

sittings for that day, and I think this Council would more fittingly acknowledge its estimation of the public and private worth of the late Surveyor General by not meeting at all to-morrow, on the occasion of the deceased's funeral. I shall therefore move, as an amendment upon the motion before the House, that the House do now adjourn until Monday next.

Mr. S. H. PARKER seconded the amendment.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) said the only object the Government had in view in moving the adjournment of the House only until the following day was to expedite the business of the Session. At the same time, the Government placed itself entirely in the hands of the House, in the matter.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said there could be no possible objection on the part of the Government to the proposed adjournment of the House until Monday, if such was the wish of hon. members. He had simply suggested a shorter adjournment in order that the work of the Session should be proceeded with at as early a date as practicable.

Amendment put and carried.

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

---

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Monday, 3rd June, 1878.*

Public Loan of 1873—Trespass Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1878: second reading—Address in reply to Governor's speech—Steam Communication between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies.

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

PRAYERS.

### PUBLIC LOAN OF 1873.

MR. SHENTON asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House a return showing the net amount

realised by the public loan of 1873. The hon. member said his reason for asking for the return in question was that there was an impression abroad that the floating of the loan referred to had cost the Colony a large amount of money; and as the Council in the course of the present Session was likely to go in for another loan he thought it very desirable that the House should be placed in possession of the information which he now asked for.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy): The return moved for by the hon. member shall be laid on the Table at my earliest convenience.

### TRESPASS ACT, 1872, AMENDMENT BILL, 1878.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), in moving the second reading of the Bill to amend "The Trespass Act, 1872," said hon. members would observe that the Bill was a very short one, and was intended simply to extend the provisions of the seventeenth section of the existing Act, so as to make it applicable to lessees and licensees, as regards parties using boundary fences paying a moiety of the value of such fences. The present Act provided that in the event of any person erecting a sufficient fence to divide his land from the land adjoining thereto, and the occupier of the adjoining land, in enclosing the same, availed himself of the dividing fence so erected, he should be liable to pay to the person or persons having for the time being an estate for life (or other greater estate) in the land by the owner or tenant whereof the fence was erected, the half of the then value of so much of the dividing fence as he had availed himself of. In the Bill now before the House, it was proposed to extend these provisions,—as regards the liability to pay a moiety,—to lessees and licensees of land not alienated from the Crown, as well as to persons having for the time being an estate for life in the fenced land. The hon. gentleman said he thought the object of the Bill was such as would commend it to the favorable consideration of the House, and he would therefore content himself by moving that it be now read a second time.

Mr. CAREY said he did not rise to oppose the motion, but when the Bill came to be considered in Committee he would move one or two additional paragraphs.

Motion for second reading agreed to, the committal of the Bill being made an Order of the Day for Friday, the 7th June.

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

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL:

In moving that an humble address be presented in reply to that of His Excellency the Governor, on the first occasion which His Excellency has had since his arrival in the Colony of addressing this Council, it is my duty, I think, in the first instance to express the gratification of the House at the appointment of so distinguished a Colonial Governor to the administration of the Government of this Colony. I feel sure that His Excellency's views will always be met by this House in that spirit of fairness which it is desirable they should be. I also feel on this occasion that it will be expected we should express the gratification and pleasure we feel, to find sitting amongst us the hon. gentleman lately appointed Colonial Secretary. I have no doubt that the ability and the energy he has manifested elsewhere will be as conspicuously exerted here, and that the kindly relations which have hitherto existed between the members of the Government bench and the elected representatives of the people will, during the hon. gentleman's occupancy of the seat which he holds in the House, continue to be maintained. It will not be necessary for me to go into detail with regard to the various paragraphs of His Excellency's speech; I will merely mention one or two points which have particularly arrested my attention. Foremost is the paragraph dealing with the financial condition of the Colony. It is undoubtedly a matter of regret that the revenue this year is not likely to maintain its elasticity. Since the year 1872, the public revenue of the Colony has gradually increased from about £100,000 to £165,000 or more, and although this increase is not expected to be maintained during the present year, I do not see that there is any cause

