

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

to the public accounts for the financial year ended 31st December, 1891; and that he now placed the same on the table.

Ordered—That the paper lie upon the table of the House.

SAFETY OF DEFENCES BILL.

(*Formal.*)

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to prevent the Unauthorised Disclosure of Information relating to the Defences of Western Australia."

Leave given, and Bill read a first time.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

MR. SPEAKER reported that the House had attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which, Mr. Speaker said, he had for greater accuracy obtained a copy, which he read to the House. (*Vide p. 1 ante.*)

THE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

MR. SOLOMON: I rise to move the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech. It is not my intention to take up the time of this House to any extent, but I will as briefly as possible make a *resumé* of the Speech, and offer a few remarks as I proceed. In the first place, I am sure that the calamity which recently occurred in the death of, I may say a friend of the colony, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, was thoroughly felt throughout the length and breadth of the colony; and I am sure that his loss will be felt not only for a day, or a month, but will be felt for some considerable time, and it was only a worthy tribute to the late demised gentleman's name that a reference should have been made, as it has been, in His Excellency's Speech, to the loss which the country has sustained in his death. The next subject, sir, I will touch upon, is the financial condition of the colony. It must be pleasing to the colony generally, and I am sure it must be to members, to hear such a glowing account as has been given of the satisfactory and progressive

condition of the public finances, and to hear that there is a large surplus revenue. But I would ask permission for a few moments to go into the matter of how this revenue is obtained. We are aware that within the last few years, with the introduction of Responsible Government, something like 12,000 people have come to the colony of Western Australia to settle; but I would ask, sir, amongst those 12,000 people who have come here how many are there who have come with the intention of settling down amongst us as producers, and in some way to reduce the amounts now going out of the colony to feed those who are coming here. Sir, I must own to some extent the truth of what has been said, that at the present moment, we are feeding, to a considerable extent, on loan money and local revenues of the colony. I regret having to say this, but I feel, on going into the matter, that it is so. The new comers coming here are all—I may say one and all—consumers rather than producers, and in that way the colony is being drained day after day, and year after year, of a considerable amount of its money. That sort of thing, sir, cannot go on without some remedy, and that I hope will be found in the proposed new land regulations, which will presently be alluded to. The next matter referred to is the result of our last loan. I think we have something like £840,000 yet to receive of this loan money, and I trust that our credit will be sufficiently good in the English market to enable us to borrow this money, at something like a reasonable rate, for the benefit of the colony. We in Western Australia have not done anything to forfeit any confidence whatever, in the English money market; and I cannot see why we should suffer in any way for anything that has been done outside of this dominion. I therefore trust that we shall have very little difficulty, when the time comes to raise this balance of our loan, in doing so. At the same time, I myself—and I believe many other members—will not have any objection to Treasury bills being issued, to a certain extent, for the purpose of raising in the meantime any money that may be found immediately necessary to carry on the public works of the colony. The continued discoveries of gold must also be of great value to

the colony, and I am sure if it continues as it has done it must raise Western Australia in the future, to a position, far above, I may say, any of the other colonies. I trust the Government will do all they possibly can to foster the development of our mineral resources; and I should have been pleased to have heard something with regard to boring for water beyond the Yilgarn district, where there is a probability of there being a rush, so as to provide a supply of water in the event of such a thing occurring. I am sure it would be disastrous, should we have a rush to any of these outside fields where there are no adequate means provided for the supply of water; and I think the Government might very well in a case of this kind take upon themselves, if they possibly can, by means of boring, to get a supply in readiness. The next subject I would refer to is the proposed amendment of the Constitution Act. I am sure that it is the general wish of the community that this should be done, as suggested. The only part of the proposals of the Government that I do not agree in is as to the term of residence proposed for electors. I think six months' residence would be quite sufficient, instead of twelve, especially when it is provided that there are to be two more members in the Council, and three new members in the Assembly, so as to give the mining interests their due representation. With regard to the land settlement question, referred to in the 7th paragraph of the Speech, I perfectly agree with what has been proposed by the Premier, with the exception—so far as I can see at present—of the proposed advances of money. I think, myself, so far as I can see in the matter, that to clear the land and fence it would be quite sufficient, besides giving these people free grants of land to work upon. I feel sure that men with £100 or £200 ready money would be only too glad to take advantage of such an offer as that, without the Government also advancing them money, as proposed. But, sooner than that we should not do something with the view of encouraging settlement and cultivation, and settling upon the soil a body of producers, and so keeping all the money we possibly can in the colony—sooner than we should not do something

