

be in a position to borrow its millions, without overreaching the limits of its borrowing powers. Another very important subject referred to in His Excellency's Speech was the steam service on our coast. No doubt it was very gratifying to have the assurances of the contractors that the poor old *Rob Roy* was undergoing repair, and that there was some prospect of regular monthly communication with the North being restored. But it was very unfortunate that this service had been interrupted as it had been, and that no effort had been made to continue it,—the present contractors it appeared being masters of the situation, with the Government and the Colony at their tender mercies. When steam communication with the North was established, with much flourish of trumpets, it had the result of driving away the coasters which used to trade between that part of the Colony and the Nor' West, and now the people at the North had no means of communication at all for months together, which, to say the least of it, was a most unfortunate state of things; and he could not help thinking it was a state of things which might have been avoided, by the exercise of a little more precaution on the part of the owners of the steamer, and a little more forethought, and a little more determination on the part of the Government to secure the Colony its lawful rights. He should have more to say on this subject on a future occasion, and consequently he would let it drop for the present, with the simple expression of a hope that, in any future contract entered into, the Colony would not again be made to suffer from the imbecility and the bungling incompetency shown in connection with its unhappy guano contracts. It remained to be seen, at a future stage of the Session, whether this cruelty towards the taxpayers of the Colony had not been again perpetrated upon our long-suffering public in connection with our steam service contract. It afforded him much pleasure to second the motion of his friend the hon. member for York, that a respectful Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech which the House had just heard from him.

On the motion of Mr. STEERE, the

debate was adjourned until Friday, July 28th.

The House adjourned at half-past four o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 28th July, 1882.

Tariff Bill: first reading—Hawkers Bill: first reading—Width of Tires Bill: first reading—Statutes (Errors) Amendment Bill: first reading—Law and Parliamentary Library Committee—Poor Houses Discipline Bill: second reading; in committee—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TARIFF BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved the first reading of a Bill for imposing duties on imported goods and for the exemption of certain goods from duties.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

HAWKERS BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved the first reading of a Bill to repeal the present law relating to hawkers and pedlars, and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

WIDTH OF TIRES BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved the first reading of a Bill to regulate the breadth of wheels on certain vehicles, and the weights to be carried thereon, and for other purposes.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

STATUTES (ERRORS) AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow) moved the first reading of a Bill to amend certain clerical and other errors and omissions which occur in various Acts of the Legislature of the Colony of Western Australia.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. A. C. Onslow), in accordance with notice, moved, that the hon. member for the Swan (Mr. Steere) be appointed a member of the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee, to fill up the vacancy at present existing in such Committee. The House last Session passed a short Act which repealed a section under which the Law and Parliamentary Committee as then existing was formed, and re-constituted the Committee upon a different footing. Upon the repeal of the then existing section, and the new Act coming into force, the hon. member for the Swan, who was then acting on the Committee, as the member representing the elected side of the House, vacated his seat, and it now devolved upon the Council to fill up that vacancy. He was sure it was unnecessary for him, who had not had the pleasure of knowing the hon. member for the Swan so long as others in that House had, to dilate upon the energetic and conscientious way in which the hon. member performed every public duty thrown upon him. The Committee in losing his services, although only temporarily, felt that they had lost a most valuable coadjutor, and, for his own part, he should be very sorry if the hon. member were not to be re-elected. That, however, was a contingency he did not for a moment anticipate, for he was sure there would not be a dissentient voice to the motion before the House.

The motion was then put and passed.

POOR HOUSES DISCIPLINE BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) moved the second reading of a Bill to provide for the better regulation and for the maintenance of discipline in the Government Poor Houses. The object

of the Bill was to empower the Governor-in-Council to frame regulations for the proper control and management of the inmates of these institutions, and to render it lawful for a visiting justice to order an unruly inmate to be put upon a diet of bread and water for a period not exceeding three days.

The Bill was read a second time without discussion, and passed through Committee *sub silentio*.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. STEERE: In rising to offer a few observations upon the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech, I feel sure, in the first place, that I am only expressing the views of hon. members generally when I say that we cordially endorse the action of His Excellency in tendering to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, on behalf of the Government and people of this Colony, our respectful congratulations on her providential escape from the danger to which she was recently exposed in the attempt made upon her life. I am quite sure if this House had been in Session at the time when the news of that dastardly attack first reached the Colony, we should with one accord have adopted an Address expressive of our loyalty and devotion to our Sovereign's person, and of our heartfelt joy at Her Majesty's escape. The next paragraph in His Excellency's Speech to which I would refer is that in which he states that "the deficiency on current account has been liquidated, and Her Majesty's Government have, at my request, sanctioned a further outlay on public works which will give an impetus to the Colony generally." I cannot go quite so far as His Excellency in saying that "the deficiency on current account" has yet been liquidated, though I believe the time is not far off when such will be the case; but what I wish more particularly to bring under the notice of the House is the fact that it is mainly in consequence of the action of this Council that the finances of the Colony are now in such a satisfactory condition as to enable us to prosecute the further extension of the railway, and to undertake other works calculated to advance the development of our resources. How is it, Sir,

that our finances have been placed in this prosperous condition? Almost solely and entirely in consequence of the resolutions adopted by this House during the Session before last, when we decided to ask Her Majesty's Government to allow us, as part of a financial scheme which the Legislature had approved of, to recoup the current revenue, out of loan, the amount which had been expended out of ordinary revenue upon the construction of the Eucla Telegraph Line. In forwarding those resolutions for the approval of the Secretary of State, His Excellency the Governor, alluding to this particular proposal, said: "Considering the strongly expressed opinion of the Legislative Council, and the relief which would be thereby afforded to the Treasury, I am very unwilling to oppose it—notwithstanding that on grounds of sound financial policy there is much to be said against it." That was the view entertained of the proposal by His Excellency the Governor, but I am happy to say it was not the view acted upon by Lord Kimberley, otherwise we should not be in a position now to undertake the further extension of the railway to York and the other public works of importance which it is proposed to be undertaken out of the contemplated loan, already sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. We have often heard it said that the Legislature of this Colony, as at present composed, is incapable of doing any good for the country, and it is for this reason that I have referred somewhat at length to the fact that it is solely in consequence of the action of a Legislature, which is generally spoken of so contemptuously by a portion of the press as a Council incapable of doing anything to further the interests of the Colony, that the country to-day is in a position to embark upon these most desirable public undertakings. It has been said by a very eminent statesman that "good finance makes good Government," and I think most of us will recognise the truth of that, for, unless a country is in a sound financial condition, the Government entrusted with its administration must be much hampered indeed, and I think it is but due to this House to say that it has done much towards the cause of good Government, by enabling the Executive to restore the

finances of the country into a sound condition. In this instance, at any rate, so far from the Legislature having opposed and thwarted the Government, as it is often accused of doing by its enemies, it has proved itself the strongest possible supporter which the Government could have had. Since we met last Session, a contract has been accepted, as hon. members are aware, for the extension of the railway in the direction of the Eastern Districts, and I think it must be a matter for congratulation to us all that the contract for that work was taken at a price considerably lower than that estimated by the Commissioner of Railways, and at a price very much below that estimated by a great many other people. It will be in the recollection of hon. members that when the Commissioner's estimate was first published a great number of people laughed at it; they said it was simply ridiculous,—that the work could never be done for the money. I verily believe some people actually rejoiced in the belief that the amount for which the work would be undertaken would preclude us from undertaking it at all, under our present form of Government. At any rate it has been a very agreeable surprise to most people that the contract was undertaken at a price which is even lower than the original estimate, and I am sure this House will join me in congratulating the Colony upon that fact. It is, however, I am sorry to think, a matter for regret that a work of so much importance, and involving such a large expenditure of public money, should be going on at a time when, owing to bad seasons and other causes, the producers of the Colony are debarred from deriving that benefit from it which they might otherwise have done, and when the contractors have to draw their supplies from the other colonies. While on the subject of this railway, I hope that during the course of the Session some steps will be taken to ensure a survey being made of the country intervening between the junction of the Clackline and the proposed extension to York, and the town of Newcastle, for I consider it is almost absolutely necessary that there should be a branch line running in that direction, connecting the Toodyay District with the trunk line from York. We

shall never derive anything like the advantages which we ought to derive from this railway, especially as regards goods traffic, unless we have this branch line constructed; and I think a survey of the route, at any rate, ought to be made as soon as possible, and that a line of road should, in the meantime, pending the construction of the railway, be made to enable teams with produce from the Toodyay District to reach the nearest station on the line, which I believe will be about seventeen or eighteen miles from the town of Newcastle. I think the House will agree with me as to the necessity of this being done, and that the money so expended will soon be recouped by the additional traffic which will thus be brought to the railway. Coming to another paragraph in His Excellency's Speech, it must be very gratifying to hon. members and to the country at large to learn that on the 30th June last there was a balance of £20,000 to the credit of the Colony, after meeting all ordinary charges to that date. But I am afraid there is an impression upon the minds of some people that this credit balance is available for carrying on fresh undertakings. I have even seen it so stated in one of our public prints, and a hope actually expressed that the money would be appropriated for immigration purposes. I hope, however, hon. members in this House will not run away with any such idea, that this money is available for any such purpose. This is not the first surplus that has been dangled before our eyes. Hon. members will recollect that a few years ago we were told there was a credit balance of upwards of £17,000, and very pleased the House was to hear such a flattering tale told it; but what was the state of affairs at the end of the year? Why, instead of having any credit balance, the Colony was £13,000 in debt, upon current account. So that we must not run away with the idea that because we happen to have a balance to our credit just now, we shall have any large surplus available for purposes of speculation at the end of the year, beyond the expenditure which this House will have sanctioned. No doubt there will be some balance to the good when the financial year closes, but, for my own part, I do not think it will be a very large

one. I have already referred to the construction and extension of our railways, but there is another subject in this connection which will have to engage our attention, and that is the management of our railways. It is no use our expending money in constructing lines of railways unless they are to be the source of some profit to us; but I am sorry to say we have derived very little revenue indeed up to the present, from either our Northern or Eastern Railway. This, I think, as regards the latter line, is exceedingly disappointing, especially in view of the fact that the traffic on it has, so far, greatly exceeded all expectation. In reading the interesting and instructive report of the Acting Commissioner of Railways—a report well worth studying, affording as it does a very full account of the working of the department during the past year—I notice that, as regards our Northern Railway, although the returns show a slight improvement on those of the previous year, the line was worked at an actual loss of close upon £600, while, upon the Eastern Railway, between Fremantle and Guildford, the receipts for the ten months which elapsed between the opening of the line in March and the 31st December last only exceeded the expenditure by £105; and, although the transactions during the first five months of the present year show a slight financial improvement, the profits only amounted to £185. There must be something radically wrong when we find the expense of working a line of railway so excessive in proportion to the receipts. I believe it is an axiom in railway management that the working expenses of a line ought not to exceed one-half the receipts; but in this Colony nearly the whole of the revenue derived from our railways is swallowed up in working them. Under these circumstances, I think the Council will find it necessary during this Session to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into our system of railway management, with a view to place it on a more satisfactory footing, and to see whether we cannot get something more out of our railways than we do at present. So far as the Northern line is concerned, I cannot say that the most sanguine of us expected it would do much more than pay its working expenses; but the result as regards our Eastern line—especially

