

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

think it will be a very voluminous return, probably something like 1,000 names, or perhaps not more than 500 in the two years—speaking quite at a guess.

MR. RICHARDSON: I ask for this return because the Blue Book fails to supply what I wish for right up to date. I have no particular object in wishing for the name of each purchaser.

Question—put and passed.

SESSIONAL ORDERS: BUSINESS DAYS AND HOURS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That unless otherwise ordered the House will meet for despatch of business on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.; and on Tuesdays and Fridays at 2:30 p.m. and until 6:30 p.m.

Agreed to.

PRECEDENCE OF GOVERNMENT - BUSINESS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Government business shall take precedence of all Motions and Orders of the Day.

Agreed to.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That the Standing Orders Committee for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Burt, and Mr. Canning; with leave to sit during any adjournment, and authority to confer upon subjects of mutual concernment with any committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Council.

Agreed to.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That the Library Committee of this House for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Burt, and Mr. Harper; with authority to sit during any adjournment and during the recess, and with authority to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Council.

Agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That the Printing Committee for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Venn, and the Chairman of Committees; to assist Mr. Speaker in all matters which relate to the printing executed by order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members, and all papers laid upon the table, whether in answer to addresses or otherwise.

Agreed to.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, That the Refreshment Rooms Committee for the present session consist of the following members, viz.:—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Marmion, and Mr. R. F. Sholl; with leave to sit during any adjournment and during the recess.

Agreed to.

TREASURY BILLS BILL.

Introduced by the Hon. the Premier, and read a first time.

LAND REGULATIONS (RENTS) AMENDMENT BILL.

Introduced by the Hon. the Premier, and read a first time.

THE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. DEHAMEL: Sir, as one who has sat for four sessions in this House, I endorse the encomiums passed on the late Sir Thomas Cockburn Campbell by the mover and seconder of the Address-in-Reply. That he has passed away leaving pleasant memories behind him is of itself a sufficiently high tribute to his worth and to his work. I feel it is unnecessary for me to say more than that we must all feel that in his death the country has lost a man of culture, and the members of this House have lost a friend. But, since we last met, this House has also sustained another loss of one hon. member, who sat during the past session first on my right, then behind me, then away down on the left, and finally on the cross benches. He

has himself now joined the "great majority," and it affords me most sincere gratification to be able to congratulate the Ministry upon the inauguration of an entirely new policy, in the choice of their Colonial Secretary from amongst the members who sat on this side of the House; as also for another act on their part, which stands, I believe, almost unique in the annals of Responsible Government—that is the selection of the mover and the seconder of the Address-in-Reply from members who sit on this, the Opposition, side of the House. I don't know whether we are to regard this as an omen of impending change, but I am deeply sensible, on my part, of the high tribute thus paid by the Ministry to the merit and the worth of their opponents. It is but two years since we first entered on Responsible Government, and the *écclat* with which the hon. the Premier then introduced his so-called loan policy must be still fresh in the minds of most of us. This policy (or rather the amount of money that was proposed to be borrowed under it) was the thing which drove several of the members who sit on this side of the House into opposition to the Government. There is one thing in the Speech at which, I suppose, I ought to rejoice; but for my own part I regret to say that if any justification were needed for the action of those who sit on this side of the House, that justification is fully and amply provided in the Governor's Speech. We find, on reference to paragraph 3, these words: "Of the loan of £1,336,000 authorised to be raised for public works, only £500,000 has been floated. Owing to the continued progress of the colony, and its sound financial condition, the Government have every hope that the remainder of the loan will be procured on fairly satisfactory terms. To meet the contingency of an unfavorable loan market, the Government propose to obtain power to raise money temporarily by means of Treasury bills." It seems to me that in these words we have the strongest possible confirmation of the wisdom of the views of those who considered that a loan of £1,336,000 was too high for the colony at the time that the loan was proposed. At the same time, it is also proved that the Govern-

ment had no adequate information, and had no sufficient grounds, on which to base the amount that they might expect to raise under any Loan Bill such as that. It seems to me that these words tell their own tale, with little comment from any one; for after raising rather more than one-third of this loan, we find the markets of the world closed against us. We find ourselves compelled to resort to the somewhat dangerous expedient of the issue of Treasury bills in order to tide us over our immediate difficulties and Ministerial troubles. Had the Government only admitted the check that they have undoubtedly received in their policy, had they boldly admitted the partial failure—for it is nothing else—which has happened in the carrying out of this policy, and had they recommended a temporary retrenchment and a delay in the expenditure of these public funds on everything but the most pressing of the public works included in the Loan Bill, then they would surely have had the approval, not only of every member of this House, but of every person in the colony. But we find—we are told, in fact, by Paragraph 4, with honor and joy—that "During the Recess the various public works authorised by the Loan Act, 1891, have been pushed forward as quickly as possible;" and that "during next year the whole of the works will be in full progress." Now, I would ask, is this wise? Is this the line of action that would be adopted by any prudent merchant in carrying on his own business, who found that the supplies on which he was calculating were not likely to come to hand for a year or two later than he had been counting upon? It seems to me that the more prudent course for the Ministry, under circumstances such as these, would have been to have moved gently until the confidence of the money markets of the world was restored—I would say not as regards this colony, but all the colonies of Australia—and until we could obtain moneys in the London market without fear of refusal. It is true that the issuing of these Treasury bills will tide us over our present immediate and pressing difficulties; but I would ask whether the state of the money market does warrant any lavish expenditure—any expenditure of public moneys more than are absolutely neces-

