

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—Session of 1885.

Opened on Wednesday, 22nd July, 1885.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 22nd July, 1885.

Meeting of Council—Swearing in of Members—Election of Speaker—The Governor's Speech—Dog Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Reply of Lady Barlee to Address of Condolence—The Address in Reply—Adjournment.

[THE previous Council was prorogued on September 13th, 1884, to the 15th October, 1884, but by a Proclamation issued in the *Government Gazette* of the 15th September, 1884, the Council was dissolved from and after that date.]

THE Council met, for its first session, at two o'clock, p.m., when the Clerk read the Proclamation requiring members to give their attendance.

#### SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE (Alexander Campbell Onslow, Esq.) announced that, in virtue of the Commission issued to him under the hand of His Excellency the Governor, he would be prepared to swear in hon. members. Thereupon all the members present took and subscribed the usual oath of allegiance.

#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) proposed that Sir Luke Leake be elected Speaker, and, in doing so, eulogised the past career of the hon. gentleman. Sir Luke, he said, had worthily filled the same honorable position

ever since the present constitution was established, and he hoped that Providence would spare him to fill it to the end.

MR. CROWTHER said it afforded him much pleasure to second the nomination. If they could be guided by the light of past experience, there was no man in the House who would discharge the duties of the office more efficiently, more honestly, more temperately, and more advisedly than the hon. member who had just been proposed. This being the first act of the new Council, he was glad to think that on this occasion at any rate the House had displayed a large amount of wisdom, in making the selection which it had.

No other nomination being made,

SIR LUKE LEAKE rose in his place and acknowledged the compliment, formally submitting himself to the pleasure of the House.

The Speaker-Elect was then escorted to the chair by his proposer and seconder, and in suitable terms returned his thanks to the House for the high honor which it had conferred upon him. The position which his fellow-members had again placed him in, he said, was probably unique in the history of parliamentary institutions, he having now occupied the same chair during a period of fifteen years, and this was the fifth occasion he had been called upon to preside over the Legislative Council of the colony. He heartily appreciated the high compliment paid to him; and, although he hoped to be spared to preside over their deliberations during the existence of the present

Council, in all probability this would be the last time a similar honor would be conferred upon him, for he was now getting old in years. He hoped that during his tenure of office he would continue to merit the confidence reposed in him by the House.

Hon. members then proceeded in a body to Government House to submit the newly elected Speaker for the approval of His Excellency the Governor. Upon their returning to the Council Chamber,

MR. SPEAKER announced that His Excellency had been pleased to ratify the choice of the House, and to grant them the usual privileges of speech.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at three o'clock, and, shortly afterwards,

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Chamber, and, having taken the chair, delivered the following speech :

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"The pleasure with which I meet you at the beginning of another Session is increased by the fact that I am able to congratulate you on the satisfactory position of the Colony.

"2. The important questions of all kinds now demanding my attention, lead me to desire the assistance of the two unofficial members of the Executive Council contemplated by the fourth clause of the Royal Instructions under which I administer this Government.

"3. It not only appears that these two additional members of the Executive may, here as elsewhere, most usefully be selected from Your Honourable Council, but that one principal object in view, namely, an increase of the influence and participation of the people of the Colony in its government under the present Constitution, will be best served by the appointment of two gentlemen recommended to me by yourselves. I shall accordingly ask you at an early date to favour me, should you approve of the proposal, with the names of the two members of Your House whom you would prefer to see added to the present Executive Council. In communicating with you on the subject, I shall further explain what is intended.

"4. The arrangements relative to the Pacific Islands and to the constitution of a Federal Council for this part of the Empire, which claimed your attention last Session, are still in process of settlement. The action taken on behalf of this Colony has been governed by the views you have expressed, and by a desire to coöperate at all times with the sister colonies for the general good, so far as may be compatible with our means, and with the nature of this Constitution.

"5. In response to my representations to Her Majesty's Government respecting the defenceless state of Albany and Fremantle, I have received despatches offering liberal assistance towards the fortification and protection of these important points. The papers will be laid before you, and, should you concur in the proposed arrangements, immediate action will be taken.

