

the land was no good, and the Government were no good, and the colony was no good—a most unpatriotic speech, coming from a man who aspires to take a patriotic part in the affairs of the country. I entirely deny that the Government are afraid to place a loan on the market. We will place it on the market when we require money, and when we are advised by our financial advisers that it is an opportune time, and we will not do it till then. The hon. member complained that we are spending some few pounds on the surveys of the colony. Hon. members will all know that a sum of £20,000 was placed in the loan schedule for the surveys of the colony; and I believe that these surveys will do a great deal of good. I thoroughly believe that a great deal of the country that is being surveyed will be occupied; and the best way of advertising our lands is to have them surveyed and the plans made available for those persons who wish to take up land, so that for a small sum they may obtain maps of the country, and be able to go on the land and inspect it. I only rose because I felt that the remarks of the hon. member were most unfair, and unjust to the people of the colony; and I felt that I could not allow the remarks he had made, which I was most surprised and disgusted to hear, to pass in silence, when they so libelled the good name of the colony, and the good position it is in at the present time.

Question—That the Address-in-Reply be agreed to—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 8th November, 1892.

Death of Sir T. C. Campbell—Days of Sitting—Leave of absence to Members—Printing Committee: appointment of—Library Committee: appointment of—Standing Orders Committee: appointment of—House Committee: appointment of—Chairman of Committees: appointment of—Companies Bill, 1892: second reading; postponement of—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### DEATH OF SIR T. C. CAMPBELL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the Legislative Council profoundly regrets the death of its late highly esteemed and respected President, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell. This House also desires to record its sense of the great loss the colony has sustained, and to express its deep sympathy with Lady Campbell and her family in their sorrow and bereavement. He said: I think, Mr. President, I may truly say that when the death of the late Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell became known throughout this colony there was universal regret expressed. It is now some twenty-two years since I first became acquainted with Sir Thomas Campbell, and I have known him during all this time, I may say, intimately. I was associated with him in the old Legislative Council for many years, and I knew him there as an earnest politician and as one who was ever desirous to promote the best interests of Western Australia. I knew him also in connection with the Press of this colony as a writer of authority and repute, and he was one whose chief endeavor, whether engaged in politics or literature, was to promote the welfare of the colony of his adoption. In the old Legislative Council Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell was promoted to the position of Chairman of Committees, an office he long and ably filled, and his fair and impartial treatment of everyone, his genial manner, and his desire to aid those anxious for his assistance, and especially the young members of the House, endeared him to all. And not only did that feeling prevail among those with whom he was in close contact, but

all colonists who knew our late President respected him. I was also associated with Sir Thomas Campbell in the delegation which was sent by the old Legislative Council to the Mother country to advance the settlement of the Constitution Bill, and while there I can truly say that he showed himself an Australian of the Australians—one who desired to impress upon those with whom he came in contact that this colony had the same right, as part of the great Anglo-Saxon race, to govern itself as the mother country had, and he undoubtedly did his best to bring Western Australia and Australia generally into such notice as Australians would desire. We feel, sir, that the colony, as well as Lady Campbell and the family of the late Sir Thomas Campbell, have sustained a great loss, and we feel, too, that this colony has been deprived of an able and an experienced President. The position he occupied was one to which he was called by the unanimous voice of the country, and I trust that the relatives of one and all of us at our demise may experience what those near and dear to our late President must have done, namely, that when the news went abroad a colony mourned.

**THE HON. J. W. HACKETT:** Mr. President: I rise with melancholy pleasure to second the few remarks that have been made by my hon. friend the Colonial Secretary with regard to the death of our late President, and the forwarding of a message to Lady Campbell and his family. I feel, sir, that this is not the time for a long drawn encomium, or for many words. The general feeling of regret which prevails everywhere throughout this colony is of itself the highest and most perfect tribute which can be paid to the late Sir Thomas Campbell. The fact that in the universal utterances of regret—for I believe they were universal—not one discordant note, or one jarring chord was struck, is the most eloquent memorial that can be raised to Sir Thomas Campbell's name. I will not follow the graceful remarks of my hon. friend opposite, but perhaps he will allow me to add that I firmly believe that if we have been distinguished by an absence of that violence and heat which has been displayed in so many instances in other colonies, by public men, in

public deeds and public words, it has been due in a large measure to the Press, to which my hon. friend has made allusion, and if its creditable moderation of tone and remarkable common sense has kept the people in the straight paths of what is reasonable and just it has been in a large degree attributable to the influence, the example, and the work of Sir Thomas Campbell. I have, sir, great pleasure in seconding this motion.

**THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton):** Before I put this motion I should like to add a few words to the memory of the late Sir Thomas Campbell, and I may at once say that I most heartily endorse the remarks which have been so ably made by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and the Hon. Mr. Hackett, the seconder of this resolution. It will be acknowledged by all that there was no man in this colony who took a deeper interest in politics and in the proper working of the Constitution than Sir Thomas Campbell; and I am sure that the good example which he gave to all young members when joining the House, in pressing upon them the necessity of keeping up the dignity of Parliamentary institutions, has had a good effect upon our legislation in the past. Two days before his death I had an interview with him in this building, and he was then full of the work of the coming session, and he did not, at that time, I am sure, think that his end was so close, because he dwelt at some length on the important measures that would come before the Council, and he expressed the hope that the members of this Chamber would meet them in a generous spirit, especially the principal among them—that relating to a change in the Constitution. His death has, of course, prevented his taking any further part in the proceedings of this Council, but I am sure I am correct in stating that it will be many years before his well-known figure will be forgotten, not only amongst those who were intimately connected with him here in his political capacity, but also throughout the colony; for one and all must feel that we have, in him, lost one who had the best interests and the welfare of Western Australia at heart.

Question—put and passed,

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker):** I now move, sir, that a

copy of this address be forwarded to Lady Campbell.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I second that.

Question—put and passed.

#### DAYS OF SITTING.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That, unless otherwise ordered, the Council do meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Fridays, at 3 o'clock p.m. He said: These are the days and times the Council has been in the habit of meeting since its institution, and the object of meeting then is so that we may be sitting while the Legislative Assembly is in session, and thus facilitate the transmission of messages which must pass between the two Houses. I understand that some hon. members desire that we should meet on Thursdays instead of Fridays, and I have no doubt but that this would be a convenience to those who reside in the country; but at the same time it seems to me that it will not facilitate the transaction of business. The Legislative Assembly meets on Friday afternoon, and if we meet on Thursday it would be very inconvenient, inasmuch as we should then only have Tuesdays on which to exchange Messages, and on Thursdays we should find ourselves with very little to do. I think on the whole, therefore, that I must ask those hon. members who would be inconvenienced by the change to sacrifice their personal convenience to the good of the country.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: I second the motion, because the passing of it will not prevent our sitting on any other day if required.

THE PRESIDENT: It says "Unless otherwise ordered."

THE HON. T. BURGESS: Under these circumstances I quite go with the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, although I am aware that some hon. members would prefer to have an afternoon sitting on Thursday instead of Friday. If we were to accede to them we should be out of touch with the Legislative Assembly except on Tuesdays, and this would not, I feel sure, be conducive to the benefit of the country.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I have been asked by my hon. friend, Mr. Wright, to

move an amendment in order to substitute Thursday as the sitting day instead of Friday. The object of so doing is to give a reasonable opportunity to those gentlemen who live at Albany or on the road thereto, to return to their places of residence. As it is now if they remain on Friday they must stay altogether, because there is no train until the following Monday morning. I think that the convenience of this House might be studied a little more by the Lower House, which might change its days of sitting to suit country members. It does not matter one iota to me, because I live in Perth, but I should be glad to see the convenience of the hon. Mr. Wright in this House, and Mr. Piesse in the Lower House, for instance, studied somewhat.

THE PRESIDENT: I would point out that the alteration should be made to Thursday evening and not the afternoon, because it is necessary that both Houses should sit at the same time to exchange Messages.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: I move then as an amendment, That all the words after "Tuesdays" be struck out, and that the words "at 3 o'clock, p.m., and on Thursdays at 8 o'clock, p.m.," be inserted in lieu thereof.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I will second the amendment, although I do not know whether I am justified in doing it, because I do not know whether it is a matter of vital importance that we should sit on Friday. It would, however, suit me better to come here on Thursday evening, although I am willing to suit myself to whatever day is most conducive to the despatch of business.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Might I suggest that this amendment be not moved at present, but that it stand over until the Hon. Mr. Wright is in his place. It seems to me that there is a large amount of reason in what has been put forward by the Hon. Mr. Leake, but we are in a little difficulty over it. In the old Legislative Council, and I believe at first in the Lower House under the new Constitution, there were three night sittings and two day sittings. The three night sittings were on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the two day sittings on Tuesday and Thursday. In the second session there was a change, under which Thursday was made a night sitting

and Friday a day sitting, and no doubt this alteration was made to suit the majority of members of that Chamber. It is clear, from what the Hon. the Colonial Secretary has pointed out, that considerable inconvenience would arise if this House were to sit at a different time to the Assembly; and when the Hon. Mr. Wright put forward this suggestion, I am sure he thought that arrangements could be made with another place by which the alteration could be made. It would, therefore, I think, be as well to postpone the consideration of this question until that hon. gentleman is in his place.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Then why not move the adjournment of the debate?