sary—at the present time. This state of the money market is no surprise to anyone who has had eyes to see. Those who would not use their eyes, and those who would not or could not see, had full warning; for we know that when the first instalment of this loan was placed on the market, a sum of only £250,000, that loan was over-subscribed only to the amount of £70,000; and that when the second instalment was placed on the market, it was practically under-subscribed by a similar amount, for I have heard on the highest authority—the Government can correct me if I am wrong—that when the second instalment was placed on the market the London and Westminster Bank took up £50,000 as their first subscription, and finally had to take up the remaining £22,000 to complete the loan and prevent it from being a failure. And now we find—such is their position—that the Government are afraid to put a loan on the public market at all. In view of difficulties such as these, it does appear to me that we should expect to find the most rigid economy being practised by the Government; that we should expect to find in all departments the expenses being kept down to the lowest point; and that we should find the really pressing works alone being proceeded with at the present time. But is this what we do find? I answer this question with an unhesitating “No.” I say we find numerous instances of extravagant, because premature, expenditure now being incurred by the Government in respect of the public works of this colony. If members would only accompany me, in their minds, as far as Beverley, they would find there a refreshment room put up at an unnecessary cost, and useless to the colony—a refreshment room which no tenant will take, a refreshment room which is the laughing-stock of the country-side, a room which is commonly called the “Ministerial white elephant.” That is one instance of what I call unnecessary expenditure at a time like this, when we cannot place our loans on the London market. I will go further. If we go down the Great Southern Railway, we find at the various small villages, such as Katanning, Broomehill, and other places, the erection of police stations, which might well have been postponed for a few years more.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): And post offices.

MR. DEHAMEL: And post offices. I have no objection to post and telegraph offices, which are a necessity; but police stations might well have been postponed until the money market was in a freer condition than it is in at present. Again, if we go to almost any part of the Southern districts of the colony, we will find a small army of surveyors engaged in cutting up thousands of acres of land for agricultural areas. Some hon. members seem to regard the cutting up of this land as very beneficial; but those who think that this system is right have not seen the land in question. Of many of those areas that are being so cut up, not more than one-fourth of the land will ever be taken up, or not for years to come, for agricultural settlement—and even the good land in the areas is practically waterless, and the rest will not pay for the money expended in the survey of it. I think, myself, that the money being expended in this way, in the survey of these agricultural areas, might well have been saved to this colony, having regard to the financial pressure at the present time. Then if one travels from the North to the South of the colony, one hears on all sides the Government departments spoken of merely as a refuge for the destitute. One hears it said that all that is necessary to obtain a berth under the Government is to say he comes from New Zealand or from any other place than Western Australia, and that is a recommendation which is absolutely certain to secure him an appointment under the Crown. We find also a number of men being placed into the Government departments over the heads of those who have spent years of long service; and we find the people are beginning to cry out and to complain against the old, trusty, and tried servants being thus set aside, and others—strangers—being in this way placed over their heads. We find also—in spite of the remarkable statement in paragraph 2 of the Speech, “While the expenditure has been kept “within reasonable limits”—that these reasonable limits included a nice little picnic, arranged for one or two men going over to the other colonies, seeking information on questions which cannot be of very great service or

value to the colony at large. More than that, we find a pleasure excursion arranged for one of the Ministers of the Crown, accompanied by a private secretary and other appendages—an excursion which is spoken of throughout the length and breadth of this colony as the Ministerial circular tour of Australia in 37 days. And we find that these expenses are being incurred without the least warrant for their being so incurred. Not only that, but we find soon afterwards that the private secretary is appointed to some office under the Government; that he, with two more clerks to assist him, is placed in some office of high emolument, over the heads of those who have served the colony for years. It seems to me that, in the face of circumstances such as these, we cannot agree with the statement in the Speech that “the expenditure is being kept within reasonable limits.” The country is not blind to all this. The country is beginning to cry out about this very matter; and if there is one thing that people desire, and one thing that I expected to see mentioned in this Speech, it is the appointment of a Civil Service Commission—the appointment of a body of independent men, who should be able to put into the Government departments such clerks and such assistants as may be necessary—free from Government patronage, free from oligarchical influence. I think, myself, that it is only right that the people should have the protection of a Civil Service Commission, to attend to the appointments of our Civil servants, when we find the public departments being so over-officed as at present. There is another Bill, of which no mention has been made in this Speech, and one that had been very much and very strongly expected, namely, one to amend those harassing, those ridiculous, those inquisitorial provisions of the Police Act—one of which provisions was very nearly being enforced the other day against even a Minister of this very Government—and though I should have been very sorry indeed to have seen a Minister of this Government the first victim of that Act, yet I do think that if that prosecution had gone on, it would have done good by opening the eyes of the public to the utter absurdity of this Act, if not to the offence of which the Minister was so charged. There is another Bill which the

country has been expecting to see brought in, and that is a Bill to repeal the Hawkers and Pedlars Disqualification Act. We passed this measure only last session, and yet now that the country has got to know what the provisions of that Act really are, I believe the whole population, by 90 out of 100, are most strongly and most emphatically against it; and I did hope that the Government would either have mentioned in the Speech their intention of bringing in a Bill to repeal that Act, or else, at all events, to have postponed its application. I trust they may do that yet, by postponing the application of the Act for another 12 months, and that some decision, more decent and more sensible, may be arrived at than the Act which we passed in this House last session. If one comes to look, for a single moment, at what that Act is, one cannot but feel rather horrified at it. It is an Act which, though on the one hand it may benefit to a very limited extent one or two country shopkeepers, yet will take away from a hard-working and industrious and civil and useful set of men, not only their earnings of years, but sweep away their very livelihood, bringing them and their families to ruin, and for no reason at all. Nothing was shown in this House, when that Bill was before us, why these pedlars and hawkers should not be allowed to continue their occupations. Peddling and hawking are practices which have existed throughout all ages, and in all parts of the world, from the earliest time. Go back to the most ancient history, and you will find that the earliest form of shopkeeping was that of peddling and hawking; and yet it remained for us in Western Australia, under Responsible Government, in the year 1892, to take from a time-honored race of men like these their right of livelihood, and bring women and children to bankruptcy and despair. And we do this, I say, under so-called Responsible Government—a Government which, though in this way oppressing the poor, proposes on the other hand to relieve the rich by the remission of rents, during the present session. I say that we have not yet got in this colony Responsible Government in its true intent and purpose. Under no form of Responsible Government could a set of men,