"6. In connection with this subject, I must refer to the thoroughly sympathetic feeling with which this Colony witnessed the despatch of the New South Wales Military Contingent for service with the Imperial troops in the Soudan. I have also been rejoiced to notice the spirit with which our small community has been preparing to take its share of the common danger, in the event of a war involving risk to this part of Her Majesty's dominions. In connection with these preparations some expenditure has been incurred, which I trust you may approve.

"7. The financial position of the Government is highly satisfactory. The funds in the chest on the 30th June last had risen to £123,950, and though I shall be obliged to lay before you considerable Supplementary Estimates—due chiefly to increased expenditure consequent upon the progress and development of the Colony—the balance in hand at the close of the year will probably not be less than forty thousand pounds.

"8. The Estimates of ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for 1886 are being prepared with care and economy, and will be laid before you in due course, as also the Estimates of Loan Expenditure.

"9. The whole of the Public Works Loan of £525,000 sanctioned by you

"last Session has been successfully floated.  
"Some portion of the Loan is now being  
"expended in the extension of the Eastern Railway to Beverley, a project  
"already approved, and which did not  
"admit of delay. I shall ask your advice and sanction respecting the priority of the works in the schedule to the Loan Act, and respecting the extent to which these works may be undertaken during this and next year.

"10. It was with great satisfaction  
"that I assisted at the opening of the Eastern Railway to York, on the 29th of last month.

"11. The Contractor for the Beverley-Albany Land Grant Railway has informed me that he is successfully completing his arrangements, and that the works will be begun and continued, as provided in the Contract.

"12. The Contract relative to the scheme to connect the Eastern Railway with Geraldton by a line on the Land Grant system had not been signed in London by the last advices, but I am assured by the promoter that no impediment is expected.

"13. The Northern Telegraph Line will very shortly be completed to Roebourne. I trust it may be found possible to carry it on to Derby without delay.

"14. The approaching expiry of many of the Central District Pastoral Leases, and representations deserving of attention which I have received from various quarters, and which will be laid before you, appear to render it expedient that the Land Regulations of the Colony should now be examined, in order that it may be settled on what terms the existing leases shall be renewed, and in order also that it may be considered whether any amendment be advisable in the present method of alienating the Crown Lands under special occupation licenses or otherwise. I shall address you separately on this very important matter, in the arrangement of which you will no doubt desire that vested interests should be accorded the weight that is proper, and that is compatible with the welfare and progress of the whole community.

"15. In October last I visited, with much pleasure, the Northern portion of the Colony, including Roebourne and

"Derby. These valuable districts are rising into great importance, and deserve to be treated with generous consideration in our financial arrangements. I have no doubt, also, that the Champion Bay District, where there has been some dissatisfaction, will find the Legislature of the Colony fully alive to its just requirements.

"16. You will read with interest a valuable report, by the officer in charge of the Admiralty Survey of the Colony, on Cambridge Gulf. Colonisation is approaching this furthest Northern limit of our territory, which will probably before long require a magistrate and police establishment.

"17. On my return from my Northern tour, I proceeded on leave of absence to England, and I am happy to think that my presence in London has been of use to the Colony in various ways. The attention and coöperation which I received from the late Secretary of State for the Colonies and other members of Her Majesty's Government, from the Royal Colonial Institute, and also from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and many distinguished and influential persons, during my stay in England, enabled me to make the circumstances and wants of our Colony known, at a time when it has every claim to public notice as a valuable and only very partially occupied field for capital and labour.

"18. I am glad to be able to state that the population of Western Australia is now being substantially recruited from external sources. The increase by immigration (which had been only 94 souls in 1882 and 436 souls in 1883) rose last year to 871 souls, and we may expect a still larger increase during the present year.

"19. The Board of Immigration desires to extend its operations, and important proposals with that object will be laid before you. Three hundred and fifty-one souls were last year introduced into the Colony under the auspices of the Board.

"20. During my stay in England, I discussed with Her Majesty's Government the whole question of the Imperial Convict Establishment in this Colony. The result has been that definite proposals are now made for the transfer of

"the Establishment to this Government. The terms offered include the repayment of the arrears connected with the cost of the Water Police, and I recommend them for your approval. I have in the first instance referred the communications received from Her Majesty's Government to the Commission appointed by me last year to consider this subject, and their report will be laid to you.

"21. The report of the Commission which I appointed to inquire into the sanitary condition of Perth and Fremantle will be presented to you, and I shall consult you upon it.