for great anxiety on that point. The very unfavorable seasons through which the Colony has passed, resulting in the paralysation of the pastoral and agricultural interests, have no doubt contributed to this deficiency of the revenue. It is however to be hoped that the present season, which, so far, augurs so favorably for those interests, will tend to restore the revenue to a prosperous condition, and that brighter times are in prospect for the Colony. His Excellency in the next place refers to the question of public works, and congratulates the Colony on the completion of the Eucla Telegraph line—a feeling which I am sure will be reciprocated by this House. The Colony has already derived considerable benefits from the opening of this line, and I have no doubt that, in time, its utility will increase. His Excellency does not seem to think that the Colony will immediately derive such substantial benefits from this work as to reward us for the foresight and energy which promoted the undertaking, but I understand that the line is already largely availed of by the neighboring Colonies. No less than six newspapers published in the sister provinces have already established agencies at Albany for the transmission by telegraph of monthly budgets of news received by the English mail, and I am informed that the wiring of one of these budgets the month before last involved an expenditure of no less than £65. This Colony will no doubt derive no inconsiderable revenue from this source alone. But there are matters connected with the line which I think might occupy the attention of the Government, as calculated to increase the receipts. Vessels seeking freight might utilize the line to a greater extent than they do now, if, for instance, a signal station were erected on the Breaksea Island, as ships frequently seek to communicate with that island by signal, in anticipation that the signal would be repeated by means of the telegraph to the other Colonies and to other parts. This, I think, is a matter which the Government would do well to take into consideration. The next work referred to in His Excellency's speech is the Geraldton and Northampton Railway, for which a further sum of money is required. Hon. members are fully accustomed by this time to be asked to

vote additional sums for the completion of this line, and it is only to be sincerely hoped that before long some profit and revenue will be derived from the undertaking. His Excellency is, unfortunately, unable to give us any definite information with regard to that subject which chiefly occupied our minds in coming up to the Council—the Fremantle railway. I believe it is as great a disappointment to His Excellency himself, and to the members of the Government, as it can be to any member of this House, that His Excellency on the opening of the Session was not in a position to give us the desired information, which, however, he tells us, he hopes to receive by the next mail. I am glad to find that His Excellency proposes that the railway referred to should be designated “The Eastern Railway;” and I am glad of it for this reason—it shows that the Governor’s views as regards this work are in accord with those held by this House and the country at large,—that this railway should be the basis of the future railway system of the Colony. It was only on this condition, and having this end in view, that the House sanctioned the undertaking. The next matter of any importance referred to in His Excellency’s speech is that of roads; and I cannot but feel glad that the Government has at last become alive to the necessity of some additional expenditure in this direction. For a long time we have sought for it, but for various reasons it has been found impossible to increase the grant. I have thought very carefully of the scheme laid before us by His Excellency, and, in view of the fact that it is impossible that these roads can be constructed in any other manner,—within any reasonable time,—than by means of a loan; taking also into consideration the great advantages which good roads would confer upon the agricultural and pastoral interests of the Colony—although not reproductive in the same sense as a railway, still indirectly reproductive by reason of the fact that good roads increase the value of property in the neighborhood, and afford a great saving of time and labor to the settlers; for these reasons, although I hesitated at first, I now think it would be well if the scheme submitted by His Excellency, as to raising a loan for the purposes of

