

pleted; 3, Every assistance has been rendered by the directors, and the books of the company handed over to the department for scrutiny.

RETURN—HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCES.

HON. R. S. HAYNES moved:—

That a return be laid upon the table of the House showing—1, The average daily attendance at the High School during the years 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899; 2, the number of masters, whether permanent or temporary, during each of such years; 3, the amount granted by the Government to the school during each year for all purposes; 4, the amount of money received by the High School during each of such years, from holders of scholarships.

It was necessary to have this information for a purpose which would appear later.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The information was already available, so that there was no objection to the motion.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—PRESENTATION.

THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by hon. members, proceeded to Government House to present the Address-in-reply to the opening Speech of His Excellency; and, having returned,

THE PRESIDENT reported that His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows:—

I thank you for your Address-in-reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament, and I am glad to be assured of your continued loyalty and devotion to the Person and Throne of our Most Gracious Sovereign.

I receive with satisfaction your assurance that your most careful consideration will be given to the special matter, as well as to all others that may be submitted to you, so that your labours may result in the permanent advancement and prosperity of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

ELECTORS ON PARLIAMENTARY ROLL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell) informed hon. members that, so far as he had been able to secure figures, there were now 43,051 electors on the roll for the year 1900. The returns, however, were not complete, because there had yet to come in the figures for North-East Coolgardie, Moora, Murchison, Murchison North, and Yilgarn.

GAME ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY said he did not intend to proceed with the second reading of the Bill.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 10 minutes to 5 o'clock, until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Assembly.

Thursday, 24th May, 1900.

Paper presented—Question: Police Department, Koya Commission—Question: Railway to Quarantine Ground (Fremantle)—Question: Naturalisation and Electoral Right—Federation Enabling Bill, second reading (Amendments); debate resumed and adjourned—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

PAPER PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: Regulations under Beer Duty Act.

Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—POLICE DEPARTMENT, ROYAL COMMISSION.

MR. VOSPER asked the Premier, Why a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of the Police Department had not been appointed, in accordance with a resolution of this House passed last session.

THE PREMIER replied: Owing to the lamented death of the Commissioner of Police (Colonel G. B. Phillips), it has been considered advisable to defer the matter.

QUESTION—RAILWAY TO QUARANTINE GROUND (FREMANTLE).

MR. SOLOMON asked the Commissioner of Railways, Whether, considering that the quarantine station at Woodman's Point was ready to meet the requirements of any outbreak of contagious disease, he would take into consideration the advisability of extending the railway system at once from Owen's Anchorage to the quarantine grounds.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS replied: The matter will be considered.

QUESTION—NATURALISATION AND ELECTORAL RIGHT.

MR. GREGORY asked the Attorney General, Whether it is a fact that under the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1889, any foreigner naturalised in any portion of Her Majesty's dominions is qualified to be placed on the electoral rolls of this colony, without again obtaining naturalisation in Western Australia. He obtained leave to amend the form of question, by striking out the words "in any portion of Her Majesty's dominions," and inserting "in any of the Australian colonies."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL replied: It is not so. I may explain that the power of naturalisation given to the Australian colonies applies only to each colony separately, and the colony has no power to authorise naturalisation out of its own limits.

FEDERATION ENABLING BILL.

SECOND READING—AMENDMENTS.

Order read, for resuming debate on the motion for second reading, moved on the previous day.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I know I am out of order, but I claim the indulgence of the House for a moment, as I think it will save time in debate to inform hon. members that I propose to have prepared by Tuesday next a clause or clauses, which will have the effect of giving the right of vote to every man and woman in this country of 21 years of age and upwards (general applause), who has resided in Western Australia for twelve months.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Could you not make it six?

THE PREMIER: Perhaps the hon. member would like to have none at all.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Oh, no; six months. I am only asking a question.

THE PREMIER: I cannot do that, because it would be contrary to our electoral law, which requires a man to be in the colony six months and to be on the roll six months before he can vote; and this is very much less than it used to be. Therefore I think we are acting quite liberally enough in saying that before a man or woman shall take part in deciding this great question, the effect of which will be for all time, each one shall not be a less time in the colony than is required under our electoral law. As I say, I hope to be able to frame some clauses which will give to every man and woman in the colony, who is 21 years of age, the right to vote in the referendum.

DEBATE.

MR. RASON (South Murchison): I intend to support the second reading of this Bill, and I can hardly be accused either of turning a somersault or, to borrow an expression that has been used in another place, of "wobbling." The two previous speakers who have addressed the House on this question have touched somewhat upon the history of the federal movement as it applies to this colony; and, seeing the magnitude of the issue and the peculiar position in which some of the members of this House are placed, I may be pardoned if I somewhat digress from the facts of the actual Bill before us, and endeavour to as briefly as possible explain the position. In company with many other members, I have always felt a sincere desire that Western Australia should join federation with the other Australian colonies. All the great and noble sentiments which have appealed with such force to other members of this House have appealed with equal strength to me; but I and others have desired that if Western Australia is to enter that federation, it should be on such terms as will be fair and equitable to Western Australia, whose interests should be our first consideration. With that end in view, we thought it necessary that better terms than are offered in the original Commonwealth Bill should, if possible, be obtained. The endeavour was made to obtain better terms for this colony. Ever

since the Bill has been before us, I have considered that the conditions offered to Western Australia were not reasonable. I am still of the opinion, and I think I always shall be, that better terms ought to have been and could have been obtained. I have no wish to say a single word that will give annoyance to any member opposite, or indeed to any member of the House; but when I hear expressions emanate from prominent politicians of this colony to the effect that the failure to obtain these amendments must be considered a victory for the federalists, and inferentially a victory for the Opposition party, and that the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government, and the members who for the time being support him, have been compelled to turn a somersault, then I think I am justified in asking whether that is a fair position for members of the federal party or members of the Opposition party to take up. I think a fair statement of the case is that while the Federal League and its champions in this House have considered the Commonwealth Bill equitable to Western Australia, the present Government and many members of this House have held a contrary opinion, and we considered certain amendments absolutely necessary. I think the most ardent champion of federation, no matter what his opinion may be on the Commonwealth Bill as it originally stood, will admit that if all or any of those amendments could have been obtained, the prospects of this colony under federation would have been considerably improved. That being so, it was the duty of the Government to use every possible means in their power to obtain better terms. Can any one say for a moment that the right hon. gentleman has not so tried? Has he not used every means in his power? Is there a single step that he could have taken that has not been taken? But how have these efforts been met? Instead of all-round loyal support which might reasonably have been expected, every move has been met by a counter-move with the express object of defeating the Premier's purpose. Indeed, to such an extent has this operation been carried, not only in this House but in other places, that—the House will pardon me for using football language—members have played the man rather than played the game.