"22. The report of the Commission which has considered certain matters relative to the Aboriginal Natives of the Colony will also demand your further attention. The recommendations made for the better management of Rottnest Prison have already been acted upon; but there are some other important points which cannot be decided independently of the Legislature.

"23. The Governments of New South Wales and Victoria having intimated their willingness to share in the cost of erecting a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, I am taking steps, subject to your approval, to place a light of the first order on that important promontory. Your sanction of the expenditure required from this Colony will of course be asked before in the usual way.

"24. The Commission appointed for the purpose of securing the proper representation of Western Australia at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, to be held in London next year, is pursuing its labours, and I have every hope that our Colony will make an advantageous and creditable display on this very important and interesting occasion. I have appointed the Colonial Secretary, who is about to visit England on leave of absence, to be the Executive Commissioner for Western Australia at the Exhibition.

"25. In conformity with the wish you expressed last Session, I have arranged for a personal inspection of the site of the proposed harbour works at Fremantle by Sir John Coode. That eminent engineer has arrived in the Colony, and he will shortly be in a position to make the final and conclusive report

"required before entering upon an undertaking of such a nature and magnitude as the creation of a harbour in an open roadstead.

"26. The Public Works and Railways Departments have been reorganised in the manner approved by Your Honourable Council during last Session, and these important branches of the administration are now conducted by a staff of officers fully equal to the efficient discharge of the duties devolving upon them.

"27. I have reason to believe that a proposal may shortly be made by the Orient Company, with a view to the steamers of this line calling at Fremantle. I trust the terms offered may be such as can be accepted.

"28. The whole of the Acts passed by you last year have received the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, and are in force. I do not propose to bring before you during the present Session any very considerable body of legislation, as your time will be fully occupied by important matters, without adding to the Statute Book laws which are not of pressing necessity. Nevertheless, I trust you may be able to revise and consolidate the Acts relating to Roads; and you will be also asked to legislate upon questions connected with Cattle Diseases, Bush Fires, the Passenger Acts, Dogs, the safe custody of Explosives, the amendment of the law respecting Municipalities, and upon some other subjects.

"29. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen, I express my firm belief that the day is at hand when Western Australia will be remarkable, not only for the magnitude of her territory, but for her real value and importance as a dependency of the Empire, and as a member of England's Australian family of States. I pray that your labours to that end may be blessed by Providence."

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, withdrew from the Council Chamber.

#### DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) introduced and moved the

first reading of a Bill to amend "The Dog Act, 1883."

Motion agreed to, and bill read a first time.

#### REPLY OF LADY BARLEE TO ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE.

MR. SPEAKER informed the House that, during the recess, he had received a letter from Lady Barlee in reply to the message of condolence agreed to by the House last session, on the occasion of the death of her husband, the late Sir Frederick Palgrave Barlee, K.C.M.G.

The reply was ordered to be recorded upon the minutes of the Council.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY TO GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. WITTENOOM rose to move that a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the speech with which he had just opened the session. The hon. member said it afforded him much gratification to move the address, and, in doing so, he would take the opportunity of making a few remarks on the comprehensive programme which His Excellency had laid before them. It was the usual custom on these occasions to refer at some length to all the subjects and measures dealt with in the Governor's speech; but the speech which they had just heard embodied so many topics that he would only refer to those which might be considered to be of most interest and importance, without attempting to touch upon them all. Before referring to the speech itself, he might observe that the Council met under exceptionally favorable circumstances—more so probably than it had ever met before—and when the future prospects of the colony were most hopeful and encouraging. Owing to the efforts and exertions of His Excellency while in England, the colony had been made known to the world in a manner which no one dreamt of at the close of last session; and he thought that the reception which had been accorded to the Governor on his return had shown to him how thoroughly his services had been appreciated by the colonists. He wished to take this opportunity of expressing, on behalf of his own constituents, their regret that, owing to their geographical position, they had been unable

