

regulation of teachers' salaries; he was afraid the existing Education Act could never be licked into shape so as to suit the requirements of both town and country. The South Australian Act was, as near as possible, the measure we wanted; there they had fixed salaries and also payment by fees and results. He trusted the session would not be allowed to pass without a more suitable Education Act being passed into law than that now in operation; if the Government would not introduce a Bill having this object in view, they would be forestalled by private members. Everybody seemed to be in the dark as to the intention of the Government with respect to this subject, and no light was thrown upon it in the Governor's speech. He really could not see the necessity for all this mystery, all this tremendous amount of secrecy as to the intentions of the Government. It was known years ago that the Act in its present shape was not adaptable to the requirements of a Colony with a sparse and scattered population like this; this was known to the Government as well as to the Central Board. Why, then, delay the evil day any longer? With regard to the steamer "Rob Roy," he would like to see her unfettered altogether by the mail service, unless it were the intercolonial mail. He would be glad to see her making a trip to Adelaide once a month, conveying mails and passengers to and from the neighboring Colonies—a service which he believed would entail but very little more expense than that which the steamer now performed. As to railway extension, he only hoped that the hon. member for Wellington would see his way clear to induce the Government to introduce a railway loan bill during the present session, providing not only for the construction of the proposed line from Fremantle to Guildford, but also the necessary survey of the proposed Eastern Districts extension line. With reference to the reports laid on the Table—and referred to in His Excellency's speech—relating to the working of the Licensing Act, he would only say, without going into particulars, that it appeared to him that some of the police officers who had undertaken to report on the subject seemed to have availed themselves of the occasion to air their independence—not

to say their impudence. As to the report from Champion Bay, he would content himself at present by simply stating that it was untrue; there had been very just cause for the remarks made by hon. members as to the indiscretion of the police.

The motion for the adoption of the address in reply was then adopted.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved, That the address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, by Mr. Speaker and other hon. members of the House who might find it convenient to attend, on the following day, at half-past twelve o'clock.

Motion agreed to.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 12th July, 1877.

Address to His Excellency the Governor—His Excellency's reply—Postponement of Orders of the Day.

The SPEAKER took the chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

MR. SPEAKER said that, in accordance with the pleasure expressed by the Governor, he proposed to wait upon His Excellency at half-past twelve o'clock to present the address in reply to His Excellency's speech, with as many members as might be pleased to accompany him.

At twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock Mr. Speaker left the chair, and, accompanied by a number of honorable members, proceeded to Government House, and presented the address. On returning, he said he had to inform the Council that the address to His Excellency the Governor had been presented in accordance with the resolution of the House, and that His Excellency had been pleased to give the following answer:—

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

I thank you for your address in reply to my opening speech, and for your kind and acceptable congratulations on the distinction which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon me. I thank you also for your promise that the questions which I have brought to your notice will receive your careful consideration, and I feel sure that the result of your labors will be such as to entitle you to the continued confidence of the community."

POSTPONEMENT OF THE ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The consideration of the Orders of the Day was postponed until Monday, the 16th July. The Orders of the Day for Friday, the 13th, were likewise postponed, with a view to move the adjournment of the House until Monday, in accordance with the wishes of honorable members.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Monday, 16th July, 1877.

Return of officers employed in Police Force in Perth district—Gun Bill: question—Railway to Eastern Districts—Guildford and Fremantle Railway: proposed Loan Bill—Scab in Sheep: select committee—Board of Inquiry in re Magistrates at Bunbury—Rate of Interest on Savings' Bank deposits—Point of Order.

The SPEAKER took the chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

POLICE FORCE IN PERTH.

MR. SHENTON, in accordance with notice, Asked the Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the Table of the House, a return showing the names, duties, and salaries of all officers of the Police Force stationed in the district of Perth; the return to include the Detective Office.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) replied that the return asked for by the honorable member was of a character which required that it should be moved for by an address to His Excellency the Governor.

MR. SHENTON called attention to Standing Order No. 50, which provides that "motions for the production of returns, or other information, from the several departments of the colonial service, shall be in form 'That they be laid on the Table.'" The hon. member, therefore, contended that it was not necessary that the return he asked for should be moved for by an address to the Governor. He appealed to the hon. the Speaker for his ruling in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER (addressing the Acting Colonial Secretary): Did you read the Standing Order referred to by the hon. member for Newcastle? Our Standing Orders over-rule parliamentary practice in any other part of the world. In the event of no provision being made in our Standing Orders for any contingency, we then fall back upon the parliamentary practice of the House of Commons. But it appears that, in the case now referred to, provision is made for the form in which the motion for the production of the return asked for should be made.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said he was aware of the provisions of the 50th Standing Order. He would, however, remind the House of the 48th Standing Order, which provided that motions for the production of any information emanating from His Excellency shall be in form "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency," praying to that effect. The return asked for by the hon. member was of an exceptional character, involving as it did a disclosure of the names and duties of officers connected with a department with regard to which it was essential that every possible care should be taken that secrecy was maintained. It was a return the production of which, it had appeared to him, was peculiarly within the province of His Excellency to sanction.

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, when any point of order arises, it is not for me to consider whether it is in favor of the Government or of the other side of the House. I have only to rule in accordance