

alterations in the tariff. A mere assertion that the change would not have this or that effect was not sufficient for him, in view of past experiences. In dealing with such an important subject as this they wanted figures, and, if the Commission had furnished them with figures showing the probable result of the operations of their new tariff, a great deal of the present discussion would have been saved. Some hon. members might perhaps be induced to go into figures, and enlighten them on this subject. The great blot which he saw upon the recommendations of the Commission was the proposal to reduce the present *ad valorem* rate of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 10 per cent. It appeared to him that the Commission had jumped too quickly at this conclusion, without considering the effect it would have upon the revenue. He believed that if it had been brought to their attention how this reduction would affect the revenue in the duty upon drapery alone, they would have paused before making the recommendation. And drapery was only one item which would be similarly affected. There was a score of them under the same head. He thought that the duty on some of these articles might fairly have been increased rather than reduced. No doubt the tariff at present in force was what he might call a hybrid one, but the present proposals were equally hybrid and unsatisfactory.

The question—"That the report of the Tariff Commission be generally approved," was then put and passed.

Progress was then reported, leave being given to sit again for the consideration of the schedules.

#### GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a first time.

The House adjourned at a quarter past four o'clock, p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 21st December, 1887.

Derby and Wyndham Telegraph Line: Salaries of Messrs. May and Brockman—Return of Survey Party from Kimberley—Steam Service on the Northern Coast—Midland Railway: Transfer of Concession, and delay in prosecution of the work—Insurance of Government buildings—Powder Magazine: Precautions against explosion—Responsible Government: Cablegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies—Land transactions under the new Land Regulations—Address in Reply: Adjourned debate; Point of Order—Geraldton and Northampton Railway Amendment Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### DERBY AND WYNDHAM TELEGRAPH LINE: SALARIES OF MESSRS. MAY AND BROCKMAN'S PARTY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works to lay on the table a return showing the cost to the colony for the salaries of Messrs. May and Brockman and their party, including equipment, etc., from dates of appointments; also whether the officers in question and their men were still being paid out of the loan money appropriated for the construction of the Derby and Wyndham telegraph line,—the whole to be shown in detail.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) laid on the table the following return, asked for, and said that the officers and men were now being paid out of loan account:—

£ s. d.

Salaries and allowances to Messrs. May and Brockman from 1st Sept. to 31st Dec....	342	2	2
Salaries of assistants ...	183	15	0
Wages of men from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 ...	136	16	0
Insurance, freight and wages Expenses in connection with wreck of s.s. Perth ...	160	0	0
Equipment: Instruments ...	43	16	1
General stores ...	88	6	3
Arms and ammunition ...	186	5	6
Saddlery and harness ...	417	4	0
Horses ...	387	10	0
Wagons ...	278	0	0
Tents ...	148	5	4
Camp equipment ...	22	19	6
Total ...	£2550	14	10

# DERBY AND WYNDHAM TELEGRAPH LINE: RETURN OF SURVEY PARTY.

MR. A. FORREST asked the Honorable the Director of Public Works on whose authority Mr. May and Mr. Brockman—the officers of his department sent up to survey the proposed line of telegraph from Derby to the Goldfields and to Wyndham—had returned from that district, the money for such work having been unanimously voted by this House out of Loan?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said the officers in question had returned on his authority, as head of the department. When he was up with those gentlemen in October last he told them that, in view of the rainy season, as the contractor could not begin with the telegraph line until at all events three months hence, it would be an act of economy if they were brought back again. There was no question at that time of the money appropriated for the work being returned, as was now proposed, to current revenue. The Estimates for the coming year had not then been framed; and it was simply as a matter of economy and departmental regulation that he instructed them to come down, pending the commencement of the line.

MR. A. FORREST: Why were they sent up there at all, and then brought back, with their party and equipment, almost immediately afterwards, when it was known that the rainy season would obstruct the work?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): They were sent up in order that we might know something about the routes, the length and character of the line, etc., for the information of the contractors.

## CONTRACT WITH THE ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

MR. A. FORREST asked the Colonial Secretary what action the Government had taken with reference to a new contract for a Steam Service on our Northern coast, the present contract with the Adelaide Steamship Company expiring in February next?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid on the table a copy of a provisional contract entered into

with the same company for a further term of six months, after the expiration of the existing contract.

## MIDLAND RAILWAY CONTRACT.

MR. A. FORREST asked the Colonial Secretary if the Government had received any official notification as to the transfer of the Midland Railway concession to Sir Benjamin Browne, and what interpretation they put on the 11th clause of the contract with respect to the works being *bond fide* commenced by the end of February, 1888?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said the Government had received, from the Crown Agents, an intimation, dated 23rd of August last, that the concessionaires had executed a deed assigning their concession to Mr. C. E. Straker and Sir B. Browne. With regard to the latter part of the question, it was intended by the Government to give notice to the present holders of the concession that unless the unreasonable delay and intermission that had taken place in the prosecution of the works since the date of their commencement in March, 1886, terminated, and the works were proceeded with in accordance with the provisions of the 11th clause, the Government might be compelled to avail themselves of the provisions of the 63rd clause of the contract, which stipulated for the annulment of the contract and the forfeiture of the guarantee fund.

## INSURANCE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary—

(1.) Whether any of the buildings belonging to the Government are insured from fire, and if so which of them, and for what amounts.

(2.) Whether any of the furniture or personal property belonging to the Government are insured from fire, and if so, what, and to what amount.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied that the Government properties in charge of the Colonial Storekeeper had been insured for £5,000. No other insurances had been effected, but the question of covering other risks to a further amount was under consideration.

**POWDER MAGAZINE, PERTH: PRECAUTIONS AGAINST EXPLOSION.**

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary:—

(1.) Whether any, and if so, what amount of gunpowder or of other explosives is stored at the back of the Police Barracks in Perth.

(2.) What precautions are taken for the prevention of explosion, and for the safety of the public.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he always liked to be precise, and he had made the closest inquiry into this matter. His reply to the hon. member's questions would be—

*(1.) Small Arms Safety Cartridges—*

Snider Ball ...	96,590 rounds
Martini-Henry Ball ...	71,680 do.
Revolver Ball ...	4,729 do.
Aiming Tube Ball ...	16,000 do.
Blank Boxer ...	11,029 do.