in view of the fact that the traffic has been greatly in excess of our most glowing anticipations—the result here is very disheartening, and should be inquired into. With reference to the proposed new loan for railway extension, I think it will require considerable care on our part to regulate the manner in which this loan shall be raised, for we certainly shall not require the money for some little time yet, and it would be no use raising it until we do want it, and have to pay interest on money lying idle. I make this observation because I notice that His Excellency in his Speech says that in the Estimates of Expenditure for next year provision has been made for the payment of interest on the new loan. Of course, if the money can be raised at such a rate of interest that it can be profitably reinvested until it is required for expenditure, well and good; but the question is one that will require very careful consideration on our part. I am sure hon. members must have heard with great pleasure that, notwithstanding the proposed extension of the railway and the construction of other public works, no additional taxation will be required this Session. Not that I consider the Colony heavily taxed at present, for, generally speaking, I do not think the incidence of taxation is severely felt by any class of the community; at the same time, I am glad to hear there is no necessity for any extra taxation. I am sure we must all agree with the Governor as to the necessity for making some fresh arrangement for affording police protection to the settlers at the Gascoyne; but I cannot quite agree with His Excellency as to any great improvement having of late taken place in the relations existing between the natives of that district and the whites; on the contrary, from information which I have received from settlers up there, I think the relations between them are infinitely worse than they were some little while ago, and I am afraid it will be some time yet before any better feeling is established between the natives and the settlers in the disturbed districts. Not that I blame the settlers. I have seen it stated that the existing relations between the whites and the blacks is due to the ill-treatment received by the natives at the hands of the settlers, but

these statements I believe to be absolutely and utterly false. It would be most injurious to the settlers' own interests to treat the blacks with harshness or severity, and much better for all concerned to deal with them in a humane and conciliatory spirit; and I am sure the aspersions which have been cast by a portion of the press upon the settlers of our Northern settlements have been altogether unwarrantable. There is very little doubt in my own mind that this House will agree with the proposal of the Governor to afford increased protection to these settlers, and will readily vote the money required for such a purpose both in the Kimberley and Gascoyne Districts, though possibly it is not so much required in the former as in the latter. I have some doubts as to the utility for providing police protection for the Kimberley District, in the absence of any provision made for the appointment of a Magistrate there, for I cannot see what possible use the Police would be without a Magistrate. I also think it will require some consideration as to whether Roebuck Bay is the most suitable place to establish a Police station and Customs office. While on the subject of these districts, I should like to offer a few remarks with reference to the collapse of the proposals in regard to a survey of the Kimberley country. It appears to me a most extraordinary thing that the Survey Department was not aware, when the Council was in Session last year, of the circumstances which were likely to arise in that district necessitating surveys to be undertaken there before the House again assembled. I think the Survey Department ought to have foreseen all that, and to have asked the Legislature for a vote to enable the work to be carried out, which was the constitutional course to adopt. I notice in the correspondence which took place between the Governor and the Surveyor General on this subject, that the latter says the knowledge required to "enable a pastoral leaseholder to know the confines and limits of his leases is absolutely necessary for him." When did this fact dawn upon the mind of the Surveyor General? It appears to me that it only dawned upon the hon. gentleman's mind since people from the other side have come here to take up pastoral leases,—people who, as

the hon. gentleman says in his memorandum to the Governor, will no doubt "make a great noise about it," unless they get what they want. But for years past we have had leaseholders, residents of our own Colony, who have been paying rents, large rents, to the Government in respect of leases, but who have never yet known the confines and limits of their leases. But I am not aware that the Survey Department has manifested any great anxiety with regard to these people. It is only when residents of the other colonies, who are likely to "make a great noise about it," appear upon the scene, that we find the interest of the Department awakening, and this great consideration shown for pastoral leaseholders. When people take up land in the Colony, whether they come from the other side or whether they are local residents, they take it up under the existing regulations, and with their eyes open, and they must be aware, or at any rate they ought to be aware, that the Government do not hold themselves responsible as to the boundaries of their runs. And I fail to see why any greater consideration should be shown towards people from the other side who "make a great noise about it," any more than towards people on this side who do not make such a great noise about it. Indeed, it appears that a great many of these Kimberley leases have been merely taken up for the purposes of speculation, for I notice that among the reasons urged by the Surveyor General in support of the proposal for an immediate survey of the runs, is that the hon. gentleman has noticed in the Victorian newspapers that some of these leases are already offered for sale in Melbourne. I think people who take up land for such speculative purposes deserve little or no consideration at our hands, for it is simply encouraging land jobbing, and nothing else. In another paragraph of a letter to the Governor, I notice the Surveyor General says: "The 'present regulations meditate' survey 'before selection, without which the 'pastoral tenant cannot get his lease and 'cannot enter on his land, which by 'them he is supposed to do without 'delay, in order to stock up to a given 'amount.'" There would have been some force in that argument if the lessees of these Kimberley lands were compelled to

place their stock on their own leases, but that is not necessary; all that is required of them under the existing regulations is that they shall have their stock in the district,—not necessarily upon their own leases. Therefore, I say, there was no particular object for having their runs immediately surveyed. And in what way were we asked by the Government to provide the necessary means for carrying out the proposed survey? Not by a vote of this House, in Session assembled, but in a way which was even more unconstitutional than the system, condemned on all hands, of spending money upon a bare resolution of the House without any provision being made for such expenditure in the Appropriation Act. Those members who were consulted in the matter were asked, when the Legislature was not even in Session, to agree to an expenditure of some thousands of pounds; and, for my own part, I think the members so consulted acted very properly when they came to the conclusion that there was no immediate necessity then to incur such an expenditure as was proposed. It has also been said that, in consequence of this decision on the part of members to whom the matter was referred, the marine survey, for the purpose of discovering a suitable harbor for the district in question, had to be abandoned. How much truth is there in that? About as much as in a great many other reports which were circulated and published with reference to this matter, and that means very little indeed. Among the resolutions adopted at the meeting of members consulted on the subject was the following: "That, 'in connection with surveys in the Kimberley District, members present desire 'to express their opinion of the pressing 'necessity of a marine survey of King's Sound, and that in no other way could 'the services of the surveying vessel '*Meda* be so advantageously employed 'as in discovering a suitable port in 'King's Sound, where stock and goods 'could be loaded and discharged with 'safety. Beagle Bay, by its distance 'from the Fitzroy, and the difficult 'nature of the country to be traversed, 'cannot be considered as a permanent 'port for the Kimberley District, the 'development and settlement of which 'must be much retarded if no more

“suitable place for shipping purposes “is discovered.” That was the resolution adopted by the meeting of members, and yet we are told outside that the marine survey was abandoned, and no steps taken to discover a suitable port, solely in consequence of the Legislature. I have no doubt in my own mind that the settlement of the district has not been in any way retarded, or that it would have been advanced one iota, if the land survey had been undertaken at the commencement of the year instead of waiting until the end of the year, or possibly the beginning of next year; and, as for the revenue suffering, I think it will be quite the reverse. I think a great many of the leases, for which rent is now received, will, when their limits and confines are defined, be thrown up, and that the Colony will be a loser rather than a gainer, as regards its land revenue. There is another paragraph in His Excellency’s Speech to which I should like to refer, namely, that in which His Excellency, alluding to the survey party now employed in the Gascoyne District, says he hopes “good work will be accomplished before the withdrawal of the party in summer.” Why, I would ask, should the party be withdrawn in summer, if, as we are told in the same paragraph, there is every reason to hope that the recent rains have extended to the country between the Murchison and the Ashburton rivers. It appears to me a sheer waste of time and of money to withdraw the party before they finish the work, provided there is water and feed for them, and I hope to hear from the Surveyor General before the Session closes that there is no intention whatever to withdraw the party. With reference to the question of Immigration, I was somewhat disappointed to find that it was only proposed to increase the vote for that purpose by £1,000, which I think will be totally inadequate, and I hope the House will see its way clear to vote a considerably larger sum. His Excellency intimated that he proposes to make some addition to the salaries of some of our public officers, and recommends that, as far as possible, offices should be combined. There is nothing very original about that recommendation, for it is one which has been made in this House over

and over again. As to increasing salaries, I do not yet know who the officers are whose salaries it is proposed to increase, but, with reference to His Excellency’s remarks that the public service here is in many instances underpaid, and that our civil servants receive but a scanty income, I would point out that the same may be said in this Colony of other servants than those of the Crown, and that the incomes of the inhabitants in general are small. With regard to another paragraph in the Governor’s Speech, that relating to the coastal steam service, I hope that as soon as the contract between the Government and Messrs. Lilly & Co. is placed on the Table of the House, we shall be able to gather the terms and conditions of that contract, and see whether we cannot place the service on a footing that will prove more advantageous to the Colony. At present, I believe the only place which derives any advantage worth speaking of from the service is Geraldton. I do not say that by way of disparaging that district: I hasten to make that explanation, for I notice the hon. member for the district pricking up his ears. [Mr. Brown: It’s a credit to it, not a disparagement.] As regards the other ports of call, they derive little or no advantage from the service as at present conducted. I believe that by far the greater part of our imports from the other colonies has of late come by sailing vessels; and, therefore, so far as Fremantle and other ports are concerned, they could have done almost just as well without the steamers as with them. That certainly applies to the Southern ports, Bunbury and the Vasse, which are wretchedly served; so that, on the whole, I think we are paying a very large subsidy indeed for a service that is performed very unsatisfactorily, as regards the convenience of the colonists generally. The whole question will have to be considered in the course of the Session, and I need not trespass on the time of the House by further reference to it at present, beyond expressing a hope that some arrangement may be made for affording means of communication between the Kimberley District and Roebourne. The isolated position of the settlers in that part of the Colony is something dreadful to think of, and