The demand all along has been, "the Bill to the people, and nothing but the Bill." When amendments were suggested, we were met with the cry that the attempt to secure amendments was really only a sham and a mockery, and that the real object in view was to obtain delay, which would be fatal, because the slightest delay would render it impossible for Western Australia to enter federation as an original State. I would remind the late leader of the Opposition that whilst he receives congratulations upon his victory, he must remember that this prophecy, at all events, has been proved to be a bogey; for even after considerable delay, Western Australia can now, if she so desires, enter federation as an original State. Still, that prophecy was a cry, and a good cry. It caught on, and served its purpose. After that we had repeated representations to leading politicians in the other colonies, whose assistance we desired in order to obtain these amendments, that they need not regard our appeals, inasmuch as the majority of the people in this country were quite content to accept the Commonwealth Bill as it stood. Then came the separation movement and the separation petition. I am not prepared to classify that movement as being altogether a bogey: on the contrary, I think that movement has been a very important factor in regard to the fact that we have not been able to obtain the amendments we desired. As a last resource it was decided to send a special representative of the Government to London, in the person of Mr. S. H. Parker, with instructions to endeavour to obtain from the delegates some concession, even if only one amendment, that giving fiscal freedom in this colony for a term of years, and failing to obtain that concession from the delegates, to approach the Imperial Parliament. That movement also was met by a counter-move, and the delegates and the Secretary of State for the Colonies were instructed that they need not pay any regard to the representations of Mr. Parker, because as a matter of fact Mr. Parker represented nobody and had no authority. If, after all those efforts have been made, and those efforts have been persistently met by counter-movements of this nature, the failure to obtain those amendments, which would admittedly be for the benefit of this

colony, is construed into a victory to be proud of.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: What was that counter-movement?

MR. RASON: Several counter-movements I referred to.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: This one about Mr. Parker?

MR. RASON: A public meeting was held.

THE PREMIER: Petitions, and letters, and everything else; dozens of them. There was a long memorandum.

MR. LEAKE: Produce my letter to the Secretary of State.

THE PREMIER: You can produce it yourself, if you like.

MR. RASON: A motion was carried at that meeting to the effect that the delegates and the Secretary of State should be cabled to, and told that Mr. Parker had no authority and represented nobody. If, after all this, the failure to obtain those amendments is to be counted a victory for the federal party and the Opposition party, then I do not think either the federalists or the Opposition party will have a lasting source of gratification on their victory. Certainly I, for one, am not ashamed of the defeat. The choice now before us is one of two things: either to submit this Bill to the people for their consideration, as it is proposed to do, or for Parliament to accept the responsibility of throwing the Bill out altogether. Having regard only to the welfare of Western Australia, I am of opinion the better course would have been for Parliament to accept that responsibility, for I am convinced federation means anything but benefit to this colony; but I do not consider Parliament has any moral right to take any such action upon itself. I do not think Parliament has the right to be the arbiter upon a question of such magnitude as this. If we are not delegates, certainly we are not rulers; and the people having demanded a voice on this question, it is certainly right they should have one. I can only hope that the decision of the people will be a wise one. Whatever it is, I hope we shall all accept it with a good grace, and abide by it. I, for my part, shall consider it to be my duty to endeavour to explain to the people, as far as possible, what I believe are the disadvantages and also the advantages in the Commonwealth Bill,

and having done that, I shall leave the choice in their hands, considering that I have done my duty. I support the second reading of this Bill.

MR. VOSPER (North-East Coolgardie): I listened with considerable care and attention to the address in which the Premier moved the second reading of this Bill last evening, and I must confess that, to some extent, I sympathise with the position which he then took up. I do not mean to say I sympathise with the frequent changes of opinion which have marked his policy in connection with federation; but that I certainly do sympathise with him, and with the member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran), when they alike point out that this Parliament, after all, has done no more than its duty. We were returned to this House to act as trustees of the interests of Western Australia; and when we have brought before us, in the form of the Enabling Bill, a document which provides that this colony shall enter into a partnership with certain other States, we ought to bear in mind that it is always a wise maxim that in taking a partner we take a master, and this is likely to be the case with federation, as with everything else. It therefore seems to me to be our duty, as a body of trustees such as this Parliament is, to take every care that as good a bargain as possible is made for the colony we have the honour to represent. In so doing, we have followed the examples quoted to us by the member for East Coolgardie in his speech on the Address-in-reply, in connection with the Canadian federation, and have also followed the example, the precedent, laid down by the various colonies in the Eastern portion of Australia. I think we must perceive that with those colonies federation was largely a matter of bargain; and the misfortune that has arisen in connection with Western Australia is mainly due to the fact that our delegates were not sufficiently alive to their responsibilities at the time of the holding of those Conventions. This must be attributed to the action taken by the Government in this colony at the time when delegates were chosen, for instead of allowing delegates to be chosen by the voice and the influence of the people, and thereby giving to the

people their first education in this great question, the choosing of delegates was confined to the members of the two Houses of Parliament; thereby depriving the people first of their right to be represented on so great a question, and secondly depriving them of the education which was to be obtained by the electing of delegates to be sent to the Convention, and therefore rendering the people, to a great extent, uninterested in the result. In that way a number of gentlemen were chosen who, however estimable in their private life, were not fitted for the difficult and important task which they undertook; men who could not in any degree pose as constitutional authorities. There were among the delegates men who were worthy of the position to which they were elected. There were others who, though qualified by their personal integrity, had not the ability or the political knowledge necessary for so important a position. I am firmly convinced that had the people of this colony been allowed the opportunity of electing delegates in the first instance, as was done in the other parts of Australia, the loss of twelve months might have been spared, and we should have passed the referendum twelve months ago. Nevertheless, we cannot now make up for past misfortunes. The head of the Government himself has practically admitted that it was a mistake that the delegates were not elected by popular vote, and the candour with which he has admitted mistakes all through is worthy of commendation. I do not think Parliament has acted wrongly in this matter. On the contrary, Parliament has done what I conceive to be its duty. Of course I am not thereby saying that I approve of all the amendments which the Joint Select Committee proposed; but if it were the opinion of a large number of members that we were entitled to better terms and conditions, it was their duty to endeavour to obtain the better terms. Still, I cannot but feel conscious of the fact that the delay in connection with this referendum has been productive of good rather than harm. The delay has raised a large amount of agitation throughout the length and breadth of the colony; and although that agitation may have gone to considerable lengths, nevertheless it

has had the effect of educating the people of the colony in a greater degree on the *pros* and *cons* of federation. At the time I had last the honour of speaking in this House on this all-important question, I referred to certain misrepresentations which had appeared in the speeches of members, and in the public Press, in regard to the Commonwealth Bill; and it is safe to say those misrepresentations would not have the same effect now in misleading the people on the subject, for the people are not now in the state of ignorance they were twelve months ago. In addition to that, we have another advantage, and I ventured at the time I speak of to put my finger on what I believed to be one of the principal blots in the Bill, namely the provision which allowed a single State in Australia to place a veto on the most important national and federal work which the Federal Government could accomplish. While other efforts to amend the Bill have failed, this particular point has been conceded by the Premier of the State most concerned; and while we are informed by the member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran) that the guarantee we have obtained from Mr. Holder counts for nothing—

MR. MORAN: As far as he is concerned, it is a perfectly good one.