to be amongst the first to welcome His Excellency on his return, and to thank him for his efforts on behalf of the colony. He thought he might say without flattery that it had rarely fallen to the lot of any colony to have a Governor who was so thoroughly wrapped up in its welfare, and who had so energetically availed himself of opportunities to advance its interests. Not only had Governor Broome availed himself of the favorable opportunities which had been afforded to him,—he had made opportunities. But, comprehensive though His Excellency's speech was, some members would probably think it did not go far enough in one or two directions. He thought himself there were some subjects that he should have been glad to see touched upon. One was the appointment of an Agent-General in England—which many considered a most desirable appointment. But probably His Excellency thought that as the colony would shortly be represented by the Colonial Secretary, who was going home as Commissioner in connection with the Colonial Exhibition—that gentleman would be able to discharge the duties of Agent-General for the time being. The other subject he referred to was the appointment of a Government Geologist, which he thought was a subject deserving very careful consideration, and he hoped it would not be lost sight of during the session. The full development of the colony depended upon our finding minerals, and it was only by careful and systematic search, scientifically pursued, that we were likely to discover the mineral wealth of the country. Coming to the speech itself, the first subject touched upon by His Excellency was the appointment of two unofficial members of the Executive Council. There appeared some divergence of opinion upon this subject, and he must confess that he had himself at first entertained some little doubt as to the utility of the proposed appointment. He felt sure, however, that His Excellency was doing it in the best interests of the colony, in order to have at his disposal the services of men well acquainted with the requirements of the colony to assist him in the government of the country. He had heard that during the short time Mr. Steere had a seat in the Executive Council the arrangement worked well, and that many sub-

jects came before the Executive upon which the unofficial member was able to give that body much valuable information and advice. [The SURVEYOR GENERAL: Hear, hear.] Considering some of the late acts of the Executive Council, he thought it could hardly be said that the appointment of two unofficial members would not prove of exceedingly great service to that body. The financial position of the Government seemed to be very satisfactory, with a balance in hand of £40,000, notwithstanding a considerable expenditure in Supplementary Estimates. He thought all this was very creditable, and showed the carefulness with which the Government had carried out the various measures approved by the House. No doubt the Supplementary Estimates might appear large, but if the expenditure was necessary, and incurred with the advice of the Finance Committee, he thought credit was due to His Excellency for not waiting until the House met—if the expenditure was of pressing necessity. He was sure that the land revenue had contributed much to the satisfactory state of our finances, and, as a large proportion of that revenue came from the North, he hoped hon. members would bear that in mind when they came to consider the Estimates of expenditure. He was glad to hear that the Imperial Government proposed to give us some little assistance towards the fortification of Albany, which at comparatively small expense might be made impregnable. He was glad to hear of the successful floating of the loan; and the extension of the railway from York to Beverley, already commenced, would be another link in the chain which he hoped would before long connect us with Albany; and, when we also got that other important link connecting this part of the colony with Geraldton, he thought the colony would have every reason to congratulate itself upon its railway resources. The question of the renewal of Crown leases was one that would no doubt receive due attention. It was a matter of very great importance, and his idea on the subject was that the matter should be so arranged that, whilst fostering agriculture, it should give increased security of tenure to pastoralists. He hoped greater inducements would be given to people to purchase land, by altering

the nature of the improvements required. Wool was our chief export at the present day: all our other exports were at a very low price and almost unpayable, and undoubtedly wool was the staple product of the colony. Therefore its producers, and the land regulations as affecting them, should receive every consideration. He was exceedingly glad that His Excellency in his speech had touched upon the feeling of dissatisfaction which had existed at Champion Bay, because it would give him an opportunity of stating exactly how that feeling of dissatisfaction had been produced. It had been said by some people that it was brought about by the action and through the influence of the local press. But he would take this opportunity of disabusing the minds of those who were under that impression. Ten or twelve years ago, a large and influential meeting was called for the purpose of dealing with this question of Separation; and what means were adopted at that time to allay that agitation he was not prepared to say. But between that time and this, frequent causes of irritation had been given, which culminated the other day in that unhappy reply sent by the Government to some of the reasonable requests of the people of the district. The chief cause of the feeling of dissatisfaction was the small amount of money voted for the North, and the infrequency of those votes, and the careless and bungling way in which the money when voted was expended. He could mention several illustrations of this, commencing with the railway, the local hospital, the Murchison surveys, and other matters, all of which had been carried out in a manner that was simply absurd, and which had done much to cause that feeling of dissatisfaction referred to. No doubt the judicious tactics adopted by the Governor on his return to the colony, and his conciliatory attitude, would remove to a considerable extent this feeling of irritation, and it rested with that House to disarm the Northern people, by showing, in His Excellency's own words, that it was alive to their just requirements. When the cause for dissatisfaction was taken away, dissatisfaction could not remain; and he sincerely trusted that, in their future treatment of the North, the Government and the Legislature would endeavor to remove the present cause of complaint