some steps will undoubtedly have to be taken to remedy the existing state of things. I notice that His Excellency draws attention to the liberality of the Imperial Government in making a present to the Colony of some old stores belonging to the Pensioners, and His Excellency expresses a hope that this magnanimous gift will be duly appreciated and acknowledged. Well, I do not think this Colony has hitherto had much cause to thank the Imperial Government for any very liberal treatment on its part, and I am afraid that, before the Session closes, we shall find, on inquiry, that they have acted towards us in a most illiberal spirit. For my own part, I do not feel much gratitude towards them for handing over to us a few old stores for which they had no further use. I should not, I think, have alluded to the Land Regulations had it not been that the hon. member who moved the Address in Reply made some allusion to the subject in the course of his speech. The hon. member stated that, in his opinion, he did not think any alteration was required in our present Land Regulations. I have no intention of entering into any lengthy discussion upon that question now, beyond saying that I am unable to agree with the hon. member, that these regulations do not require any alteration. (Mr. HAMERSLEY: At present.) I think there is one alteration very much required at present,—an alteration giving greater security of tenure to lessees. His Excellency the Governor, in a letter which he did me the honor of addressing to me a short time ago, on this same subject, stated that he considered the present lessees had a moral right to a renewal of their leases; and no doubt His Excellency meant what he said. But why should not this moral right be converted into a legal right? I think it is most impolitic, both as regards the interests of the Colony and of the lessees themselves, that there should be any feeling of uncertainty as to the position of the present leaseholders at the termination of their leases. It is all very well for His Excellency to say he considers they have a moral right to have their leases renewed, and no doubt if His Excellency should happen to be here when the present leases expire he would take care that the lessees should have them renewed, or at any rate have

the option of renewing them; but who can say whether His Excellency will be here when these leases expire, or whether his successor may share His Excellency's views on the subject. Apart from that, these regulations have all the force of statute law, and neither His Excellency the Governor nor anybody else can go behind them. If a man's lease expires on the 31st December his legal title to it then ceases, and if he should not happen to be the first at the Lands Office next morning to renew it—should anybody forestall him by five minutes—the first applicant would be legally entitled to it, and of what use would the former lessee's "moral right" be to him then? This is the reason why I am anxious to see this moral right converted into a legal right. But there is another reason why I wish to allude to the Land Regulations this evening, and that is because of an observation which is reported to have fallen from one of the hon. members for Fremantle (Mr. Higham), when addressing his constituents, a few days ago. The local paper reports the hon. member to have said that lots of leasehold land is now locked up from the agriculturist, and I refer to the subject in order to afford the hon. member an opportunity of denying the correctness of the report. I cannot imagine that any hon. member of this House, speaking as a legislator with a certain amount of authority and of responsibility, could ever have made such a statement. As a matter of fact, there is not an acre of leasehold land in the Colony that is shut up from the agriculturist, and any statement to the contrary, coming from any hon. member of this House, at a public meeting, could not fail to have a very prejudicial effect, carrying as it would a certain amount of weight with it, coming from a member of the Legislature. I do not myself believe that the hon. member ever said what has been attributed to him. I am afraid he was reported to have said it, for a particular purpose, because it suited the paper in question to have made it appear that an hon. member of this House had said so. In conclusion, I cordially endorse the sentiment embodied in the closing paragraph of His Excellency's Speech—that the labors of the present Session may result in the adoption of measures

calculated to promote the progress and prosperity of the Colony.

MR. S. H. PARKER said he had no intention of detaining the House by any lengthened comments upon the Speech of His Excellency, or upon the Address in Reply as proposed by the hon. member for York. When he read that Speech, and when he read that Reply, the question occurred to him whether he could possibly find anything original in the shape of congratulations which he could offer the Government or the Governor; but he really thought all that could be said of a complimentary character had already been appropriated, either in the Speech itself or in the Address in Reply. There was one matter, however, which, after much cogitation, he had discovered, with regard to which credit had not been taken,—there was one note of congratulation which had been left for him to sound. He congratulated His Excellency upon having avoided all reference in the Speech to that much vexed question—the weather. He congratulated him, because, on a former occasion, when His Excellency happened to refer to that topic, and to predict an unusually favorable season, he almost brought a vote of censure upon his Administration from the hon. member for Geraldton, for venturing to make any such prediction. He therefore thought His Excellency had wisely on this occasion avoided all reference to that burning question. It must be a source of satisfaction to the House and to the country generally to find the Government, following in the wake of the Legislature, advocating the immediate extension of the railway to York, and adopting a generally progressive policy. The hon. member for the Swan had shown how much the Government and how much the Colony were indebted to that House for a policy which had resulted not only in relieving us from our financial embarrassments, but also in enabling us to proceed with important and necessary public works, even in the face of the obstruction to progress necessarily imposed by the present form of Government. He thought all would agree with him—even those who were opposed to him on the constitutional question—that if the representatives of the people had been left to their own devices, if they had not

been hampered and obstructed—if they had not been thwarted he might say—by an irresponsible Executive, we should have been in the satisfactory position we are in now, as regards the inauguration of public works, two years ago. We should have had our railway contracted for, and partly constructed, all the way to York, instead of into the middle of a mahogany forest, and constructed, too, at a cheaper rate than we could possibly expect it to be tendered for in sections. In other words, the Colony would have been two years in advance of the position it now finds itself in, had the counsels of the representatives of the people been allowed to prevail. Allusion had been made to the subject of coastal steam communication, and there could be no doubt that the Colony, and especially the Southern parts of the Colony, were very badly served at present in this respect, whatever advantages Geraldton might derive from the service. With regard to Immigration, he would go further than the hon. member for the Swan in advocating increased expenditure in this direction,—he would be pleased to see the Colony not only expending a large amount of the public revenue for immigration purposes, but also borrowing money for the purpose, so as to carry on a really useful system in conjunction with public works. Notwithstanding the unfortunate remark in His Excellency's despatch as to our having arrived at the limit of our borrowing powers, he thought we might safely venture to incur a considerably larger expenditure in this direction, even apart from borrowed money, for it appeared there was every prospect of our having a surplus of £12,000 available out of current revenue at the end of the year. Now, although a surplus was a very good thing to have, he saw no particular advantage to be gained by hoarding it up, and wrapping up our talent in a napkin. Far better devote it to some useful purpose, and he knew of no better purpose than that of providing for the payment of interest on a further loan. He had been accused of making a good deal of capital the other evening, when addressing his constituents, out of the Governor's statement as to our borrowing powers; but he had not then been aware that it was anticipated by the Government there would be a surplus at

the end of the year of £12,000, otherwise he certainly would have made a great deal more capital than he did out of it, for it was evident to him that we were very far indeed from having arrived at the limit of our borrowing powers. It was absurd to talk of a Colony whose landed estate might be reckoned by millions of square miles, as having exhausted its credit when it had borrowed a paltry £750,000—which was tantamount to saying that our national estate was not worth more than a farthing an acre. In looking over the Address in Reply, as moved by the hon. member for York, he wished particularly to call attention to the last paragraph of that Address, which was as follows:—"Your Excellency may confidently rely on our most carefully considering all measures submitted to us, and we earnestly pray that our labors may contribute to the welfare and progress of the Colony; and our wish is cordially to co-operate with Your Excellency's Government to bring about the advancement of this country, which"—and he would particularly draw attention to this—"can best be secured by the unison of the Government and the representatives of the people." Now that was what he called a very nice little paragraph—a very pretty little paragraph indeed. But it seemed to him that it yet wanted rounding off a bit. "Which can best be secured by the unison of the Government and the representatives of the people"—how? By means of Responsible Government. If those words were added to the sentence it would give it a point and a finish which, nice as it was, it now lacked. He noticed that the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the Government, smiled at that. Perhaps the noble lord did not think he was in earnest. He assured the right hon. gentleman he never was in greater earnest, and that before many days went by of the present Session he would let the hon. gentlemen who occupied the Treasury Bench see how really earnest he was on the subject. The hon. gentlemen would need all the courage they possessed to face the resolutions which it was his intention to bring forward before the Session was much older. There was another paragraph in His Excellency's Speech to which he would draw attention.

Referring to the returns showing the financial condition of the Colony, His Excellency took occasion to observe that the present state of the public accounts left nothing to be desired. All he could say with regard to that was, he was very glad to hear it. For many years past there had been a great deal left to be desired in the state of the public accounts, and it was only by the persistency of the members of that House that we had succeeded in arriving at the present satisfactory system of keeping the public accounts of the Colony. This was directly attributable to the labors of the Finance Commission, who took the matter in hand, and made some admirable suggestions as to the manner in which the Treasury accounts ought to be kept. Those suggestions, he believed, had been carried out in their integrity, and hence the present satisfactory state of the public accounts. His Excellency said that "credit was due to the officers of the Treasury Department for their zeal and industry in the matter." He was very glad to hear it. He was pleased to find that the Treasury officers were so zealous and industrious; at the same time he could not help thinking it was a pity that one department of the public service should have been singled out in this manner by the Governor for special praise; for it might be said—although he did not think His Excellency intended it—that of all the departments deserving credit for zeal and industry the Treasury was the most conspicuous. He could only conclude that these remarks were conceived in that spirit which we barely realise, when we read that "there is more joy over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance." And if the rejoicing be at all proportionate to the magnitude of the offence, our joy in this instance ought to be unbounded. We, however, being of the earth earthy, would be prone rather to accord our praise to those good shepherds—the Finance Commissioners—who had arrested the erring steps of the wayward sinner, and gently but forcibly brought him to the fold again.