road construction and improvements, were carried out. I do not, however, consider that the amount referred to in His Excellency’s despatch (£50,000) would be at all adequate to our requirements in this direction; nothing short of £100,000 would, in my opinion, accomplish the object in view. With regard to another part of the Governor’s proposition, namely, the formation of a Central Roads Board to supervise the carrying out of the work, I cannot, so far as I understand the proposition, give my accord to the proposal. Of course, I am aware that the Home Government in sanctioning such a loan would feel it to be necessary that the expenditure should be supervised by the Colonial Government; but if His Excellency means that this Central Board should entirely control the District Boards, not only in the construction of roads but in the duties which the local boards undertake at present, I cannot agree with him at all. I do not think the roads generally would be in the least benefited by the supervision of a Central Board in lieu of district boards, even if the former had the assistance of a paid surveyor. I think it would be a very great mistake if the powers now vested in these district boards were to be vested in a Central Board. I also cannot see that the Colony would be in any way benefited by the proposed reduction in the number of existing Roads Boards. Much difficulty and inconvenience are now experienced in consequence of the great distance which the members of these boards have to travel, and this distance would necessarily be greatly increased if the number of boards were less than at present. Coming to another paragraph of the speech, the House must thank the Governor for the attention which His Excellency has given to the wishes of the House in the matter of reducing and re-organising the police force, and I have no doubt the scheme of re-organisation will receive the careful consideration of hon. members. As to the various Bills promised to be laid before us, I cannot speak at this time; many of them seem to be useful and necessary measures, and I have no doubt they also will receive the careful consideration of the House. It is a source of great disappointment to me—and I am sure it must be to other hon. members—

that His Excellency was unable to afford the Council any information with reference to the Ballot Bill of last Session; and another subject to which I regret to see no reference made in the speech is the question of the proposed alterations in the land regulations. It is now two years since these alterations, approved of by this House, were sent home, and, so far as I know, nothing has been heard of them since. If there had been, I suppose His Excellency would have mentioned the matter in his speech, and I hope some steps will be taken this Session to ascertain what has been done with reference to these alterations. On the subject of steam communication,—though one of the most important subjects referred to in the speech—I need not say anything at present, seeing that in the course of the evening we shall have a full statement on the subject laid before us by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which will enable us to judge better as to what course to pursue. As many hon. members are aware, I am second to none in my earnest desire to see steam communication with the other Colonies established as speedily as possible. In conclusion, I can only echo His Excellency's trust that our legislative efforts may contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the Colony.

MR. BURT: I think the speech with which the Governor of the Colony opens the annual Session of this House is a statement that is naturally looked forward to with great interest by the country, inasmuch as the Governor, in this Colony, occupies, essentially, the position of Premier of the Government. On him rests all the responsibility of the actions of the Government, and to him also looks the Secretary of State for the good government of the Colony in general. Therefore, looking at the fact that the real responsibility of the Government rests with the Governor and not with this House, I think the vice-regal utterance on these occasions must naturally be regarded with peculiar interest by the country. I think, in the first place, we ought to congratulate ourselves that His Excellency has lost no time in making himself acquainted with the financial condition of the Colony. I am very glad to see that this subject has occupied his attention, and though it is a matter for

regret that the public revenue is not in as prosperous a condition as we were led to believe it was, and that we had reason to anticipate, still I quite agree with His Excellency that there is nothing in our financial position to give cause for apprehension. From what I gather from the returns laid before us, it appears that at the end of the present year the estimated revenue was overdrawn by £13,000, odd; and that, at the end of this year, His Excellency is of opinion, there will be a deficiency in the actual, as compared with the estimated, revenue, of £12,000, odd. As I said before, I do not think such a deficit as that is a cause for any serious apprehension. On looking through the returns furnished to the House, I noticed more particularly the handsome manner in which both the Post Office and the Telegraph Department show up. It appears that the estimated expenditure in connection with these two branches of the public service, for the past year, was £21,324, whereas the actual expenditure was only £19,120—showing an underdraft of over £2,000. On the other hand, it appears that the actual revenue derived from these two departments during 1877 considerably exceeded the estimated revenue, and I find that the same satisfactory result is anticipated this year. I think we may very well gauge the condition of the Colony from the returns connected with these departments of the public service; and so long as the receipts from postages and from the telegraph afford such grounds for satisfaction and congratulation, I do not think we need be apprehensive of the condition of the Colony. On the subject of the proposed railway from Fremantle, I, on this occasion, decline to say anything, because I expect that question will be brought before us in a more definite shape when the next mail arrives from England. His Excellency informs us that he then expects to be able to lay the whole case before us, with the expression of the Secretary of State's views upon it. I hope His Excellency will not, however, seek to thrust the Secretary of State's views on this House, and that no pressure whatever will be brought to bear upon the Council in the matter. As to the question of roads, I think that is a subject requiring our very serious attention. Of course the idea of