in this direction, I would not withhold my vote from the Premier's scheme, if no better mode of attaining the same object be proposed. I perfectly agree with the proposals of the Government as to the non-increase of rents in the case of the pastoral lessees in the Northern division of the colony. Of course we all know that what happened was a calamity, and that it was sent by Providence. [Cries of "Oh, Oh."] Well, there was no fault whatever of man in the matter. It was very unfortunate that the drought should have occurred, and that the losses of the settlers should have been so heavy as they were; and I shall not be in any way adverse to the increase of rents being foregone. I also notice that the laws referring to the transfer of land, to reformatory and industrial schools, and to joint stock and mining companies, are to be amended or consolidated. These are all very good objects, and I see no reason why I should withhold my support from them. In fact, so far as reformatories are concerned, I think such an Act would be one of the best Acts that could be brought forward. At present I can see that there are a great many young people who would be far better taken away from their parents, and sent to a reformatory, rather than being left in their parents' hands. The next matter referred to is the proposed change in the financial year. Of course that is a matter which mostly concerns the Government. No doubt they have their reasons for wishing this to be done; but I should like to know whether this change will interfere in any way with the revision of the tariff. That is a matter I should like to see taken up, with other matters likely to come forward next session; but it appears to me that if the financial year is to end in June next, it will be something like eighteen months before the tariff could be interfered with. Possibly I may be wrong in this, but that is my present impression. I think it is essential to the welfare of the colony that the tariff should be framed to encourage native industries, and so adjusted as to take the burden off the shoulders where it presses so heavily at present. I should like to see the lands that are now locked up made to contribute something to the revenue, as well as the tariff. I should like to see the tariff touch the holders of

these lands in some way. I think where lands have been improved and enhanced in value, and reap the benefit of the thousands of pounds of public money that we are constantly laying out in roads and railways—money which we receive from taxation through the Customs—I think these lands, unoccupied lands, belonging to people who are absent from the colony, but who are reaping the benefit of the money we are laying out in improving the country,—I think these lands should be made to contribute something towards the public revenue. The next matter I would refer to is that of the Midland Railway. This I fear, unless it is settled very shortly, will become a vexed question. [AN HON. MEMBER: It is so now.] Some hon. gentleman points out that it is a vexed question already. Possibly it is so. But I am very much afraid it will become more so; and the sooner the matter is settled the better, not only for the colony but for everyone concerned. I do not look so much into the past history of this undertaking. Whatever the past may have been, whatever the transactions connected with the formation of this company may have been, what we have to look to is the future. I look to the future, and not so much to the past; and I think the sooner we get the matter settled one way or the other the better will it be for the colony. As regards our finding the money to finish the railway ourselves, I cannot see—in the face of what we have been told only very recently—that we may find a difficulty in raising the balance of our loan (over £800,000) to carry out the works under the programme we have agreed to—I cannot see in any way that we could also raise an extra £400,000 to finish this Midland Railway. I therefore think that is a question that must be gone into in some other way, and, if we possibly can have it settled in the way of giving away land, I would sooner do that than have the matter hanging over from year to year, and interfering with other public matters of the greatest importance. The next paragraph deals with the policy inaugurated by the present Ministry. I think the policy of Ministers is a very liberal policy, and I thoroughly endorse what is said about it in His Excellency's Speech. Of course we know that all

people are liable to make mistakes, but I think that on the whole the present Ministers have done their duty to the colony, and that they have in every way acted conscientiously for the benefit of the country generally. The last matter I shall allude to will be the necessity for a revision of the tariff, in conjunction with the encouragement of land settlement and the development of our mineral resources. In my opinion these three must go together. I think that for the future progress of Western Australia we must do all we possibly can to reduce the present tariff, to lessen the burden of direct taxation through the Customs, and in some other way find the means of making that burden press more generally upon a population of nearly 60,000 spread over an area of 100,000 square miles. I will now, sir, move 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
"Australia, and its Dependencies, &c.,
"&c., &c."*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful
"subjects, the Members of the Legisla-
"tive Assembly 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 con-
"sideration 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."

MR. MONGER: Sir, as the youngest member of this honorable House, both in point of years and election, I feel considerable diffidence in rising to second the resolution so nicely proposed by the hon. member for South Fremantle. Occupying as I do at the present moment a position entirely independent in this