*Cartridges for Armstrong Guns—*

Flannel filled 1½lbs. each ...	263 rounds
Do. 1lb. do. ...	713 do.
Do. 6lbs. ...	1 do.

*Cartridges for 6pnd. S. B. Guns—*

Flannel filled 1lb. each ...	50 rounds
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(2.) The Magazine is under the immediate charge of Sergeant Mansbridge, late of the Enrolled Guard, who has quarters in the Barracks. He has possession of the key, and has orders not to give up the same to anyone, nor allow any issue or receipts of ammunition to take place unless by direct orders from the Commandant of the Volunteer Force, and he is at all times to be present when the Magazine is open for this purpose. The Instructions prescribed in the Regulations issued from the War Office for Magazines in Military charge, regarding precautions to be observed during the shifting of ammunition, are strictly observed.

**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT: CABLEGRAM TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to communicate by cablegram, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the following resolution (which the hon. member now asked the House to adopt):

"This House regrets that His Excellency the Governor has not yet been informed of the views of the Imperial authorities on the subject of Responsible Government, and, before providing for the financial requirements of the year 1888, requests to be informed of the date on which those views may definitely be expected." The hon. member said the object which he had, in concert with others, in moving this address was that the House might have some definite information as to when Her Majesty's Government would be pleased to place before the Governor its views upon this important question. He thought it must be recognised on all sides that it was a matter of urgent importance that the question should be decided at as early a date as possible. By passing the address and asking the Governor to telegraph to the Secretary of State, they would be showing Her Majesty's Government, in a way, that we were in earnest upon this subject; and that there was a real desire on our part that the matter should be settled without delay. It would also show that the House recognised its constitutional right of refusing to grant supplies for carrying on the Government if it thought proper to do so. There was no intention to hold out any threat. The resolution simply conveyed an intimation to the effect that the Legislature was fully aware of its powers—[Mr. HENSMAN: Of course it is]—and that in the event of the answer of the Secretary of State being such as to defer the settlement of the question of Responsible Government indefinitely, the House might deem it necessary to exercise those powers. It was not necessary that he should now enter into the question of what might occur in the event of the Secretary of State's answer being such as to indefinitely postpone the settlement of this important matter; he hoped that the answer would show them that Her Majesty's Government were fully alive to the necessity of the introduction of Responsible Government as soon as possible, and would be as satisfactory to His Excellency the Governor as it would be to the Legislature.

MR. VENN said he had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. If he were to express his own opinion with regard to the general question of Responsible Gov-

ernment and the absolute need there was of the question being finally settled, he would simply say this: that last session, before the Council met, it was considered by the Reform Party and those who were interested in the affairs of the colony that the great question to be considered during the session was that of Responsible Government, and it must have been a remarkable unanimity of feeling that existed between the members of that party to have passed the abstract resolutions which they did pass. He felt satisfied in his own mind that the majority of the colony was thoroughly in accord with the abstract resolutions then passed; but, if his own views had been consulted, or rather if his own feelings had prevailed, he was inclined to think that the Council would not have been placed in the position it was in at the present moment. He thought they should have gone a step further than those abstract resolutions; and, if the Reform Party had combined themselves, as did the New South Wales people under similar circumstances, and brought forward a Constitution Bill, or adopted resolutions embodying the principles of such a bill, he felt satisfied that we should have advanced this question of Responsible Government a very considerable step further. It would have placed the question before the people of this colony, and they would have had an opportunity of giving their representatives a distinct and clear idea of what they did want. We should have had another advantage, inasmuch as one side of the two contracting parties would have known exactly what the other side wanted; whereas at present we were in this position, that neither party knew exactly what the other party required. The Home Government were ignorant of the precise nature of our claims, and we, on the other hand, were in complete ignorance of the terms upon which the Imperial Government would be prepared to give us the right of self-government. Had the course which he had sketched out been adopted, there would probably have been no necessity for passing this, what was considered a very strong resolution. Viewed from any point of view whatever, it was clear that this resolution spoke in a firm and decided tone—he would not say discourteous, for the manner of it was courteous and respectful—but it expressed very clearly

and decidedly what the desire and intention of the Legislature was on this particular point. It pointed clearly to the fact that, unless we could have some definite information from the Home Government on the question, the supplies for next year would possibly be curtailed at any rate; that was to say, it was just possible that the House, in dealing with the Estimates, might not feel inclined to pass them for the whole year. He thought it was only reasonable that it should be so, because, if some steps were not taken in this direction, they had no guarantee at the present moment that at the usual session of Council they might not be placed in exactly the same position as they were in at that moment. They had had a distinct guarantee from the Governor that a special session would be called this month for the purpose of considering the Estimates; that was a subordinate consideration to the question of Responsible Government, and they had had the assurance of His Excellency that that question would be brought before them in the shape of a bill. He did not mean to say there was any reflection upon the Governor in this matter; he thought the despatch, conveying His Excellency's sentiments on the subject, sent to the Secretary of State was everything that the Reform Party could have desired. It put the question in as clear a manner as possible, when it stated—which was absolutely the fact—that the colony had reached that stage when the present constitution could not be carried on satisfactorily any longer. Viewing this as a truism, it was simply intolerable that the colony should remain much longer under a constitution it had outlived, a constitution under which the Governor himself said it could no longer be administered satisfactorily. Again, there was this trouble: so long as this question was hung up, as it now was, so long would it be out of our power, and of the power of the present Government, to undertake any great project of public works. Inasmuch as it would be saddling the next Government with liabilities to meet which they would have to provide funds, it was only fair to that Government that the colony should remain as it was, pending the settlement of this question, so far as loans and fresh liabilities were concerned. There was also another point: they were