MR. MARMION said he could not agree with the hon. member for the Swan, when he stated he did not consider that the deficiency on current account had

not yet been liquidated. If the hon. member thought so, why did he not go on to prove the correctness of his assertion? The hon. member appeared to lay great stress upon one point, namely, that the fact of our financial equilibrium having been restored was altogether due to the action taken by the Legislature in proposing that the money expended in the construction of the Eucla Telegraph out of current revenue should be recouped the revenue out of loan money. One would fancy from the tone of the hon. member's remarks that he had taken umbrage at something in the Governor's Speech, which seemed to haunt him as a shadow, —a shadow existing, however, only in his own mind—that His Excellency was anxious to take to himself the credit of this great stroke of finance, and to deprive the Legislature of the honor and glory connected with it. For his own part he saw nothing whatever in the Governor's Speech to lead anyone to suppose that His Excellency was desirous of doing anything of the sort; and it certainly did appear to him a matter of very little importance, after all, as to whom the credit was due. If there was any credit due in connection with originating that proposal, there could be no doubt whatever that the credit was due to the Legislature, and not to any individual member of it. Such being the case he failed to see that there was any cause whatever for any hon. member individually to take umbrage with reference to the matter. The idea was a good one no doubt, and they had reason to congratulate themselves that it had been carried into effect, and had the desired result. The hon. member said the good government of a country depended upon its finances being in a prosperous condition; but he could not altogether agree with the hon. member in that statement, although no doubt the soundness of a country's finances might be taken as a criterion, to a certain extent, of good government. But there were periods in the history of communities, as there were in the lives of individuals,—there was a tide in the affairs of nations as there was in the affairs of man, which, taken at the flood, led on to fortune. Many a man, and many a country, might to-day be embarrassed

with financial difficulties, and on the verge of bankruptcy, but who to-morrow may, by a lucky stroke of finance, or some unexpected assistance, become a well-to-do and wealthy individual, or a flourishing and prosperous nation. As a proof of the correctness of this, he need only refer to the history of our nearest neighbor, South Australia. At one time in the career of that colony, its financial prospects were so low, and its position generally so disheartening, that the colonists thought they would have had to abandon the settlement altogether, and had it not been for the kindly and timely aid of the Mother Country he believed the colony would have been deserted, and would not have attained its present prosperous position among the Australian sisterhood. He did not mention this with a view to cavil at the remark that fell from the hon. member for the Swan, but in order to point a moral for the edification of those good people who seemed haunted with the idea, that when a country got into a little financial difficulty it was doomed to decay, and was on the high road to ruin, whereas its difficulties were but temporary, and, as had been shown in our own case, evanescent. For his own part he preferred taking a more cheerful view of affairs, and to adopt a bold and reliant policy rather than trouble himself with visions and fancies. With regard to the question of railway extension, he thought with the hon. member for Swan that it would be very desirable to have a survey made of a branch line to Newcastle. As to the question of the management of our railways, and the expenditure connected with them compared with the revenue derived from the traffic upon them, he thought, as regards the Eastern Railway, that, in speaking of this question, some hon. members seemed to forget what seemed to him one very good reason why the expenditure upon that line had been so much greater than anticipated, and swallowed up so much of the receipts, namely, the fact that very many items in connection with the first section of the line had been charged to current expenditure, or working expenses, which ought properly to have been charged to the cost of construction. He believed if this question came to be inquired into by a Select Committee, it would be found that a very

large amount indeed had been expended upon various items, and charged to the annual expenditure, which ought to have been borne by what he might call capital account, or, in other words, been defrayed out of the cost of constructing the line. While upon this subject of railway traffic, he thought it was a matter for regret that the anticipations of the Commissioner of Railways as regards the goods traffic had not been realised. This, however, he thought was in a great measure attributable to neglect, and to the fact that no provision was made in the first instance for meeting the requirements of the goods traffic. Indeed he was afraid the Railway Department had not yet grappled with this difficulty, for he believed the goods traffic might be increased two-fold, even with the present facilities. But we need not look forward to receiving the full benefits which were to be derived from this line, as regards goods traffic, until we are prepared to undertake and carry out a proper scheme of harbor improvements at Fremantle. With regard to the Kimberley District, and the collapse of the proposed survey, he might say that he was one of the members who had been consulted in the matter, and, he believed, the only one who considered that the course proposed to be adopted by the Governor, in accordance with the suggestion of the Surveyor General, was a wise one, and ought to have been carried out. Unfortunately he was so situated, as regards the question at issue—being interested in the vessel which the Government proposed to charter to convey the survey party to the district—that he could not very well, without rendering his motives liable to be misconstrued, press his own views upon the meeting. The hon. member for the Swan said he was not quite sure whether it would not be advisable to have a policeman stationed here, or a Customs officer stationed there, or whether a magistrate ought to be located in this part of the district or in that; but if the suggestions of the Surveyor General had been accepted, we would now be in a position to have removed all doubts on these points. The hon. member also found fault with the Surveyor General because he seemed to be anxious to have the surveys carried out, inasmuch as many of the applicants were people

from the other side, who were likely to make a noise about it. Upon the face of it, there would appear to be something in this, for no doubt a great many leaseholders who were residents of this Colony had had to wait a great many years, and to expend a considerable amount of money, before they ascertained the boundaries of their runs. But there was this difference between the land allotted to applicants in the Kimberley District and land in other portions of the Colony, namely, the fact that many of the applications made in that district were for land having frontages to rivers which had never been traced, and which were merely known to exist. He could quite understand the difficulties in which the Surveyor General was placed in issuing leases under these circumstances. The hon. member for Swan also blamed the Surveyor General because he did not foresee the necessity of these surveys, when the House was in Session last year; but he would remind the hon. member that he himself must have been very much surprised at the success which had attended the opening up of this district for settlement. During the very Session alluded to, he (Mr. Marmion) had stood up day after day endeavoring to induce the House to make certain alterations in the Land Regulations affecting the district, and it was only with the able assistance of some of his fellow members that he at last succeeded in carrying his point. He would ask hon. members how many of them thought then that we should have derived such a large revenue from the district? Not many. The result had, in fact, been altogether beyond all their expectations, and he did not think the Commissioner of Crown Lands was to blame because he did not exhibit more foresight than other mortals in this respect. Something had been said about land-jobbing in connection with these leases, because some of them had been advertised for sale in the *Australasian*. That appeared to him a narrow view to take of the matter. He looked forward to the day when a great many Western Australian leases would be advertised in the columns of the *Australasian*, if only to show that we had land in the Colony worth advertising, and territory worth settling upon, and thus induce capitalists to come to our shores,

and show the world at large that Western Australia, which hitherto had, to a great extent, been a *terra incognita*, had at last shown that it was not all a desert waste. The first step, however, towards the realisation of this wish must be a survey of this magnificent Northern territory of ours, so as to enable us to be in a position to give people desirous of speculating in our land correct and reliable information with reference to it. Another, and a most important step in the same direction, must be the establishment of some prompt and regular means of communication with the district, which he regarded as a movement of the first necessity. He had some connection with the district himself, and it would hardly be credited outside the Colony that a period of not less than six months had now elapsed since there had been any opportunity of hearing any news whatever from the settlers of a district that was only a few hundred miles distant from the seat of Government, and who, for aught we know, may by this time have been swept into the sea, or eaten by cannibals. He thought this was a discreditable state of things, and the sooner it was remedied the better. He did not think we ought to act towards the Kimberley District as we had acted towards Nicol Bay, and allow it to grow up of itself, without any extraneous assistance from this part of the Colony. With regard to what had fallen from the hon. member for Perth, with reference to the passage in His Excellency's despatch relating to the borrowing powers of the Colony, he thought His Excellency had been tolerably careful in wording that despatch, for the expression he made use of was, that in the event of our borrowing another £300,000, he thought we would then have attained the limit of our borrowing powers,—not for all time, but “for the present.” He had reason to know that the meaning which His Excellency intended to convey by that expression was simply this,—that, with our present population, it would be quite enough for us to provide the interest and other charges on the amount which we shall owe when we contract this next loan, and that until our population increases, and the public works undertaken for the development of our resources shall begin to bear fruit, and prove reproductive, it

would be unwise and impolitic to further tax our borrowing powers, and to saddle the Colony with another loan. If the country advanced in prosperity during the next few years as it had done during the past ten years—and he saw no reason why it should not, but, on the contrary, every indication that in the future it would make still more progressive strides—we need entertain no fear as to our borrowing powers. If hon. members would only go to the trouble of examining the statistics of the Colony they would be surprised, like he had been surprised, to note the progress which the Colony had been making during the past decade. For instance, in 1872, our land revenue only amounted to £15,000, whereas last year we received from the same source no less than £48,400, of which £33,000 was derived from lands leased by the Government for pastoral purposes. The same marked increase had also taken place as regards our exports. Timber, for instance: in 1872 the value of our shipments of timber was estimated at £25,000, whereas in 1881 we exported no less than £63,000 worth. All this was matter for hearty congratulation, and showed beyond doubt that the Colony was not wanting in the elements of prosperity. He thought that House had reason to congratulate itself upon the result of the efforts it had made to bring about the present satisfactory condition of affairs, and to contribute towards the progress and advancement of the Colony; at the same time they must all acknowledge that much was due to the Government for the manner in which they had seconded these efforts, more especially of late years. When he said of late years, he did not forget that Administration which first placed the Colony on the road to advancement and prosperity, namely, that of Governor Weld. But he was now referring more particularly to the action of the Government in recent years, and he thought Governor Robinson's Administration was entitled to every credit for the way in which it had latterly sought to unite with the representatives of the people, in that House assembled, in promoting, by every means in their power, the best interests of the Colony.

MR. BROWN said it was always pleasing to him to find that the Gov-

ernor's opening Speech generally led to a considerable amount of discussion, inasmuch as he regarded it to a certain extent as indicating the policy of the Government for the Session, and, as such, calculated to elicit a free expression of opinion upon general topics, without at the same time committing the House to any definite line of action with regard to the measures dwelt upon in the Speech itself. His present object was merely to refer to the lapse of the Kimberley survey. Allusion had been made by the hon. member for the Swan to the comments which had been made by the press of the Colony with reference to that matter, and he would follow the hon. member's example. He thought His Excellency the Governor had been unfairly charged by the local press for not having had a hearty interest in effecting that survey. He had been one of those members who had had an opportunity of considering whether this survey should be conducted, some time ago, and he knew something of the views which had actuated His Excellency in the matter: at any rate, he knew the views which he placed before the members who were consulted on the subject, and he thought that all who perused the correspondence which had passed with reference to it must be satisfied that His Excellency had this survey at heart, and that he was exceedingly disappointed when it fell through. At the same time he felt bound to say that those members of the Legislature who were consulted in the matter had received a great deal of what he might term uncalled-for abuse—not exactly criticism—because the project was not carried out. He was therefore rather glad of this opportunity of taking upon himself the onus of having been the cause of the collapse of this Kimberley survey. Having said so much, he might add that in his opinion the work proposed to have been undertaken was a work of extreme importance to the Colony, and he believed it would be found that no member of that House would more readily give his support to the proposed expenditure than he himself would, now that the matter was about to be brought before them, in Council assembled, and in a constitutional form. But he maintained it would unquestionably have been unconstitutional on the part