borrowing a sum of money for the purposes of road construction is a novel idea to us altogether. After glancing at the despatches which have passed between His Excellency and the Secretary of State on this subject, I find that the Secretary of State does not consider so large an outlay as that proposed desirable, unless the charge can in some way be met by tolls, or other contributions, from the districts specially benefited. In that I thoroughly agree. I cannot say whether we should be quite in order in raising money for the special purpose of improving our roads, but it appears to me that such an expenditure should be met out of current revenue, and I think it would be advisable, even at this stage, to raise a loan for defraying the cost of the Eucla telegraph line, and that the improvement of the roads be met out of current revenue. We are informed by His Excellency that, on the withdrawal of the Pensioner Force from Perth, the Imperial Government placed at the disposal of the Colony certain public buildings which it no longer required. I, for one, hope that this is not all we shall get from the Imperial authorities on the breaking up of their establishment here. It may be, perhaps, in contemplation—and that at no very distant date—to hand over to the local Government the remnants of the Imperial establishment itself; and I hope His Excellency will, in dealing with this matter, bear in mind the interests and the claims of the Colony, and that on whatever terms the transfer may be agreed upon, His Excellency will not lose sight of the vast expense to which the Colony is subjected, under the head of police supervision, in consideration of the number of Imperial convicts in our midst. As to the question of harbor improvements at Fremantle, I think we have at length a solution to that problem, and I hope it will no longer be allowed to harass the souls of my honorable friends, the members for Fremantle. When we find that one of the designs recommended by Sir John Coode is estimated to cost between £600,000 and £700,000, and that the other plan suggested would involve an expenditure of a quarter of a million of money, I think it is high time we turned our attention to railway construction rather than waste any further

thought on harbor improvements. On the question of steam communication with the other Colonies, I will say nothing at present, seeing that there is a motion on the notice paper for this evening dealing with that subject. I think we all must agree that our efforts in this direction should be directed to secure what His Excellency proposes,—an end-to-end service, without the inconvenience and delay attendant upon transshipment. Unless we can attain this, I think the question will arise whether we should have a second steamer at all. I think the country is to be congratulated on the action of the Government in suspending all further immigration at public expense, for the present. When we find our own convicts re-imported to the Colony, at the Colony's expense, and such undesirable additions to the population as lunatics and imbeciles included in the class of immigrants brought out, I think it was high time the system was put an end to. It also appears that the question of the duplication of the cable to Europe has, so far as this Colony is concerned, been terminated by His Excellency, and I think with very good reason. It appears that at the recent Conference the sister Colonies consulted our interests in no way, as regards this matter; and what is left for this Colony to do is to open negotiations with some substantial company in England, by granting them the monopoly of the traffic with a view to induce them to establish cable communication starting from our North-West coast. Some years ago the Messrs. Siemens made an offer to connect their cable at Ceylon with the North-West shores of this Colony, and the Government of the day were in communication with that firm on the subject. The House however has never been put in possession of the result of that communication, and I, for one, would like to know what was done in the matter. In conclusion I can only endorse the hope expressed by His Excellency that brighter days than the Colony has passed through of late are not far distant, and that this year's promises of a favorable season, and of a more bountiful harvest than has fallen to our lot during the past three or four years, will be fully realised. In the consideration of the various measures which are promised during the Session, I trust

that this House will, in the words of His Excellency be "actuated solely by a desire to promote the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the land." I second the motion of the hon. member for Plantagenet that an address be presented in reply to the Governor's speech.