such as the hawkers and pedlars, have been treated in the way that they have been treated by us. For what is Responsible Government when we regard it in its actual and true light? The definition of Responsible Government is government of the people, by the people, for the people; but we have not got this yet. We have got a hollow sham of Responsible Government; we have merely got an oligarchy of a certain kind. We have got government of the people by the few, for the benefit of the few. There is, I am glad to see, however, one redeeming feature in the Speech which we have listened to; there is one point on which the hon. the Premier and the Ministry will receive my most earnest and my most cordial support, and that is the pledge to introduce, —and I trust at an early stage of this session—a measure for extending the franchise. There is one other measure of importance, of very great importance, mentioned in this Speech, and that is the one dealing with the proposal to give free grants of land, coupled with direct monetary advances. I am entirely with the Government in their efforts to induce settlement of the land, by even free grants, if necessary; but I never can go to the extent of saying that we are to make these direct advances of money, and I trust that when the question comes before this House this provision may be rejected by a majority of the House. The precedent is too dangerous—is too terrible—for us to attempt. We need only to look at the immense amount of political jobbery and influence that such a measure would throw us open to. When the Bill comes on will be the time to go into all these points, and it is not my intention to go into them at the present time; but, so far as that part of the measure is concerned, I can assure the Government and this House that I shall do all in my power to oppose it. But I go further than that, and I say that when we were elected to this House, this measure was not before the country in any shape or form; and if our constituents have not had the right or the power to give us any advice or instruction as to their wishes in this matter, then I say that in this the last session of the present Parliament, we have no right to pass an Act which must affect every class of the

people in this colony. I hope that when this measure is introduced the Premier will be satisfied to have the principle affirmed by reading the Bill a second time, and then, instead of proceeding with it, allow it to be one of the questions to be referred to the country, leaving the electors to decide whether the land scheme shall be carried out by these direct advances of public funds to the tenants or owners of this property, or whether the advances shall be made merely by the Government clearing a portion of the land, and thereby giving them a start, charging the cost of that clearance over a number of years to the men themselves. It seems to me very strange that the Government, in what I believe to be their earnest endeavor to try and bring about the increase of settlement and population of this country by this colonising scheme of the Premier's, should really pass over an effectual remedy which they have close at hand, and that is by the simple alteration and liberalisation of our present land laws. One of the things which they might do with advantage would be to sweep away the ridiculous proviso that in the improvements to be counted as improvements on the land, to be effected under clause 47 or 49, no house should be allowed to count. It always has seemed to me, without exception, to be one of the most ridiculous things in this world that the very improvement which would tie anyone to the land on which he settled, namely the building of a house, should not be allowed to count as an improvement, whilst the erection of a stable would count. One instance I know of occurred in the South, in which a man put up a small cottage on the land; he also fenced the land and completed all the necessary requirements. It was passed by the local surveyor, but on the report being sent to the Government Department here for the certificate of title to issue, the department, being bound by that miserable rule of our Land Regulations, actually sent the report back and said, "No; the house does not count; we cannot allow this as an improvement." Well, that man was a man of some thought and expediency, and so he took out the front of his cottage, put in some mangers, and made a stable of the cottage. The surveyor passed it in that form as an improve-

ment, and the man got his title. Then he took out the mangers, put in the front again as a cottage, and I know he lives there still. This instance will show how bad that proviso is; and the Government, having that before them, and having the desire to increase the settlement of the land, have unfortunately gone in for a dangerous experiment instead of trying to alter that which is to hand. Again, there is another thing by which this country can induce settlement to a large extent, and that is by an amendment of the tariff on imports, so as to admit all mining and farming implements free of duty, and also by allowing settlers who come into the colony—the same as is done in Canada—to bring with them the whole of their implements, machinery, harness, ploughs, carts, and so on, free of duty. When a farmer in another colony, for instance, wishes to clear out from there and come here, the only chance you allow him, under this tariff, is to sell his things there at a heavy sacrifice, and when he arrives here he has to buy again and pay our heavy taxation on the things he requires; and I am told that this prevents a very large number of farmers from coming to this colony who otherwise would do so. I do think the tariff might be amended in this direction, without any serious loss to the revenue of the colony; and that instead of our venturing on this dangerous principle of advancing money to tenants, under this proposed land scheme, if we knocked off a little money from the tariff in the way I have suggested, we should do more for encouraging settlement in this colony than in any other way. There is one other point in the Speech to which it is my intention to refer at very short length, and that is the Midland Railway. On this question, at all events, the action of the Government in the past session has proved to be, without exception, the most miserable failure, and the action of the Opposition—the taunted and twitted seven—has proved to be indubitably right. I think, myself, that the seven hon. members who voted against the Government on that Midland Railway question have reason to be proud of the way in which they decided to vote in the interest of the country at large. I observe that the Speech itself maintains a most peculiar reticence in

regard to what may happen over this Midland question. Vagueness is hardly a word for it. Paragraph 11 concludes with these words: "It is hoped that it may be found possible to complete this important work at an early date." I think it is absolutely certain that this very clever, very vague, utterance must have been drawn by the hon. the Attorney General. I don't think there is any other member of the Government who could have put in words which might mean so much, and yet might mean so little. But I wish, really, that we did know a little more of what is meant by that, because we have a precedent. During the last session there were various rumours floating about, at different times, and when those rumours appeared either in the *West Australian* newspaper or the *Daily News*, it was wonderful how near they always came to the truth. So to-day we see in the newspapers that there is a sort of rumour that some further proposals are going to be made, either by the Government or to the Government, or in some way, to somebody. It is very vague, but I wish we knew a little more about it. The Government have made already three distinct blunders in this matter. Blunder No. 1 was the giving that £60,000 guarantee to the bank, without first obtaining the sanction of this House. Blunder No. 2 was in inducing this House, on information which has since proved to be utterly unreliable—I don't blame the Government, I blame those who supplied this information—to give a substantial guarantee, and which, instead of carrying out the object intended, has utterly and signally failed, and not only that, but has done even more to damage our credit at home than anything else. I believe that if we had not given that guarantee—that is to say if the Government had not induced this House to give that guarantee—that there might not have been the necessity at the present moment for the issue of these Treasury bills. That guarantee being hawked about the London market must inevitably have damaged our reputation to a very considerable extent. The third blunder made by the Government was undoubtedly in neglecting to give the company their deeds of grant to the moiety of the lands to which they became entitled since the Commissioner of Rail-