told, in a clause in the Governor's speech, that it might be necessary to have recourse to retrenchment and economies in order to adjust the expenditure of the colony with its revenues. He thought it was rather an invidious task, and an unpleasant one at any rate, for that Council, and especially for the advocates of Responsible Government, to be asked at the last expiring moments of the present Constitution to cut down expenditure and to make changes in the public service. He thought it was placing them in an entirely false position, and, although he feared it would be absolutely necessary for the House as a body to take some steps in the direction indicated, still the position was not a pleasant one nor a fair one for them to be placed in. With regard to the motion now before the House, all he could say was that it would be passed by a large majority. He felt that if such a motion, or something similar, were not adopted, they would be simply left in their present horribly uneasy and unsettled state of dissatisfaction and disappointment, which was felt all over the colony, in consequence of this question being hung up as it now was. He thought they ought to act unanimously and decisively, for, if they hesitated or became disunited at the present juncture, the chances were that they would not get their new constitution until 1889. Therefore, if Responsible Government was the real wish of the House, they must combine together, and act with firmness but at the same time with moderation; otherwise it might happen here as it happened at the Cape of Good Hope, in similar circumstances, that the decision of the country, upon reconsideration, might be reversed. It was possible—he did not say it was probable—that, if the Constitution Bill should be a measure which did not in every way please the people or the Legislative Council, and a canvass were taken throughout the colony, he was not at all satisfied in his own mind that, in the present temper of the country and the present state of the question, with all its exasperating uncertainty, the party of Reform would again enter that House with such a large majority as they anticipated. He said that with all deference. He had travelled a good deal throughout the country recently, and had an opportunity of observing the public feeling,

and he felt satisfied—and he was sure no one would accuse him of being disloyal to the cause, or apathetic in it—he felt satisfied of this: that the present state of doubt and uncertainty must have an injurious effect upon the cause generally. He felt very strongly on the point, and he hoped the House would pass this resolution unanimously. He could only again express his regret that a bill was not brought in last session—he did not think the same reasons applied now for its introduction as applied then, in view of the telegram from the Secretary of State; at the same time he thought it was very desirable that the House should pass this resolution, which he had much pleasure in seconding.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) asked whether a code message, giving the effect of the resolution, would meet the wish of hon. members. A code message would save them perhaps a £5 note, and answer the purpose as well as sending the message verbatim.

MR. PARKER said he was quite prepared to leave the matter in the hands of the Government, so long as the purport of the resolution was conveyed in the message.

MR. SCOTT thought there was a great deal in the wording of the resolution, and that a code message might destroy its effect. It was very desirable that the Secretary of State should know exactly what the feeling and intention of the House was in this matter.

MR. RICHARDSON thought it would be no harm if the resolution were slightly reconstructed, for, after all, it did convey some idea of a threat; and he thought they would look in vain for anything that had been got out of the British Government by intimidation. As to withholding supplies, he would ask who would suffer? Not the British Government, but our own people; and he thought it would be well to consider whether they could not say what they wanted to say without conveying anything in the shape of a threat. He thought if the mover of the resolution and the leader of the Government were to put their heads together they could, with the aid of the official code, frame a resolution which would answer every purpose.

Mr. SHOLL said he did not think it was the intention of the framers of the resolution to intimate plainly that they intended to stop all supplies, but only vote a certain portion of them, so as to ensure the House being called together again at an early date. He thought it was very desirable that this question should be settled as soon as possible. The colony now was at a standstill. No prospect of any more loans, very little money in the chest, and, if things went on as they had of late, there would be still less in it. For his own part he did not think he should be in favor of another loan at all until the money could be placed in the hands of people who would see that it was properly spent.

Mr. SHENTON thought that the words "before providing for the financial requirements of the year" might convey the idea of a threat. They did not know yet what the reason of the delay had been. He noticed that whilst the first telegram came from Sir Henry Holland, the second one emanated from "Her Majesty's Government," which tended to show that in the interval the question had become a Cabinet question, in view probably of the pressure that had been brought to bear upon the Home Government by the London press and possibly the bond holders of the colony. He certainly agreed that the sooner a decision was arrived at the better, so as to remove the present state of uncertainty; at the same time he thought it would be better to omit the words he had referred to, as to refusing supplies.

Sir T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said his own opinion was that the value of the telegram depended upon those words being retained. He did not think anyone could accuse him of want of moderation in these matters, but he believed that this telegram would have a very useful effect indeed. There was nothing that the Colonial Office had greater dread of than any interference with the smooth working of the financial arrangements of any colony. Anything in the shape of illegality as regards the public expenditure, anything in the shape of unauthorised expenditure—as we knew ourselves—they couldn't bear; and he was certain that when the Secretary of State received this telegram, pointing out to him, as it did, that the House was

perfectly well aware of its power over the public purse, he would at once see that the matter was settled as soon as possible. He thought the words referred to contained the very gist of the message.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) was sorry that his suggestion, simply put forward on the score of economy, should have given rise to something of a storm in a teacup. If it was the pleasure of hon. members that the resolution should be telegraphed word for word, it should be done: he had simply suggested a code message, with a view to economy.

Mr. HENSMAN thought "economy" came with very bad grace from a Government which last year expended £7,424 5s. in telegrams—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): The hon. member is deceived.

Mr. HENSMAN: And which this year proposed to expend £8,395 in telegrams, and £750 in telephone exchanges—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): The hon. member does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. HENSMAN: Am I not in order?

THE SPEAKER: The hon. member is in order.

Mr. HENSMAN: I was saying, when I was interrupted, that I thought it came with very bad grace from a Government that proposed to spend £8,395 in telegrams—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): I really must interrupt the hon. member. The Government have no such intention. The hon. member is deceived.

Mr. HENSMAN, continuing, said he thought it came with very bad grace from a Government that was so prodigal in its expenditure upon telegrams, to talk about saving £5 in the transmission of an important message like this. Possibly, before the session closed, some questions might be asked as to the expense of some other telegrams that were sent at the expense of the colony. He was only going to make one further remark, as to this question of keeping back the Secretary of State's second telegram: he wished to point out that the effect of withholding that telegram—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Question. Will the

hon. member confine himself to the question before the House.

**THE SPEAKER:** I cannot say that the hon. member is out of order, at present, until he proceeds. The hon. member is giving the reasons why he thinks it has become necessary to send this message to the Secretary of State, one of those reasons probably being the keeping back of a certain telegram. If the hon. member is of that opinion he is not out of order in saying so.

