedly to be undertaken in connection with the extension of our railway system. It is, however, a work of so costly a character that I doubt, looking at the number of other necessary works pressing for attention, whether we should be justified this Session in launching into another loan, and in incurring such a large expenditure as would be entailed if we undertook the scheme recommended by Sir John Cooke. It is with great pleasure that I gather from the Governor's Speech that he proposes to publish drafts of all Government Bills in the *Gazette*, whenever practicable, before the Session commences. For years past this Council has endeavored to get successive Administrations to do this, but it never succeeded in doing so, and it is very satisfactory to find that the present Governor has voluntarily taken the initiative in the matter,

without being asked to do so by the Legislature. With regard to immigration, the Governor will prove a great benefactor to Western Australia if he is able to put before this House any scheme within our means, such as will provide for the Colony an adequate supply of suitable labor. If he does that he will do what the collective wisdom of the Legislature for the last ten years, what the Government of this Colony for the last ten years, have been unable to do. The question has been before us time after time, session after session, but all our efforts to solve the difficulty have, so far, resulted in failure. I notice that the hon. member for the Vasse, in speaking on this subject, complimented the late Administrator upon his having swept away the nomination system. I do not know whether the hon. member is correct in saying so—I was going to say I could not believe the Government would so unceremoniously set aside any arrangement deliberately made by the Legislature of the Colony, but I won't say that—I will, however, say this: I hope this will not prove another instance of the manner in which the Government in the past have set aside even the most solemn engagements made with the Legislature. I have spoken strongly, I know I have spoken strongly, of matters which have taken place in the past, but there is nothing which I have said which is not perfectly justifiable, and I feel bound to speak as I have done because it is necessary for me to show the reason why I pose in this different attitude before the House this evening. But I think every hon. member who knows me, knows this—that nothing that has occurred in the past will in any way affect my future course of action in reference to any proposal made by the Government in this House, and that I shall always be ready in the future, as I have been in the past, to give my strongest and my most cordial, my most loyal support, to the Government, as regards every measure which, after due consideration, I think they have acted wisely in bringing forward, and, on the other hand, I shall ever be prepared, in the future as in the past, equally to offer my strongest opposition, but I hope a loyal opposition, to any Government measures which I conceive are not

calculated to advance the interests of the Colony.

Mr. MARMION, after offering his congratulations to the new members who had been nominated or elected to seats in the House, said, with regard to the financial portion of His Excellency's Speech, that he shared the gratification already expressed by other speakers at the prosperous state of our finances, but he must again express the same disappointment as he had expressed on previous occasions when this subject of an increased surplus revenue was brought before the House—disappointment at the fact that no reference whatever had been made to the cause which had resulted in bringing about this flourishing state of affairs. By some extraordinary omission the subject was neither referred to in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, nor in the debate which had followed that Speech. The fact had been entirely ignored that we owed a great deal of this large accession of wealth to the opening up of the Kimberley District. He thought he should be in a position to show that a very great portion of this large credit balance was due, directly or indirectly, to that district. In the first place, they were told that on the 30th of June last, we had a balance of £91,838 standing to our credit. From information already in their possession he also gathered that on the 31st December, 1881, instead of having any credit balance, we were in debt, to the extent of some £12,000. Therefore, since the end of 1881, the Colony had amassed, by some means or other, a sum of £103,000, and of this large amount very nearly one half was due to the opening up of the Kimberley District. If hon. members would refer to the information laid on the Table, and to the very interesting report of the Surveyor General, they would find that up to the end of 1882 no less than 42,200,000 acres of land had been taken up in that district. A great deal of that was no doubt taken up before the 31st December, 1881, but he thought they might fairly assume that at least £17,000 was received from land rents in the Kimberley District during 1882. They were told in the Governor's Speech that there were about 43,000,000 acres of pastoral lands now held under lease in that district, at an annual rental