ways had certified that the five first sections of this railway were fit for traffic. There is no question at all that under a proper construction of that contract the Government were bound to give these lands to the company as soon as the certificate was given by the Minister, and the line was open by the company for traffic, in compliance with that certificate. If the Commissioner gave the certificate——

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): He never did.

MR. DEHAMEL: The certificate was published in the *Government Gazette*, whether the Commissioner gave the certificate or not.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): That the line was safe for traffic.

MR. DEHAMEL: It is the same thing.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. H. W. Venn): No, it is not.

MR. DEHAMEL: If the Commissioner gave a certificate that the line was safe for traffic, then I say that the Commissioner waived any objection as to whether the line was equipped or not. But the Government having made these three blunders, I do hope and trust they will not make a further blunder, as intimated in the newspaper paragraph to-day, by giving any further guarantee or any further assistance to this company, without first coming to this House, and without making a clean breast of everything to us, and without seeking our approval of every step they intend to take. If the Government were to take action in accordance with the rumour that I saw reported in the newspapers to-day, I feel sure that this colony would be again thrown back, that this railway would again become a bugbear; and you cannot close your eyes to the fact that by the 27th of February next, unless the company have actually completed another 50 miles of the railway, the Government have the power, under clause 63 of the contract, to absolutely rescind or annul the contract, to transfer the £10,000 deposit with interest to their own account, to close the matter, and start negotiations on a new basis. Knowing this, and feeling this, it was folly and madness, and utterly and absolutely wrong for the Government to make any arrangements without the fullest sanction and approval of the members of this House; and more

particularly when the Government know, as we know, and the country now knows, that the company—if you call it a company—practically consists of two men, and these men are men of straw only. You cannot consider a company to be a real *bonâ fide* company when you find two men, who could not pay a pound call on the shares they hold, holding between them no less than 198,300 shares out of a total of 200,000 shares. I say that as the Government know this, and as we know it also, it would be wrong and most improper for any further steps to be taken in regard to this company, without receiving the sanction and approval of this House. The main measure before us will be the Franchise Bill, and I trust it will be one of the first which the Government will place before us.

MR. QUINLAN: Sir, I have been waiting for some gentleman to follow the hon. member for Albany, but, apparently, no one is so disposed on this occasion. In common with the members who have already expressed their opinions upon the Governor's Speech, I have only to say that I endorse the kind expressions which have been used by the three hon. members who have already addressed the House with reference to the late respected President of the Legislative Council. I think, sir, those hon. members have echoed the sentiments, not only of the members of this House, but of the colonists generally, from one end to the other. I am pleased to find that the colony is in a very satisfactory and prosperous condition financially; and I have again much pleasure in congratulating the Government, thus far, upon the state of the finances of the colony at the present time. I am also pleased to see that the Government are in hope of being able to raise the balance of the Loan on satisfactory terms. While regretting that it has been deemed advisable, in the event of their failing to raise this Loan in the ordinary way, that it should be done by Treasury bills, still, as this has been done in other colonies, I see no reason why this course should affect our credit in London or elsewhere. It occurs to me that if this colony were better advertised by means of pamphlets published, making known to capitalists the resources of the colony, this form of advertisement to be under the authority of

the Government, I think it would be the means of assisting the country in obtaining loans at a satisfactory figure. The fact occurs to me that we are compared with the other colonies in this respect, and that, as their over-borrowing has affected their credit, Western Australia is looked upon as Australia, in the English money market. But having regard to the enormous discoveries of gold recently made, and considering the mere handful of people we have in this colony, to my mind Western Australia has more attractions and resources that are capable of development than any other part of Australia; hence my reason for saying that we should be in a better position than any portion of Australia to-day, to borrow money in the English market. I am glad to notice that those public works which were approved of by this House during the last session are in full progress, as I learn from the Governor's Speech, or that those works for which tenders are not yet called, as I judge from paragraph 4, will be pushed on as quickly as possible. With regard to the discoveries of gold on the Murchison and eastward of Yilgarn, I think that as the existing law has not proved to be suitable in every way to the requirements of this industry, judging by what happened recently at Yilgarn, the Government might well take some means of remedying the evil which has been complained of. I refer to the strike and occurrences at Yilgarn a month or two ago. The most important item in the Speech, to my mind, is that with reference to the amendment of the Constitution Act; and I am pleased indeed to see that the Government have adhered to their pledge made during last session, and I trust this very important item in the Governor's Speech will receive every consideration from the members, and that the franchise will be so liberalised as to suit the requirements of every common-sense individual in the colony. I shall reserve my opinions with regard to the franchise which I favor, until the matter is under debate in the House. I notice also that it is proposed that there shall be two additional members for the Legislative Council and three for the Legislative Assembly. The contemplated addition to the Assembly will give special representation