and dissatisfaction. He felt confident that his constituents at the present moment would be the last to wish him to hamper the projects of the House or of the Government; and, so long as they met with fair treatment, it would not be done. But this agitation for separation, although no doubt it might be allayed, could not be removed. The time must come when, owing to geographical and other causes, this question of separation would be followed up by the Northern people, and no doubt be carried out. He felt very pleased to see that His Excellency intended to submit fresh proposals on the subject of immigration. The present system was not working satisfactorily, and did not answer as it was expected it would have answered. He thought a great error was made in not appointing an Immigration Agent in England to select immigrants. The want of suitable labor was never more felt than at the present moment. With all the public works now going on, it was very difficult indeed for the settlers to get men, and, in view of the additional works which were about to be undertaken out of the new loan, he felt sure the want of labor would be felt still more, and that there would be a block in the market. It was with pleasure that he noted that His Excellency had managed to make satisfactory arrangements for the transfer of the Convict Establishment. He was also glad to hear that the question of sanitation and water supply had occupied the attention of the Government. There were few things more needed in Perth than some new departure in that direction. It was very gratifying to find that strong efforts were being made to have the colony properly represented at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, and he congratulated the country upon the fact that His Excellency had secured for us the services of the Colonial Secretary as Executive Commissioner,—a gentleman who had had considerable experience in that capacity, and in whose hands they might rest assured the interests of the colony would be well looked after. It was also a source of satisfaction that Sir John Coode was about to make a personal inspection of Fremantle harbor, and he thought it was very fortunate that his visit had been so timed that his inspection would

take place while the Legislature was in session, so that they might be placed in possession of the details of his scheme before hon. members dispersed. There was a strong desire on the part of the Geraldton people that Sir John Coode should also visit and examine their harbor, and he hoped no opposition would be offered by hon. members to Sir John Coode extending his visit to the North. It would only entail the additional expenditure of a few hundred pounds, and it would be a great pity if the present opportunity should be lost. There was no knowing what might turn up at any moment in an important mineral district like the North, and a good harbor was absolutely necessary, and he thought any little expenditure that might have to be incurred now in getting Sir John Coode to visit the harbor would be money very well spent. He noticed with pleasure the announcement that the Public Works and Railways Department had been reorganised, and that these departments, in the Governor's words, were "now conducted by a staff of officers fully equal to the efficient discharge of the duties devolving upon them." He thought this was a matter upon which the colony was to be sincerely congratulated. There was no doubt that hitherto—he was not now speaking of the last two years, for he had been absent from the colony—but, up to that time, the administration of our public works was simply a disgrace. Everything undertaken was made a muddle of, and ended in disgrace, the money being simply thrown away, instead of being spent to advantage and utility. In conclusion, he could only say again that the speech with which the Governor had opened the session was a most satisfactory speech. No Governor had ever endeavored to please the people more than our present Governor had. He had made the Government of the people as free as possible and done all he could to give them as much liberty in public affairs as he could under our present constitution,—so much so that he had heard people who were opposed to the present constitution say that it would be impossible to have the constitution worked in a better manner. He hoped that this satisfactory state of affairs would continue. He now begged to move that an

humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the speech he had been pleased to deliver to the Council, as follows:—

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

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—  
"We, the members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session.

"We are gratified to learn that you consider the position of the Colony is satisfactory, and beg to assure you that our assistance in every measure submitted to us, which may lead to the further prosperity of the Colony, will be cordially rendered.

"2. We fully recognise your disinterested action in desiring to give the public a greater voice through their representatives in the Executive Council of the Colony, and doubtlessly the proposal will receive earnest consideration at the hands of this Council.

"3. It is with satisfaction we learn that arrangements relative to the Pacific Islands and to the constitution of a Federal Council for this part of the Empire are still in process of settlement, and trust they will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion in accordance with the views which this Council during last Session has expressed.