of £21,348; therefore, we had already received in round numbers something like £40,000 from this part of our territory since the end of 1881,—which was not far off one half the amount of our present surplus. All this had been received directly, and not indirectly, from the district in question. Now let them look at the receipts also derived from the Eucla district—and he had no hesitation in saying that nine-tenths of the territorial revenue received from that district was due to the opening up of the Kimberley district, to the attention which the opening up of that district directed to the Colony, and to the faith which people outside the Colony began to feel in its resources, consequent upon the opening up of our Kimberley country. Let hon. members look, then, at the revenue also received from the newly settled country in the Eucla district,—“the second string to our bow,” as His Excellency had felicitously termed it. He found, on reference to the Governor’s Speech, that the present annual rent roll of the Eucla District amounted to over £9000; so that, directly and indirectly, the Colony had received about £50,000 out of the accumulated credit balance of £103,000, within, he might say, the last eighteen months, from the Kimberley District. Why, then, not give the district credit for it? He had not heard one single reference made to it in the course of the debate,—except from the hon. member for the Gascoyne, who appeared to be the only hon. member who had a kind word to say for a district to which the Colony was indebted for about one half of the large surplus balance it now boasted of. The hon. member for the Vasse certainly did allude to the district. The hon. member sneeringly alluded to the Secretary of State’s sanction to a modification of the stocking clause, and to the fact that, although 43,000,000 of acres had been taken up in the district, there were only seven sheep stations in the whole district, and not more than 27,000 sheep. Did the hon. member think that this was a proper spirit in which to regard the difficulties which surrounded the work of pioneering? Did the hon. member imagine that the way to induce settlement in outlying territories was to harass the settlers with stringent regulations, with taxes, and other burdens? He trusted

this was not an indication of the policy the hon. member would advocate when he filled the office, which no doubt he looked forward to fill, sometime or other, under Responsible Government—the office of Surveyor General and Commissioner of Crown Lands. He noticed that His Excellency in his Speech anticipated that the present surplus balance of £91,000 will be reduced to £50,000 by the end of the year. He could not understand why His Excellency conceived we should get rid of £40,000 of this surplus between now and December. He understood the Supplementary Estimates would include expenditure amounting in all to about £21,000,—the largest amount, by-the-way, which that House had ever yet been asked to sanction; and he was aware that, as the Colony advanced and acquired additional importance, as settlement extended, and our public requirements expanded, we must expect to have to face increased expenditure; still £40,000 appeared a large sum to get rid of between this and the end of the year. It appeared from these Supplementary Estimates that, after all, the Audit Act did not have the effect of checking expenditure. They were bound to spend the money, if the requirements of the public service rendered it necessary, whether the expenditure came before them in the form of Supplementary Estimates or of Excess Bills. He did not think much of the fact of our new loan having had to be withdrawn for the time being, when they took into consideration the large sums in the way of loans asked for just now by some of the other colonies. The probability was that our small loan was beneath the notice of large capitalists, when there were such big loans floating about. He hoped the Government would not be too anxious to place the loan on the market again, until they had an opportunity of showing capitalists at home how prosperous the finances of the Colony were at the present moment, and how bright its prospects. With regard to the proposals to construct railways on the land grant system, he thought the commission, of which he had the honor of being a member, was to be congratulated upon the fact that the lines laid down by the commission, as indicating the basis upon which undertakings of this nature ought to be entertained, had