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. G. Shenton): We must have days of sitting. We got into a state of confusion last session through postponing a similar motion. Hon. members will see that unless we have a sitting on Friday the work of the Council will be retarded, because we shall not be able to receive Messages from one Tuesday to another. I think, therefore, it would be better to pass this motion, for the House can always be ordered to sit on any other day that may be required.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Or we can raise the question at another time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Under these circumstances I withdraw the amendment.

Amendment withdrawn, and original question—put and passed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That leave of absence for one month, on account of urgent private business, be granted to the Honorables J. G. H. Amherst and R. E. Bush.

Question—put and passed.

#### PRINTING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the Printing Committee for the present session consist

of the following members, viz.:—The President, the Honorable G. W. Leake, and the mover.

Question—put and passed.

#### LIBRARY COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the Library Committee of the Council for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—The President, the Honorables J. G. H. Amherst and G. W. Leake; with leave to sit during any adjournment and during the recess, and authority to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: When a similar resolution to this was moved last session I drew attention to the fact that in the regulations for the Library this Council had been altogether ignored, and that the Library was only to be opened during the time the House of Assembly was open. I know that this is unintentional, but, to put it in the mildest way, the regulation does not sound well. The regulation says that the Library shall be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., . . . or so long as the Legislative Assembly is sitting. Now, this Library belongs to both Houses, and the words "Legislative Assembly" should, therefore, have been prefaced by the words "Legislative Council or"

THE PRESIDENT: Attention having been called to the matter the Library Committee will probably look into the matter.

Question—put and passed.

#### STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the Standing Orders Committee for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—The President, the Honorables G. W. Leake and J. W. Hackett; with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority to confer on matters of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Assembly.

Question—put and passed.

HOUSE COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT  
OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the House Committee for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—The President, the Honorable J. G. H. Amherst, and the mover; with power to act during the recess, and to confer with any similar Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

Question—put and passed.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES—  
APPOINTMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That during the present session of the Council the duties of Chairman of Committees be performed by the President, the Honorable George Shenton. He said: I believe that during the past two sessions the duties of Chairman of Committees was performed by our late President, and I understand your Honor is also perfectly willing to undertake them. I have, therefore, great pleasure in moving this resolution.

THE PRESIDENT: I shall be most happy to carry out the duties as my predecessor did.

Question—put and passed.

## COMPANIES BILL, 1892.

## SECOND READING—POSTPONEMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker) moved, That the second reading of this Bill be postponed for a week.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I presume we shall have an early opportunity of seeing this Bill.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Hon. members may rest assured that they will have every opportunity of considering the Bill before it is proceeded with.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Does it propose to consolidate all the Joint Stock Company laws and the mining laws?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Yes.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Would it not be as well to get rid of the old Limited Companies Act of the Imperial Parliament, and of all the other Imperial Companies Acts which are in force here, while we are about it?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): This Bill is a consolidation of all the law, English and other, right up to date.

Question—put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—ADJOURNED  
DEBATE.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: In following the mover and seconder of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, I have no desire to traverse either the Speech or the remarks of other speakers; but I think it is right for hon. members on this occasion to express their views on some of the subjects which are contained in it. It is unnecessary for me to go over the ground of other speakers in reference to the death of our late President, because I think we are all in accord as to the loss this House and the country has sustained, and I now merely wish to record my sympathy with the utterances of both the mover and seconder of the Address, and also with the expressions of condolence with Lady Campbell that have been passed to-day. I must also take this opportunity of congratulating you, sir, on your having been selected to take the place of our late President, for I feel sure you will preside over us with that moderation and ability you displayed while holding the position of Colonial Secretary. Then, as to your successor, I am sure his presence here will be of great value to the House and the country. His experience in legislative matters and his legal knowledge should be of special value, and I feel certain that he will conduct everything that is placed in his hands with that good judgment and good taste the representative of the Government in this House should do. In clause 6 of the Speech we are informed that some amendments are to be made in the Constitution Act. I am fully aware that several amendments are necessary. I think, for instance, that the qualification of members should be swept away and that other matters can be altered with advantage; but I question very much whether it is wise to adopt a Constitution based upon universal suffrage. A Bill introducing universal suffrage is a very dangerous one, and the principle involved in it is very difficult to