House, it is with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret that I find myself called upon, and consent, to second the humble address of this honorable House in reply to His Excellency's interesting and important Speech—pleasure that I find so much in that Speech to which I can give my most hearty and honest support; regret that on a few, and a very few, points I am not in accord with the Government. Permit me, sir, to re-echo the regret expressed by His Excellency at the great loss the colony has sustained through the recent lamented death of Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell. This gentleman was personally better known to other hon. members than to myself, but I knew sufficient of him to appreciate the many great services he rendered to this colony. As Chairman of Committees in this chamber, it is known to all that he showed an ability and impartiality which could not well be exceeded; and, in the higher position which he occupied in another place he proved himself to be a man of great ability and discretion. I feel with the colony in the loss it has sustained, and I say without fear of correction that the sympathies of your honorable House are with the widow and relatives of the deceased baronet. I must congratulate the Government and the country upon the very satisfactory financial position of the colony. Whilst many of the neighboring colonies are temporarily languishing, through recent severe troubles—including that labor trouble which I trust all classes and sections of the community will unite in endeavoring to keep out of Western Australia—this colony has prospered, and her people are in a prosperous and contented state. This is partly due to wise and good government, and partly to the development of the rich mineral resources which promise shortly to place Western Australia amongst the foremost of the Australian colonies. It is impossible and unnecessary for me to refer to many important and interesting points mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, but I am strongly in favor of trying to arrive at an immediate and amicable arrangement with the Midland Railway Company. This Government have done much for the Midland Railway Company, but the action which the directors of the Company in England have

recently been taking is such as to cause some resentment and dissatisfaction at this end. But I am of opinion that the line should be completed; and, if the Government can bring forward any reasonable proposals which commend themselves to the intelligence and prudence of the House, I, for one, shall support them. When I come to the matter of the land settlement scheme, which the Government propose to put forward, I must say I am not in favor of the views which the Premier has recently expressed on the subject; and it was in view of the opinions which I hold on this matter that I was somewhat reluctant in accepting the task of seconding the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech. I understand that when the Commissioner of Railways was recently addressing his constituents, he informed them that he was not altogether in accord with this idea of giving away free grants of land in the settled districts, and financially assisting new settlers. If the hon. member for Wellington, a member of the Government, can hold such views, surely it is open for me, an independent member of this House, to say I am not in accord with the ideas of the Premier on that particular point. It is not, however, my intention to discuss the question now, but I hope I shall have an opportunity of doing so when the matter comes before the House, as also the question of the franchise, which is a matter, I consider, should receive the most careful consideration of hon. members. I am quite in accord with the Government in regard to their proposed scheme for amending the Land Regulations in favor of the Northern pastoralists. These gentlemen have sufficient trouble to go through without being subjected to the misfortune and losses which many of them suffered during the recent drought; and they deserve every sympathy. But sympathy, to be of any worth at all, must be practical; and I think the Government have acted wisely and well in deciding to amend the present Land Regulations in the direction of foregoing the increase of rents of these Northern lessees during the unexpired portions of their leases. While on this subject, I trust I may be permitted to express a hope that the Eastern pastoralists also will receive similar consideration at the hands of the

Government, as I understand that many in these parts have suffered very nearly as much as the Northern pastoralists. I regret that no reference is made in His Excellency's Speech of any intention on the part of the Government to take any action this session for a revision of the tariff. I consider that this is a most important question, not only in the interests of the mercantile community, but in the interests of the whole colony; and I can only express a hope that the Government, before this session is over, will see their way clear to afford members an opportunity of expressing their disapproval of the tariff at present in existence. Sir, I have much pleasure in seconding the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

MR. DEHAMEL: In rising to move that this debate be adjourned until Monday next, I desire first to add a few words in testimony of the respect felt by all classes of the community for the late Sir Thomas Campbell. I am quite sure that in him the country has lost——

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. member is going to make a speech now he will be precluded from doing so again when the debate is adjourned.

MR. DEHAMEL: Then I will reserve what I was going to say until another time, and simply move that the debate be now adjourned until Monday, 7th November.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past 4 o'clock p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Monday, 7th November, 1892.

Improvements to Derby Jetty—Return showing Crown Lands alienated during past two years—Sessional Orders: Business Days and Hours; Precedence of Government Business; Standing Orders Committee; Library Committee; Printing Committee; Refreshment Rooms Committee—Treasury Bills Bill: first reading—Land Regulations Amendment Bill: first reading—The Address-in-Reply: Adjourned Debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

PRAYERS.

IMPROVEMENTS TO DERBY JETTY.

MR. A. FORREST: I wish to ask the Director of Public Works, When the Government intend to make the necessary improvements to Derby Jetty?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn): I hope to be able to call for tenders for this work very shortly.

RETURN SHOWING CROWN LANDS ALIENATED DURING PAST TWO YEARS.

MR. RICHARDSON moved, That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the area of all Crown lands alienated for the two years preceding October 31st, 1892; such return to give the area sold to each separate purchaser, and the district in which such lands are located.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I shall be only too pleased to have the information asked for by the hon. member furnished. I think the House will be well pleased if the hon. member will say with what object he asks for this return. Do I understand he asks for the name of every person who purchased land, by saying "Such return to give the area sold to each purchaser, and the district in which such lands are located?" Of course that can be supplied, but the Blue Book, which is published annually, gives full details of the number of applications, the land sold in each district of the colony, and the total area sold, although it does not give the size of the blocks. I understand the hon. member wishes to know the size of each block and the name of each purchaser. I don't