MR. VOSPER: We know that the present Premier of South Australia is backed up by a very substantial majority, and in addition to that it is unlikely that a guarantee given in the name of a colony by its Premier will be repudiated by the Parliament or the people of that colony. Here we have from the Premier of South Australia a definite pledge, that so soon as Western Australia enters the Commonwealth, a Bill will be brought into the South Australian Parliament which will have the effect of abrogating that obnoxious clause in the Commonwealth Bill.

MR. MORAN: They cannot abrogate it.

MR. VOSPER: No; but they can render it nugatory.

MR. MORAN: That must be assented to by the Federal Parliament.

MR. VOSPER: But I take it that there is such a thing as national honour as well as individual honour; and the Parliament of South Australia having once given us this concession, I do not think it would readily be revoked.

THE PREMIER : No. That would be a breach of faith.

MR. MORAN : They could do it.

MR. VOSPER : No doubt; but I look on the pledge as definite and strong enough to enable this colony to go forward, as far as that matter is concerned; and I think this colony is to be congratulated on having succeeded so far. The position at the present time is one for congratulation all round, rather than for recrimination. I do not approve of the changes of attitude the Government have indulged in on this question; but the question is so large a subject and presents so many different aspects, that it may well be approached by men of integrity and consistency, and they may from time to time change their opinion in regard to it. It is the most complex problem that ever came before an Australian colony; and it is not strange that members should, from time to time, change their views in regard to it, in the same way that a man ascending a mountain sees that mountain in its various aspects changing as he ascends higher and higher. I have little confidence in those who pin their faith entirely to the Commonwealth Bill, and look upon it as a shibboleth to be forced on the people. I have more faith and should put more confidence in those who change their views from time to time, as the result of a fuller knowledge or a clearer understanding of this complex and difficult question. As I have said, the time is one for congratulation rather than for recrimination, and I congratulate very heartily the leader and the members of the Federal League on the victory they have achieved on the question. I have not always approved of their methods, and I have not hesitated to express my disapproval. Nevertheless their tenacity and perseverance have succeeded in attaining the object they had in view. The Federal League have been successful, and I am glad to congratulate them on that point, because to some extent I may be blamed for having assisted them in arriving at this particular success. I congratulate the Government also on at last being converted to the necessity of trusting the people in this matter, and I think they might as well have taken this step twelve months ago as at the present time; but then I know also there was the question

of the proposed amendments. Had the two Bills been passed at that time by the Legislative Council, the people would have had an opportunity of expressing their opinion, not only on the Bill as adopted in the other colonies, but also on the Bill as proposed to be amended in the interests of this colony. If the referendum is good for the Bill without amendments, it would, in my opinion, have been equally good for the Bill with the amendments. Then I am entitled, to some extent, though I do not wish to do so in any spirit of arrogance, to congratulate myself, inasmuch as we find that the only amendment among those adopted by the Joint Select Committee which has attained any measure of success is the one I proposed myself; and that is the amendment in connection with the transcontinental railway. I have further ground for self-congratulation in the fact that the last proposed amendment which was retained by the Premier, and insisted on by him as long as he could reasonably do so, was one which I with others, assisted to resist in the Joint Select Committee. Further, I have been a consistent supporter and advocate of the referendum, and now I find myself in the position that I have practically attained all my objects. We have a guarantee of the transcontinental railway; we have a clause which I objected to, both in the Joint Select Committee and on the floor of this House, thrown out by the Imperial Government; and we have obtained the referendum.

THE PREMIER : To which clause do you refer?

MR. VOSPER : That giving five-years fiscal freedom; the clause which I opposed, and which is now a thing of the past.

THE PREMIER : Will you not trust your own people for five years?

MR. VOSPER : Unfortunately, the people I have the honour to represent in this House do not regard the clause in that light. I recollect the Premier saying that last night, and I thought of an excellent reply that could be made to him. As a matter of fact, we are not afraid to trust ourselves to deal with the tariff; but, so far, the people of the goldfields have not had any opportunity of dealing with the tariff; and the impression on the fields, an impression which I think is

fully justified by events, is that five-years fiscal freedom to the colony would mean really five-years fiscal servitude and five-years burden for us—not five years of protection for local industries, but five years of protection for local “rings” and local individuals.

MR. MORAN: Some hon. members were returned as protectionists.

MR. VOSPER: I was returned on the free-trade ticket, and, as you know, I refused all along to support that clause I regarded it as involving five-years fiscal bondage; and that, I believe, is the general view taken on the goldfields, with the exception, perhaps, of the hon. member's (Mr. Moran's) constituency; and even there, opinions have undergone a very considerable change since the date the hon. member was elected. It was my intention, in addressing myself to this subject, to urge strongly upon the Premier the necessity of keeping the promise made in this House on July 26th of last year. At that time I had the pleasure of moving:—

That, in the opinion of this House, no reference of the Commonwealth Bill to the suffrages of the electors will be satisfactory, unless provision is first made for the inclusion on the rolls of every adult male entitled to the franchise.

In reply to that I received from the Premier a definite promise that provision of that kind should be made, and that every facility should be given to voters to be enrolled in time for the referendum.

THE PREMIER: And they have since had twelve months in which to enrol.

MR. MORAN: The Premier has “gone one better”; he has out-Heroded Herod.

MR. VOSPER: I am glad to say the wind has been taken out of my sails by the Premier's statement this afternoon, and I have been obliged to withdraw amendments I had tabled in connection with the Bill, owing to the fact that the Premier has not only kept his promise, but has gone slightly beyond it, and has decided to include all the women in the federal franchise.

THE PREMIER: There still remains the task of getting them on the rolls.

MR. VOSPER: I earnestly hope the Government will fully carry out their intentions.

THE PREMIER: The people themselves must apply for registration.

MR. VOSPER: Oh, quite so.

THE PREMIER: They have not done it to any great extent during last year.

MR. VOSPER: I agree with that. The reason we advocated special provision being made for the extension of the franchise at that time, and why I am so glad to see it brought about at the present moment, is that I do not think a question of such vital moment as this should be decided by any small section of the population, who, by accident or by their own efforts, happen to be on the present electoral rolls. We know there have been difficulties in the past, as far as getting on the rolls is concerned.