carry out. I admit that the present Constitution is not as complete as it might be; but it is capable of being improved to a sufficient extent so as to give every man who is worth it, and who has an interest in the country, a vote, and I hope that when this Bill comes before us we shall find that it is framed in such a manner as this House may be able to approve of. If, however, it is framed on lines of universal suffrage, I doubt very much indeed whether it will meet with general support. I do not object to give a vote to every man who comes here with a desire to make this country his home, and become a permanent resident, but to give a vote to those who merely come to earn what they can, and make a living for a short time, and induce borrowed capital to be expended, and when they have gained all that is possible, then go away, leaving those who have a stake in the country to bear the burden of the day and pay the taxes to meet the interest on the borrowed money—I say, sir, is not such that I can support. In altering the Act we should be careful not to forget that it is not the men who come here for 6 or 12 months, and put in their pockets all they can get out of borrowed capital, who are responsible for the interest on the money; but it is rather those who make this country their home who have to bear the burden. I think, therefore, that in framing the amending Bill these matters should not be entirely overlooked. In another paragraph of the Speech we are told that it is intended to bring in a Bill to provide free grants of land being given to immigrants and others. I have long had an idea that it would be a very desirable thing to give some assistance to people in order to encourage them to settle on the land; but in my experience, which is not inconsiderable, I have had something to do with settling people on small blocks of land, and I must say that it is very difficult to deal with them. They are very willing, in many cases, to take advantage of the opportunity offered them; but when once placed on the land the trouble begins. I understand that it is proposed by this Bill to give land to persons who feel disposed to settle on it, and that after a time the Government will give them a loan to assist them to

cultivate their farms. This may be a good idea; but I will reserve what I may have to say until we get the details of the measure before us, although I may as well say now that placing persons on the land and giving them public money is embarking, in my opinion, on a very dangerous scheme, for we do not know where it will end. We shall, if this Bill be adopted, have to appoint a Minister of Agriculture, for to attach such work as this scheme will involve to the Lands Department, will be unfair. That department has quite enough to do already, without the large amount of trouble and supervision this Bill will involve. Those who have to work the Bill will constantly have to see what improvements are being made on the holdings in order to decide what money the Government should advance, and this will entail almost endless work. Besides this, my experience tells me that when we have advanced a certain amount we shall have to advance more in order to enable the holders to carry on. I hope this Bill will be surrounded with sufficient protection and safeguards to ensure that the State does not lose the money it is proposed to lend. It was stated by the Premier that something like 160 acres of land would be given free. If a man has four or five sons, and they all settle together, they will of course get a considerable holding; but my experience is that 160 acres are not sufficient for one family. It should be at least 500 acres. Taking the land which is now available, it would be very difficult indeed for anyone to make an existence, let alone a comfortable living, on less than 500 acres, and I think, therefore, that this Bill should contain a provision by which any person entering upon the land under this scheme should be able to increase his holding to 500 acres. We shall, however, shortly have the Bill before us, and we shall then be able to speak more definitely upon it. It is also proposed to bring in a Bill to amend the Land Regulations, in consequence of the severe drought which has overtaken the settlers in the Northern districts, and I think that the measure, from what I have been able to gather of it, is a very liberal one indeed, and one which will have the effect of inducing a large number of those settlers who have suffered through the

drought to endeavor to continue their operations, and to thus advance the interests of the colony. The Bill proposes to reduce the land rents as previously arranged down to the present rent for the remainder of the term. In the end I think that will amount to a greater concession than was suggested last session, namely, to entirely forego the land rents for this year. The Government have very liberally extended the time for payment of the rents for this year, and with that and the proposal which is now made I think the settlers have every reason to be thankful. I also notice in the 9th paragraph of the Speech that a Bill is to be introduced to establish Industrial Schools. I do not know how far it is intended to extend this principle, but I should like to see industrial schools established all over the colony, and if possible we should, in some way, alter the constitution of all Government schools existing in the colony, and consolidate them in such a way that they would all become industrial schools, for I think the time has arrived when we should teach our young people something more than the three R's. We teach them reading, writing, and arithmetic, but nothing to bring about bone and sinew. To my mind we should do something to educate our young people in a somewhat different way to that which has been pursued in the past. We have up to the present educated a number of young people, but what has been done with them I do not know. From my experience, after children of the present day have completed their education, they appear to have tastes different and above those of their forefathers. If in our schools we could teach the boys something which would be of use to them in the future, such for instance as would make carpenters or agriculturists of them, it would be all the better both for them and the colony, and similar remarks would apply to the female portion of the population. I would point to the system in force in Germany, where every child is taught some useful trade. I never came across a German who could not turn his hand to something more than reading and writing, and now that we are about to turn our attention to industrial schools, we should do something in the direction I have indicated if possible. I now