**MR. HENSMAN** said his Honor the Speaker had exactly apprehended what he was going to say. They were now considering the question of sending a telegram to the Secretary of State, and he was about to point out that if the Governor had not kept back the second telegram received from the Secretary of State, stating that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, legislation on this subject would be premature this session—had that telegram been given to the public when the first telegram was given, the present feeling of disappointment would not have been so great. One effect of withholding that telegram had probably been this: Her Majesty's Government, having no reason to imagine for a moment that their telegram of the 17th September would not be communicated to the public here, were probably at this moment under the impression that the colony had acquiesced in the suggestion that legislation would be premature during the present session. That would be a most natural conclusion for them to arrive at, having heard nothing to the contrary. Therefore it seemed to him most important that, even at this eleventh hour, we should let the Secretary of State know, and in the clearest possible manner, that we had been exceedingly disappointed, and that we were prepared to act upon what we believed and knew to be our undoubted rights in dealing with the Estimates in such a way as might assist us in the attainment of our object. If the words referred to were omitted from the resolution, the very point of it would be gone, and it would be simply a waste of money to send the telegram. He did not think that public men in England were so thin-skinned as some hon. members seemed to be here, who were so fearful of giving any offence if they spoke out their mind, or said

what they wanted. If the wording of this telegram, which the colony was going to pay for, was going to be left to the Government, let the draft be sent down to that House for its approval. He should prefer that to having the wording of it arranged between the Governor and the mover of the resolution—a coalition which he thought, at the present time, the colony, or the party of Responsible Government, was not quite prepared to accept. Therefore he hoped that those who in that House represented the people, to whom this colony belonged, and who would have to pay for this telegram, would see that this paltry sum of money was spent in the way they desired, and not in the way somebody else desired.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser)** said he was perfectly agreeable to accept the resolution as it stood, and to transmit it *verbatim*.

The resolution was then put and passed.

#### TRANSACTIONS UNDER THE NEW LAND REGULATIONS.

**MR. RICHARDSON**, in accordance with notice, moved that a return be laid on the table showing the total area of all lands applied for during 1887 (up to 21st December) under the new Land Regulations; also a return of all rural lands sold absolutely under those regulations, together with a corresponding return of all lands taken up under the S.O.L. regulations during the year 1886.

The information asked for was laid on the table.

#### THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate upon the address in reply to the Governor's speech was resumed, the question before the House being the substitution of the following amendment (moved by Mr. Parker), in lieu of the third paragraph of the address: "While expressing the pleasure it afforded us when we learnt some time ago that Her Majesty's Government was prepared to accept, in principle, the resolution passed last July on the important question of Responsible Government, it is with surprise, as well as with disappointment, we now learn that Her Majesty's Government consider legislation during the present Session would be premature.

We observe that, in addressing the Secretary of State on the 12th July, Your Excellency stated that the colony 'had passed the stage at which the Government could be satisfactorily carried on under the existing Constitution;' and that the Secretary of State in his despatches to Your Excellency expresses the view that no further liabilities for large public works can be entertained until a change in the constitution is effected; consequently in our opinion it is of the utmost importance to the colony that the change should be no longer delayed."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he trusted that he always spoke openly, honestly, and straightforwardly when he addressed that House. He hoped hon. members would give him credit for that. Well, he couldn't agree with this amendment. He couldn't agree with it for this reason: it was a reflection upon Her Majesty's Government for a delay the causes of which were as yet best known to themselves. Disguise it how we may, it bore that construction. Possibly the first cursory reading of it might not convey that impression, but there was no getting over the fact that it did cast a reflection upon Her Majesty's Government, and for what? Simply because they had not had time to send out a certain despatch. He had already explained to the House what had, in all probability, caused this delay—that the question of granting this colony a new constitution had been made a Cabinet question, and that as the first meetings of the Imperial Cabinet did not usually take place until early in November there had really been no time for the consideration of the question in all its details. Hon. members must bear in mind that this question of granting autonomy to this colony was not a question that affected this portion of the Empire alone, and those who were now agitating for it. It affected our posterity for all time, and it was one that also concerned the rest of the British Empire. But hon. members, with the impetuosity and petulance of children, fretted because they couldn't get a direct aye or nay to their question, flashed by wire, the moment they put it. Was this reasonable? Was it dignified? Was it consonant with the importance of the actions of the Government of the British Empire that

we should expect them to give an immediate answer to such a question? It was not. Therefore he would say, "Do not let us show that we are carried away with childish ideas, that, because we cannot instantly get the toy we have set our hearts upon, we shall begin to fret and fume, that we cannot rest nor sleep, nor eat, nor drink, until we get it. Let us not make a childish exhibition of ourselves in the eyes of the whole world." After all, what was an address-in-reply, under a constitution such as we now had, but a mere neutral assent to the speech with which the Governor opened the session? It committed them to nothing; and there was nothing in the present address that might not have been agreed to, he might say *sub silentio*. Hon. members must not run away with the idea that they were members of an Imperial Parliament. What was that House, after all? It was only a sort of municipal council, dealing with the affairs of a handful of people. It was merely a vestry meeting, representing 40,000 inhabitants of the British Empire. Some hon. members, he believed, aspired to have the magic letters "M.P." tacked to their names. He did not say they ought not to have them; but let them really ask themselves what the Legislature of this colony—a colony comprising an insignificant number of the millions of British people scattered all over the globe—was, and whether it was becoming on their part to throw reflections upon Her Majesty's Government simply because they had not the time to consider our little request,—whether it was right that they should attempt to dictate in this way to the Imperial authorities, and tell them that unless they gave us what we wanted at once we would do something dreadful. Let us not make a laughing stock of ourselves. He hoped he might be pardoned if he made a little simile: there were certain small animals which were occasionally the cause of much irritation and annoyance to the human body; but, the crush of a nail destroyed them. Let them not court the same fate. Let them not begin to irritate the British Lion, or—crush! they go. He really thought this amendment was a mistake. He had spoken perhaps rather strongly and hastily; but, entertaining the utmost good feeling towards his

hon. friend the mover of the amendment, he felt that if the hon. member pressed his amendment it would be his duty to divide the House upon it, in order to show the British authorities that at any rate the Government of this colony, and those who were acting with them, considered that anything savouring of a defiant action, in our present position, was entirely a mistake. He was sorry to have to differ with the mover of the amendment, but it was his duty to do so.