THE PREMIER: Indifference; not difficulties.

MR. VOSPER: And the proof of that lies in the fact that the Government have seen fit to greatly simplify the system of getting on the roll, by the Electoral Act of last session. It would have been an anomaly if we had adopted a system of simplification contemplating the placing a large number of persons on the roll, and had then refused to allow those people to vote on the first question that came under their notice as electors. I am glad to see the Government have taken up that position. For my own part, I should like in conclusion to say that the objections I urged against the Commonwealth Bill as a measure remain to-day in my own mind in full force, and the only question which agitates me at the present moment is as to whether it would not be better, perhaps, to put up with the evils which the Commonwealth Bill contains, rather than suffer the evils we may have to bear if we remain outside the federation; consequently I am in the same position as many other hon. members on that point. I do not wish to abate one jot or tittle of what I have already said, and I can only repeat the assurance of the member for South Murchison (Mr. Rason) in saying that, in common with many other hon. members, I shall deem it my duty to explain to the electors, as far as in me lies, the advantages and the defects of this Bill; and whichever way the electors decide, for my own part I shall be glad to see the last of this great question, and also cheerfully to submit myself to their decision, whatever that decision may be. I desire once more to

congratulate the House, the Federal League, and the country upon the happy issue of the agitation which has engaged so much of their attention during the last twelve months; and I think, whether we enter the federation or whether we do not, we shall find Western Australia will be strong enough to bear either the imposts which may be put upon her under federation, or the isolation that will follow as the consequence of the rejection of this measure. At all events, we shall now have the matter taken out of the arena of parliamentary politics; it will be left to the people to decide; and I hope and trust, after all the time allowed to them for the consideration of this question, and the instruction they may receive at the hands of their representatives in Parliament, the people will be able to come to a wise decision, not only in keeping with the ideals of British and Imperial unity, but calculated to promote their future happiness and prosperity.

MR. HALL (Perth): I have been desirous of speaking as early as possible on the Bill now before the House, because I feel it incumbent on me, as it is my wish, to make a personal explanation as to the reasons which have induced me to change my seat from that immediately behind the Premier to that I now occupy (Opposition cross-bench). I will therefore proceed to state, as briefly as possible, after I have made a few remarks on this Bill, the reasons which have induced me to cross the floor of the Chamber. I am pleased the House is giving the electors an opportunity of saying whether they will enter into this union, or whether they will stand out until such time as they believe they are getting sufficiently good terms to induce them to go into the partnership. I may say at once, I am not a federalist-at-any-price. I believe in federation, but, knowing as I do the jealousy and the grasping selfishness of the older colonies, the ignorance of their people, and the misrepresentations of the Eastern Press and of Eastern public men in regard to this colony, I deemed it was hardly wise to hand over this young colony to the rule of those who had no sympathy with us, no knowledge of our requirements, or of our resources. As the mover of the Address-in-reply (Mr. Moran) has pointed out in his very able

speech, the cry of federation has been lost in the cry "the rights of the people"; and there is no doubt the first mistake, the first huge blunder was, as pointed out by that hon. member, made by the Premier when he selected delegates from this House to the Convention, instead of allowing the people to have a voice in their selection.

THE PREMIER: You joined in passing the Bill.

MR. HALL: That, I believe, caused the people to think they would be deprived of their rights, and caused federation to become of secondary importance to the question of the referendum; and I may say that the last, or rather the latest, blunder of the Premier was in sending to England a gentleman unconnected with Parliament, to watch the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons. That, I think, was an insult to several members of this House, who were far more conversant with the Bill than that gentleman, and quite as able to have fulfilled his mission.

THE PREMIER: Ha, ha!

MR. HALL: You may laugh; but I quite believe there are several hon. members far more conversant with the Bill than the gentleman chosen, and quite as able to look after our interests in London.

THE PREMIER: Very few members would like to resign their seats to go on a mission.

MR. LEAKE: It would not be necessary to resign.

MR. HALL: I do not think it would have been necessary to resign: it has not been necessary for the member for Dundas (Mr. Conolly) to resign.

THE PREMIER: He is fighting for his country.

MR. HALL: To fight for his country it is not always necessary for a man to take up arms. The people, had the Premier taken them into his confidence and allowed them to select their delegates, would have been ready to listen to the dictates of reason, to have weighed the *pros* and *cons*, and to have helped those delegates to obtain better terms for this colony; but the whole question has been converted into a cry of "the rights of the people," simply because of this initial mistake. The Premier, I believe, has done his utmost to obtain the best possible terms for this colony, and I

think he is the only one of those Convention delegates who has done that. Had the Premier been more ably assisted by those who went with him to that Convention, I think the terms which a large number of people in this colony believe to be necessary would then have been obtained.

MR. LEAKE: They were never proposed.

MR. GEORGE: Some people had swelled heads: that was the trouble.

MR. HALL: The belief of the people that it was desired to keep them from having a voice in the matter of the Commonwealth Bill caused federation to be of secondary importance to the referendum. All the federal leaders have admitted that Western Australia occupies an exceptional position, and so has Mr. Chamberlain; but there are many people in Western Australia who want no terms, who forget that each of the other colonies has made terms. These people forget that the older colonies refused to come into the union until they had their "pound of flesh." Such people say, "We want no terms: we want to go into the partnership, and for what we receive may the Lord make us truly thankful." But will any man say the transcontinental railway is not a necessity for this colony? Surely none will say that. Yet in this matter we are absolutely at the mercy of South Australia. As has been pointed out, Mr. Holder has promised to bring in a Bill to do what is necessary in this respect; but of course Ministries come and go: what is the desire of Mr. Holder to-day is not certainly a direction to his successors. I say also that the sliding scale is an abortion, ill-conceived, and brought forward without proper consideration of its after effects. We have a right to fiscal freedom for a certain number of years, in order that this young country may get on its legs and march alongside the older colonies in their progress. We are frequently told it is necessary to federate on account of defence purposes; but, as the member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran) has pointed out, without a railway it is impossible to pour in troops from East to West, therefore the other colonies are absolutely no use to us for defensive purposes. They cannot send troops here by sea, because they would be too closely watched, and the old country can give us all the protection we want from the sea-