come to the much vexed question of the Midland Railway. There has been a very great deal said upon this subject, and we were in hopes after what took place last session that all the difficulties would be swept away, and that the Company by this time would be in a position to carry out their contract. To-day, however, we find them as far off, if not farther, than they were eight months ago. At the beginning of this year a certain proposal was brought before us to assist the Midland Railway Company by guaranteeing the interest on £500,000, but that guarantee has failed to bring forth the money that was required, or the continuance of the work. I have no doubt, however, that something will be again brought forward which will have the effect we desire, but I do hope that, whatever the position may be, the Government will not allow the concession which has been granted to the Company to go on for a day longer than is possible. I know that the Company has an agreement which it is difficult to get out of, and under which the Company has the Government fixed for a considerable time. The concession has now been existing for something like six or seven years, and during the whole of that time the whole of the country from the Upper Swan to the Upper Irwin and nearly to Dongara has been locked up. This area contains some of our best land, and it has been locked up against the public, and thus those who have come to settle among us have been debarred from obtaining lands in the locality they required it. On the Upper Irwin particularly there is a large extent of first-class land, and on the Victoria Plains there is also excellent country, from which the people who come here are excluded. My desire is that the Government will do all they can to open up the land in the concession of the Midland Railway Company as soon as possible, because the fact of it being locked is retarding our progress, and keeping back settlement. The effect of this is that we are unable to produce the necessities of life, which are being imported every day from the other colonies, and which we ourselves are able to produce if we can only get persons interested in particular lines to occupy and cultivate the land. If, therefore, the Government can possibly

see any way of bringing this matter to a settlement—not so much with the idea of completing the railway as for the purpose of opening up the land—they will be acting in the best interests of the country. The railway can be completed at any time, but it is the locking up of the land which is proving such a drawback to the country, and I hope that the Government will not lose the least opportunity to bring about a settlement of the matter as speedily as possible.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: There are but few topics, Mr. President, that cannot as well be discussed when the Bills alluded to in the Speech are brought before us, as now. I really think there is hardly one topic mentioned in the Speech which we can at the present moment beneficially allude to, save that of the Midland Railway, and that is not a subject for legislation. I have heard it said outside by many in authority, or those next door to it, that the people of Western Australia are in the hands of the Midland Railway, or the Midland Railway people. This I most emphatically deny, and I think that the Midland Railway Company can be soon brought to book, and that by a very simple method. They evidently think that distance lends enchantment to their views. We are told that the management is in the hands of persons of unimpeachable character. I have heard some of the names mentioned, and one of them is that of an intimate friend of my own. No doubt some of the directors are men well known for their honesty and integrity; but they have allowed a set of sharpers—a gang of thieves—I believe it is called a syndicate—to help themselves with a double hand to the gold of the debenture holders. I think the proper way to deal with such men is to reduce the company to a compulsory winding up, and then we shall see whether the directors have not stood by and watched the door, while the burglars and housebreakers have been ransacking the treasury. If this course be taken the directors will then see how grievously they have neglected their trust in allowing a person named Mendel to take bushels of sovereigns, and a gentleman named Bond to take thousands of acres of land, and for what purpose?—certainly not one connected with the welfare of the railway.