of His Excellency the Governor and of the gentlemen whom he consulted on the subject, to have expended the public funds on this survey, without reference to a vote of the Legislature. Hon. members were well aware that, for his own part, he had never objected to the practice which had been followed even by His Excellency himself, as well as by other Governors, of expending money voted by a resolution of the House, without provision having been made for it in the Appropriation Act. Such expenditure might, in form, be illegal, but he did not care so much for that, so long as the people of the Colony, through their representatives in Council assembled, had a voice in sanctioning the expenditure. But when he enunciated those views in his place in the House he found himself in a minority—he found himself alone. Not only that, he found himself met by this statement in a speech with which His Excellency the present Governor himself opened a late Session of Council: “You are aware that during the last few years the Legislature has authorised by resolutions the expenditure of considerable sums on services for which no provision was made in the Estimates. I cannot but think this practice—imprudent at any time, but doubly so when the public resources are straitened—is to some extent to blame for our difficulties; and I strongly urge on you,” His Excellency said, “to sanction in the future no items of expenditure but such as are included in the Estimates.” So much for the Legislature. “On the other hand,” His Excellency added, “the Government should adhere strictly to the Appropriation Act.” This then was the attitude taken up by the Governor himself and by this House on the one hand, and by himself (Mr. Brown) on the other, not so very long ago, on the question of unauthorised expenditure—that was to say, expenditure not provided for in the Appropriation Act. A few months passed over, and His Excellency seemed to have forgotten all about the views he had enunciated in the speech referred to, and some hon. members of that House also appeared to have abandoned the principle they had so gallantly struggled for; and he (Mr. Brown) again stood alone, this time in defence of the right of the people, through their representatives, to have a

voice in the expenditure of the public funds. His Excellency proposed to expend a sum of £4,000 or £5,000—a considerable sum for a colony like this,—in surveys of the pastoral lands of the Kimberley District. Probably it may have been a wise step; but this was what he would call an expenditure behind the backs of the people of the Colony. He should like to know whether those hon. members who gave their consent to that expenditure—for they did consent to it in the first instance—considered that the requirements of the Constitution were served so long as they were consulted? He did not think so. He did not think the members of this House, when not in Council assembled, could act in any other capacity than as private individuals. When in the House their actions and their words were open to be reported in the newspapers and subjected to public criticism, but outside that House and when the Council was not in Session, their actions could only be regarded as the actions of private individuals. They could not be said to be acting in their legislative or representative capacity. But the hon. members referred to agreed to the Governor's proposal as regards the expenditure of money, without prior reference to the Legislature, to this extent: they would consent to the expenditure of money unauthorised by the House in any way, but they would not consent to a proposal to divert money voted by the House for a specific purpose from that purpose, and expend it for another purpose. He was not in town when the members were first consulted, but on a subsequent occasion he was, and attended one of their meetings, at which he proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Burt, and supported by Mr. Venn: "That the members of the Legislative Council, present at this meeting, in acknowledging the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor in consulting them upon the expediency of immediately undertaking certain surveys in the Kimberley District, and whilst recognising the importance of the subject committed to their consideration, beg respectfully to tender His Excellency their opinion—Firstly: that to commit the revenues of the Colony to an expenditure of the nature

"that would be entailed upon them by this survey, in any other way than by a vote of the Legislature, duly passed upon the Estimates, would be unconstitutional, and certainly contrary to the letter and spirit of the understanding, but recently arrived at between, and insisted upon by, His Excellency and the Legislative Council. Secondly: that the members are unable at present to say that, in view of the acknowledged necessities of the Colony in other directions, its financial position warrants such an expenditure; and, thirdly: that before such a large amount is appropriated to surveys of pastoral lands in the Kimberley District, the suitability of the district for pastoral settlement should be reasonably assured by the result of experience." It would be seen from that resolution that he had opposed the proposed expenditure because, in his opinion, it was altogether unconstitutional. His Excellency had power to call the Legislature together at any time, and he was sure that no member would have objected, under the circumstances, to have been summoned to attend, for the consideration of such an important subject. Having said so much, explanatory of his own action in this matter, he would say no more. With reference to the steam coastal service, it appeared to be the desire of hon. members that tenders should be invited as soon as possible for the service, and he was perfectly in accord with them on that point. But hon. members had spoken with reference to this matter as if some one was to blame for the existing service, because the steamers did not make a longer stay at this port and that. The hon. member for Swan said Geraldton alone was pretty well served in this respect. It might be so, under the circumstances; but, generally speaking, there was not much satisfaction even up there with the present arrangements. But he imagined hon. members had themselves to blame in this matter. Surely, if there was anybody to blame, it was the Legislature itself. He was not aware that the Legislature had ever insisted upon a longer stay at these ports, and he thought if the contract time-table was looked into, and regard being had to the fact that the steamers were tied down by the mail arrangements,

he thought hon. members would find it would be impossible for the steamers to prolong their stay, and that if we desired increased facilities in this respect we would have to pay for them. On the whole he did not agree that we were badly served for the money, and he questioned whether we could get any other company to perform the service for anything like the present subsidy. He thought, however, it was extremely desirous that the service should be extended to Kimberley, and he hoped the present contractors would see their way clear to do so, for he hardly thought we were likely to get better mail contractors, though there could be no harm in trying it. But it appeared to him the House was to a certain extent committed to Messrs. Lilly & Co.'s contract for some time to come, and that we could not call for fresh tenders immediately. He thought the reason assigned by His Excellency the Governor for not terminating the contract when the service was interrupted by the accident to the *Rob Roy* was a very good and sufficient reason, namely, that we should then have been without any steam communication on our coast at all, and we should probably have to pay vastly more to re-establish it. Turning to another subject, he was exceedingly pleased that the Government had at last recognised what was now called the "native difficulty." He said at last, for until within the last few months the Government did not seem to be alive to the seriousness of this difficulty, and only adopted fitful measures to cope with it, and to protect the settlers in the disturbed districts and their property. The subject was one which would have to engage a considerable amount of attention in the course of the Session, and he would not dwell upon it now, beyond saying that, so far as His Excellency's proposals went, he should be prepared to sanction the contemplated expenditure; but he thought although it was highly desirable and in fact absolutely necessary that there should be a Police force in the Kimberley District, it would be of very little service indeed unless a Magistrate also were appointed there. The hon. member for Perth (Mr. Parker) seemed to be exceedingly offended at the statement in His Excellency's despatch to the effect that the Colony had

reached the present limit of its borrowing powers. He quite agreed with the hon. member that it was an unfortunate remark, and he did not see any occasion for it; but he was satisfied that what His Excellency meant by it was, that, without resorting to increased taxation, we had reached the limit of our borrowing powers. The hon. member went on to say that had he been aware there would be a probable surplus of £12,000 at the end of the year, he would have made a great deal more capital out of the Governor's words than he had done. But he (Mr. Brown) thought, when the Government anticipated this surplus they anticipated it in view only of such expenditure as they themselves contemplated, and without reference to any measures which the hon. members of that House might bring forward, involving further expenditure. As a rule, when the Estimates of Expenditure came to be considered in the Council, many additional items of expenditure were suggested by hon. members themselves, and it was not at all unlikely that this anticipated surplus might all be absorbed. Then, again, it was quite possible that the estimated revenue might not be realised. It should not be forgotten that the effects of bad seasons were not usually felt so much immediately afterwards as after the lapse of a year or two, and there was no saying whether the Government had not taken too sanguine a view of the revenue likely to be derived during the ensuing year. But even if such was not the case, and no increase of expenditure were proposed during the Session, beyond that contemplated by the Government, and that there should be an actual surplus of £12,000 at the end of the year, he would ask whether that could be considered too large a margin to leave for contingencies? It would barely be five per cent. of our annual income, and he did not think any Government would be acting wisely that did not take care to leave a fair margin for unforeseen expenses.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said it was not his intention to detain the House by traversing the statements made in the course of the debate, nor indeed did it appear to him necessary that he should do so, for even the hon. and facetious

member for Perth had failed on the present occasion to score a point against the Government. It appeared to him a great deal too much had been made of the question as to whom the credit was due for the present satisfactory position of the Colony as regards its finances and as regards the proposed loan. One thing was certain, the Government had lost no time in taking advantage of the returning tide of prosperity to get the State vessel afloat again. It was not until February or March last that the finances of the Colony showed a balance to the good, and the moment the financial equilibrium was restored, His Excellency lost no time in communicating with the Secretary of State, and in obtaining his sanction to our floating another loan. A great deal had been said about the delay which it was alleged had been occasioned in our not having obtained the loan of £310,000 two years ago as proposed by the Legislature, but he would point out that, with what we have already borrowed since then and the new loan we are now about to raise, we shall have gained £100,000 on the original proposal. Hon. members would remember that the Secretary of State had sanctioned our borrowing £150,000 to carry on the Eastern Railway, out of the £310,000 which the House proposed at that time to go into the market for. That £150,000 had been raised, and, in addition to that, it was now proposed to raise a further sum of £260,000, making a total of £410,000 instead of £310,000 as originally contemplated. Considerable stress has been laid, and a great deal of political capital sought to be made out of an expression which appeared in His Excellency's despatch to the Secretary of State with reference to the borrowing powers of the Colony. What His Excellency really said was that he thought, if the loan then asked for were approved, the Colony would have arrived at the full extent of its borrowing powers—"for the present." And in connection with this expression of opinion, which after all was nothing more, His Excellency added—and this showed clearly that the Governor simply meant the present borrowing powers of the Colony, and not its absolute borrowing powers for all time: "In my judgment," His Excellency said, "no further ex-

penditure of borrowed money should be contemplated until,"—when? Until "we shall have tested the effect of the reproductive works which we are now undertaking, and which I have every expectation will lead in due time to an increase of population, wealth, and importance." That was what His Excellency meant, and that was what he actually said with regard to the borrowing powers of the Colony. As to the insinuation levelled at the Survey Department, with regard to its anxiety to meet the demands of "people from the other side," with reference to the survey of lands, he thought if hon. members had borne in mind how persistently the Surveyor General had, session after session, for years past, impressed upon the House the expediency and the necessity of increasing the vote for surveys, and how, with equal persistency, the House had turned a deaf ear to his representations, they would not have charged the Surveyor General with indifference in the past to the requirements of the Colony in this respect. Why, even last year, in the note written by his hon. colleague for the guidance of the Departmental Commission, he said: "With such a sum as £10,000 a year, progress might be made towards a better system, provided the demands on section peggers did not increase, but if general surveys are required of the Kimberley District, or the lands be taken up in larger quantities, more money must be had than this." Yet hon. members charged the Surveyor General with a want of foresight in not making provision last year for a survey of the Kimberley District. The Surveyor General plainly told them what funds would be required for that purpose, and if those funds were not placed at his disposal that was not the fault of the Surveyor General but rather of that House. In his report laid on the Table last Session, for the information of hon. members, the Surveyor General plainly stated that "the triangulations and reconnaissance necessary to define the watershed of the Gascoyne and other watercourses, including the country now rapidly being stock-ed, will probably cost about £4,000. It might either be done by strong parties in one season or divided over two years, but the work is one now