Mr. SCOTT said he had listened with a great deal of interest to the speech of the Colonial Secretary, and it appeared to him that the little insect which the hon. gentleman spoke of as being occasionally the source of considerable irritation to the human frame must be something like the leader of the Government in this respect—that the hon. gentleman was trying to irritate those who had brought forward this amendment. He did not agree with the hon. gentleman that there was anything of a defiant tone about the amendment, nor anything defiant in the attitude of those who were supporting it. Their attitude was simply this: they were adopting the attitude already assumed by the Governor himself, when, in his despatch to the Secretary of State, he particularly impressed upon Sir Henry Holland the necessity of deciding this question at the earliest possible date, for the very reason that—as the supporters of the present amendment maintained—it was of the utmost importance to have it settled, the colony being in an unsettled and he might say critical state, and must remain so until this question was decided. He failed to see how the Colonial Secretary could consider the amendment a boyish or childish one, or impetuous, or disrespectful in any way. What did it say? It commenced by “expressing the pleasure afforded us when we learnt some time ago that Her Majesty’s Government was prepared to accept, in principle, the resolutions passed last July on the important question of Responsible Government.” There was nothing disrespectful in that. Then it went on to express their surprise and disappointment upon hearing now that Her Majesty’s Government considered legislation on the subject premature. Was there any-

thing in that beyond a natural expression of one’s feeling. His Excellency himself in his despatch to the Secretary of State said that the colony had passed the stage at which the present form of Government could be satisfactorily carried on; and the Secretary of State had expressed the view that no further liabilities for large public works could be entertained until a change in the constitution was effected. Was it to be surprised then that they should be disappointed at this change of front on the part of the Home Government? Was it to be wondered at that they should express their disappointment? And that was all they did in this amendment. So far from being childish, he thought it was, on the contrary, a plain business-like amendment, and nothing more.

Mr. VENN expressed his regret at the tone of the remarks of the leader of the Government. The hon. gentleman’s speech was not worthy of himself. He felt sure that many of the hon. gentleman’s friends, and himself (Mr. Venn) amongst them, must regret that the leader of the Government in that House had ever delivered himself of such a speech on such a subject. There was nothing in the shape of defiance or even discourtesy towards the Imperial Government in the amendment. The amendment had been considered by a few hon. members beforehand, and the wording of it had been very carefully prepared, and he thought it was such that should commend it to the House. As to some of them aspiring to the position of M.P.’s, he did not think the hon. gentleman’s words were very well chosen. As to our being only a small portion of the teeming millions of the Empire, it must be remembered that it was not those teeming millions who had to consider this question but the poor miserable 40,000 people who lived in this colony. It was simply a question between the Imperial Government and ourselves. He hoped the amendment would be carried by a large majority. He regretted that the leader of the Government should think it necessary to submit it to the test of a division, as it might give rise to feelings which they all wished to rise superior to in dealing with this great national question.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES** (Mr. J. C. H. James) said he should record his vote against the amendment; but, in doing so, he hoped he should not be guilty of using any language that would tend in any way to lower that assembly to the level of a parochial vestry. It appeared to him that the amendment resolved itself, shortly, into three propositions, which followed one another in a somewhat syllogistic form, which was this: "We want public works; we cannot have these public works until we have a constitutional change; *ergo*, let us have a constitutional change as soon as we can." With that amendment no doubt there were many hon. members thoroughly in accord; but the reason why he was expressing himself against it was this: it appeared to him that it was not in the address in reply to the speech of the Governor that such a proposition should find place.

**SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL** said it undoubtedly was not usual to move amendments on the address in reply, under a constitution which admitted of a Ministry being turned out, except to attack their policy, but, as had been pointed out by the Colonial Secretary, we had not that form of Government here. It was no doubt he might say an unprecedented thing for an amendment upon the address to be moved in that House. But the occasion was an exceptional one. That House had been led to expect that when it met this month a Constitution Bill would be submitted for its consideration, and he thought it would have looked very strange if they had allowed this address to pass without any reference whatever to the special object for which they had assembled.

**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL** (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he had been rather amused to hear the hon. the junior member for Perth saying something about its being necessary to agree to this amendment in the address in reply for the purpose of its going to the Secretary of State. Even if it were assumed that the amendment must go to the Secretary of State—for which he saw no necessity—he thought the resolution they had already carried that evening, for a telegram to be sent requesting definite information on an early date on the subject, must necessarily reach the

Colonial Office long before this address got there; and it seemed to him that the most persistent supporters of Responsible Government might be well satisfied. It seemed to him they were rather spoiling the effect of that resolution, which the supporters of Responsible Government must regard as a triumph. Having agreed to send such a message as that—a somewhat strong one, he admitted—it seemed to him it was like pouring water into wine to break through the rule which he understood had hitherto prevailed in that House of not having an amendment to the address. If there had been any other part of the address than this to which hon. members took a strong objection he could understand hon. members seizing that part and giving expression to their views. But, inasmuch as a much stronger resolution had already been agreed to, and one that would be sent to the Secretary of State, while the present resolution need not necessarily be sent, it did appear to him there was no occasion to undo the work that had been done. Moreover they had been told that there was no precedent in that House for such a course as that now proposed, in moving an amendment upon the address; and, for his own part, he did not like to see things done without precedent.

**MR. SHOLL** saw nothing objectionable in the amendment in its present form. It had been toned down very materially since it was first framed, so as not to offend the susceptibilities of some hon. members, and it was now about as harmless a thing as they could well have. For his own part he thought they ought to have expressed indignation rather than surprise at the action of the Home Government. They had been called together for the special purpose of discussing a Constitution Bill, as they had thought; and the public had expected it, and that afterwards, when the bill had been discussed, there should have been an appeal to the country. There were plenty of other clauses in the Governor's speech with which he entirely disagreed himself; but this one alluded to what he might call the burning question of the day; and he did not see himself why they should not travel outside their usual course and adopt a respectful amendment to the address-in-reply.