It would surely be a very admirable thing for the Government and the people of Western Australia to know that the Midland Railway was in full work, but it never will be until steps are taken by those who have the whip in their hands to whip on those who should be considered as slaves, and made to carry out their contract. The history of the scheme is well known. It has been detailed in printed Parliamentary papers, and in other ways, but the end of it all is that out of the money subscribed by debenture holders a great deal of it has been abstracted by knaves. Who they are I cannot for the moment conjecture. However, it is useless going on in the way we are doing, and if the Company were forced into a compulsory winding up, then the directors might be convinced that they have been wilfully blind in having allowed the funds of a corporation, which were raised for a specific purpose, and which they solemnly bound themselves to carry out, to be abstracted. It is absurd to say that because it is a limited Company (and which has had abundant means) it should be allowed to go scot free, or that men who, with double hands, have pumped and sucked up so many thousands of pounds, and the title deeds of so many hundreds—nay, thousands—of acres of land, should be allowed to go off with their plunder unscathed. I say it is an absurdity. As soon as the directors, who are wealthy men, and who can raise money, find that they are to be brought to book, they will think twice before they resist, and perhaps they may be able to get back some of the money and land of which they have been plundered, and complete the line themselves. It must not be supposed for a moment that a director discharges his duty to his constituents—for he is a trustee—if he allows his trust to be violated. If he does he cannot expect to get off unscathed. Nothing can be worse for the colony than to allow this precious syndicate to go on damaging us from day to day; and, therefore, I think it would be advisable for the Government to instruct their agents in London to take steps to compulsorily wind it up, and thus get rid of it. It is quite useless to wait until those who have not a single penny to bless themselves with choose to proceed. I have little more to say. The



other topics mentioned in the Governor's Speech we shall have an opportunity of discussing when they are brought forward; but this question of the Midland Railway I have felt it my duty, as a private member of the House, to refer to. I have made these suggestions, and I now throw them broadly in the face of the Government of the day, and ask them whether they will do their duty.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: It is not my intention to say much in connection with His Excellency's Speech, because it is one which I, with the colony at large, can find no fault with. There are many things contained in it which are essentially of local import, but there are others which the outside world are interested in. Those matters which essentially concern the colony we shall have opportunity of discussing later on, but those which are of a more general character will not, perhaps, come before us again. Of these latter it is well known both here and abroad that the financial condition of the colony is satisfactory, and, for the population, it is surprising. No doubt there is a difficulty with regard to the floating of the balance of the loan (although I am inclined to think that the Ministry are making too much of the difficulty), but it will soon be got over, and a re-action will set in. I look upon the state of the money market simply as a business dodge on the part of the money lenders. What real cause is there for the objections which are raised to Australian stocks? Has any colony repudiated, or not paid its interest? At the present time the British capitalist seems more inclined to invest his money where he is promised an enormous interest and no principal back rather than with Australian colonies, which, like honest business men, who intend to keep their engagements, try to drive the hardest bargain possible. The idea of the Government to take power to issue Treasury Bills I quite approve of, for it is only following in the wake of the Governments of the other colonies, who, when they found the money market playing fast and loose with them, showed, by means of these bills, that there were others outside the gilded mob of money lenders who had faith in them. Before many years go by colonial loans will not be placed upon the London money market,

and these Treasury bills will be taken in currency as ordinary business men take one another's bills. All I hope is that whenever the Government issue these bills they will be careful not to overdo it. In reference to clause 4 of the Speech, I consider that many unfair reflections have been made against the Works Department because they have not started this or that contract. In my opinion a safe and wise discretion is being exercised when, having first-class officers to give their professional opinions, they have declined to call for tenders until the whole of the details are fixed. If we had commenced our other railways under a similar system to that which has now been adopted, and not have rushed so much after the expenditure of loan money, we should have had a better return and also better railways. As to the 5th paragraph of the Speech, which refers to the goldfields, it is quite refreshing to be able to say what we never could have expected four years ago, that during the last nine months 44,774 ozs. of gold have been exported, and in another twelve months I hope we shall find the amount ten times as much.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: £2,000,000 sterling per annum?

THE HON. J. MORRISON: Yes. When you get 1,000 ounces of gold out of a piece of land two feet by three feet, by two feet deep, there is no knowing what will be done. The two chief factors upon which depend, to a great extent, the future prosperity of the colony are the opening up of the goldfields and the opening up of the pastoral country. Since the discovery of the Gnarlbine field it has been found that there is any quantity of pastoral land to the East, and all that is now required to open it up are the camels and the water-borer. I am pleased to see the pluck and speculative character of Faiz Mahomet, who, when he heard that we had back country and goldfields to open up, landed a large number of camels. I am sorry to see in the newspapers that the public in an enlightened district have held meetings for the purpose of trying to drive the camels back because they interfered with a small trade, and notwithstanding that such interference was the means of reducing the cost of living in the back country and of immensely benefitting the colony. I