"most necessary, it being impossible to define the position of many pastoral leases. The survey of the Fitzroy and a portion of the peninsula between King's Sound and Beagle Bay should also certainly be taken in hand without delay." That was what the Surveyor General said; yet no steps were taken by that House to provide the funds for carrying out these surveys. True there was a good reason why the necessary funds were not voted, consequent upon our financial embarrassments at the time; but certainly there was no ground for blaming the Surveyor General in the matter in any way. As to the £12,000 which it was anticipated would remain to the credit of the Colony at the end of the year, no doubt the Government could easily spend the money right off; but they thought it would be wise to make some provision for contingencies, and he did not think one month's income was a great deal too much to keep in hand for that purpose. Reference had been made, and congratulations offered, in connection with the fact that no increase of taxation was proposed; but he would point out that so far from the Government contemplating any increase in this direction, it was proposed actually to reduce taxation. It was intended to lighten the Customs duties in many ways, and also to reduce the duties imposed by the Stamp Act; so that in reality, instead of there being any necessity for increasing taxation, it would actually be reduced, notwithstanding the growing demands upon the revenue, consequent upon provision having to be made to meet liabilities in connection with loans and public works. Under these circumstances he thought the country had every reason to be satisfied, and every cause for congratulation. With regard to Immigration, the Government were fully impressed with the importance of the question, and the proposed slight increase in the immigration vote was based upon the amount which would be required to bring out nominated Immigrants during the ensuing year. He had already given notice of his intention to move for the appointment of a Select Committee to take into consideration what should in their opinion be adopted to procure a larger number of immigrants than is at present

obtained under the nominated system, and, in the next place, to consider the entire question of immigration, and to report fully as to what inducements should be held out to persons wishing to emigrate to the Colony. He hoped the labors of this Committee would result in some early steps being taken to procure a supply of suitable labor, and thus meet a widely-felt want. With regard to the steam coastal service, he was aware that some people were of opinion that the Government ought to have terminated the existing contract when the accident happened to the *Rob Roy*, and the contractors were no longer able to carry on the North-West service; but he thought His Excellency rightly expressed the feelings of the country when he said he did not think the Colony would have gained by such a step, the first result of which might have been to leave us for some months, pending fresh arrangements with some other company, without any steamers on the coast at all. He did not think hon. members would have liked that, and no doubt the whole country would have felt the inconvenience of such a step. He would ask the House to suspend its judgment on the subject until it was in possession of the arrangements which were being made by the contractors to resume the interrupted service, which they hoped to do next month. With regard to the hon. member for Perth's suggested addition to the last paragraph of the Address in Reply, with reference to the introduction of Responsible Government, he supposed the hon. member must have his joke, and this seemed to him a very harmless one. He would like to ask the hon. member whether he really could have meant what he said? He did not think he could. The paragraph in question, at any rate, fairly represented the feelings which animated the Government, in its desire to co-operate with the representatives of the people; and, in conclusion, he would echo the sentiment therein embodied, namely, that, by unity of purpose and united action, we may adopt such measures as may bring about the advancement and prosperity of the Colony.

MR. CAREY said he rose with some degree of diffidence to address the House on the present occasion, as he found that his enforced retirement from public life

had not improved or strengthened his vocal powers. At the same time, he wished to offer a few remarks with reference to His Excellency's Speech, and, first of all, he would allude to the paragraph in which it was stated that "the deficiency on current account had been liquidated." When he read that statement he could not help thinking of the Irishman and his blanket, and of the ingenious but somewhat impractical device resorted to by that historical individual to lengthen the article in question, by cutting a piece off one end and sewing it on to the other. That appeared to him to be exactly the course we had adopted to liquidate the deficiency on current account. We had borrowed £50,000 to recoup the revenue, and by that grand stroke of finance we had reduced our deficiency to that exact amount. That was all. He really saw nothing in that to quarrel about, as to who deserved the credit of conceiving so brilliant an idea. It appeared to him very much as if he were to borrow £5 from his hon. friend on the right to pay £5 which he owed his hon. friend on the left; and he failed to see how that pecuniary transaction would improve his own financial position in the least. It reminded him of those simple-minded individuals, whom no doubt some hon. members had, like himself, met in their lives, who considered that, if they simply gave a creditor their promissory note, they had liquidated their debt, forgetting that when that note came to maturity they would have to provide the necessary funds to meet it. It was the same in our own case as regards this £50,000, which we had borrowed to recoup the revenue. The day of reckoning was bound to come, sooner or later, though, no doubt, this temporary expedient had enabled us to tide over our late embarrassments. The next paragraph which he would refer to in His Excellency's Speech was that in which it was stated that the details of the Estimates would be fully explained to the House by the Colonial Secretary, who, His Excellency said, "both in preparing the present Estimates, and during the last twelve months, has seconded my efforts to keep down the expenditure to the lowest point consistent with the requirements of the

"service." There was no doubt about that. There could be no doubt whatever that expenditure had been cut down to its lowest point. It had been cut down so fine, in fact, that a poor lighthouse keeper at Bunbury actually had to provide his own matches to light the lamp. That certainly was practising economy with a vengeance. For all that, he was quite prepared to acknowledge that every effort had of late been made by the Government, of which the right hon. gentleman was the leader in that House, to reduce the public expenditure, and to practise economy,—economy which certainly was not practised by the noble lord's predecessor in office, who, on one occasion, appropriated £40 out of the Treasury to pay the expenses of a canvassing tour. With regard to the proposed revision of the tariff, he was surprised that no reference had been made by any hon. member to this part of His Excellency's Speech. He thought the House was to be congratulated upon the fact that, as regards adjusting the incidence of taxation, the work had already been done for them. The whole thing was cut and dried, and the revision of the tariff a foregone conclusion. [SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no.] To his mind it was a foregone conclusion; it was not likely that those hon. members who were on the Commission appointed to revise the tariff would now turn round, and oppose their own work. And with the votes thus placed at their command, the Government could have the revised tariff adopted, as prepared by the Commission. He was surprised that any hon. member of that House, and especially the hon. member for the Swan, should have accepted a seat on the Commission, and so place himself in so invidious a position. When the present tariff was arranged, some three years ago, a great deal of dissatisfaction had been caused outside, because hon. members of that House, who were merchants, were aware beforehand what changes were about to be made in the Customs duties, and it was stated, whether truly so or not he could not say, that advantage was taken of the knowledge thus gained to benefit themselves at the expense of the revenue, and that the country lost some thousands of pounds in that way. He was glad to find that it was

proposed to extend police protection to the settlers of the Kimberley and Gascoyne Districts,—a step that was not taken before it was called for. There could be no doubt that the Government could well spare a few policemen for this work, seeing that constables had been employed to carry bottles of milk daily from Perth to Fremantle, for transmission to Rott-nest, for a late Governor. With regard to the Kimberley survey, having been absent from his place in the House last Session, he was not fully cognizant of what was done in the matter, but he felt bound to say that, so far as the Surveyor General was concerned, that hon. gentleman had always been anxious to get as large a vote as he possibly could for survey purposes, and it certainly was not his fault if more work had not been done, and more surveys accomplished. The Legislature had hitherto refused to grant what the Survey Department said was required, and, if anyone was to blame for no more work being done, it was that House rather than the Survey Department. He did not think any fault at all laid at the Surveyor General's door. With reference to the proposal to expend £10,000 on the up-keep of main and minor roads, he was glad to find that the Government had abandoned the idea of taxing the land for the maintenance of the roads. Hon. members might be surprised to hear him say that, seeing that on one occasion he stood alone, in a division that took place in that House, in favor of the principle of local taxation for road maintenance. But he never hesitated to admit he was wrong, if he found himself in error; and, on that occasion, he believed he *was* wrong. He was now pleased to find that the Government had discarded the idea of compulsory taxation for the up-keep of roads, and that a good round sum was to be placed on the Estimates for that purpose. No doubt it would require a good round sum to place our roads in repair, for they were certainly in a worse condition now than they were in before one penny of the £50,000 loan was expended upon them, under the supervision of the "competent man from the other side," who, whatever he may have been on the "other side," had certainly shown himself anything but "competent" on this side. As to the anticipated surplus of £12,000

at the end of the year, he confessed he failed to see the use of hoarding it up, and he did not think it could be applied to a more desirable purpose than to introduce a useful class of immigrants into the Colony. He noticed that no allusion was made in His Excellency's Speech to the Northern Railway. He was glad, however, to find from the report of the Commissioner that this white elephant had not cost the Colony quite so much last year as it did in past years, and that it was worked at a loss of only £600. But he thought even that might be saved to the Colony. He thought it would be better to close up the railway altogether, or let it by contract. It might bring us in something then. With regard to our coastal steam service, he could certainly bear out what had been said as to the very bad way in which the service was carried out, as regards the Southern Districts. As an instance in point he might mention that, some time ago, the *Macedon* arrived at the Vasse with a cargo intended for that port, and, although there was no reason why it should not have been delivered, it was carried on to Fremantle. The *Otway* went to the Vasse from Fremantle a few days afterwards, and one would have thought she would have brought the cargo which the other steamer had carried on. But she did no such thing. Shortly afterwards the *Macedon* again visited the Vasse, but she never brought the cargo, which ultimately had to be sent by a sailing vessel, a considerable time afterwards. Mr. Cookworthy wrote to the Government, complaining of the manner in which the contractors had treated the Vasse people in the matter, and this resulted in some correspondence taking place between the Government and Messrs. Lilly and Co. But the upshot of the whole matter was that the Vasse people got neither redress nor satisfaction. The reply they received from the Colonial Secretary was that the Government were satisfied with the contractors' explanation, and so the inhabitants of the Vasse had to put up with it. So long as the Government were satisfied, it did not matter one whit whether the public, who paid for the service, were satisfied or not. The explanation given by the contractors for the non-delivery of the cargo was simply

that they were desirous to get to Fremantle before dark; and that was all. But, badly as the service was now performed, he thought we should have been still worse off if the Governor had terminated the contract, and we were left without any service at all. He hoped, however, some steps would be taken to ensure greater advantages and facilities from the service than the residents of our Southern ports had at present, for the contractors seemed to do as they liked, the long-suffering public, who paid the piper, being at their mercy entirely. As to the paragraph in the Governor's Speech relating to the salaries of public officers, and the intimation that it was proposed to increase these salaries in some instances, he hoped this increase was not intended for any heads of departments, but for the lower grades of the service, and more especially those employed in the Postal and Telegraph Department, who were certainly the most hard-worked and ill-paid officers in the service, though they required special qualifications to enable them to discharge their duties. As to security of tenure for pastoral leaseholders, which somehow or other had crept into the debate, though there was not a word about it in the Governor's Speech, it had been said that in no case had land been shut up from the agriculturist. He could not agree with that, for he knew of an instance in which the land was to all intents and purposes shut up, unless the lessee chose to consent to throw it open. He alluded to the land leased by Mr. M. C. Davies at Augusta. Applications to select land for occupation within this lease had in every instance to be referred to the lessee, and the Government could not grant any application without his approval, he having the right to all the timber on the land, under the terms of his concession. In conclusion, he might say that he quite agreed with the hon. member for Perth, as to the desirability of improving the last paragraph of the Address in Reply by introducing the words "Responsible Government," and he had been very glad indeed to hear that the hon. member did not intend to let the Session pass over without taking steps to seek to bring about that form of Government.