board. As to being penalised for not entering as an original State, I think the member for East Coolgardie has knocked the bottom out of that bogey when he showed that British Columbia and Prince Edward Island refused to join in the union of Canada until they got exactly what they wanted. Had we been unanimous here, there is no doubt that we should have been able to go into the union at the present day on the terms that are desired by many, the terms on which, I think, we should have entered into that partnership. Although I have held the opinion that federation at any price is detrimental to the best interests of this colony, and that we should have done what the other colonies have done, made terms to suit our requirements, I have always been in favour of sending the Bill to the people. I have heard it said repeatedly that this House refused to send the Bill to the people; but we know that is not so. Surely no one can blame this House if the Bill was thrown out in another place. I say it is a pity, but it is true, that the chance of controlling and educating public opinion on this matter was lost by the action of the Premier, no doubt well intentioned, but thoughtless, in not consulting the people in the initial stage of this great movement. I now come to the reasons, with the permission of the House and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, that have actuated me in crossing the floor of the House and taking the seat I now occupy. As this House well knows, I was elected to support the Forrest Ministry; and I claim that for the past three years I have given them loyal support, the most loyal support; and I am breaking no pledges by changing my seat, because I stated in the Town Hall to my electors that I intended giving the Forrest Ministry good general support, and being asked what I meant by that, I said I would support them so long as I considered their measures were for the good of the country, and for Perth in particular. As the Premier knows, I entered on the contest for a seat in Parliament in no spirit of self-aggrandisement or selfishness. When Mr. Randell, the then sitting member, retired from the contest on the plea of ill-health, and Mr. Parker came into the arena, I at once saw the Premier and offered to

vacate the position of candidate in favour of any gentleman whom the Forrest Government could bring forward to beat Mr. Parker. Several were tried, but none were found sufficiently "game" to attack so redoubtable an opponent; so that no one being found, I entered on the contest, and by very great energy was successful.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: Is that the same Mr. Parker who was selected as the delegate to London?

MR. HALL: I then continued in my candidature, and was successful as you know; and it has been said—I take this opportunity, but I do not know whether I am right in doing so—that the Government paid all my expenses.

MR. MONGER: The Government never said that.

MR. HALL: I defy anyone to say that the Government paid one penny of my election expenses for me.

MR. DOHERTY: You should be careful—bribery at elections!

MR. HALL: I state this at my first opportunity, because it has been freely stated that the Forrest Government paid my expenses. I say they were never asked, they never offered, and the offer would not have been accepted if it had been made. In entering on this contest I freed the Government from its bitterest and most powerful enemy; therefore to those gentlemen sitting on the Government benches who have since said to me that I owed my position to the Government, I say the favour is on my side and not on theirs. I have been most loyal for the past three years to the Forrest Government; but whilst I believe in party government and in loyalty to my party, I say that when the interests of one's constituents clash with that of loyalty to a party, then loyalty must take a back seat. We have all of us the utmost respect, I may almost say veneration, for the Premier; but no one knows better than the Premier himself and the hon. gentlemen sitting behind him that the Premier sometimes puts a very great tax on the loyalty of his supporters. Things are done which place his supporters in a "corner" with their constituents, and they are expected to come into this House and support that which they do not agree with—in fact, disapprove of.

MR. MORAN: What is all the noise about?

MR. HALL: I occupy my present position to-day as a protest against certain actions of the Government.

MR. MITCHELL: What are they?

MR. HALL: I did intend to mark my dissatisfaction by changing my seat from that at the back of the Government to the Government cross-benches; but when I came to consider and saw that the gentlemen occupying the cross-benches on the Government side of the House were stronger supporters, if anything, than those gentlemen sitting at the back of the Government—they are thick-and-thin supporters of the Government—I came to the conclusion it would be no change at all, and therefore I thought the only position for me to occupy to show my dissatisfaction was a seat on the Opposition cross-benches. I may say I determined to sit here; but I am quite ready now to give the Government support in anything which I consider in the best interests of the country and my constituents.

MR. KINGSMILL: We all do that.

MR. HALL: I have not consulted any member of the Opposition in the step which I have taken, and therefore I am not bound to them in any way; but I must congratulate them on being what they were not before, a concrete body. It has been said that without a good Opposition you cannot have good government; and I can assure the Opposition that should they find occasion to raise their voices in demanding good government, I shall be ready to assist them. I now come to one of the matters on which the Premier and I are at variance, one of what I may term the last straws. I refer to the last clothing contract for the Imperial Contingent. It must be remembered that what keeps Perth going are its industries, whether it be the tailoring trade, the saddlery trade, the cabinet-making trade, the bootmakers, the shopkeepers—

MR. GEORGE: Black Swan Foundry.

MR. HALL: Yes; and the Black Swan Foundry. If these industries are not looked after and fostered in every way, if money is allowed to be sent out of the colony that ought to be kept in the colony, then my constituents have just reason for complaint.

THE SPEAKER: I think the hon. member is going beyond the proper bounds now in making this explanation, by entering into details.

MR. HALL: I will not occupy more than a few minutes. I wish to point out that two years ago the Premier promised that in all future contracts a proviso would be made that the clothing for the public service, and in fact everything possible, should be made in the colony. What are the facts with regard to the clothing contract of which we have seen so much in the newspapers? The Defence department, of which the Premier is official head, called for tenders locally for the clothing of the Imperial Contingent, and tenders were put in by several of the local tailors, who were told at the time that it would be no good their tendering because the contract had already been let. These local tailors, however, put in their tenders, and on the 19th they were advised that the contract had been given to Messrs. Boan Brothers, at a price exceeding the local tenders by £1 8s. 6d. per suit, with no proviso for uniforms to be made in the colony. On that I, with the chairman of the Tailors' Association, saw the Premier, who said that if the contract had not actually been given to Messrs. Boan Brothers, he would see that that firm did not get it. We impressed on the Premier that there was no objection to Messrs. Boan Brothers obtaining the contract, but that what was wanted was that the goods should be made locally. The Premier then wrote me a letter, dated March 27th, as follows :—

I have received your letter, and in reply am glad to be able to say that Messrs. Boan Bros. have given an undertaking, in writing, that the clothing will be made up in the colony, and I will do my best to see that the undertaking is complied with.

On the 28th I received the following letter from Mr. North, Under-Secretary in the Premier's Department :—

I have the honour, by direction of the right honourable the Premier, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst., with reference to the manufacture of the clothing for the Imperial Bushmen's Contingent, and in reply to inform you that the Government will insist on the clothes for the contingent being made in the colony.

The Premier also told us that he had made a minute to the effect that he would

ratify the promise of the Defence Department, and let Messrs. Boan Brothers have the contract providing they made the goods in the colony, or, if that condition were not observed, forfeited 20 per cent.

THE SPEAKER: I cannot allow the hon. member to go on in this way. We are discussing the second reading of the Bill; and if the hon. member wishes to make a personal explanation as to the reasons he changed his seat, that explanation should be made in as few and as general terms as possible, and he ought not to enter into details as to a clothing contract. The hon. member must, therefore, give up making these remarks.