No other member rising,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to prepare the address in reply: Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Burt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Crowther, and the mover.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee retired, and, after a brief absence, returned with the following address, which was read by the Clerk:—

*"To His Excellency Major-General Sir Harry St. George Ord, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Most Honorable Order of the Bath, 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, desire to express our gratification on this the first occasion of Your Excellency meeting the representative body of this Colony in Council, and to thank you for the assurance that its wishes will at all times receive your earnest attention.

"We regret to learn that Your Excellency does not deem the financial condition of the Colony so satisfactory as it was believed to be at the corresponding period last year, but trust that economy in our expenditure, suggested by Your Excellency, may enable us to tide over any temporary difficulty.

"The return of the probable actual Revenue and Expenditure for the current year, which Your Excellency has caused to be prepared, shall receive the early attention of this House.

"The Estimates for the year 1879 will in due course be considered; and we shall be careful to make proper provision for carrying on the Public Service. Your Excellency, in estimating the Revenue low, has, we feel assured, acted judiciously, though we trust that the works which have been undertaken to develop

the resources of the country may, in the coming year, yield a good return to its revenue.

"We hear with satisfaction that the Eucla Telegraph Line is finished, and that the Geraldton and Northampton Railway is drawing to completion; at the same time, we regret to learn that provision will again have to be made to meet the expenditure still required on it.

"We, in anticipation, thank Your Excellency for ensuring for this Colony increased facilities in Railway communication, and we will carefully consider Your Excellency's suggestion as to the nomenclature of the two lines of railway.

"We are glad to see that the state of the Roads of the Colony has occupied Your Excellency's attention; and we beg to assure Your Excellency that this Council will readily co-operate to secure improvement in this respect.

"We congratulate Your Excellency on the acquisition of the buildings recently belonging to the Imperial Government, which doubtless will save the Colony large future expenditure.

"Not the least important of questions connected with the Public Works is that of the improvement of Fremantle Harbor. Sir John Coode's report thereon shall be carefully considered, and the views of this House laid before Your Excellency.

"We concur with Your Excellency in thinking that Education should be encouraged throughout the Colony; and to this end, as likewise to the maintenance of our Charitable Institutions, we shall direct our efforts.

"We desire to thank Your Excellency for the marked attention paid to the subject of Police organisation, in view of a resolution of this Council; and we recognise with pleasure the evidence of careful consideration which the scheme submitted displays.

"We consider that Your Excellency, with the concurrence of the Executive Council, adopted a wise course in endeavoring to make other than the existing arrangements for the disposal of Guano on the Lacepede Islands.

"The question of Steam Communication between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies, and also with Singapore and India, is one in which this Council is much interested. We regret to learn that Your Excellency's endeavors to

secure increased means of communication have not been attended with success, and we assure Your Excellency that this important matter, together with the subject of Immigration, shall receive our attention at an early date.

"We thank Your Excellency for causing this House to be furnished with the papers in connection with Telegraphic Communication with Europe, and for the Official Reports from the various Departments.

"It is gratifying to find that Your Excellency has seen fit, in accordance with a suggestion of a Committee of this House, to appoint a Commission to enquire into the administration of Hospitals, Gaols, Poor Houses, &c., and that its report bears testimony to the efficient manner in which they, as a rule, are managed.

"The various Bills submitted to us shall be carefully considered; and we doubt not, but that by God's blessing and guidance, at the close of the present Session, the work which is now before us, and which will then be concluded, will prove both to Your Excellency, and to the Country, that the Legislative Body of this Colony has not lost sight of the important interests entrusted to its charge."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the adoption of the address in reply.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) seconded the motion.

The question was put and affirmed *nem. con.*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said His Excellency had expressed his willingness to receive the address in reply on the following day, and moved that it be presented accordingly by Mr. Speaker, and as many honorable members as could make it convenient to be present.

