

may break the good feeling that exists between employers and workmen at present.

MR. VOSPER: What about Sunday recreation?

MR. MORGANS: I think a man should do what he likes on a Sunday in the way of recreation; and I do not see that we have any right to control a man's actions on Sunday more than on Monday. If a man prefers to enter into the recreations of life on Sunday, nobody has any right to interfere with him.

MR. A. FORREST: Then you will have shops open on Sunday.

MR. MORGANS: I do not see why shops should not be open on Sunday, if people choose to open them. If you interfere between a workman and his employer, you will create difficulties, and you should avoid that. In conclusion, I have pleasure in moving the adoption of the following Address-in-Reply:—

To His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerald Smith, Knight Commander of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Western Australia and its Dependencies, etc., etc., etc.

We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and devotion to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been good enough to address to Parliament, and we beg to assure Your Excellency that our most careful consideration will be given to the important matters you have referred to, and also to all other matters that may be submitted to us, and it shall be our earnest endeavour to so deal with them that our labours may result in the permanent advancement and prosperity of the colony.

MR. J. J. HIGHAM (Fremantle): In lieu of seconding the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, and in deference to the expressed desire of a majority of hon.

members, I now beg to move that the debate be adjourned to the next sitting day.

Motion put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

THE PREMIER (Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday next, at half-past four o'clock p.m.

Put and passed.

The House adjourned at 11 minutes past 5 o'clock until the next Tuesday afternoon.

#### Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 27th June, 1899.

Papers presented -- Return, Imports and Exports -- Address-in-reply; Second Day of debate -- Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the COLONIAL SECRETARY: 1. Report of Commission, Ivanhoe Ven-

ture Lease; 2. Report of Commission, Perth Railway Traffic; 3. Regulations (Amended) under Goldfields Act; 4. Regulations (Amended) under Mineral Lands Act; 5. Regulations under Mining on Private Property Act; 6. Regulations for Mining on Hampton Plains Estate; 7. Rules under Bankruptcy Act Amendment Act; 8. Supreme Court Rules, Additional.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### RETURN—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

HON. W. T. LOTON moved:

That a return be laid on the table showing—

(a). The value of imports in detail from the Australian colonies, and the amount of duty thereon for the half-year ending 30th June, 1899. (b). The value of imports in detail from the Australian colonies, free of duty, for the like period. (c). The value of imports in detail from the United Kingdom, other British possessions, and foreign countries, free of duty for the like period. (d). The value of exports, in detail, to the Australian colonies during the like period.

In view of the fact that, during the present session of Parliament, the important question as to whether this colony should decide to enter the federation would have to be fully discussed in its various details, it was desirable for members of Parliament to have before them the very latest and correct statistics in regard to the customs and the operations through the customs, in order that we might, at all events as far as his views were concerned, be enabled to form, to a certain extent, a fair opinion as to what the effect of the change would be to this colony.

Question put and passed.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY.

##### SECOND DAY OF DEBATE.

Debate resumed, on motion made by Hon. H. J. Saunders and seconded by Hon. D. K. Congdon, for adoption of Address-in-Reply to the Governor's opening Speech.

HON. F. M. STONE (North): In rising to speak on the Address-in-Reply, I may perhaps be permitted to congratulate the Government, at least, on the length of the Speech. I do not propose to follow in the steps of the seconder of the Address in such an eloquent speech. If

I were to do so, I think I should simply get up and say, "I agree with every word in the Speech," and sit down. I propose to go through the Speech, and to criticise it with no uncertain voice when I come across anything with which I do not agree. I come to the first paragraph, and I am certainly pleased to find that the financial position of the colony is sound, notwithstanding the slump we have gone through, and notwithstanding the large deficit; and I do hope, now we have gone through these bad times, the Government or any future Government will take warning, and not go on with the reckless expenditure that has been gone into in the past, and that they will not try in every way to boom the colony, but will go along on a sound basis, so that we shall prosper at all times. I go to paragraph 2, which deals with an all-important question at the present time, federation. I am pleased to say this is one portion of the Speech with which I agree, although I may tell hon. members I am a federationist to the backbone. Still, I am not going to sacrifice this colony to the extent to which it is proposed to do, and I am not going to allow any sentiment to weigh with me in dealing with this question. What we want to see is that we shall get something, and not lose, as we may do, everything in going into federation. There is one matter I am sorry about, and that is that our delegates and the Premier did not insist, and make it a condition of our joining the federation, that the transcontinental railway should be constructed.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Our delegates were not strong enough.