to the gold-mining districts. Well, in view of the fact that to-day in Perth we have, I venture to say, one-fifth of the population of the colony, I think Perth might well claim another representative in this House; and I trust that before this matter is finally dealt with the Government will see if they can go further than is mentioned in the Speech, by adding at least another representative to the city. Suffice it to say that while the mining industries, comparatively, have not been specially represented to that degree which their importance demands, still, likewise I contend that Perth should have at least one more representative, in proportion to the population. With regard to the proposal of free grants of land to persons occupying for agricultural purposes, I await the details of this scheme. I am one who has advocated some scheme for the settlement of the land during some considerable time past, and I am pleased indeed that the Government have seen fit to place this scheme amongst the Bills to be dealt with during this session. The hon. member who last spoke said he did not think that this matter should be dealt with at the present time, inasmuch as we were not at liberty to dispose of the land to people who may come here to claim free areas on which to settle. I look upon it that at the present time, and ever since the foundation of the colony, the Government has always endeavored to offer attractions by some means or other to every trade or calling. I need only refer to the fact that by the system of railways and by subsidies to the municipalities, and the sums allotted to various districts all over the colony, the State has been assisting or aiding people in other lines of life; and, as I am in favor of a scheme of land settlement which will offer monetary aid to the agricultural class, I hope the details of this proposed scheme will be such as I can heartily support. It has suited other portions of the world—at any rate one portion of America—and I see no reason why we should not offer the immense tracts of land we have lying waste, or in some instances used merely as sheep walks, as a means of wisely turning them to account, by inducing those people to settle on them who are the backbone of any country, and who make the most

desirable settlers. By developing the land we shall be turning to account these barren wastes; and while admitting that I was at one time opposed to the granting of monetary aid, yet, having regard to all the surrounding circumstances—the cost of clearing and the many other expenses—I am now fully convinced to the contrary, that this is the only legitimate means of placing before the country such a scheme of land settlement as will be the means of attracting a large and useful population. I notice likewise, in paragraph 8, that it is intended to deal with the question of the drought in the Northern divisions of the colony, and I am pleased indeed to find that a Bill will be introduced to amend the Land Regulations in this respect. I am also glad to say that on a former occasion I was in favor then of adopting this means which now the Government intend to propose. The hon. member for the DeGrey had given notice of a motion to deal with this question, and then it was that I expressed my regret, after he had withdrawn his motion, that relief was not to be given in this form. But the time is not too late now, and the proposal of the Government will meet with the approval of every reasonable man in the colony. It has been said by the hon. member for Albany that this would be granting relief to the rich; but, sir, I beg to differ from him, because these people are not by any means rich, and, considering their losses in the drought, I have no hesitation in saying that, if they were rich before, they are certainly poor now. With regard to paragraph 9, I shall only venture to say that I will give this matter every attention; and I trust that the question of reformatory and industrial schools will receive every attention from hon. members, for I think that anything tending to the improvement of the people will commend itself to the good sense of every member present. With regard to the Midland Railway, I have only to say that I regret that this much vexed question has not yet been definitely settled in one way or the other. I have reason to know that the Midland Railway has been the means of barring a considerable number of people from taking up blocks of land within this area. I know it to be a fact, at any rate in the Toodyay district, that there are blocks which people had intended to

take up, but on discovering that they were in the hands of the Midland Company, and that the applicants could not get any claim to the land, it has continued to lie as nature left it; and the sooner that these blocks can be made available for occupation the better for all concerned. I cannot lay the blame for all that has happened in regard to this company upon the shoulders of the present Government, but I hope that, while they have the trouble before them, they will watch carefully the interests of this colony, and that they will not again go so far as they did when guaranteeing the sum of £60,000 without the previous sanction of this House. However, I give them all due credit for having acted as their sense guided them in the past and in the interests of the colony at the time. I wish to be very brief in referring to one item, which I regret extremely has not been included in the Speech, and that is the revision of the tariff. I feel that I shall be speaking the sentiments of every individual in the colony when I say that this tariff question is next in importance to the questions of the franchise and the land settlement. The tariff question is so very important, to my mind, and there are so many anomalies in the present tariff, and so many means might be adopted for offering inducements to people who are willing to invest their capital here in factories and other industries, which are now sadly prevented by the tariff, that the duties ought certainly to be revised. There are other instances in which the duties are anomalous and unjust, and I don't think they operate to the advantage of anyone concerned. While I admit that the tariff question would certainly have to be considered from the financial point of view in respect to the revenue of the colony, notwithstanding, I am of opinion that the revenue would not be affected on the wrong side, inasmuch as the revision might be made in such a way that the colony would materially benefit instead of suffering. I need say no more beyond expressing my congratulation to the Government upon the Speech which has been placed before the House; and knowing full well that the various items contained therein will occupy the House for some time to come, I shall reserve what I have to say upon each individual

item until the matters are before us for debate.

MR. CLARKSON: I do not intend to make a very long speech, in speaking upon the Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which His Excellency opened this session of Parliament. I think the Address-in-Reply is almost a waste of time, for all the matters of importance mentioned in the Speech will come before this House at a later time, and will no doubt receive the consideration of hon. members. There is one subject to which I feel bound to allude. I am sorry to see that no reference is made to the provision of a water supply for the Yilgarn mining district. I consider this matter is one of paramount importance. There we have hundreds of men spending their money, and almost risking their lives, in the endeavor to develop these goldfields, and what are we doing to supply them with the drink necessary to life—water? Very little, I am afraid. I think the first business of the Government should be to import one of the most improved boring machines, for I believe those now in the colony are almost useless. In other parts of Australia they go down thousands of feet and tap artesian water. Why are we not endeavoring to do the same, not only in the interests of the goldfields, but also of good pastoral land which is to be found in that country—an almost unlimited extent of good pastoral land, which lies in a state of nature for want of water. The settlers are not in a condition to import these expensive machines for procuring water, and I think it is one of the first duties of the Government to do so. It is a crying shame that this has not been done. All those who are acquainted with that country, as I am, will know that, however heavy the rainfall may be during a few weeks, yet the water disappears almost as fast as it falls, and the people are thrown back upon what they can find in a few rock-holes or sand, and these soon become exhausted. This is a matter of very great importance, and I hope that the Government, now that their attention is called to it, will take some action in the matter. With regard to the other matters mentioned in His Excellency's Speech, I propose to say very little. Perhaps the most important is that relating to the widening of the franchise. I quite approve of the aboli-

tion of the property qualification for members, but I do not approve of widening the franchise too much; and it seems very strange to me, for I cannot understand where this cry for extension comes from. It certainly does not come from the working men themselves. I represent a large pastoral and agricultural district—I believe one of the largest in the colony—and I have never heard the subject mentioned in my district. I am perfectly at a loss to know where this cry comes from. As to giving the working man a vote, or the man who carries a swag on his back, I say give him a vote by all means. I should be one of the first to do so. I certainly do not approve of giving to every man a vote who happened to be in a district when an election was going on, unless that man had been twelve months at least in the colony, and had taken the trouble to register his claim.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): That is what we propose to do.