Motion agreed to.

#### STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE EASTERN COLONIES.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that the negotiations entered into with reference to a steam communication between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies, with a

view to arriving at a decision in regard to the same, be now taken into consideration. The hon. gentleman said he did not rise at present to move any distinct resolution on the subject, for he understood that hon. members were desirous that some further information should be afforded them, with regard to the negotiations referred to, before committing themselves to any expression of opinion in the matter. His labors were materially relieved by the information embodied in the paper which had been laid on the Table of the House relating to the subject, and which embraced the correspondence, both postal and telegraphic, that had taken place between himself on the one hand, as the representative of this Government in the matter, and, on the other hand, the parties with whom the preliminary negotiations were entered into. His Excellency's instructions, communicated to him on the 21st January prior to proceeding on his mission to Melbourne, embodied all that was necessary to secure the service in its most advantageous form to this Colony. According to those instructions, provision was to be made for the steamer leaving Champion Bay, once a month, to convey the mails and passengers to Albany, for England, calling, *en route*, at Fremantle and the other intermediate ports, and reaching Albany in time to meet the English mail steamer calling there on its way to Galle, from the Eastern Colonies. Having transferred the mails and passengers for England on board the P. & O. Co.'s packet, the colonial steamer would then continue her voyage to Adelaide. Having taken in cargo there, she was to leave Adelaide, with mails and passengers, before the P. & O. steamer left for England, so as to ensure her arrival at Albany by the time the mail steamer from England would arrive at that port. She would then remain at Albany, if necessary, until the arrival of the outward mail—which might possibly cause a detention of three or four days—after which she was to proceed to Fremantle, and other ports, up to Champion Bay, with the mails, cargo, and passengers from England, and from the Eastern Colonies,—and occasionally to visit Nickol Bay and the North-West Settlements. This was the service which His Excellency had instructed him to endeavor to

secure for the Colony, and a more desirable arrangement could hardly have been wished. Considering that no success had attended the efforts made to establish steam communication between Nickol Bay and other colonial ports and the Straits Settlements, the service proposed by His Excellency must be regarded as a very good temporary substitute so far as establishing periodical communication with the North-West,—say three or four times a year—was concerned. Pursuant to these instructions, he had, on his arrival in Melbourne, placed himself in communication with the various firms he had had negotiations with last year, as well as with other steam companies, but after a thorough enquiry in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, and elsewhere, he found that the owners of the *Rob Roy* were the only parties whose views, as to the amount of subsidy to be annually paid, in any measure agreed with those of His Excellency. While in Adelaide he endeavored to secure the support and co-operation of the South Australian Government, and that Government, he might say, had met his proposal in a very liberal and open-handed manner,—animated, to some extent, no doubt, by a belief in the commercial importance of the undertaking as regarded their own Colony. The South Australian ministry promised to recommend Parliament, when it met at the latter end of May or the beginning of June, to authorise a subsidy of £2,000 per annum towards such service as was contemplated in His Excellency's instructions to him (the Commissioner of Crown Lands); and one of the reasons why His Excellency had approved of the matter being brought forward at so early a period of the Session was in order that they should send a definite reply to the South Australian Government, their Parliament (as he had learnt by telegraph) having met on Friday, the 31st ult., and also that a definite answer be forwarded to the owners of the *Rob Roy* as soon as possible. He might say that, so far as he was aware, the other steamer which that firm proposed to employ in the service—the *Otway*—was a very efficient boat, and quite capable of carrying out the service. But the difficulty had been to induce the contractors to adopt the same view of the case as our own Government. What they proposed was

