

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

### THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT.

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

*The Second Session of the First Parliament was prorogued by His Excellency the Administrator on the 18th March, 1892, to the 22nd June; thence to the 10th August; thence to the 14th September; and thence to the 3rd November for the despatch of business; and the Third Session commenced on that day.*

*Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.*

#### Legislative Council,

Thursday, 3rd November, 1892.

Opening of Council—Appointment of President—  
Governor's Speech—New Member—Companies Bill:  
first reading—Address-in-Reply—Adjournment.

#### OPENING OF COUNCIL.

The Council met at three o'clock, pursuant to a Proclamation, which was read by the Clerk of Parliaments.

#### APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT.

The Clerk of Parliaments read a Commission under the hand of the Governor, and dated the 11th day of October, 1892, appointing, in accordance with the power vested in him by the 9th section of "The Constitution Act, 1889," the Hon. George Shenton as President of the Legislative Council.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) then took the chair.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR shortly afterwards entered the Chamber, and took the chair.

#### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The members of the Legislative Assembly, in obedience to His Excellency's command, attended the Chamber, where-

upon His Excellency delivered the following speech:—

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

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

"I have pleasure in meeting you again for the consideration of the public business of the colony.

"It is with much regret that I have to mention the great loss the colony has sustained by the lamented death of Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, the President of the Legislative Council, who for a lengthened period was identified with the public life of this colony.

"2. The financial condition of the colony is in every way satisfactory and prosperous. The Revenue of the year will be equal to the anticipations of the Government, while the Expenditure has been kept within reasonable limits.

"3. Of the Loan of £1,336,000, authorised to be raised for Public Works, only £500,000 has yet been floated. Owing to the continued progress of the Colony and its sound financial condition, the Government have every hope that the remainder of the Loan will be procured on fairly satisfactory terms. To meet the contingency of an unfavorable Loan market,

"the Government propose to obtain power  
"to raise money temporarily by means of  
"Treasury Bills, should it be found  
"necessary to do so.

"4. During the recess the various  
"public works authorised by 'The Loan  
"Act, 1891,' have been pushed forward  
"as quickly as possible. During next  
"year the whole of the works will be in  
"full progress, and it is confidently  
"believed will prove of great assistance  
"in the development of the resources of  
"the Colony.

"5. The discoveries of rich deposits of  
"gold on the Murchison and to the East-  
"ward of Yilgarn are a source of great  
"satisfaction, and give promise of this  
"Colony being a large gold-producing  
"country. During the first nine months  
"of this year there were 43,774 ounces  
"of gold entered for Export through the  
"Customs; and it is believed that, in  
"addition to this, a large quantity was  
"taken out of the Colony without being  
"so entered.

"6. The amendment of the Constitu-  
"tion Act has received the careful con-  
"sideration of my Ministers, and a Bill  
"will be submitted to you providing for  
"the abolition of the property qualifica-  
"tion of Members, the extension of the  
"franchise, and the addition of two  
"Members to the Legislative Council  
"and three Members to the Legislative  
"Assembly. This contemplated addition  
"to the Legislative Assembly will give  
"special representation to the Gold Min-  
"ing Districts.

"7. A Bill will be presented to you  
"providing for free grants of land to  
"persons occupying it for agricultural  
"purposes, on certain conditions, includ-  
"ing residence and cultivation, and  
"authorising the Government to make  
"advances on loan to such occupiers, for  
"the purpose of assisting cultivation and  
"improvement.

"8. Owing to the disastrous drought,  
"in the Northern Divisions of the Col-  
"ony, which has resulted in great loss of  
"stock, and consequently has materially  
"injured the position of the pastoral ten-  
"ants of the Crown, it is considered de-  
"sirable that the rents now paid shall  
"not be increased during the unexpired  
"period of the pastoral leases. A Bill  
"to amend the Land Regulations in this  
"respect will be presented to you, and

"my Ministers hope that its provisions  
"will meet with your approval.

"9. You will also be asked to consider  
"Bills on the following subjects, viz., the  
"Consolidation and Amendment of the  
"Law relating to the Transfer of Land,  
"Reformatory and Industrial Schools,  
"Consolidation of the Law relating to  
"Joint Stock and Mining Companies,  
"Amendment of the Electoral Act, and  
"several other measures of importance.