MR. HALL: If that is your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I will leave the subject of the clothing contract, and shall publish in the Press my whole reasons for changing my seat. But there is one other matter I would like you to allow me to refer to. This has nothing to do with the clothing contract, but it has to do with one of the reasons I had for changing my side. Briefly, the reason is this. You may remember there was a recent deputation to the Minister of Railways in connection with the question of the recognition of the Railway Employees' Association by the department. I expressed myself then to the effect that the action of the Minister of Railways, in refusing to recognise the Railways Association, would be looked on as an attempt on the part of the Government to kill trade unionism throughout the colony. I afterwards saw the Government whip, who is the "power behind the throne," and told him that was my opinion, and asked him what he thought. The reply of the Government whip was, in his usual gruff manner, "What does it matter? The Government have had a good innings: they have been there long enough." I thought that expression of opinion from the "power behind the throne" was sufficient indication to me that the Government were "riding for a fall," without consulting any of their supporters, and that they intended to bring down their supporters with themselves; and I, for one—

MR. DOHERTY: Wanted to be on the winning side.

MR. HALL: I refused to be one who would be accounted for ever in this colony as one who associated with the Government to kill trade unionism here. I

conclusion, I have to thank the Premier for his unvarying kindness and courtesy to myself, and also the Attorney General for similar consideration; and I feel sure that, although I occupy a seat on the Opposition cross-benches, I shall receive the courtesy as I have always received from them.

MR. GEORGE (Murray): At the present stage of the Federal Enabling Bill, it is not necessary for me to make many remarks. When we get into Committee there are matters on which I feel very strongly, and on which I shall endeavour to elicit the sympathy of the House. I ask hon. members to bear with me for a few moments, because this is probably the last opportunity we shall have of discussing broadly the destinies of the people of this colony. It is but right I should say a few words on the matter, which to me, at any rate, appears to be of some importance. I understand the Premier, having taken counsel with his judgment throughout the night and throughout the day, has altered his opinion with regard to the means by which the voice of the people shall be ascertained. Last evening we understood the electorate had to consist of only those voters who are at present on the roll; but the right hon. gentleman has told us now that, so far as he is concerned, the Bill shall be referred to the people; that is to say, to every man and every woman who has been twelve months in the colony, and whose vital interests are, of course, affected. That being so, I can congratulate the right hon. gentleman, and say that we shall have what we ought to have in a matter of this sort—a record of the opinions of the persons who are really affected. But no doubt the Premier, or someone on his side, will explain how the Government are going to make this proposal workable. I understand it is proposed to form a new roll. When is that likely to be done? How long will it take? The formation of a roll worth anything will take three months, though of course in this I may be wrong.

THE PREMIER: Let anyone who likes put himself on the roll.

MR. MORAN: What roll?

THE PREMIER: On the voters' roll.

MR. GEORGE: If the Premier will bear with me for a moment, I will give him an idea as to how I think this should

be done. To obtain anything like a roll on which we can place reliance will take some three months, and during that time many of the persons who have voted on the question may either be dead or, owing to circumstances, have changed their residence. I have very little faith in our Parliamentary rolls. It is not a question of having little faith in the gentleman who compiles the rolls; but recently there has been an election in the Metropolitan Province, for the Legislative Council, and while I do not say the roll is a disgrace to Mr. Daley, the means placed at his disposal to enable persons to vote who have the right are a disgrace. In the Metropolitan Province I could, from my own knowledge, indicate on the roll 400 or 500 names of people who have no right to vote, many of them being dead or having left the province altogether.

THE PREMIER: It does no harm those names being on.

MR. MORAN: The "dead" vote, sometimes.

MR. GEORGE: The Premier likes to speak a little too soon, and I believe he often regrets it; but I will now show his mistake. It is beyond doubt that in the election to which I have referred, some persons voted twice, and others three and four times.

THE PREMIER: Then they ought to be prosecuted.

MR. GEORGE: No doubt they ought to be.

THE PREMIER: And they will be if the charge can be proved.

MR. GEORGE: Those who were responsible for the *modus operandi* of conducting that election in an antiquated, years-before-Adam style, which has the effect of blocking the electors from voting, ought to be prosecuted and pensioned off out of the country as quickly as possible. Even the Premier knows he had to wait something like twenty minutes at that election before he could record his vote. Are we going to take a vote on this important question of federation with antiquated machinery that ought to be at the bottom of the sea? Is the Premier going to allow proxy-voting in connection with the Commonwealth Bill, or is it to be arranged that any person who comes in his manhood or her womanhood may record a vote?

THE PREMIER: No one can vote more than once.

MR. GEORGE: Then the Premier intends to have proxy-voting.

THE PREMIER: Yes.

MR. GEORGE: Then I disagree with the Premier.

THE PREMIER: It is absent-voting, or a vote for everyone, whether the voter be away or not.

MR. GEORGE: There is not a single person in the colony who, if this is to be a referendum to the whole people, could not vote just as well as he could send a proxy. If we are to have a vote, let the people come on their two legs, and with their own hands record their decision.

THE PREMIER: And vote often and early.

MR. GEORGE: If the Premier knows people vote often and early, and he, as the representative of authority in this colony, countenances that, I tell him to his face I would like to see him, with the antiquated system, at the bottom of the sea. Does the Premier rise to the responsibility of his position? Does he understand, as Premier, that in this matter the Government must not play like school children, and that he must deal with the matter with sufficient firmness and let the people understand what is to be done? I have no doubt the seed I have sown will bear fruit, and if I wished to take any particular credit to myself, I might think my few interjections last night had caused the Premier to alter his mind. At any rate he has altered his mind, and there is no doubt he will also alter his mind in regard to this matter of proxy-voting. Then another thing: when federation is accomplished, we are going to send representatives to the Federal Parliament, and if the federation debates that have taken place during the last few years have done one thing more than another, they have shown the people of the colony are live enough to look after their representatives, and see that the latter do not regard their journeys to the other colonies as a picnic, as they have done in the past. We have had an explanation from the late leader of the Opposition (Mr. Leake), and I have not the slightest doubt that what that hon. member has said contains a considerable amount of accuracy and a considerable amount of wit. As to the assertion that the Premier did not consult with his

fellow delegates, I wish to say that when we sent representatives to the Convention, surely we sent them not as office-boys but as strong men, and I think it was their duty to let the Premier know he was neglecting his duty and the interests of Western Australia when he did not consult those who went with him.

A MEMBER: The Premier could not find them.

MR. GEORGE: I cannot notice every interjection that comes from the hon. member, because he has no knowledge of really what took place, and he is filling in with a bit of padding, which may show his wit, but his absence of sense. Then there is another matter. I think we have learnt that no Premier of Western Australia in future will ever attempt to come to a Parliament and admit that he has, without any authority from Parliament or from the people, decided the destinies of the colony.