MR. BURT said he was sorry to have seen the noble lord, the Colonial Secre-

tary, rise a short time ago, to reply, at that stage of the debate, inasmuch as it was the wish of some hon. members that the debate should be further adjourned. He himself thought so, for there were matters in His Excellency's Speech of very great importance, which required a great deal more attention on the part of hon. members than they had yet been able to bestow upon them; and the voting of this Address in Reply was not a mere matter of form—judging from what had taken place at a previous Session. There were a great many things in that Address which hon. members might yet be sorry they gave their formal assent to, and which, possibly, they would not assent to, if they had an opportunity of bestowing that attention upon it which they might reasonably be expected to do. As to His Excellency's Speech, generally, he had nothing to quarrel with it. He had on former similar occasions felt called upon to loudly express his dissatisfaction with the conduct of public affairs, but on the present occasion he thought he was only doing justice to himself in stating, at the opening of the Session, that at present the conduct and administration of public affairs, so far as he could see, was very satisfactory indeed,—generally. A great deal of prominence had been given in the course of this debate to the Kimberley District. He had always endeavored to restrain the House, in some way or other, from running after that district. The moment its name was mentioned in the House, hon. members rushed off incontinently and talked of steam services, of special surveys, of magisterial appointments, police constables, Customs officers, and all manner of luxuries, which they were anxious to pitch into the lap of Kimberley,—a district of which they hardly knew anything at all. He said it again,—in this year of grace, 1882, we knew nothing about this wonderful Kimberley District, which hon. members seemed so eager to take under their fostering care. Here was a district, of which we were told in that House, and outside that House, that it would be cut off from us altogether the moment we undertook the responsibilities of self-government—and they were told that evening that before the Session was much older they would be asked to affirm a

resolution in favor of the adoption of that form of Government; here was a district, then, which they were told might be swept away from them altogether, at any moment, and yet nothing would do hon. members but to talk and talk about spending thousands of pounds in providing all sorts of good things for it. They were told that the district was making great strides. No doubt it was. In his opinion it was striding too fast altogether, for they were told it would very soon stride off the map of Western Australia altogether. And then, as the hon. member on his right (Mr. Grant) had told them the other day, it might be said with some show of truth that the Colony had arrived at the utmost extent of its borrowing powers. For his own part, he did not think they ought to be called to provide the district with steam communication, with surveys, with Magistrates, with Customs and Police officers, or with anything else, until we came to a distinct understanding with the Secretary of State as to whether the district belongs to us, and is likely to belong to us. At present they were told, and he believed on good authority, that in the event of the Colony assuming the responsibilities of self-government—and no one could say how soon that might happen—this district, and the whole of this part of the Colony, would be taken away from us, and constituted a separate province, yet they were coolly asked to expend thousands of pounds by way of providing it with a steam service, magistrates, and police and other adjuncts of cultivation. Seriously, he thought some representations ought to be made to the Secretary of State, with reference to this question, before the Colony embarked in any costly project connected with a district which may be ours to-day, and which to-morrow may be taken from us. He agreed with the hon. member for the Swan that the interest manifested by the Survey Department in this district had been wonderfully stimulated by reason of the fact that many of the lessees are people from the other side, who are likely to make a noise about it, unless their runs are surveyed. He noticed in His Excellency's Speech a passage quoted from the Surveyor General's report, which appeared to His Excellency to be a very "striking remark," to the effect that, immediately

after the approval of an application for land in that part of the Colony, and rent being paid, he (the Surveyor General) was supposed to issue documents concisely giving a tenure for years. He had yet to learn that the Surveyor General had not been required to do the very same thing, all these years, with regard to land in every other part of the Colony. But had it ever been done? As a general rule, it had not been done. Lessees had to be content to take up their runs, and chance it as regards their boundaries. He knew himself of lessees who had taken up land, as they thought, in a part of the Colony where it might be of some use to them, but when they came to ascertain its boundaries they found it was actually in the sea. And when they complained of it to the Survey Department, they got the stereotyped reply—a reply which it appeared would not do for people who came from the other side and who "made a noise about it"—to the effect that they had taken up the land, at their own risk, and they would have to do the best they could with it. But when it came to Kimberley, and to people from the other side hanging around the doors of the Survey Office, we must change all that,—we must give them surveys, we must give them steam communication, and what not. But as for our own people, poor Western Australians, they must put up with anything, they must submit to any inconvenience. No doubt in the world the district ought to be surveyed, as soon as we can afford to do so, but we certainly ought first to have some definite understanding with the Secretary of State, as to whether or not we are to retain possession of it. With regard to Immigration, he should be glad if the Government, or somebody on their behalf, would enunciate some policy, or introduce some practical scheme for dealing with this question. So far, we had not got beyond this,—that immigration ought to be undertaken in conjunction with public works. That was the only policy which had yet been formulated, and a very bald one it was. Our latest scheme of immigration introduced to us at one shipment no less than three incurables and one lunatic. It was a fact. Hon. members had only to refer to the report of the Immigration Agent on the subject.

Now that was a scheme which he hoped would not be renewed. He was quite in accord with His Excellency the Governor when he said he should not advocate a return to the former system, until we can provide for an immigration agency in England, which shall be in a position to devote its attention to the selection of suitable immigrants, of some other class than incurables and lunatics. Until we can do so, it was sheer nonsense to talk of carrying out a system of immigration in conjunction with public works. Another matter to which frequent reference had been made in the course of the debate was the question of the termination of the contract with Messrs. Lilly and Co. He thought hon. members should hesitate before condemning what had been done with respect to the withdrawal of the *Rob Roy*, until they saw the contract under which she was running. He believed, when they saw it, they would be of opinion that nothing more could have been done. If all this howl was raised in consequence of the interruption of the North-West service, what would have been the howl if the whole service had been stopped,—which would have been the inevitable result if the contract had been broken off, in consequence of the stranding of the *Rob Roy*, for it would be absurd to think that any company could have re-established the service in a few days. Therefore he thought that, under the circumstances, and looking at the fact that there was a reasonable prospect of the *Rob Roy* being repaired, before a new service could have been established, all had been done that could be reasonably expected to be done. Referring to the labors of the Tariff Commission, alluded to in the Governor's Speech, there was one feature in their report which His Excellency touched upon, and recommended to the approval of the House, which he was surprised had escaped the critical attention of the hon. member for the Vasse—whom they were all glad to see amongst them again—for the hon. member for the Vasse possessed a large fund of small information which was very serviceable to the House. His Excellency told them that the Tariff Commissioners recommended that immigrants arriving in the Colony be permitted to import the implements and tools of their trades (to the value of

£10) free of duty, and His Excellency in his Speech made a point of expressing a hope that the House would endorse this recommendation. It certainly was not a very grand stroke of fiscal statesmanship, nor did it require a very gigantic intellect to grasp it, in all its bearings; and if it was put forward by His Excellency as a leading feature of the Commissioners' report, he was afraid the country must not expect to derive much benefit from the labors of the Commission. He was sorry to find no reference made in the Governor's Speech to the Road Loan,—a subject with reference to which he was sure the House would have been glad to have received some information, as to the balance, if any, yet available, to be wasted, before they voted the £10,000 proposed to be appropriated out of current revenue for the upkeep of roads. He was sorry also, and he might say disappointed, to see such a number of meagre Bills referred to by His Excellency as having been prepared for the consideration of the House, most of them mere amending Bills. If the whole batch had been lumped together, so that they could be passed *en bloc*, it would save a great deal of time, and possibly answer every purpose. If the Bill which they had passed that evening *sub silentio* was a criterion of the rest—a Bill to enable them to place the inmates of Government House—he begged pardon, the inmates of the Government Poor House on bread and water for three days—if that was a specimen of the legislation which they were to be treated to during the Session, he hoped their labors would not be prolonged; the sooner the Governor dismissed them, with his blessing, the better would it be for hon. members and for all concerned.

Mr. SHENTON thought there were few subjects in His Excellency's Speech that afforded matter for more hearty congratulation than the satisfactory condition of the country's finances,—a result which had exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine. The hon. member for the Vasse stated that in congratulating themselves upon the restoration of the financial equilibrium, hon. members appeared to forget that it was due in a great measure to our having borrowed the money to recoup the revenue the amount spent on the Eucla Telegraph;

and, no doubt, that was the case. But he failed to see that this detracted from the credit due for the restoration of our finances, seeing that the expenditure of current revenue upon the telegraph line had been an important factor in crippling our financial position, and looking also at the expediency of re-establishing our finances on a sound footing—a condition insisted upon by the Secretary of State before giving his consent to a further loan. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the credit of bringing about this satisfactory state of affairs was not to be taken altogether by the members of that House. He was quite prepared to admit that the Legislature was entitled to every credit for the persistent manner in which it had opposed unauthorised expenditure, in years gone by, still it must be remembered that unless the Governor of the Colony co-operated with the Legislature in the endeavor to keep down the public expenditure, and in adhering to the votes of the House, the Colony would not to-day have been in the satisfactory condition it is found to be in, as regards its financial position, present and prospective. He had heard it said by a member of the Government in that House, that no matter how we cut down the expenditure, or how we limited the votes, the Government, if it required the money, would spend it, if they liked. Those days, he was happy to think, had gone by, and it was highly satisfactory, not only to the members of that House, but to the Colony at large, to find that there existed an earnest desire on the part of the present Administration to co-operate with the Council in keeping down expenditure, and in adhering to the votes of the House. He was glad to observe that the Secretary of State, in his despatch to the Governor on this subject of the restoration of our finances, expressed his sense of His Excellency's exertions in this direction, and of the success which had attended his efforts to restore a financial equilibrium. He also thought that the country was to be congratulated on the fact that the action of the Governor in obtaining, before the Council met, the approval of the Secretary of State to the proposal to raise another loan, had thereby obviated many months' delay in prosecuting the public works which it had been decided upon.