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

"10. As it is intended to change the  
"financial year, so that it shall end on  
"the 30th June, instead of, as at present,  
"on the 31st December, it is proposed to  
"ask you for supplies only for the first  
"six months of the year 1893; and, as a  
"result of this change, Parliament will  
"in future meet about the middle of the  
"year. The Estimates of Expenditure  
"for the first half of the coming year will  
"be presented to you as soon as possible,  
"and will be prepared with due regard to  
"economy; but, owing to the rapid ad-  
"vancement of the Colony, they will be  
"framed on a scale consistent with our  
"altered circumstances.

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE GEN-  
"TLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
"COUNCIL,—

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

"11. I regret to inform you that the  
"continuation of the construction of the  
"Midland Railway has not been pro-  
"ceeded with during the recess, nor has  
"the offer of a guarantee on certain con-  
"ditions by the Government, made with  
"your approval, been accepted. The  
"Company is working 154 miles of the  
"Railway, which has been certified to be  
"sufficiently completed to be safely used  
"for traffic, and the Railway is proving  
"of great advantage to the district  
"through which the line passes. It is  
"to be hoped that it may be found pos-  
"sible to complete this important work  
"at an early date.

"12. The policy inaugurated by my  
"Ministers has thus far been successful,  
"and has resulted in much progress  
"throughout the Colony, and there are  
"ample evidences to show that this pro-  
"gress is of a healthy and permanent  
"character.

"13. I now leave you to the important work of the session, with a full confidence that, under Divine guidance, your labors will result in measures tending to the permanent advancement and welfare of the Colony."

His Excellency the Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President (Hon. G. Shenton) resumed the chair.

#### NEW MEMBER.

The Hon. Stephen Henry Parker, having been introduced, took and subscribed the oath required by the 22nd section of the Constitution Act of 1889.

#### COMPANIES BILL, 1892.

This Bill was introduced and read a first time.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

The HON. J. W. HACKETT: Mr. President,—the members of this House meet at this moment under a certain sense of sadness and bereavement. It would be unbecoming, I think, for this House to commence its ordinary business without a reference to the loss which it has sustained since last session came to a close. It is a lesson to us of the way in which change rules all things on earth and of the vanity of all arrangements that but few short weeks ago we were anticipating the satisfaction of once more greeting the presence of our former President, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, in the chair which you, sir, now fill, and at that time he was busying himself in making arrangements for the conduct of the business of this session. An opportunity will be given us later on of speaking to the terms of the motion which my hon. friend the Colonial Secretary has given notice of this afternoon in regard to the death of our late President; but still, perhaps, I may be allowed to say now that this colony is under a deep debt to the late Sir Thomas Campbell. I will not review his life or the incidents of that life, which was mainly spent in working for the interests of Western Australia, but I will say that I do not believe I ever met a politician of greater single-mindedness of heart—a man who never entertained a base object in all his

purposes, and one who never allowed himself to be swayed by unworthy personal interests. He has been taken away from us, sir, to our deep regret, in his prime—the flower of his life has been snatched from him, and he himself forbidden to take part again in the performance of those duties and offices which, from a very long acquaintance with him, I know he loved so well. It was one of the strongest features of our late President that he upheld with a warmth and earnestness, which I know were thoroughly sincere, the honor and privileges of this House; and I believe in the change which has been made, by which you, sir, have taken the seat lately occupied by him, we shall experience no distinction or difference in that respect. Perhaps, sir, you will allow me to tender you my heartiest congratulations. It is a compliment of no ordinary character that when the late vacancy occurred you should have been designated by so many as the most fitting person to take the place of our late President; and of this I am convinced, that if a year or so had elapsed, and the nominated Council had become changed to an elected one, and the members of it had remained the same, there would be no difference whatever in their views in according to you the Presidentship of the Legislative Council. It has been your life-long work, or, at least, since you entered into politics, to work for your country, and I am sure that anyone who has witnessed your proceedings in this House during the two sessions you had the honor of representing the Government will feel that your main idea was to earn the respect of the House, and, in that regard, I beg to assure you that you entirely succeeded. There is one more word of congratulation I have to offer, and that is to my hon. friend opposite, the hon. the Colonial Secretary. It is, I think, if he will allow me to say so, an unexpected pleasure to see him here amongst us to-day. He has given up what, in this colony, a man thinks it a life's work to look forward to—the chance of being the first Minister of the next Government. It was his duty to lead what, for want of a better word, in another place is called the Opposition; and I believe, sir, if that Opposition has not attained greater dimensions than it appears to have done in the past couple of