MR. MORAN: He will never have another chance.

MR. GEORGE: No; but matters will come up in which it might be possible, if we have a repetition of an autocratic Premier, for such Premier to sell his country, the same as I consider we have been sold in the past. I hope that is not disrespectful, but I believe it is perfectly true. I reckon that when this Bill is passed, and the preliminaries are gone through, it will be the duty of every member of the House to go to his constituency and explain the attitude he intends to take; and when federation has become an accomplished fact, we shall have to try and put our shoulders together and make it as good as we can for our country. If federation does not pass, we can "paddle our own canoe." Western Australia is good enough for me, and for any man who cares enough for it to leave the whisky alone and do a hard day's work for a hard day's pay.

MR. WOOD (West Perth): I must join in the congratulations on our having nearly reached the end of this controversial matter, which is not altogether a question of federation, but one of sending the Bill to the people. I have no explanation to make. No one will accuse me of a change of front, because at any meetings at which I have been present I have always advocated sending the Bill to the people. I said there was no other course

open, that it was the people's question, and that the people were the only tribunal that should deal with it. It must be most satisfactory to all of us to see the action which has been taken on this question by the Premier. He is a true patriot: I can call him nothing else. He is a true West Australian. He thought better terms might be made for this colony, and did his best to obtain them during many months of weary trouble and trial, but his efforts were of no avail. Then what did he do at the last moment? He saved the situation by pledging himself to send the Bill to the people, by calling Parliament together and giving us an opportunity to discuss the subject again. When I say he saved the situation, I mean the action taken enables us to come in as an original State, if the people accept the Commonwealth Bill. Had the Premier chosen, he could have blocked this matter and kept it away from the people for many months, and then we should not have had an opportunity of coming in as an original State. That, I repeat, is where the Premier saved the situation, and came to the rescue of the country. It is not my intention to discuss the Federal Bill, because I expressed my views on it shortly during the last session of Parliament; but I shall discuss the matter fully with the electors in my district during the course of the referendum, and so far as my ability will serve I shall not fail to point out the disadvantages of the Bill as far as it concerns this colony. I have a very strong opinion on the question of federation; but the subject is quite a matter for the people themselves, and if the people adopt federation and do not like it afterwards, they will have to put up with it. If a member sees there are disadvantages connected with federation, it is his duty to point them out to the electors, and let the electors be fully aware of the responsibility. It is no good blaming the Government, or anyone else. It is too late to discuss what has taken place, for that is all past and gone. We have to deal with the question now as we find it. It is quite impossible to stem the tide of public opinion, and to delay the matter any further. The whole voice of the country is that the Bill shall go to the people, and no one in his right senses

could possibly say one word against the adoption of that course. So we have met to discuss the question, and I have no doubt the Bill will go to the people in the course of a very few months. We have all to face the thing fairly and squarely, and to come into line with the other colonies. It is quite impossible for this colony to keep out of federation, seeing that Eastern Australia has accepted the Bill. If we keep out of federation, we shall, I fear, be more isolated than we are at the present time.

MR. MORAN: How is that?

MR. WOOD: I think so. I am afraid we shall have to accept federation. The people will accept it, at all events; still, if I can manage to put a spoke in the wheel, I intend to do it. With regard to a special roll, I think the idea promulgated to-night by the Premier, that twelve months' residence shall be necessary to entitle persons to vote, is a good one. In order to prevent people from voting two or three times, a certificate should be issued to each applicant, and that ticket should be presented at the polling booth and cancelled. That would save a repetition of what happened, I believe, during the last election for the Province of Perth.

MR. MORAN: That is the best way. Let there be an elector's right.

MR. WOOD: An elector's right just for this occasion, the document being, as I say, brought to the poll and cancelled by the returning officer. That would destroy any chance of a person voting more than once on this question. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill, and I trust we shall settle down to deal with the matter as quickly as possible, there being no need for delay or long speeches.

MR. SOLOMON (South Fremantle): The question before us is not that of adopting the Commonwealth Bill, but of sending the Bill to the people, and asking them "yea" or "nay" whether they will enter into a partnership with the federating colonies. I think it a pity there has been throughout a feeling almost amounting to quarrelsomeness between some of the parties who have taken one side or the other. I was sorry to hear the member for East Coolgardie (Mr. Moran) say the other day he blamed the Opposition for acting as a party on this measure. No such idea ever

entered the minds of members on this side of the House.

MR. MORAN: It may be a coincidence.

MR. SOLOMON: So far as I am concerned, and I believe it is the same with others sitting on this side, I had no idea from the first of making this a party measure. I think it was stated from the very first that it would not be considered in any way as a party question. The action taken generally in this Assembly must have satisfied any man within the Assembly, or outside, that if any party feeling existed, it was done away with when the question was settled here on a former occasion. The hon. member would make it appear that Parliament, as a whole, were responsible for the delay which has taken place. He must know that, so far as the Assembly were concerned, the motion for the Bill to go to the people was carried almost unanimously; in fact, I do not think there was a dissentient voice; so if there is any fault at all, it lies with another portion of the Parliament of this colony. I congratulate the House, and also the colony, on the stage which the question has now reached, because I feel certain that members, both here and elsewhere, will now see it is necessary and advisable for the peace and quietness of the colony, as a whole, that the Bill should be placed before the public for their decision one way or the other. I agree with the hon. member that the initial stage was an error. I think that had the delegates in the first place been appointed by the people, possibly the same gentlemen would have been appointed; but it would have been a satisfaction to them to know they had gone forward to argue and consider the most important matter of the Commonwealth Bill with the people themselves at their back, and that whatever they did they would do as the representatives of the people, and not of the Parliament. Some comparisons have been made, with regard to the Bill, between this colony and other countries; say, for instance, Newfoundland and Western Australia. Newfoundland, possibly, has three industries, whereas Western Australia has a dozen, and the comparison really does not hold good as far as Western Australia is concerned. For my own part, I do not think Western Australia at the present time should go into federa-