MR. CLARKSON: I never heard the cry mentioned, as far as that goes. We are all working men, and as to this cry coming from the working men, that is all bunkum. I shall not trouble the House, at this stage, with any further remarks on the Address-in-Reply.

MR. MOLLOY: Sir, I intend to occupy the House with a few observations with respect to the Speech now under discussion, and the Address-in-Reply. I will not weary the House by recapitulating all that has been said in commenting on the Governor's Speech, but I will endeavor to single out what seem to me the most important points, and will offer a few observations upon them. I notice in paragraph 6 that the Speech deals with the amendment of the Constitution Act, and to my mind this appears to be the most important piece of legislation which will occupy the attention of the House this session. The last speaker said he did not know where the cry came from; that he never heard—in his district at all events—that there was any evidence that the working men required a vote. I can say, in answer to that hon. member, that in this district, at all events, he would have heard, had he been here, the requirements and views of these people expressed very anxiously in regard to this subject; and I take it that



we need have no fear in conferring this benefit upon the people of this colony. Each person who comes here is as much interested in its good government as another, be he rich or poor. If one has the advantage of riches and the other has not, then I fail to see why the difference should be so marked in regard to the expression of opinion as to what is good in the interest of the country in reference to its government, and why the poor man should not have an opportunity of giving effect to his opinion. However, I hope that when this matter comes on for discussion, it will have the serious attention of this House, and that due consideration will be given to it so as to give effect to legislation in the direction of widening the franchise and the taking away of all the restrictions which now hamper the voter in giving effect to his opinion in the election of a representative in Parliament. At the present time it is notorious that the registration of voters is so hampered that I daresay not one-tenth of the population of the colony have the benefit of being able to vote. It has just been suggested by an hon. member that they don't take the trouble to vote; but I can assure the House that this is not the reason why the register of voters is so limited. I have known many people who have been in the colony for a number of years, and who, owing to the restricted manner in which they are entitled to register, were unable at the time to have a vote, in consequence of their moving out of the district in which they had been residing less than 12 months at the time of making up the list; and this certainly is not their fault, because unless they are willing to forego the advantages which the change of residence may give them, they are precluded from having their name inserted on the register at the present time. I think that to hamper it again in this proposed extension of the franchise, by making it compulsory that the person should be twelve months resident in the colony and six months resident in the district, is not a move in the right direction. I take it that if a person is six months in the colony this should be sufficient to entitle him to vote, irrespective of whether he has been in one particular district since the time of making up the roll; that

after he has been in the colony the necessary period of six months, he should be entitled to register his name on the list in the division in which he resides at the time. I am glad to notice that all who have spoken are agreed that it is necessary that the qualification for members should be done away with, and have come to recognise that it is not at all necessary that a person, to be a representative in Parliament, should have the qualification of riches. Another important subject mentioned in the Speech is the land settlement scheme, and I am glad to find that I am thoroughly in accord with the scheme as proposed by the hon. the Premier. One hon. member who has spoken has mentioned that he is opposed to the system of money aid to enable persons coming into the country to settle upon the land, and in the same breath the hon. member tells us that he would spend money in the clearing of the land before he would give aid to the settlers. But I say, if that be so, where is the difference? Is it not better that a person should so improve the land out of his own money, and when he comes to the time that his money is spent and he can offer his improvements as security for a loan from the Government, that for every £2 he has spent they should lend him £1 on that security? I think it is a reasonable proposal; and if we wish to make the land productive and increase our population, and by that means keep in the country the money that is now sent out of it for food to supply the population in it, I think the scheme proposed is a wise one, and should have the serious consideration of each member of this honorable House when it comes to be discussed, and I hope the result will be that the scheme will be adopted. Another matter of importance in the Speech is the much-talked-of Midland Railway. The Ministers have had considerable blame for the action which they took last session in respect of this matter. I was not one of those much-abused seven who stood up in this House to warn the Government at the time that they were proceeding in a wrong direction. I thought that, considering the difficulty which the Government had made for themselves in guaranteeing the advance to the company of £60,000, the proposals made

from this company would extricate them from that difficulty, and that they were reasonable proposals. I considered that, had this agreement been completed, it would have been a good thing for the company; that had they complied with their promise to complete the line if this guarantee were entered into, and to relieve the Government of the liability for the £60,000 by paying it back at once, I considered that the extending of the risk—the risk only—by the Government having to meet the interest on £65,000, instead of the liability to the bank for £60,000 guaranteed, this would be an advantage to the country, considering the position the Government were in at that time—a very considerable advantage—because I saw that the £65,000, if they were ever called upon to pay it, would be by annual instalments, and merely their portion of the interest guaranteed upon a sum sufficient to complete this work, and would be an annual instalment of something like £8,000 a year. The Government would be called upon to pay this if the company did not keep to their engagement. The Government would have got this line completed had this arrangement been made with the company, and the colony would get the benefit of the expenditure of this amount of money necessary to complete the line. But it is unfortunate that the company did not seem to be in earnest in making these proposals, and the fact that this agreement has not been taken advantage of by the company shows, to my mind, that the Government, being alive to the interests of the country, had hedged it round with such wise restrictions in respect to their security, that the company found it impossible to obtain the capital necessary for the completion of their line, and hence their failure to carry it out. The Government have been complained of most bitterly because they did not issue the certificates of title for the moiety of the land which the company were entitled to under the contract, that is the 6,000 acres per mile for the number of miles of railway completed; but I think that the company are in accord with the Ministers in this respect, that when the Ministers found the company were not taking advantage of the proposals which they had made, and which the Govern-