years, it is due in a large degree to the moderation and candour of my hon. friend's action, which forbade him condemning where he really approved, or expressing his disapprobation where he believed it was not deserved. He has come down from that position to be merely one of the Legislative Council, and I can give him the assurance that he will meet, in the position he occupies, certainly no obstruction, nor any opposition in the recognised sense of the word. Every member of this House, I am sure, will heartily co-operate to do his best for the welfare of the country and the honor of the Council. Now, sir, the task has been placed in my hands of moving an Address-in-Reply to the Speech which His Excellency has been good enough to deliver to us a few moments ago. It is the usual course, I believe, on such an occasion as this to comment on the Speech, and run through it paragraph by paragraph. I hope, however, that I may be allowed to make an exception to the general rule. The remarks I shall make will be very few, although, I trust, to the purpose. I may congratulate the Government, in the first instance, on the satisfactory financial condition of the colony, and its wonderful prosperity. I do not wish to run over the two years which have elapsed since Responsible Government was granted to us, for, perhaps, it might be a little invidious in the presence of a Minister who was in opposition during that period; but I would just point out that during the last dozen years the population has more than doubled, the revenue has more than doubled, we have added innumerable more industries, and the export of gold, which will be the backbone of this great colony—although in all but one respect its greatness is rather in prospect than in existence at the present amount—which, half a dozen years ago was unknown, has already for the first nine months of this year reached 43,744 ounces, and if anything like the same average is retained the total value of the export for the year will be something like £200,000 sterling, and I believe that this is only the beginning of very much greater things in the very early future. With most of the Speech the majority of members of this House will be in accord. A large number of matters in it will come before us for

future debate, but some will not be referred to again here, as they will be cordially accepted both by the House and the country. There are, however, one or two matters on which I may make a few remarks. In the first place, in running my eye over the various clauses of the Speech, I come to an expression of hope in regard to the Midland Railway. I shall not dwell on this matter. I believe it is the most debateable matter in the whole Speech, and no doubt hon. members will have the fullest opportunity of giving their views upon it at a later period; but I may be permitted to express the hope that by the moderation and discretion of all parties some way out of the difficulties will be found, and that, before we meet again the Government will be able to assure us that not only have the works been resumed, but are in such a condition as to enable the Government to hold out the positive promise of effectual completion at a very early date. Another matter upon which I will not trouble the House now is the contemplated Land Settlement Bill, which, it is promised, will be introduced by the Government. In regard to one part of the Bill—the grant of land—I believe there will be no difficulty, either in the country or in Parliament; but with regard to the other part—the lending of money—there are many arguments for and many against. These have already been put before the country in a very able way, and no doubt we shall probably, at the proper time, have a very effectual answer given by the Government to the objections which have been raised. What I consider as the main dish of this session is the question of the Amendment of the Constitution Bill. The qualification of members I believe, with the hearty sanction of both Houses, will go by the board; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the question of reducing the franchise is likely to arouse more feeling and more excited debate, and although I trust that the dispute will be ended in the way the Government desire, yet we cannot blind our eyes to the consideration that in a matter like this it requires that we should move with the utmost caution, and with the fullest regard to the consequences of our act. For my part I shall yield a hearty support to the Government in their endeavor to reduce