MR. E. R. BROCKMAN said if the House would divide on this question it would give him great satisfaction indeed to vote against the amendment. In the first place, it commenced by saying: "While expressing the pleasure it afforded us when we learnt some time ago that Her Majesty's Government was prepared to accept, in principle, the resolution passed last July on the important question of Responsible Government." Now for his own part it had afforded him no pleasure whatever to have learnt this. It would give him great pleasure to vote against it. They had heard a great deal also about disappointment. He had suffered no disappointment himself, and he did not believe the country had suffered any disappointment. He thought, on the contrary, they were rather glad to have it postponed. He could speak positively with regard to the country districts—all that he was acquainted with—he was sure they were not in favor of the proposed change; the public feeling in the country was growing strongly against it; and, instead of being disappointed, they would view the delay not only with composure but with great satisfaction. He thought himself it would be far wiser if hon. members, too, made up their minds to submit to a delay, and set their minds to carry on the present form of Government satisfactorily, until we were in a better position to undertake heavier responsibilities.

MR. A. FORREST said it was a well known fact that there were certain people in this colony who wished to keep the colony to themselves, and they would destroy every chance of anybody else having a share in it. He could understand why these people should wish for the colony to remain as it is, under the present form of Government. They had had a good grasp over everything; they had made their money, and they did not like competition. He had been surprised by the remark of the hon. member Mr. Brockman, that the country did not want Responsible Government. He should like to see the hon. member putting up for the Swan, his own district, upon such a platform. He considered the amendment proposed in the address-in-reply a very mild one indeed. Personally, he disagreed with almost every clause of the

Governor's speech; and, with regard to this particular clause, he thought they were unanimous as to the feeling of disappointment caused by the delay of the Home Government. He was certain he was expressing the feelings of the Northern Districts of the colony, for they were heartily sick of the way things were conducted by the present Government. Only that morning he had a deputation of settlers from the Kimberley district, his constituents, complaining of the action of the Government with regard to the telegraph line, and they were very savage indeed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): They want separation.

MR. A. FORREST: They don't want separation, so long as you treat them fairly; and, so long as I have the honor of representing them, I will try and see that they are treated fairly. This amendment has been before a great many members, and it has been toned down a good deal. If it had been tabled as first proposed it would have rather astonished the Colonial Secretary. If the hon. gentleman divides the House, all I can say is he will find he has made a great mistake.

MR. HENSMAN said they had been told by the Attorney General that he did not like to see a thing done without a precedent. Was it without precedent for the hon. and learned Attorney General to find himself amongst a people who were about to change their Constitution? Was it without precedent that the hon. gentleman found himself a member of a Government who admitted they were unable to carry on the business of the country any longer? If the present action of that House was without a precedent, so was the position an unprecedented one. It had been said that this was really a very mild amendment, and it had been hinted that, if it had come before the House in the way some hon. members had wished, it would have been very differently worded. But those who sat on that side of the House were very reasonable persons, and they tried to work together, and so the amendment was toned down. They had already passed a resolution—and it had not been really opposed by the Government—hinting that before they voted supplies they desired an answer; and, the Gov-

ernment having swallowed the last camel, he did not understand why they should now strain at this little gnat.

MR. SHENTON thought that the cause of the present feeling of disappointment was to be found in the fact that His Excellency, when he announced, in the Town Hall, the receipt of the first telegram from the Secretary of State, stating that he approved in principle of the resolutions passed last session, had not also announced the receipt of the subsequent telegram, stating that in the opinion of the Home Government legislation on the subject this session would be premature. The first telegram had led them to expect that the whole question would have been settled this session, but the subsequent telegram left them almost in the same position as they were in last session. He could not support the amendment as at present worded, for one part of it said that the Secretary of State in his despatches to the Governor had stated that no further liabilities for public works could be entertained until a change in the constitution had been effected. He did not think the Secretary of State had gone so far as that. What the Secretary of State said was that he could not sanction any further loan until the finances of the colony were in a better state than they were in at the present time. So far as the question of a loan was concerned, he thought a great many colonists would object to a loan being floated at the present time, if it entailed any extra taxation of any kind to meet the interest and provide a sinking fund. The question of a change in the constitution had not so much to do with the raising of a fresh loan as the question of ways and means. He regretted very much that in His Excellency's speech no suggestion had been made as to how the finances might be brought into a more satisfactory state other than by a re-appropriation of loans, raised for public works. He thought it would have been much better if the Government had come down to the House with some proposals for retrenchment, and so provide the necessary means out of current revenue to meet any demands in the shape of interest and sinking fund, for a new loan, without extra taxation.

MR. CONGDON said he should certainly oppose the amendment. The House had that evening passed a resolution, in much stronger terms than this, addressed to the Secretary of State, who was the functionary concerned; and he thought that would meet all the circumstances of the case, without again proposing this amendment in the address in reply to His Excellency's speech. As a rule these addresses were simply a reflection of the speech itself, and had no political significance; and he thought it was a pity, under the circumstances, that such an amendment should have been proposed. Certainly, so far as he was concerned, he should vote against it.

MR. HARPER said he had not intended speaking at all, but, as most members seemed disposed to give their views on the subject, he should just say a word or two. He thought, himself, that having unanimously accepted the terms of a telegram, couched in no uncertain language, addressed to the Secretary of State, it would be rather inconsistent to oppose something of the same nature being placed on the records of the House. Had they not already accepted the form of that telegram he should have been inclined perhaps to have opposed this amendment; but, having already committed themselves to an expression of opinion on the subject, he thought there could be no harm in embodying a similar expression of opinion on the records of the House.

MR. RICHARDSON said he took rather a converse view from that of the hon. member for York. He thought if they had not assented to the message to the Secretary of State it might have been desirable and perhaps necessary to adopt the proposed amendment in the address in reply. But having assented to the telegram being sent, and knowing it would be thoroughly stale news before this amendment ever met the eyes of the Secretary of State, it appeared to him to be quite a superfluous and unnecessary taunt. It was attempting, by a side-wind, he thought, to show the Governor their power. The address in reply was as colorless as such addresses generally were, and he thought it might well be assented to in its present form.