that they should employ two steamers, and that the more powerful one (the *Otway*) should be kept generally on the line between Adelaide and Albany, and the *Rob Roy*, on account of her lighter draft of water, on the coast between Albany and Champion Bay. This was the sum and substance of the dispute between the Government and the contractors: the former stipulated that passengers and cargo shipped at either end of the route should be carried through, without trans-shipment or delay, and that the time of the two steamers to be employed should be so arranged that the mails to and from Europe and the Colonies should be carried to their destination with the least possible delay; on the other hand, the contractors said it was impracticable for them to run an end-to-end service, because the *Rob Roy* had proved to be too small for the intercolonial voyage, and the *Otway* drew too much water to enable her to go alongside our northern jetties. It was therefore for the Council to decide what was to be done in the matter—whether to insist upon the arrangements proposed by the Government, or accept the service offered by the contractors. It was necessary that the House should arrive at a speedy decision in the matter, inasmuch as the South Australian Government was waiting for a reply; which had been promised them as shortly after the Council met as possible. Unless some definite arrangement were arrived at without delay, the South Australian Government would no doubt withdraw their offer, and the contract would have to be with this Colony alone. As the South Australian Government promised a subsidy of £2,000 a year towards the expense of the proposed service—which would be about £8,000, annually—the total sum which it would cost this Colony in excess of what we were now paying the *Rob Roy* would only be £1,800 a year; and if the contractors could be induced to run an end-to-end service, the Colony, he thought, might well be congratulated on its bargain, seeing that, under the arrangement proposed by the Government, the present overland mail might be discontinued. As to the steamer going beyond Adelaide, very little advantage would be gained from such an arrangement, as through rates to



Melbourne and elsewhere could be effected quite as cheaply with steamers regularly trading between Adelaide and the other Australian ports. The two sides of the question were now before the House, and, without at this stage moving any distinct resolution, he would simply ask it to arrive at some decision on the subject, for the guidance of His Excellency in dealing with the matter definitively.

After a pause of a few seconds, and no hon. member rising,

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser) moved that progress be reported, and that the Committee should ask leave to sit again on Wednesday.

This was ordered.

The House adjourned at a quarter to nine o'clock, p.m.

---

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 4th June, 1878.*

Address to His Excellency the Governor—Governor's reply to same—Lighthouse at Rottnest—Opening Mails and distributing Letters on Sundays—First readings—Ballot Act, 1877—Sheep Inspectors: return of work performed by—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Members present accompanied the Speaker to Government House, to present the address in reply to the Opening Speech by the Governor. On returning the Speaker announced the fact, and also that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply;—

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

“I thank you for the reply you have been good enough to make to me in

answer to the Speech I had the honor to address to you on the 29th ultimo; and I am gratified to find that so many of the views expressed in it meet with your concurrence.”

H. ST. GEORGE ORD.  
Government House, Perth, }  
4th, June, 1878. }

## ROTTNEST LIGHT-HOUSE.

MR. SHENTON called the attention of the Colonial Secretary to certain defects in the light-house at Rottnest, caused by the diminutive size of the panes in the lantern, and the amount of wood-work used in the framing of these panes. The hon. member recommended the substitution of one large pane of plate glass, which would remedy the defect complained of by masters of vessels as to the obstruction and consequent dimness of the light.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said the Director of Public Works had furnished a report to the Government on the subject, and that a sum of £100 had been placed on the Estimates for 1879, to put plate glass in the lanterns, to improve the lamps, and to repair the tower generally. Nothing more could be done except to put up a new lighthouse, and this, Captain Archdeacon (the Admiralty Surveyor) considered unnecessary, the present light being sufficient for all purposes.

## OPENING MAILS AND DISTRIBUTING LETTERS ON SUNDAYS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) laid on the Table a printed paper containing a resolution of the Legislative Council, adopted at its last Session, as to opening mails and distributing letters on Sundays, together with minutes, etc., showing the action taken by the Government in the matter.

## FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time: Municipal Institutions' Act, 1876, Amendment Bill, 1878; Perth Drainage Act, 1875, Amendment Bill, 1878; Land Quarantine Bill, 1878; Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, 1878; Boat Licensing Bill, 1878; Vaccination Bill, 1878; Jetties Regulation