the franchise, and I will just indicate one or two views which occur to me to strongly emphasise the necessity for this alteration being effected. In the first place it seems to me that the Government itself under which we now rejoice to live is inadequate and incomplete without a reduction of the franchise being added to complete the boon; that is to say the grant of self-government was given to the people of this colony, and is it not something approaching a mockery to talk of its being a grant to the people when a very important section is left outside the franchise altogether? I trust I use language with proper discrimination of the words I employ, and when I say that the gift was to the people I beg it to be understood that I do not for a moment qualify the expression by limiting it to one class, or to a certain number of classes. Of course if the reduction of the franchise should have the effect of allowing a dangerous power to fall into the hands of one, two, or three classes, we should pause; but it is not so. At present all that is asked is not that those who are outside should be given a dominant position, but that those who come here prepared to remain here and to make this colony their home, should not be deprived of the power they possessed whence they came of recording their opinions at the ballot-box as to the men who rule them. As long as that section is excluded it may be claimed that Responsible Government is to a great extent ineffectual. We cannot forget that those we invite to come to us, both from the other Australian colonies and from England, are in possession of this very power which is denied them here; neither can we forget that one of the attractions we hold out to them to come here is that they shall enter upon and possess the same rights of citizenship as they possess elsewhere, and we must not overlook the fact that if we bring these men here and confer upon them a lower political status than they enjoyed elsewhere, we shall give rise to a needless and bitter agitation and prevent them, in common with the members of Parliament, applying their talents and ability, above all other things, to the development of the material resources of the colony. In other words, in place of embarking on a career in which every

man should do his best for the colony in which he lives, we shall be drifting on year after year in a perpetually recurring cycle of barren political strife. I hope this House will listen to the remarks which will no doubt be addressed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and others on his side of the House in urging that the prospect of such a dreadful state of things shall be closed decisively, and that, having given effect to them, we shall then be at liberty to employ our energies and the abilities we possess wholly to the raising of Western Australia from the languishing and torpid state she has been in for considerably over half a century. There is another point. Those outside the franchise have the right to claim that it was intended they should have it by the Constitution, but that by miraculous blunders in drafting, which I need not further dwell upon, they were deprived of it. It is there enacted that a lodger who only pays 4s. a week shall be entitled to it, and I believe that when the Bill which will shortly be laid before the House is examined it will be found that all it does is to give that provision in the Constitution Act effectual force. In fact, sir, there is one thing I am confident of, and that is, whether we reduce the franchise or not, we must take up the Electoral Bill and simplify its provisions. The lodger clause as it stands is a disgrace to the drafting capabilities of the politicians of Western Australia. I believe it will be found, in endeavoring to simplify this clause, that there is only one way to meet the case, and that is by allowing every man to have a voice in the representations of the country. There will be no alternative found between the admission of manhood citizenship and keeping up the present miserable state of things which are a reproach to the colony and to the Parliament. I do not wish to detain the House any longer, and all I can now do, on sitting down, is to assure my hon. friend opposite, the Colonial Secretary, that he need fear no action on the part of the Oppositor of this Council, which can be classed, as I have said, with the purely obstructive modes of action. A Legislative Council, whether of the nominated or elected state, has but one object—to work certainly for its own honor and the maintenance of its own

privileges, and I trust that no member of this House will ever be found to interfere with these, but apart from this, to endeavor to assist the Government of the day. It is not in any sense intended that the Upper House should oppose, but should rather assist, the Government in bringing forward measures which are based on right and justice, and which conduce to the welfare of the colony. It should give it the benefit of its advice, but none of the evils of its opposition. Sir, I beg to move the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech :—

*"To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver  
"Francis Robinson, Knight Grand  
"Cross of the Most Distinguished  
"Order of St. Michael and St. George,  
"Governor and Commander-in-Chief in  
"and over the Colony of Western Aus-  
"tralia, and its Dependencies, &c., &c.,  
"&c."*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection to our most Gracious Sovereign.

"We thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been good enough to deliver to us.

"The various subjects to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other subjects that may be brought before us, shall receive our most careful consideration and attention, and it shall be our earnest endeavor to so deal with them that our labors may tend to the advancement and welfare of the Colony."