MR. MORRISON said if the House had divided upon the question of sending

that telegram to the Secretary of State he should have voted in favor of it; but he did not feel inclined to vote for this amendment as well, which appeared to him to be hitting out twice before they knew how the first blow had told; and he was not certain whether they would be hitting the right mark. The former was aimed at the Secretary of State, whom they wanted to get at; whereas this amendment was aimed at the Governor, whom no one blamed in the matter.

MR. PEARSE said that as one of those who had consistently and persistently supported the cause of Responsible Government, since the question was first mooted in that House, he must say he was not only surprised but disappointed to find that the final solution of the question had been again put off. With regard to the amendment, he saw nothing objectionable in it, and it certainly commended itself to his mind. He should therefore give it his support.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said he had always been taught it was a bad thing to thrash a willing horse; and it appeared to him that as they had both the Governor and the Secretary of State in favor of Responsible Government they might fairly expect to get it as soon as possible without this amendment. They had already discharged a somewhat powerful cartridge that evening, and it seemed to him it was only a waste of powder to discharge a blank cartridge after it.

MR. HENSMAN: What can be the objection to it, if it is only a blank cartridge?

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Because it will simply make a noise.

MR. MARMION said that, occupying as he did neutral ground on this question of Responsible Government, he thought the most consistent course he could adopt would be to refrain from voting at all, if the amendment went to a division; for he felt himself placed in somewhat of a dilemma. In one direction he was impelled to give the amendment his support, and on the other hand he entertained feelings which rendered him a little disposed to oppose it. No doubt the position of affairs at the present time was one that necessitated action of some kind,

and probably different action from that followed on previous occasions. There seemed to him to be a great deal in the argument put forward by the advocates of constitutional change, that it was desirable to mark their sense of disappointment at the result, the somewhat barren result, of the action taken by them last session. Had he been a member of that body he would certainly have entered most strongly into their feelings, and, in all probability, not been on the right side of moderation. But he was afraid, although it had been said that a great deal of care had been taken over the wording of the amendment, it was not so framed as to carry with it those who were not altogether in favor of the proposed change. With regard to those who desired to remain neutral, it compelled them to take a forward or a backward step. He noticed that it alleged that the Secretary of State had expressed the view that no future liabilities for public works—that was to say, no loans—could be entertained until a change in the constitution was effected. Those were not the Secretary of State's words at all. What the Secretary of State said was that it would be inexpedient to consider the question of a loan while the constitutional question was under consideration. It was not said what the issue might be, but while the issue was pending. The closing words of the amendment were: "consequently, in our opinion, it is of the utmost importance to the colony that the change should be no longer delayed." Those who had hitherto been opposed to the immediate adoption of Responsible Government could not consistently support that; for it pledged them to an expression of opinion that the change should be no longer delayed. Therefore it seemed to him impossible for those who had been actively opposed to Responsible Government at the present time, or for those who had been neutral, to support this amendment, as now worded. He thought it might be worded in such a manner as to meet with the assent of all parties, without pledging them to any definite expression of opinion on the question of the immediate necessity of a change. If the amendment could be so altered it would have his support; otherwise he thought the course

he should feel disposed to adopt was to abstain from voting at all. They had not the remotest idea yet what the "details" referred to in the Secretary of State's despatch might be; and, possibly, in attempting to hasten the decision of the Imperial Government, their action might be productive of more harm than good, so far as this colony was concerned. He could not say that he was personally surprised or disappointed at there having been no definite decision arrived at by the Home Government as yet, or, at any rate, at the time these two telegrams were sent. He never thought, himself, that a question of this importance, involving issues of so much magnitude, was going to be settled right off in the course of a few weeks, or even of a few months.

MR. RANDELL thought a great deal depended on how they regarded an address in reply; whether it was to be regarded as possessing any real significance, or whether it was to be regarded as a colorless document, having no real meaning. He thought this was a point which affected the question at issue very much indeed. He was not quite aware from which point of view these addresses in reply were generally regarded, either here or in England. In any case he felt some difficulty in speaking at all, for the sentiments he entertained towards the amendment were of a very neutral character. He had stood almost alone in that House opposing what he conceived the premature introduction of Responsible Government; and he still believed that the time had not arrived, that our circumstances were not such as to justify us, in the best interests of the colony, in entering upon that form of Government. Circumstances and public feeling, however, had changed very considerably of late, and he thought a man must be stupidly ignorant and careless of the best interests of the colony if he saw certain events transpiring and changes taking place, and his position towards them remained unaltered. He thought they had arrived at such a stage in the circumstances of this colony at the present moment. Certain resolutions had been adopted by that House, and been sent home, and they had received a reply stating that Her Majesty's Government approved, in principle, of those resolutions. To that extent therefore, both the high contracting

parties to the agreement were in accord; and the question had now advanced to a stage which brought it within a measurable distance of its final solution. Still he believed there was a strong feeling in country districts in favor of remaining for some time longer as we are; and he believed that feeling to some extent was growing. At the same time he could not shut his eyes to the fact that in these central towns the popular feeling was increasing in favor of the change. Under these circumstances he thought it would be wrong and foolish on his part any longer to interpose any obstacle in the way of the attainment of the object which the advocates of constitutional change had in view. He thought the position which this matter had now assumed was such as to call for the earliest settlement we could have of the questions at issue. In the very best interests of the colony he thought it was desirable that every member of the House who wished well to his country should now assist in promoting the advent of Responsible Government. Circumstances had transpired in the colony within the last few months which he might say had materially affected the opinions which he had entertained on the subject. He was free to confess that his idol had been considerably injured, if not demolished, by passing events; and they found themselves to-day, he thought, face to face with a set of circumstances which should make them all anxious rather to hasten the final settlement of this question than to offer any further resistance in the matter. He alluded to the financial position. He had watched the first steps of our downward path, and every succeeding step; and he thought he could trace the origin of our present financial embarrassment. The result of a calm review of the circumstances was to force upon his mind that he should no longer, in the slightest degree, attempt to retard the settlement of this question with regard to the introduction of Responsible Government. With regard to the amendment now before them, he felt that he could not exactly support it. There were some reasons which the amendment itself supplied, which prevented him from being able to do so. He held the opinion, for instance, that it would be wrong for us at the present