been recognised by more than one wealthy syndicate as a proper basis. The proposals put forward by Sir Julius Vogel with reference to the construction of a line from Fremantle to Eucla were based altogether—almost verbatim—upon the recommendations of that commission. With reference to the proposal to land a submarine cable on our coast, he was delighted to find an offer of this kind before them. Some years ago a similar concession was asked for, and refused, for reasons which he had never been able to understand. He thought it would be advisable to stipulate that only a limited time, say two or three years, should elapse before the work is commenced, and also that the fact should not be lost sight of that, before the term of twenty-one years, which the syndicate stipulated for as the limit of their concession, expires, it may be necessary to duplicate this cable, and provision should be made requiring the syndicate in that event to duplicate their line. He noticed that His Excellency referred to the necessity of making provision as soon as possible for further surveys in the Eucla District. It had always struck him as a most extraordinary thing that, whilst hon. members were always ready to fling a stone at poor Kimberley, to find fault with its land regulations, and to grumble at the money spent on it, no one ever said a word about the Eucla District. It was a very strange fact that, while millions of acres had been taken up in that district purely for purposes of speculation by syndicates, that whilst the land in the district was held under regulations which were not one half as strict as the Kimberley Regulations, that whilst land in the latter district was charged for at the rate of 10s., land in the Eucla District was only charged for at the rate of 5s., per thousand acres, that whilst Kimberley lessees had no preemptive rights, whereas in Eucla they had, by increased payments, a preemptive right to purchase their land—it had always struck him as a most singular thing that not a word had been ever heard about land jobbing in connection with this Eucla territory. That was certainly a very remarkable fact. With regard to the paragraph in the Governor's Speech dealing with the question of "what shall we do with

our balance," he must say he was disappointed with the views enunciated by His Excellency on this point. He remembered experiencing a similar disappointment when His Excellency, upon his first arrival in the Colony, in reply to one of the many addresses presented to him, alluded to our surplus balance as a "nest egg" to be kept intact. Since then His Excellency had become a little more liberal in his views as to this balance, and, instead of keeping it intact, he now proposed that some of it should be spent, but that on no account should it be reduced below £30,000. Now it seemed to him a very great pity, to say the least of it, that we should hoard up our money in the banks and in the Treasury chest, when there were so many pressing demands upon us in the shape of local works in every direction—at the North, at the South, and at every point of the compass. This accumulated wealth, after all, was no criterion as to the prosperity of a community; it was simply so much money lying idle while at the same time there were many channels ready for it, into which it would be much wiser to let it flow. If individual members of the community had acted on the same principle, Western Australia to-day would have lagged much further behind in the race of progress than it has already lagged. If they all kept their money locked up in this way, the Kimberley District would not now have been settled. No doubt, when His Excellency came to know us better, he would become inspired with greater confidence in the Colony and its resources, and we should hear no more about preserving our nest eggs intact, or of the necessity of keeping a large balance lying idle at our bankers. With regard to the question of immigration, he felt sure that all our efforts in this direction would be so much time wasted until we did what His Excellency recommended us to do—have a proper agency in England. As to the all-important question of harbor works at Fremantle, it was a strange thing that hon. members in this House should take up a subject one year, discuss it thoroughly, and, after much deliberation, arrive at a unanimous decision with regard to it, and then, next year, by some extraordinary jugglery, they should find themselves exactly in the same position

as they were before they took up the subject. This was just what had happened with regard to this question of harbor improvements. Last year it was resolved that the Government should collect certain statistics relating to the shipping business at Fremantle, in view of the adoption of one of Sir John Coode's plans for improving the harbor, and of dealing in some definite manner with the whole question this Session. Now, it appeared, the whole matter was to be shelved until next Session. The statistics, it seemed, were not forthcoming—an omission which he very much regretted, for he was sure that, if they were laid on the Table, he could have proved to the satisfaction of the House that the Colony would not incur any extra burden by the construction of these harbor works, that the revenue which would be derived from them would be quite equal to meet the interest on the money invested in their construction. He still hoped the Government would be in a position to lay these statistics on the Table of the House before the Session closed—it was early yet; and if hon. members felt they were unable to grapple with them this Session, he hoped at any rate they would make up their minds once more to deal definitively with the subject next Session, and that we should no longer have our principal port pointed out as a disgrace to the Colony, as a port which is unsafe for the great ocean steamers to call at.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said it had been very gratifying to him to notice the liberal spirit in which hon. members, of all shades of opinion, had addressed themselves to discussing His Excellency's Speech. During the course of the Session, it would become his duty to deal at some length with the various subjects treated of in the Speech, and he rose now simply to afford hon. members some information on two points which had been touched upon in the course of the debate. In the first place, with regard to immigration, and the stoppage of the nomination system, the hon. member for Toodyay and some other hon. members appeared to be under an impression that the system had been abolished altogether. That was not so. The position of affairs was this: the Government having dispensed with the services of the