They could now look forward with a feeling of certainty almost that the commencement of the third section of the Eastern Railway would be undertaken before the end of the present year. As to the desirability of surveying a route for a branch line to Newcastle, from Spencer's Brook, he had himself intended submitting a motion to that effect, as soon as the Loan Bill was placed on the Table. It was almost imperative, with a view to the successful and profitable working of the Eastern Districts Railway, that there should be a branch line to Newcastle, to act as a feeder to the main line. This branch would secure the whole of the goods traffic from the Toodyay Valley and also Victoria Plains, which would form a very considerable item in the revenue of the line. He hoped that when the tenders were accepted for the final section of the railway to York, they might find such a surplus in hand as would justify the Legislature and the Government in constructing this branch line, without having recourse to a further loan. On looking at the estimate of the Acting Commissioner of Railways, and comparing it with the tenders received for the second section of the line, he entertained a strong hope that, if there should be the same difference, as regards the third section, between the estimate and the contract price, there would be an ample margin left, if not to construct a branch railway to Newcastle at any rate to make a good road between that town and the railway junction at Spencer's Brook. As to the question of the limit of our borrowing powers, and of the elasticity of the revenue, hon. members should bear in mind that the increased revenue derived from the Customs during the past two or three years was due in a great measure to the extra taxation imposed by that House with a view to assist the Government to extricate the Colony from its financial embarrassments; at the same time, it could not be denied that there were many signs of improvement as regards other sources of revenue, and that the Colony had entered upon a period of prosperity. If our financial position improved during the next ten years as it had done during the past decade, that House would be justified in passing a Bill for the construction of a

railway to connect the Eastern Districts with Champion Bay,—a work that must sooner or later be brought before the Legislature, and, in his opinion, a far more important work, and one more likely to prove reproductive, than that of a railway between York and Albany,—a project which, he thought, they might now regard as having been practically abandoned, as the survey made of the route which the line would have to traverse showed that it would have to go through a great deal of very inferior country. To think that such a line would pay, so far as goods traffic was concerned, was in his opinion highly improbable, in the face of the present low rate now ruling for freights. On the other hand, the whole line from York to Champion Bay would pass through first class agricultural country. The hon. member for the Vasse, in speaking of the Commission appointed by His Excellency to report on the question of a revision of the tariff, seemed to imply that those members of the House who had also been members of that Commission would be bound to vote in accordance with the recommendations embodied in the report of the Commissioners. As one of the members of that Commission he begged leave to differ from any such implication, for it was distinctly understood by those members of the Commission who had seats in the House that they would not be in any way bound by the report of the Commission. As a matter of fact, the members of the Commission were not unanimous in their views as regards the revised schedules, and it was thoroughly understood that they would be at liberty to support their respective opinions when the subject came to be discussed in that House, as it would have to be. With regard to the remarks that had fallen from the hon. member for Murray, as to the recommendation of the Commission with reference to a remission of the duty on immigrants' tools and implements of trade, that matter had been very forcibly brought under the attention of the Commissioners. The last batch of immigrants had to pay duty upon these articles, which caused a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction and discontent amongst them—a feeling which he thought it would be very desirable to

guard against in the case of people newly arrived in the Colony. With regard to the proposed expenditure in connection with the Gascoyne and Kimberley Districts, it should be borne in mind that we had already received a very large amount of revenue from these districts, and that we were in duty bound to give the settlers some return. At the same time he quite agreed that the Kimberley District was receiving far more attention at the present time at the hands of the Survey Department than Nicol Bay and other outlying districts had ever received, in years gone by. Nicol Bay had to wait for nearly ten years before any proper survey was made of the district,—though of course the fact of one district having been neglected was no sufficient reason why another should be neglected. The question of the up-keep of roads had engaged a great deal of public attention during the past few months, and it was a question which no doubt would engage the attention of that House, sooner or later, as to whether the powers granted to District Roads Boards to levy local taxation for the up-keep of their roads should not be enforced, in the same way as Municipalities levied rates for the maintenance of the roads within their own jurisdiction. He did not for a moment mean to say that the Roads Boards should be called upon to levy such a tax as would yield enough to maintain their roads without any assistance from public revenue, but that (say) for every two-thirds of the amount contributed by that House the various districts should tax themselves to the extent of the remaining one-third, and that those portions of the Colony who are provided with railway communication should not receive as large a share of the road grant out of public revenue as those districts which derived no direct advantages or benefits whatever from railway communication, towards providing which every district in the Colony had contributed its share. That appeared to him to be a fair and equitable arrangement. With reference to Immigration, he regretted that no larger amount was proposed by the Government for expenditure under this head than £4000. The increase of population as disclosed in the recent Census returns was very humiliating, and showed the absolute necessity

for some effort being made to introduce population from outside, without which it was evident the Colony could never hope to progress and keep pace with its neighbors. It was no use expecting men of capital and enterprise to come here, unless they were assured that the Colony was prepared to assist them in obtaining a supply of labor to carry on the industries which capitalists were prepared to embark in, but which were now languishing, owing to the want of labor to prosecute them. The present nomination system answered very well in some respects, as regards those who were nominated within easy distance of London, whence the cost of travelling was a mere trifle; but, to poor country people, the cost of getting their families in the first place to the port of shipment debarred a great many from taking advantage of our nomination system, and no doubt something ought to be done to remove this drawback. The immigration vote ought certainly to be increased, so as to admit of our agent at home defraying the expenses of intending immigrants from their homes to the ship's side. As soon as the state of our finances admitted of it he thought no time should be lost in establishing an immigration agency in England, with travelling agents to select suitable immigrants likely to be of some use to the Colony, as was done by our neighbors. With regard to the temporary interruption of traffic on the Eastern Railway, consequent on the breakdown of the locomotives, referred to in His Excellency's Speech, no doubt that interruption, whoever was responsible for it, was the cause of much annoyance to the travelling public; but he thought it would be better to wait for the report of the Commission which was appointed to investigate the question, before saying anything more about the matter. The stranding of the *Rob Roy* was another most unfortunate occurrence, not only as regards the North-West, but as regards this part of the Colony as well, as it had paralysed the whole of the trade between this and the North, inasmuch as the establishment of a steam service had driven off all the coasters formerly engaged in the trade. He thought it was to be regretted that the resolution of the House as to advertising for fresh tenders when last year's con-

tract had expired, had not been adhered to, for it would undoubtedly have had the result of at any rate supplying us with very useful data and information with regard to what the cost of such a service ought to be, even although we might eventually have been driven to accept the tender of the present contractors. The hon. member for Perth had drawn attention to what he conceived to be an omission at the end of the last paragraph of the Address in Reply, and seemed to think that Responsible Government ought to have been dragged in. He did not know whether the hon. member was in earnest, but, so far as he was concerned, looking at the present satisfactory position of the Colony, he did not think there was cause for much fault-finding with our present form of Government, as now administered. One strong argument at one time in favor of the introduction of self-government was the fact that, according to the way in which the Constitution was then worked, it appeared impossible for us to go in for any expensive public works, by means of borrowed money; and no doubt that was a very strong argument, if it had been the Constitution that was to blame. But they had lately seen that there was little or no difficulty in obtaining loans for the prosecution of public works, and that the present Constitution could be made to work very well indeed; for, as the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the Government, had pointed out, when the new loan which we are about to raise shall have been floated, we shall under the present Constitution have obtained loans to the extent of £100,000 in excess of what the Legislature had asked for. He thought it was very fortunate, under all the circumstances, that the Secretary of State last year only sanctioned one-half the loan then proposed to be raised, as the short delay which had thereby intervened had afforded them an opportunity, as regards railway construction, of reconsidering the question of route, and we would now have a line going in a direction that could not fail to result in greater advantages to the districts more immediately concerned, and also be productive of greater benefits to the Colony at large. He trusted that next year we shall be in a position to go in for another

loan, having for its object the further development of the Colony, by improving the harbor accommodation at Fremantle.

MR. RANDELL then moved the adjournment of the debate. He believed there were other hon. members besides himself who were anxious to address the House, but the lateness of the hour now almost precluded them from doing so. He would therefore move, That the debate be adjourned until Monday evening.

Question put.

Council divided.

Ayes	10
Noes	7

Majority for	...	3
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AYES.

Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Burges
Mr. Glyde
Mr. Higham
Mr. Carey
Mr. Grant
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Venn
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. Randell (Teller.)

NOES.

Lord Gifford
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Brown
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Steere
The Hon. A. C. Onslow
(Teller.)

The motion was therefore carried.

The House adjourned at a quarter to eleven o'clock, p.m., until Monday, 31st July.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 31st July, 1882.

Telephone Exchange—Seab Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Report of Special Mission to the Gascoyne and Murchison—Immigration—Stamp Act, 1881, Amendment Bill: first reading—Tariff Bill: motion for second reading—Hawkers' Bill: second reading—Statutes (Errors) Amendment Bill: second reading—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, "To lay on the Table a return "showing the cost of construction and

"maintenance of a central telephone exchange in the towns of Perth and "Fremantle." He understood the Government were in possession of the information asked for, and though it might appear somewhat premature to bring forward a motion of this kind so early in the Session, before they knew what money would be available for establishing such conveniences in this Colony, he thought it would be as well that the House should be placed in possession of the required information, so as to be able to form some idea as to whether these exchanges were not likely to prove reproductive undertakings. If that could be shown, there could be no doubt that, if established, they would be a great boon to people in business, to the press, and also to the Government offices.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Lord Gifford) said the matter had not been lost sight of by the Government. Information had been sought some months ago with reference to the cost of constructing and maintaining telephones, and that information he had much pleasure in laying on the Table, when hon. members would see that there was every prospect of these exchanges being self-supporting. The Superintendent of Telegraphs considered that the cost of fitting exchanges at Perth and Fremantle and of connecting them one with the other and with the subscribers who would be likely to make application in the first instance, would be about £1,300, and the annual charge for salaries, upkeep, and interest on capital account, he places at £453. The probable income to meet this charge was placed at £456. The Superintendent assumed that there would be thirty subscribers in Perth and Fremantle, and his calculations were based upon the following scale of charges: (a) an annual subscription of £8 to entitle a subscriber in Perth to communicate with any other subscriber in Perth; (b) the same subscription for the same advantages in Fremantle; (c) an additional £4 per annum to entitle subscribers in both places to communicate with other subscribers in either place; (d) for the use of the wires at the central offices by the general public for speaking from Perth to Fremantle and *vice versa*, one shilling for the first ten minutes, and sixpence for every additional five minutes.