moment to incur any further liabilities for large public works. He was standing alone perhaps in that House, but not in the colony; he knew there was a large number of thoughtful business men, who were studying the circumstances of the colony, who were with him in thinking that it would be premature for us at present to entertain the idea of a loan for public works, whether the colony continued under the present form of Government or advanced—if it was an advancement—to that other form which they were now committed to. He believed that our best and most prudent policy at the present moment was that expressed, though perhaps not very clearly expressed, in the motto found in one of the highlands of Scotland—“Rest and be thankful.” He thought we had advanced so far with our borrowing powers, without any material advance in the prosperity of the colony, as should cause us to pause before we took any further steps in the way of additional loans. Therefore, when he found the amendment alleging the importance of hastening the settlement of the constitutional question, so that further liabilities for large public works may be entertained, he found in the amendment itself a reason for opposing it. He thought himself it would be better for us to wait until we gathered in some of the fruits of the large expenditure already incurred upon public works before embarking in any further loans. Therefore, should the amendment be pressed to a division, it would be his duty on this occasion, for the first time since he had been in the House, to retire. As he had already said, he was not able to support the amendment; and if the address in reply was to be regarded as anything but a mere farce, he was unable, in the circumstances of the colony, to support the address itself as it now stood. He was afraid that the promoters of constitutional change had been somewhat too eager to select the worst time in the history of the colony for such a change; and he really believed some of them were convinced of this themselves, and would be glad to retrace their steps. If they could swallow the 4th and 5th clauses of the address, he could hardly understand why they could not accept the 3rd one. The hon. member for Carnarvon

had said it was his intention, or the intention of his party, to refuse to grant the whole of the supplies required for the public service next year, unless they received a definite reply from the Home Government. They had also hinted as much, and somewhat significantly hinted as much, in the telegram which they had agreed to send to the Secretary of State. He did not exactly know whether they would be able to carry that intention into effect or not: at any rate, in the 4th paragraph of the address they said this: “The examination of the Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1888 we shall make an early duty, and we trust that the conclusions arrived at will be satisfactory, and the ways and means prove sufficient for the public service and supplies for the year.” If they could swallow the 5th paragraph it was more extraordinary still. In that they said: “It is quite manifest that if the colony and its revenue do not progress satisfactorily, during next year, retrenchment will have to be effected in various branches of the Government service.” What he said was this: the time had now come for retrenchment, without waiting for another year; and, if hon. members were so enamoured of Responsible Government as to conceal from their view the financial position of the colony, he pitied them. He thought the present financial position of the country, and the best means of putting them in a better position, was of far greater importance just now than the question of any particular form of Government. He believed there were ways and means to be found for placing our revenue and expenditure upon more equal terms—he should have an opportunity of referring to that by-and-bye—without having recourse to that bill which had been introduced for the re-appropriation of loan moneys. He hoped the wisdom of that House would be able to devise some means for doing so. He felt a great deal of sympathy with the amendment from the point of view of the advocates of Responsible Government; and, if there was any weight to be placed on these addresses, they were perfectly justified, he thought, in insisting upon this amendment. But, feeling as he did—opposed to any further loan at present—he could not support it, and on this occasion his

intention was to refrain from voting at all.

The House then divided upon the amendment, the numbers being—

Ayes ... .. 13

Noes ... .. 8

Majority for ... 5

**AYES.**  
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.  
Captain Fawcett  
Mr. A. Forrest  
Mr. Harper  
Mr. Hensman  
Mr. Keane  
Mr. Layman  
Mr. McRae  
Mr. Pearce  
Mr. Scott  
Mr. Sholl  
Mr. Venn  
Mr. Parker (Teller.)

**NOES.**  
Mr. E. R. Brockman  
Mr. Congdon  
Hon. Sir M. Fraser  
Mr. James  
Mr. Morrison  
Mr. Richardson  
Hon. J. A. Wright  
Hon. C. N. Warton  
(Teller.)

MR. MARMION, in accordance with notice, then moved the following amendment, as an addition to the 5th paragraph of the Address-in-Reply:—"We regret that we cannot agree with Your Excellency in the course suggested by you to restore the financial equilibrium for the year 1888, and are of opinion that it would not be politic nor in the interests of the colony to re-appropriate the balances of the 1884 loan as suggested by Your Excellency; and we humbly beg Your Excellency will be pleased to reconsider your decision with reference to this important subject."

#### POINT OF ORDER.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) rose to a point of order. He submitted that it was not competent for any member to bring forward any motion or amendment embodying the subject of any bill already before the House. The House had already passed the first reading of a bill dealing with the re-appropriation of the loan balances referred to in the hon. member's motion.

THE SPEAKER thought the Attorney General was right. That was his first impression. The point raised, however, was a very important one, and he was not prepared at the moment to give his ruling upon it. He therefore desired some little time to consider his decision.

Debate adjourned.

#### GERALDTON-NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in moving

the second reading of this bill, said it was a pure formality. The necessity for it arose simply through an error having inadvertently been made in the schedule of the original bill, a certain point of departure being the Anglican Church instead of the Roman Catholic Church, in the town of Geraldton. The Municipal Council of that town desired the error to be rectified, so as to relieve them from any responsibility with regard to that part of the railway running through the town.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 22nd December, 1887.

Roebourne-Cossack Tramway—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech: Adjourned Debate—Point of Order—Presentation of the Address-in-Reply—Geraldton and Northampton Railway Amendment Bill: in committee—Report of Tariff Commission—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

#### PRAYERS.

#### ROEBOURNE-COSSACK TRAMWAY.

MR. RICHARDSON moved for a return showing all payments that had been made, or that were still owing, in connection with the survey, construction, and equipment of the tramway between Roebourne and Cossack; and asked whether any further capital outlay was likely to be required for the completion of this work.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) promised to furnish the information asked for.