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON :—I rise, sir, with very much pleasure to second the adoption of the Address, which is to be presented to His Excellency, in reply to the Speech which he was pleased to give us this afternoon. In doing so I would like to acknowledge the great honor which has been done me in selecting me to second the motion of the Hon. Mr. Hackett, for I feel that there are so many hon. gentlemen in this Council who have more time and more ability than I possess, and who are therefore more capable of criticising His Excellency's official utterances. It is with feelings of

sorrow and heartfelt regret that I refer to the death of our late President, Sir T. C. Campbell. In losing him, I am sure we shall feel that we have lost a sincere friend and the Council a capable adviser, and the colony one of its best colonists. Referring to the Speech, it is satisfactory to read in the second paragraph that the finances are so sound and that the revenue will be equal to the anticipations of the Government. I must say, however, that to my mind the revenue derived through the Customs has been very much inflated through overtrading, which has been carried on in anticipation of a large expenditure of public money, but which has not been expended as early as it was thought would have been the case. Of the authorised loan of £1,336,000 only £500,000 has yet been raised, and it is a question whether this is a matter for congratulation or not. Whether we shall be able to float the balance on the same terms that we raised the £500,000 I do not know, and I am therefore pleased to see that the Government propose to take the precaution of obtaining the authority of Parliament to raise money by means of Treasury bills. I think this is a very wise precaution indeed. With regard to our public works, there has been a feeling, at any rate among the trading community of Perth and Fremantle, that they have not been pushed forward as quickly as they ought to have been; but still I must do the Government the justice to say that they have urged them on as fast as they could. No doubt next year when we meet we shall find there is still greater prosperity than even there is now, and we shall see that the gold discoveries have done more than is anticipated. Up to the present they have done great things for us, and they will in the near future do still more. They have attracted population, and this of itself means a further development of the resources of the colony. We are told that a Bill to amend the Constitution will be laid before us, but as the Hon. Mr. Hackett has referred to this subject rather fully, I will only say that I hope this House will agree not only to the doing away of the qualification of members but will also fall in with the extension of the franchise, for I cannot conceive for one moment that the law, as it now stands, is in any way a fair one.

As to the Bill which is said will give a stimulus to the settlement of the land, it is a measure we shall have to carefully consider when it comes before us. It is impossible to form an opinion at the present moment as to whether its provisions will be beneficial or otherwise. I must say, however, that so far as I have been able to gather from the speeches which have been made on the subject, it has my full sympathy. We have been told that the expenditure on immigration has in the past been unsatisfactory, and that being so, I am glad to see that the Government has cut out a way for itself with a view to an alteration. The eighth paragraph of the Speech, which refers to the recent drought in the North, has my entire support, and I am sure that there is no one who will not regret the great loss which has occurred among the pastoralists and through no fault of their own. As to the other Bills which are promised, the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to the transfer of land, reformatory and industrial schools, consolidation of the law relating to joint stock and mining companies, amendment of the Electoral Act, and several other measures of importance, all hon. members, I am sure, will give them their serious consideration. I now beg to second the motion of the Hon. Mr. Hackett.

The HON. J. A. WRIGHT moved the adjournment of the debate until Tuesday, 8th November.

Question—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council at 4.5 p.m. adjourned until Tuesday, 8th November, at three o'clock, p.m.

## Legislative Assembly, Thursday, 3rd November, 1892.

Meeting of the Legislative Assembly—Message from His Excellency the Governor—New Members—Auditor General's Annual Report—Safety of Defences Bill: first reading—Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech—Adjournment.

#### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 o'clock, p.m., pursuant to Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, bearing date the 6th day of September, 1892, which Proclamation was read by the Clerk.

#### MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

A Message was delivered at the Bar by the Usher of the Black Rod, requesting the immediate attendance of the Legislative Assembly in the Chamber of the Legislative Council.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker, with Members of the House, went to attend His Excellency, who then delivered the Opening Speech.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

Upon the House re-assembling, MR. SPEAKER announced that he had, since the prorogation, issued Writs for the election of members to serve for the electoral districts of Moore, South Fremantle, and York, in the place of Mr. Randell, Mr. Symon, and Mr. Parker, respectively, resigned; and that by the Returns thereto it appeared that Mr. Henry Bruce Lefroy, for the district of Moore; Mr. Elias Solomon, for the district of South Fremantle; and Mr. Frederick Charles Monger, for the district of York, had been duly elected in pursuance of the said Writs.

Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Solomon, and Mr. Monger were then introduced, and took and subscribed the oath required by law, and signed the Members' Roll.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER announced that he had received, in accordance with the provisions of the Audit Act, the first annual report of the Auditor General, relating