tion under the conditions of the Bill. But, at the same time, I think, as I am only a unit in the population, others should have a chance of expressing their opinions; and I hope the people will have this Bill placed before them in such a light that they will be able to judge one way or other in a manner they will not regret at any future time. I should like particularly to urge on the Government that, before we do enter the Commonwealth, even if the Bill be carried, they should do all they possibly can to push on the public works of this colony. It strikes me that, when we once join the Commonwealth, should we require moneys for the purpose of carrying on large public works, we shall be confronted with considerable difficulty. We must recollect that, although in the Senate our State has six members, yet in the representative Assembly, where we have five members, we shall have against us a House of 75; consequently Western Australia will be in a very small minority. So I would urge upon the Government, if there are any public works of any dimensions in contemplation, the sooner they are proceeded with the better. For instance, I would mention the graving dock. That is a work which must be carried out in this colony at as early a date as possible. In South Australia a similar work is now being constructed, and possibly when their dock is completed and we require a work of that kind here, it may be said in the Federal Parliament, "Oh, there is a good graving dock not so very far from Fremantle"; and if we should try to borrow money for such a purpose, our proposal would be vetoed. I mention this matter merely because I feel sure that in the future we shall not get all our way in this respect, as we have in the past; that we shall not be able to borrow money in the same easy manner as hitherto; and with regard to this railway to the South Australian border, that, as it is not provided for, will be another matter, I take it, for which we shall have to find the money. That also will be a work of some magnitude, and for which we may have a difficulty in raising funds. I do not think it necessary to say more at this stage, but I think these are matters which should be placed fully before the people of this colony as to what powers we shall have

in the future, and as to what this colony is giving up so as to join in the federation. I am in favour of federation, but I am sorry indeed that we did not get the amendments for which we asked. If we had, I think it would now be considerably easier to us to enter into the union. I have much pleasure in supporting the second reading of the Bill, because I feel sure its passage will do away with much ill-feeling which has been engendered in this colony, and which, in a prosperous country and one which looks to the future for its prosperity, should be done away with at the earliest possible date.

On motion by Mr. MORAN, debate adjourned till the next sitting.

PRIVILEGE—GERALDTON REPRESENTATIVE.

POINT OF PROCEDURE.

MR. MOORHEAD: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, as touching the privileges of the House, you may be inclined to waive the forms so far as to allow me to give notice of a motion which is practically a corollary of the motion I made last evening. I was unfortunately absent this afternoon when the House met.

THE SPEAKER: Although against the Standing Orders, I think it would be very advantageous that this notice of motion should be given. I have been considering what will be our position on Tuesday evening, when the member for Geraldton (Mr. Robson) has been ordered to attend in this House, and what action will then be taken, unless there be some notice given by some hon. member as to what procedure shall be adopted. I think it will be a great advantage to the House if the hon. member (Mr. Moorhead) is allowed to give this notice, although it is contrary to the Standing Orders; and I would advise the House to permit him to do so.

MR. MOORHEAD: I desire to give notice that on Tuesday next, the 29th inst., I will move:—

That the member for Geraldton be now heard in his place in explanation of such charges as were reported to have been made by him.

THE SPEAKER: I think it would be very advantageous if those charges could be placed on the Notice Paper, so that every hon. member could see them.

THE PREMIER: They are there.

THE SPEAKER: No; they are not.

MR. MOORHEAD: I have them attached to this notice of motion.

THE SPEAKER: I am anxious that they should get upon our Notice Paper. So far, hon. members have only heard them read out; and I think when we come to discuss this matter, it will be advantageous to every member to have a copy of these statements before him.

THE PREMIER: The papers are on the table.

THE SPEAKER: But every hon. member cannot come to the table to look at them.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I have no intention whatever, nor have hon. members on this (Opposition) side of the House any intention, of objecting to the notice of motion the hon. member has just given, for I think it will be to the advantage of the member for Geraldton; and the only desire of hon. members on this side, and my only desire, is to see that the hon. member (Mr. Robson) gets a fair opportunity of making any explanation he desires to make. It is in the interests of this House, and of the honour of this House, that there shall be a fair hearing, a fair opportunity for the hon. member to say everything he desires to say. For myself, I am determined, as far as I can, to see that a fair hearing shall be given him, and that this question shall be sifted to the bottom. I wish, however, to express the hope that no advantage will be taken of this little incident; I am sure the hon. member (Mr. Moorhead) does not desire to take any such advantage; and I also hope this will not be looked on as a precedent. I hope we shall never have a case of this kind again. [MR. MORAN: Hear, hear.]

THE PREMIER: If it were postponed till Wednesday, it would not matter.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I am not objecting at all to the day, or to the motion. I simply rise to express the intention of the Opposition to concur with the suggestion the hon. member has made.

MR. LEAKE: I understood the order of the House made yesterday was that the member for Geraldton should attend in his place and explain. That is the first duty.

THE SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. LEAKE: I take it that on that occasion we do not want to debate the explanation; but I think this motion will raise such a debate.

MR. MOORHEAD: No; I gave notice that I shall move that the hon. member be heard in his place in explanation of the charges; and this notice of motion is merely a corollary of the motion passed last evening.

THE SPEAKER: As far as I can see, there is no means of proceeding unless there be such a motion. If the hon. member attends in his place, what will he do unless he be called upon to explain? I may say that in communicating with the hon. member to-day, and forwarding him the resolution which ordered him to attend here, I sent him a copy of these statements he is alleged to have made, in order that he may not say he was not aware of them. If there is no objection, we may permit this notice to be given. I also do not want it to be made a precedent, because I do not like to see rules and Standing Orders of the House not carried out.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 6-26 o'clock until the next Tuesday.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 29th May, 1900.

Congratulation: Agent General's Knighthood—Papers presented—Question: Bunbury Breakwater, as to extension—Question: Population of Colony—Return: Government Servants, how related—Motion for Papers: Bunbury Land Arbitration—Business expected—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

CONGRATULATION—AGENT GENERAL'S KNIGHTHOOD.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Randell): Before we begin the business of the day, I wish to mention it has been suggested to me it would be a proper act for the honourable Council to request the President to send a telegram to Sir Edward Horne Wittenoom, congratulating him on his elevation to knighthood. I have much pleasure in falling in with that view, which, I believe, will meet with the wishes of the members of this House. Sir Edward Wittenoom was the leader of this House for some time, and I have much pleasure in moving:

That the President be requested to send a message to the Hon. Sir Edward Horne Wittenoom, congratulating him on the honour Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has been pleased to confer on him.

HON. F. M. STONE (North): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of the Colonial Secretary. We who are the older members of this House have often had the pleasure of fighting the hon. gentleman (Sir Edward Wittenoom), and we know what a true fighter he was in this House. Although we may have been bitter, perhaps, when he got outside the House he left all unpleasantness behind. In him we had one whom we not only liked to fight, but whom we looked upon as the leader of this House and a gentleman. He was always willing to assist young members of the House, and to aid even those members who were fighting him. I am sure it is a pleasure to the House to hear he has received the honour which has fallen to his hands; and, as I say, I have pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1, Rule of the Supreme Court, Order 22, Regulation 15 (paper read); 2, Regulations framed under "The Education Acts."

Ordered to lie on the table.

QUESTION—BUNBURY BREAKWATER, AS TO EXTENSION.

HON. A. P. MATHESON asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, If he proposes to lay on the table of the House the report made by the Engineer-in-Chief on the