really hope the Government will do nothing to give the owners of these most useful animals in opening up the back country, any trouble. If we prevent the man with the camel supplying flour at 1s. per lb. instead of 3s. we shall do much harm. In addition to not interfering with the camels, I hope the Government will go in for systematic water boring. If they have not the money, then I see no reason why we should not lease for five or ten years a 20 acre or 40 acre block, free of charge, to any individual who will sink for water, and when he finds it, give him the right of selling the water at a maximum price to be fixed by the Government. As to the proposed amendment of the Constitution Act, I think the property qualification for members should be swept away. Even if there is to be any qualification, I do not see why it is to be land. One man may like to put his money into ships, another into sheep, another into bank shares, and another into land; and I cannot see why one of these should qualify more than another. As to the extension of the franchise, however, I think some amendment is required as regards lodgers, and I consider that miners who have held a right for over twelve months—for mining in this colony is going to be a big industry—should be entitled to vote; but to give every Dick, Tom, or Harry a vote, because he has been in the colony for six months, is another thing altogether, and is what I, for my part, object to. It has never been asked for, and I think it is rather a weak point on the part of the Government to offer it. It may be, perhaps, that they think if they do it at once they will prevent people asking for it; but it will be very easy (and especially if the gold-fields progress as they have been doing) to land a sufficient number of people from other colonies in 12 months who will be able to outvote the whole colony, and I should like to know whether those who arrive from the Eastern colonies, for instance, are capable of working this colony? My experience is that unless a man who arrives here puts his big ideas on one side when he comes the chances are that he topples over. I felt the same thing myself when I came here. The wealth is not here, and the large ideas which men bring with them cannot

be carried out here. It will, therefore, do no good to extend the franchise, except as I have indicated; for any ordinary man can get a £10 house. If, however, universal suffrage is carried, the next thing will be to support female suffrage, as the only way to counteract the damage done by universal suffrage. The Bill which is to provide for free grants of land we have not yet seen, but the Premier has said that the Government will be prepared to grant free blocks of 160 acres each. I do not object to giving immigrants 20 to 40 acres; but 160 acres is too much for a small man to do anything with, and it is too little for a big man. The class of immigrant we want is the man who will keep poultry or a garden, and work for his neighbors, and 20 to 40 acres are sufficient for him; but to put him on 160 acres will neither make of him a laborer, squatter, farmer, nor anything else. Under our present liberal land laws there is very little use in giving a man 160 acres; and as for lending him money, I should object to it, because the Government has no right to interfere with private enterprise. Money-lending is not part of the business of a Government; and if they lend to those who settle on land which is given them, they should also lend to bankrupts to give them another start. Besides, I do not think the security good enough. What is to prevent a bush fire? If such happens you may have the land returned at any time with nothing on it. As to the question of the late drought in the North, and the non-increase in the rentals for the remainder of the leases, I doubt whether the policy proposed is quite judicious; for if this be done probably other tenants of the Crown will want some concession. In the other Bills to be brought forward I hope one will be in connection with the Savings Bank, with the object of allowing larger deposits and greater loans. As to clause 11 I am not surprised, although at the same time I am sorry to read it, for it is a bad thing for the colony. I was one of the few who spoke plainly (and I intended to do so) against the advance of £60,000, and afterwards, when it came to going beyond this, I thought the Government were going very far astray. I would ask hon. members to remember what took place last session when the proposal for the

guarantee of the interest on the £500,000 was made. In December last I made various suggestions which I trusted the Government would look into, but from what has followed since I should imagine that they had been ignored. I then said that the promoters of the present Midland syndicate, to my knowledge, had not at the beginning of November previous paid the members of the original syndicate the £26,000 which they had promised to pay on the 1st February, 1891. That £26,000 was for money advanced, £10,000 of it was for the deposit, £5,000 for expenses, and the balance was for other disbursements. When this sum had not been paid, why should the Government step forward and help such people? But I now go further and say that on the 1st of October last the money was not paid, and I was recently asked when there was a chance of its being paid. We must bear in mind that a very craftily played game is going on. In England they have been telling the people that the reason the work does not proceed is that the Government will not hand over the land, whilst here they tell us that the money market is not in a fit condition to raise the money. One gentleman wrote and said that it was very wrong of the Government to withhold the land, and I replied that the Government had done nothing of the sort, and that in fact we were only too eager to help them to complete the work. You, sir, will recollect that in your position as Colonial Secretary you told us that if we passed the guarantee the money was ready and that the work would be recommenced on the following Thursday. I do not doubt but that the Government believed what they said, but for my part I was quite satisfied that what we had been told was not true, and my view has proved to be very near the mark. Then we are told that if the Government does not help the Company it will militate against the floating of our own loans; but why should a paltry syndicate interfere with us in this way? Then again, we see a directors' report issued, in which they talk of bringing this Government—which has helped them—up for fraud. Why, the fraud is on the other side. Again, an item recently appeared in the papers, which I am desirous of ascertaining the truth about, because if it be correct it