"4. We shall gladly receive and give our best attention to papers which may be laid before us regarding the defences of Albany and Fremantle, and are much pleased to learn that liberal assistance towards the fortification and protection of these important points has been offered.

"5. We much appreciate the action of New South Wales in sending a contingent to the Soudan, and we feel sure that the expenditure which has necessarily been incurred in preparing for a defence of this Colony, in the event of a war, will meet with the approval of this Council.

"6. The satisfactory condition of our finances is a matter for congratulation,

"and we are pleased to hear that there will be a substantial balance remaining at the close of the year, a fact which evidences careful management.

"7. We congratulate Your Excellency on the successful floating of the loan of £525,000, and will be prepared to consider and advise on the order in which the various works shall be undertaken, when asked to do so.

"8. The opening of the railway to York was a work of great importance to all, and we trust may be regarded as another step towards an extensive railway system.

"9. We note with pleasure that the promoter of the scheme to connect the Eastern Districts with Geraldton by a Railway on the Land Grant system has assured Your Excellency that no impediment is expected in carrying it eventually to a successful issue.

"10. The amendments which may be desirable in the present Land Regulations will no doubt receive, when Your Excellency addresses us on the subject, that attention which the importance of the question merits.

"11. We concur with Your Excellency that the valuable Northern Districts should receive generous consideration in our financial arrangements, and we trust by adopting such means all causes of dissatisfaction will be removed.

"12. With all other colonists we highly appreciate the valuable services rendered by Your Excellency, during your visit to England, by making known the circumstances and wants of our Colony.

"13. We learn with satisfaction that our population during the past year has been to some extent recruited from external sources, but regret that the Nominated System of Immigration has not met with the success anticipated, and are glad to hear that fresh proposals for a change in this system will be laid before us.

"14. The report of the Commission on the transfer of the Imperial Convict Establishment, with the definite proposals made by Her Majesty's Government, will receive our most careful consideration.

"15. We are much gratified at being informed that there is a good prospect of this Colony being properly repre-

"sented at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London next year; and it is a matter for congratulation that the services of the Colonial Secretary are available to represent us as Executive Commissioner.

"16. We look forward with much interest to the results of Sir John Coode's investigations in connection with Harbor Works.

"17. Any reasonable arrangement made with the Orient Company for their steamers to call at Fremantle will be hailed with satisfaction. This Council will be prepared to give every consideration to the terms offered.

"18. The various Bills to be presented to us will of course meet with our careful attention.

"19. Again thanking Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session, we pray with you that our deliberations may be, by the help of Providence, fruitful of good to the Colony."

MR. LAYMAN, in seconding the motion, said he generally agreed with what His Excellency had told them in his speech, but there was one exception. He alluded to the proposal to appoint two members of that House to seats in the Executive. He did not see his way clear to fall in with that proposition; but, as they would have a further opportunity of discussing the question, he would not at present say any more about it.

MR. BROWN moved the adjournment of the debate until the next sitting of the House, which was agreed to.

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

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Friday, 24th July, 1885.*

Brands Act, 1881, Amendment Bill: first reading—Bush Fires Bill: first reading—Excess Bill, 1884: first reading—Dog Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

### FIRST READINGS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of the following bills: A Bill to amend the Law relating to the Branding of Live Stock; a Bill to diminish the Dangers resulting from Bush Fires; and the Excess Bill, 1884.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a first time.

### DOG ACT, 1883, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was not necessary to say much, the measure itself being a very short one. It was what he might term a relieving bill, its intention being to relieve those who offended against the provisions of the Act, in ignorance of those provisions, or inadvertently, and who could show good cause why they should not be subjected to the full penalty. The object of the bill was to extend the time within which dogs must be registered from fifteen days to thirty days, and also to give magistrates discretionary power, in the event of non-compliance with this provision, to inflict a fine not exceeding 40s. At present the bench was bound to inflict the full penalty of 40s., no matter how trivial or unintentional the offence, and this was found to be a hardship in some cases. Speaking generally with regard to the Act now in operation he might say that it had worked well; many of its provisions were found to be most useful. It was true that it had proved rather an expensive Act to carry out its provisions, as regards the destruction of wild dogs, but he believed it had been found very beneficial in its operation, and he thought, if the present amendments were agreed