ment had agreed to, and that they had not paid back the £60,000 which the Government had guaranteed for them, and that they had not fully equipped the line according to the terms of the contract, then the Government were perfectly justified in withholding the certificates of title unless this encumbrance were acknowledged. And now we find reports in the newspapers that the Government have agreed to issue the certificates of title to the moiety of the land which the company is entitled to, less the amount of the security in respect of the guarantee of £60,000. I take it that no one can have any objection to this, and this being done, that when the additional 50 miles of line should be completed by the company in February next, the Government will then step in and determine this contract. It seems that the company are not able or not willing to carry out the agreement entered into during the last session of Parliament, and it is high time now that this matter should be ended. To leave the matter open for a length of time would be disastrous to the country in this way: that we have locked up there, during the term of this railway contract, all the land along the line belonging to the Government, all the land which this company is entitled to select from under the contract, and the land cannot be interfered with as regards the Government portion until the company have first completed the railway, or until the term has expired in respect of the contract, and then the Government can only step in to offer their own land for sale. That this is a hindrance to the country must be evident to every reasonable person at the present time, because the land along this line of railway must be of some value to the Government, and of more value than it was before the construction of this railway was commenced; and if we have allowed this company the opportunities which the contract gave to it, and if it has failed to carry out its contract, then we, in the interests of the country, should step in and say that the interests of the country are not to be sacrificed by giving any undue concession to this company. It may be said that the Government are not in a position to complete the remaining portion of this line, and that it would be most unwise, considering the amount of the

loan at present not subscribed and the many public works which the Government have in hand, for the Government to attempt the completion of the remaining portion. I say also that it would be so; and it may also be said that the company has taken advantage of its contract, and has made such deviations as enabled it to secure all the good land available along the line of railway, and that the balance of it is wilderness; and hence, having given away all that is good, it would be recklessness for the Government to complete the remaining portion of the line across this wilderness, having in return only the waste land that the line would run through. But while I admit it would not be wise, under present circumstances, to construct the remaining portion, still it would be wise to terminate the contract so that the land might be thrown open for purchase; and there is this in favor of such action, that the contract being ended, the company would then only be entitled to 6,000 acres per mile upon the portion constructed, instead of 12,000 acres per mile if the company had completed the whole contract; and if the company has secured to itself all the good land along its railway, then we would be in the position that we would have the security of the remaining 6,000 acres per mile at the disposal of the Government, the 6,000 acres of good land per mile, and which would be equal, I take it, to something like 10s. per acre, and would give us £3,000 per mile upon all the length of line completed. I think this is a matter which should engage the serious attention of this House, and I have no doubt that when it comes on for discussion, or that when any other proposal is made to this House, hon. members will bear in mind the manner in which the House was treated by this company in the last session, and that, all things being considered, due regard will be had to the interests of the country, and that this matter will be settled finally when it next comes on for discussion. I will not detain the House with any further remarks.

MR. RICHARDSON: I did not intend to address the House on this occasion, the subject being colorless and complimentary. On reading over the Speech of His Excellency, I did not think there was very much matter for debate in it; but

some speakers have discovered matter for debate, and some of the statements made by the hon. member for Albany struck me as being so remarkable, that I feel moved to make a few short comments on them. In criticising the policy of the Government, the hon. member has given us a complete change of front. He has intimated now, and would lead us to believe, that he has always been very much opposed to this Loan policy. He says that his prognostications and prophecies have been proved by the fact that the Government have to issue Treasury bills, and therefore it would be necessary that we should not become involved in any large Loan works, because he says we have to float Treasury bills, and therefore this proves something which he must have said before to that effect. He implies that the public works policy of the Government has been a failure and a mistake. In looking up *Hansard*, I find the hon. member's speech on the Address-in-Reply, when the Loan policy of the Government was introduced, contained the following words:—"I desire to show members that "in the remarks I am about to offer I am "not one of those opposed to a Loan Bill, "but rather in favor of a Loan Bill, provided that the Loan is to be prudently "and wisely expended." Again he said: "If satisfied that all the works mentioned "in the Governor's Speech could be carried out for the amounts set against them "—I speak for myself, and I believe for all "the members on this side of the House "—we would all support the Government policy, and some of us would go "further and ask the Government to increase the amount, and increase it purely for colonisation purposes." In another portion he said: "I say, sir, that the "policy of the Government should be a "policy of settling people on the soil, of "developing agriculture, and, in connection with this, and at the same time, to "adopt a spirited public works policy, "and so attract population, who will come "and settle amongst us and cast in their "lot with us, and assist us in bearing the "burden of taxation. But my main "objection to the Ministerial policy is "specially directed to this: we are asked "to vote the money for these works before we decide upon the works to be "carried out." Now, it seems to me that the hon. member's present speech is a