shows that the directors are getting very frightened. It was there stated that Mr. Barber, the chairman, had said so and so. Now, Mr. Barber was the secretary. It may be a misprint in the paper, but if that gentleman has now been made chairman it puts another complexion on matters. I never did condemn the whole of the directors, because some had been trusting too much to others, and we have seen similar results of such proceedings in the Eastern colonies. The directors, we are informed by the cable, have issued a report, and I do hope the Government will do very little further in the matter until they see what the report says. If it is found that they have made false reports we should take steps to punish them. Certainly, if the report be anything like that which has been telegraphed, the Government should take strong measures. I think the report should be due here this month. One reason they may allege for not being able to raise the money they require is that the proposed free grants of 160 acres may have interfered with them, and for my own part I must say that I doubt whether we are acting fairly to these land companies, although, of course, it is unintentional. The Hon. Mr. Leake has shown the way the matter can be worked, and I am quite satisfied that I can see a way to work the whole thing right out, and have the work completed; and I shall be prepared to give my suggestions whenever required. All I want is to see the line finished. I think we should treat the debenture holders fairly, and instead of causing them a total loss, we might so arrange matters that the loss would only be partial, and this could be done by taking the whole thing over on an equitable basis. Before concluding I must endorse the remarks of previous speakers as to the great loss this Council has sustained through the death of the late Sir Thomas Campbell. I beg also to congratulate you, sir, on being his successor, and I trust that you may be able to carry out the duties of your new position as well as you have filled other posts, both political and social, in this your native land. I can only say that I, with all other members of the House, am willing to give you all the assistance possible in helping you to maintain the dignity of this Legislative Council.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. G. Shenton): Before putting the question I should like to say a few words. Firstly, as to the congratulations which I have received on my elevation to the chair of this House, I can assure hon. members that I feel the responsibility of the position I now hold. I trust that they will extend to me their forbearance, and that those kindly feelings which existed when I was Colonial Secretary will be continued. I am aware that I have not the same intimate knowledge of Parliamentary practice as my predecessor had, but I hope, as time goes on, that I shall be able to overcome the difficulties that arise, and I trust that whenever I may have to rule against any hon. member he will feel that I am only endeavoring to carry out the duties of my position, maintain the dignity, and assert all the privileges of this House. Perhaps the difficulties which I find in the way now will soon be removed; and I hope that, as time goes on, I shall become more able and more capable of carrying out the duties appertaining to the office of President of this Council. I again thank you for your kind expressions.

Question—that the address be presented—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council at 4.35 p.m. adjourned until Friday, 11th November, at 3 o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

*Tuesday, 8th November, 1892.*

Presentation of the Address-in-Reply—Midland Railway Company: Fresh proposals—The Greenough farmers' losses by fires—Water supply at Gnarlbine goldfield—Correspondence with Dalgety & Co. re floating balance of loan—Return relating to Kattanning and other Agricultural Areas—Correspondence between the Government and the Midland Railway Company since March, 1892—Safety of Defences Bill: second reading—Treasury Bills Bill: second reading—Land Regulations (Rents) Amendment Bill: second reading—Adjournment.

The **SPEAKER** took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

At 45 minutes past two o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker, accompanied by members of the House, proceeded to Government House to present the Address-in-Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, and having returned,

**MR. SPEAKER** reported that he had, with members of the House, waited upon His Excellency the Governor, and had presented to him the Address of the Legislative Assembly agreed to upon the 7th instant; and that His Excellency had been pleased to express his thanks for the same.

#### FRESH PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

**MR. TRAYLEN:** I beg to ask the hon. the Premier the question standing in my name—Whether the Midland Railway Company have made fresh proposals for assistance; and, if so, whether the Government intend to lay the new proposals before the House?

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) replied that the Company had not made any fresh proposals for assistance.

#### THE GREENOUGH FARMERS' LOSSES FROM FIRE.

**MR. TRAYLEN:** I beg to ask the Premier whether any representations have been made to him during the recess respecting the losses inflicted on Greenough farmers by sparks from passing engines? If so, by whom? And what action the