

introduction; nor, indeed, would it have been proper for him to have done so; on the contrary it would have amounted to discourtesy on his part to have offered any opposition to the Bill being introduced. When he read the Bill, after the adjournment of the House, he was fairly astonished at some of its provisions, which he discovered were not in accordance with what he had always led his constituents to believe would be among the results of the adoption of Responsible Government. Especially was this the case with respect to the scale of retiring allowances and pensions, which he had anticipated would have been such as would be in accordance with the provisions of the "Superannuation Act" in force in the colony, and such, *mutatis mutandis*, as would be in accordance with the regulations obtaining in other colonies relating to pensions and retiring allowances. But finding how very different were the provisions of the Bill in this respect, and considering as he did, that the main principle of the Bill was the question of a nominated or an elective Upper House, he thought he had adopted a very proper course in calling a public meeting, and he was very agreeably surprised, bearing in mind the short notice given, and the inconvenient hour at which the meeting was held, to find it so well attended, for certainly nearly every respectable independent person in Perth was present. Nothing, as the hon. member for Swan had said, would be lost by the delay in forwarding the Bill Home for the assent of Her Majesty, for the Imperial Parliament would probably not be in session until February; and he thought that in the meantime its provisions might be beneficially considered by the public whom the Bill most deeply affected. There was another reason for the postponement; namely, the absence of three elected members—a considerable proportion in a small House. But, in the face of the threat—for he considered it in no other light than as a threat—made by the Colonial Secretary to the effect that unless the Bill was disposed of one way or another, the Estimates would not be brought forward and that there would consequently be a stoppage to immigration, a stoppage to harbor works, and other necessary public works, he had, after consulting with his supporters, and so that the interests of the colony should not suffer through his action in the matter, determined upon withdrawing the amendment that stood in his name for the reasons he had given and for no other reason.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) objected to the amendment being withdrawn and pressed for a division.

Amendment put, "that the consideration of the second reading of the Bill be postponed

for four months," upon which a division was called for, the result being as follows:—

Ayes ..... 5  
Noes ..... 12

Majority against ..... 7

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Birch	The Hon. G. W. Leake
Mr. Dempster	The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Padbury	Mr. Bickley
Mr. Hamersley	Mr. Glyde
Mr. Steere	Mr. Broadhurst
(Teller.)	Mr. Hart
	Sir Thomas Cockburn-
	Campbell
	Mr. Pearce
	Mr. Marmion
	Mr. Monger
	Mr. Crowther
	The Hon. F. P. Barlee
	(Teller.)

Amendment thus negatived.

The Bill was read a second time.

#### WINES, BEER, AND SPIRIT SALE ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL.

Third Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Council adjourned at 9.45 p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 6th August, 1874.

Land Registry Offices—Chairman of Committees—Estimates: in committee—Leave of Absence—Prorogation.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.  
PRAYERS.

#### LAND REGISTRY OFFICES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with leave, without notice, moved that His Excellency the Governor be authorized to expend such sums of money as may be necessary in the construction of such buildings as may be required for carrying on the business connected with the Land Transfer Act.

## CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said that as the Chairman of Committees had been unable to attend through continued illness, he would move that the Speaker be elected Chairman *pro tem*.

Question put and passed.

## ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), with leave, without notice, moved that in view of the postponement of the consideration of the Estimates in Committee:—That His Excellency the Governor be authorized to expend such a sum of money as may be necessary to carry out the resolution of the Council with regard to obtaining an immediate supply of immigrants from the Home Country, and Coolie or Chinese labor from Java or elsewhere. Also, to expend such further sums as may be necessary in the construction of the buildings required for the transaction of business connected with the Transfer of Land Act.

The resolution was affirmed.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. BIRCH, in accordance with notice, moved that leave of absence for the next session be given to the Speaker.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## PROROGATION.

His EXCELLENCY arrived at the Council Chamber and having desired the members, who had risen on his entrance, to be seated, said:—

MR. SPEAKER, and GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—

I have come down to your Honorable House to close a Session which will for ever be memorable in the history of this Colony: for in this Session you have without a division affirmed "that although the Representatives of the People have confidence in the integrity and ability of the present Government, they consider the time has arrived when a change to that form of Government known as Responsible Government might be introduced with benefit to the Country, and that this Honorable House should humbly pray that His Excellency The Governor will be pleased to introduce a Bill for that purpose, and recommend Her Majesty to approve the same."

From the moment when I recommended that Representative Government be conceded to the people of this Colony, I have ever held that the question of Responsible Government should properly rest with the colonists themselves, and consequently my Executive in this Council took no active part in supporting or opposing the resolution.

Upon that resolution being presented to me by Mr. Speaker, accompanied by the Members of your Honorable Council, I thanked "your Honorable Council for your expression of confidence in the honesty and ability of the present Government of this Colony."