gentlemen who had heretofore acted as our immigration agents in London, requested the Crown Agents to make provisional arrangements for sending out all immigrants who had been nominated, and for that purpose to engage a suitable person to superintend the work. The Crown Agents, however, were clearly led to understand what amount of the immigration vote remained unexpended, and that the vote was on no account to be exceeded. That was how matters now stood as regards immigration. The other point he wished to refer to was with reference to the shipping statistics in connection with Fremantle harbor works. The Government had done what they could to obtain these statistics, which had been partly furnished, and those who were engaged in preparing them had been requested to make a further report, and, if it was practicable, they would be laid on the Table some time during the present Session. The hon. gentleman then moved that a Committee be appointed to bring up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech; such Committee to consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Carey, Mr. Randell, and the Mover.

This being agreed to, the Committee withdrew, and, after a short absence,

MR. CAREY brought up the Address, which was as follows:

*"To His Excellency Frederick Napier Broome, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c."*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, the Members of the Legislative Council, desire to express our gratification that Your Excellency has been pleased at this early date after your arrival to meet the representatives of the Colony in Council, and we at the same time offer our congratulations on Your Excellency's accession to this Government, and feel assured that this Council will at all times be ready to support Your Excellency in ordering the affairs of the Colony with prudence, and in advancing its interests in every possible way; and this can only be effectually secured by a cordial co-operation between the head of the Govern-



"ment and the representatives of the people.

"2. It is gratifying to us to know that the Colony generally is in a flourishing state, though the markets for some of its exports are still very low; however, it is to be hoped that this depression is only temporary, and that with a favorable season the agricultural and other interests may generally be much benefited.

"3. We learn with much pleasure that the financial position of revenue of the Colony, as shown by the statements placed before us, is in such a satisfactory condition, and we beg to assure Your Excellency that the Estimates to make provision for the future requirements of the Public Service shall receive our careful attention.

"4. That the construction of the second section of the Eastern Railway is proceeding satisfactorily we are pleased to hear, as we also are to be informed by Your Excellency that the surveys of that portion known as the third section, from Chidlow's Well to York, have been completed and that tenders have been called for its construction.

"5. All the papers which are to be laid before us embodying further important proposals for Railways on the land grant system will have our best attentions and earnest consideration.

"6. The prospect of the completion of the Telegraph to Roebourne by March 1885 is satisfactory. Your Excellency's intimation that a project will be laid before us for establishing a telegraphic cable communication from the coast of this Colony and connecting it with the world, independently of existing lines, is very satisfactory, and we trust that the conditions offered will be such as can be favorably considered and agreed to.

"7. The proposed amendments to the Land Regulations for the Kimberley District will doubtless have most careful attention at the hands of this Council.

"8. We can assure Your Excellency that the various important questions brought before us will be carefully discussed, and we will give our best consideration to the important Bills prepared.

"9. Your Excellency's proposal, that

"in future years drafts of Government Bills will be made public before the Session of Council, meets with our hearty concurrence, and we believe, when carried into effect, will be found productive of good results.

"10. Any scheme for immigration which Your Excellency may submit, and which is consistent with our resources, we will consider very carefully, for with the present population the Colony cannot possibly attain that position which its natural resources may reasonably entitle it to.

"11. Cordially thanking Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address us with, it only remains now to express a hope, which is in accord with the words of its closing sentence, that our labors this Session may result in good."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that the Address in Reply be adopted.