contradiction of his former sentiments. I think also that his criticisms on the proposed Land Bill, to which I will not now particularly allude, are quite contrary to his former policy of attracting people on to the soil and settling them there; and now that the Premier has brought forth a Bill for that purpose, the hon. member seems to say it is a wrong policy altogether. I wish merely to show that the hon. member's present opposition to the Government policy appears to be not in harmony with any earnest conviction that their policy is a wrong one, or that their action in the matter of public works is based upon wrong principles; but his present remarks appear to me to be made more for the sake of having something to say in opposition to the Government.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I am sorry there has not been more discussion on the subject of the reply to His Excellency's Speech; and I should not have risen to speak at all to-night—in fact, I did not intend to speak to-night—if it were not that I cannot refrain from making a few observations with reference to the peculiar, and certainly most unpatriotic, and, I think, somewhat silly, speech of the member for Albany. He said that the present condition of the colony was a confirmation, if confirmation were needed, of the wisdom of the Opposition in opposing so large a loan. Still, I cannot see any cause to be dissatisfied with the present position of the colony or with its financial prospects. I cannot see that anyone has any reason to complain of a want of wisdom on the part of the Government, or of Parliament, in sanctioning the expenditure of the loan of £1,336,000 upon the public works which are now being constructed. As far as I have been able to learn, and I have probably had some opportunities of knowing, it seems to me that the progress which has attended the colony during the last two years has been far greater than any of us anticipated when we met to discuss the Loan Bill. The hon. gentleman gave this House to understand—and of course if he was speaking only to the few persons who are here to-night we might be inclined to allow his remarks to pass without reply, because I believe everyone in this House knows that what he stated was far from the

fact, but as his remarks go beyond those few, and may go beyond the limits of the colony, it would not be proper for me to sit still and not reply to the observations he has made—that if there is any truth in his observations, this colony is in a very critical position, a position verging upon bankruptcy, a position in which we have difficulty in meeting the demands made upon us, and in fact altogether a very unsatisfactory position. Now, I think all hon. members know that this is altogether the opposite of the fact. I have spoken recently in different parts of the colony, and I have placed before the people the state of the finances of the colony, and you have the figures before you in the Statement that has been laid on the table to-night, showing the financial position of the colony up to the 30th September last. I think that statement of the finances is entirely satisfactory, and I have not heard anyone, until the hon. member spoke to-night, say that the facts, as I have stated them, are in every way satisfactory. The hon. member seems to have jumped at some conclusion that because the Government propose to bring in a Bill giving power to raise money by Treasury bills, we are therefore in some terrible dilemma—that we intend to rush into the London market to raise the money by means of these bills, that we cannot raise the money in any other way, and that we are in financial difficulties. The reason why the Government propose to raise Treasury bills is in order to be armed with power to raise money by these bills, should the London market be unfavorable. For my own part, I believe that it is quite possible that we will not make any use, at the present time, of these bills which we ask this House to approve of; but we wish to have the power, should we require to raise money, and the London market not be favorable, to be able to give a tangible and negotiable security for the temporary advances we may require; and I think that is but a reasonable thing for us to do. In most of the colonies they have a standing power to raise money by Treasury bills to make up deficiencies in revenue or deficiencies from any other cause; but this is not the power we ask this House to give us. We do not wish for power to raise money to provide for deficiencies

in revenue; we wish only to be armed with power to raise money by Treasury bills, pending the issue of a loan for works that have been sanctioned by Parliament, and I do not believe we shall have any necessity to make use of this power which we ask you to approve. We think it is wise to have this power in reserve, in case we should have any difficulty in the loan market. The hon. member also said—I took his words down—that the markets of the world were closed against us after raising half a million of our loan. I entirely deny and repudiate that observation, which he has no authority for making. We have raised all the money we require to raise up to the present time; and, as hon. members can see by the statement of the Public Accounts on the table, we had on the 30th September last, in cash at our disposal, from loan and current account, an unexpended balance of something like £350,000, so that any one can see the Government are not short of money. We have large liabilities coming due; we have to provide for the whole of the rolling stock and the whole of the permanent way for all the railways that we have authority to build—in fact, almost the whole of the indents that are required under this Loan Act have been sent for to London and are in the hands of the contractors, and we have to provide the money to pay for these articles. Besides that, we are going on as fast as we can with the public works in the colony, and therefore we shall require, some time next year, a large amount of money; but I have no doubt that when we require the money we shall be able to obtain it. I deny entirely that the markets of the world are in any way closed to us. I believe that our credit in the London market is far better than ever it was since we were a colony. The hon. member says there was a partial failure in the carrying out of the policy of the Government. I don't know where the failure, or the partial failure, is. We have done our best to carry out these works as quickly as possible. We had some difficulties to contend with in starting; we had to organise the Public Works Department; we had to get everything into working order; but, for all that, we have been able to get our public works pushed forward in reasonably quick time, and

within six months we shall have in full progress all the railways that we have authority to build. I do not see that anyone has a right to say that there has been any failure whatever in the policy we have inaugurated, and which we are trying to carry out. The hon. member's idea is that we should stop all these works, and not proceed with any more until the atmosphere in London clears, when money shall be more plentiful, and altogether that we should publish to the world that we are a timid and frightened people. Well, I am not one of those at all. We have put our hands to the plough, and I, for one, am determined to carry out the programme we have entered upon, and I can see no reason why it cannot be carried out. The worst thing that can occur, even if the market in London were to become utterly worse than it is—I have information that every day it is becoming better—would be that we should have to pay a higher interest on the money we raised; and I don't care what we have to pay—rather than stop the public works now in hand, and which we hope to see completed and be a benefit to the country by opening it up and stimulating enterprise—rather than have that, it would pay us to give considerably more for the loan money required. But we are getting our loans at a fairly good price. Our last loan was supposed to be not very successful, but still it was raised at 99. I do not say that was as good a price as I should like to have got, but I think it was not unsatisfactory, considering the difficulties in the London money market at the time, and which had nothing to do with this colony. The difficulty of obtaining money in London was caused by the course of events, which were almost unparalleled in the history of finance; and we were unfortunate in wishing to raise money just at the time when money became very tight. But we have had no difficulty, up to the present, in obtaining what money we require, and I see no difficulty in the future in obtaining whatever we may require. The hon. member said the Government were afraid to place a loan on the market. I think that is a libel on the good name of the colony. In fact the whole tone of the hon. member's remarks was thoroughly libellous on the good name of the colony. His speech was one continual wail that

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