I informed you that I would "not fail to point out to Her Majesty's Secretary of State that your conclusion on the very momentous and important Constitutional question before you had been arrived at with remarkable unanimity, and that the proceedings which had led to it had been characterized by a marked moderation of tone, and total absence of party feeling, which, in a matter like this, must carry much weight and redound to the credit of the Colony;" and I added that I was "not in a position to express the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the question of Responsible Government, but, in compliance with your request, I would cause a Bill to be prepared and introduced into your Council, and in the event of your passing it, I would recommend that Her Majesty's assent be given to it, and that the system of Ministerial Responsibility be with the least possible delay established in this, as in the other Australian Colonies."

Acting upon your formal request, I caused a Bill to be prepared, based upon those provisions which experience has proved to work best in other Colonies possessing Constitutional Government, and reserving to Her Majesty a Civil List, which, though more moderate than those which have in many instances elsewhere been granted to Her Majesty, I have thought might probably be accepted by the Imperial Government in exchange for the waste lands of the Crown.

The second reading of that Bill has passed Your Honorable Council by a very large majority; and it now appears to me that, in order to prevent any appearance of haste in a matter so important, and to give the country an opportunity of expressing its deliberate opinion, it behoves me to dissolve Your Honorable Council.

That course, I should have adopted when the resolution in favor of Constitutional change was first passed, had not the Council been virtually unanimous upon the main question, and had I not known that such a course at that moment would have been liable

to a misconstruction which might have been detrimental to the public interest; now, however, having brought down a Bill at your request, and carried it by a very large majority through the second reading, I think that the country has a right to have time afforded it to express its opinions, and that a new Council should be called together at a sufficiently early period to enable revised Estimates to be passed before the end of the year, and to prevent any delay in the execution of the public works which have met, or may meet, your approval.

I have already signified, by Message, that I have assented, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, to the following Bills:—

*"An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year 1873, beyond the grant for that year."*

*"An Act to amend the Ordinance 5th Victoria, No. 14, of 1841."*

*"An Act to regulate the exportation of Horses."*

*"An Act to provide for the preservation of imported Game, and (during the Breeding Season) of "Native Game."*

*"An Act to amend the Elementary Education Act, 1871."*

*"An Act to facilitate the proof of Telegraphic Messages in Courts of Justice, and for other purposes."*

*"An Act to amend the Land Transfer Duty Act."*

*"An Act to amend an Ordinance to provide for the summary trial and punishment of Aboriginal Native Offenders in certain cases."*

*"An Act to provide for the Registration of certain Persons who shall be imported into Western Australia, or employed in any manner within the Territorial Dominion thereof."*

I now further, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, assent to

*"An Act further to amend the Post Office Savings' Bank Ordinance."*

*"An Act to promote the efficiency of certain Charitable Institutions."*

*"An Act for preventing the further spread of the Spanish Radish and Scotch Thistle."*

*"An Act to simplify the Title to and the dealing with Estates in Land."*

*"An Act to extend the powers of the Perth City Council."*

*"An Act to amend the 'Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872.'"*

Many of the enactments of the Session will, I trust, be found of considerable practical utility; and I trust that the Land Transfer Act may in this Colony be as successful as Acts similar in principle have proved in others.

I have seen with pleasure that in the Charitable Institutions' Act you have placed most deserving institutions upon an improved footing, and have extended your care to orphans and destitute children of both races of Her Majesty's subjects in this Colony.

The importance to the future of the Colony of your vote for the construction of an overland telegraph line along the shores of the Great Bight to South Australia cannot be over estimated; and I am now further able to congratulate you upon the proposition you have entertained from Messrs. Siemens, Bros., to lay down an ocean cable to connect your Western shores with the Asiatic telegraphic system.

I shall willingly carry out your wishes in regard to Immigration; and will immediately communicate with the Victorian Government in accordance with the recommendation of Your Honorable Council regarding Harbor Works.

During the progress of this Session the report of the Royal Mint at Sydney upon a rich specimen of auriferous quartz from a reef in the Wellington District has confirmed the anticipation I ventured to express in my opening address.

MR. SPEAKER and GENTLEMEN,—

I very earnestly thank this Honorable Council for the steady support it has given to me. The wise and beneficial measures it has passed during its four Sessions, the prosperity to which it has seen the Colony attain, and its last step in the direction of self-government and free institutions so far as possible on an English model, will leave a deep impress upon the future of this Colony, and I hope, with the blessing of Providence, conduce to its permanent welfare and political and material advancement.

I now dissolve this Council.

Which being concluded a copy of the Speech was handed to Mr. Speaker.

His Excellency the Governor left the Council Chamber, and the session closed.