Agreed to, *nem. con.*

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, it was resolved that the Address he presented to His Excellency by Mr. Speaker and other members of the House on Tuesday, 24th July.

#### MESSAGE (No. 1): SIR JULIUS VOGEL'S PROPOSAL RE SUBMARINE CABLE.

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"Referring to paragraph 18 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor lays before the Honorable the Legislative Council the following papers relative to the proposal to land a submarine Telegraph Cable on the coast of this Colony:—

"1. Governor to Secretary of State, Despatch No. 149, dated 25th October, 1882, with extracts from enclosures.

"2. Governor to Sir Julius Vogel, K.C.M.G., letter dated 7th February, 1883.

"3. Secretary of State to Governor, Despatch No. 40, dated 20th March, 1883.

"4. Governor to Secretary of State, Telegram dated 16th June, 1883.

"5. Secretary of State to Governor, Telegram dated 26th June, 1883.

"The Governor will be obliged if the Council will favor him with an early expression of their opinion with respect to the concession asked for by Sir Julius Vogel.

"Government House, Perth, 20th July, 1883."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, That the consideration of the Message be made an Order of the Day for Monday, the 23rd July.

Agreed to.

MESSAGE (No. 2): DESPATCHES *RE* KIMBERLEY STOCKING CLAUSE AND PRIOR CLAIMS OF CROWN LESSEES.

THE SPEAKER also announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

"Referring to paragraph 19 of the Speech with which he opened the Session, the Governor lays before the Honorable the Legislative Council the Despatches noted in the margin,\* on the subject of the Stocking Clause for the Kimberley District, the prior claims of Lessees of Crown Lands to a renewal of their leases, and other points connected with the Land Regulations.

"The Governor requests the Council to consider these Despatches, and to favor him with their views upon the questions to which they refer.

"The Regulation dealing with the renewal of existing leases of Crown Lands has been drafted at the suggestion of the Council, and the Governor will be glad to learn, before proclaiming it, whether it meets their wishes."

"Government House, Perth, 20th July, 1883."

["\*Governor to Secretary of State, No. 151, dated 28th October, 1882; Secretary of State to Governor, No. 73, dated 3rd May, 1883; Governor to Secretary of State, No. 27, dated 29th January, 1883; Secretary of State to Governor, No. 72, dated 3rd May, 1883;—printed in separate Paper."]

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved, That the consideration of the Message be made an Order of the Day for Monday, the 23rd July.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten o'clock, p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 23rd July, 1883.

Cessation of Nominated Immigration—Precaution against Pleuro-Pneumonia—Correspondence with Secretary of State relative to appointment Puisne Judge—Kimberley District: Reports of Resident Magistrate and of Capt. Archdeacon—Correspondence with South Australian firm re Ocean Steamers calling at Fremantle—Volunteer Bill: first reading—Revenue Returns of Plantagenet District—Excess Bill, 1883: second reading; referred to Select Committee—Message (No. 2) re Land Regulations: referred to Select Committee—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

### CESSATION OF NOMINATED IMMIGRATION.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "To lay on the Table a copy of the correspondence between the late Administrator and the Home authorities relative to the cessation of nominated immigration." It was rumoured that His Excellency during the recess had put a stop to that system of introducing immigrants into the Colony, and he thought it was very desirable the House should be placed in possession of the correspondence on the subject.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) said that the recent correspondence with the Home Government on the subject of immigration would shortly be transmitted to the Council by His Excellency the Governor. Nominated immigration had not, however, ceased, but was being proceeded with up to the limit of the current vote of £5,500. Mr. Felgate's conduct of the Agency not having been satisfactory, the Crown Agents had been requested to employ some other suitable person for all new nominations.

### PRECAUTION AGAINST PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

MR. McRAE, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether the attention of the Government had been called to the fact that pleuro-pneumonia prevails amongst the cattle in the Northern Territory of South Australia, and to the danger of the introduction of that terrible disease into this Colony through the instrumentality of