HON. F. M. STONE: If they were not strong enough, they could have gone on insisting and endeavoured to have made themselves heard in some way. From the way I read the reports, it seems to me that our delegates were almost silent. As our delegates have not insisted on this condition, I trust the House will do so. Although I was at one time in favour of sending the Federal Enabling Bill to the people, still so strong am I in my feeling in regard to the transcontinental railway, and also in regard to the financial clauses of the Bill, that I think these two matters should be settled before the Bill goes to the people. If we were to allow the Bill to go to the people on this

condition. "Shall we accept the Bill provided we get the transcontinental railway, and provided the financial clauses with reference to this colony are altered?" then I say the Parliament might allow the Bill to go to the people. Still, I think it is better that this House should deal with the question of federation, and not allow the Enabling Bill to go to the people in its present state. I am glad to see in the Speech that the Government are of opinion that the Bill as now framed is far less favourable to Western Australia than to any of the other colonies. To my mind I am certain of that. The question of federation is now being discussed, and on one side we have the federationists, who have given us certain figures, while the anti-federationists have given us another set of figures; but until the whole question has been threshed out to my satisfaction, and the satisfaction of the House, and we have seen that the financial clauses have had close consideration, until we see that we shall not lose to the extent that it appears to my mind we shall lose by going into federation, we should not allow this Bill to go to the people. When the Enabling Bill comes before us, I hope to listen to what hon. members have to say on the question, and perhaps I shall be able to make up my mind one way or the other. As at present advised, I am against the Bill going to the people because it contains no provision in reference to the transcontinental railway, and the financial clauses are not satisfactory to the colony. I come now to the third paragraph of the Speech, which deals with the gold mines and with the large dividends that have been paid, and certainly it is very satisfactory to know that large dividends are being paid by the gold mining companies. Companies and private individuals have lost quite enough through our gold mines; so it is satisfactory to learn that some of the companies and some of the persons who have put money into our mines are being recouped the money they have laid out. I do not go to the extent that the latter part of the paragraph does, that "the payment of these magnificent dividends has resulted in bringing the colony into great prominence as a field for investment and enterprise." I think that at the time of the boom so many "wild cats" were floated in England that the people at home

are sick to the heart of this colony, and it will take a considerable time for us to recover ourselves in the London market. I do not think the payment of these dividends has affected the colony much, as a field for investment and enterprise. As I say, the investing public in England are so thoroughly sick of the way in which they were taken in, that it will take some time before they recover themselves. I do hope that we shall continue to pay large dividends, and regain that confidence which we lost to a certain extent at the time of the boom. If there does come another boom, I hope the Government will do all in their power to prevent what was done in the past, and not go along with the rush as they did before. I hope this Government, or any other Government, will try to do all they can to prevent the swindling which was carried out at the time of the last boom. As to paragraph 4, dealing with batteries, the Speech says that they have proved of considerable benefit to the gold mining industry. I should like to have seen something further in that paragraph, to have had some expression in the Speech that the batteries are paying, before other batteries are erected. When the question of the erection of other batteries comes before the House, I hope we shall be in possession of information enabling us to pass the items for the batteries, not only for the benefit of the gold mining community, but also knowing they will not be a loss to the colony. With reference to paragraph 5, dealing with the Coolgardie Exhibition, that is another matter on which we have no information as to what it has cost the colony. True 70,000 people visited that Exhibition, but how many of those 70,000 persons visited it a dozen times or more, so that the numbers given cannot be relied upon. There is no doubt that the Government made a mistake at the start. That Exhibition should never have been at Coolgardie, but in Perth.

HON. A. B. KIDSON: Fremantle.

HON. F. M. STONE: Well, if it had been at Fremantle, the people would have come to Perth. At any rate, the Government made a mistake when they gave £5,000 for the Exhibition. The Government could have prevented the Exhibition being held at Coolgardie. We should have had that Exhibition in

the capital of the colony, and then it would have been visited by hundreds of thousands of people.

HON. A. G. JENKINS: Nobody down here had the enterprise to move for it. The people sat here and looked on, and afterwards they blame the Government.

HON. F. M. STONE: You had to take people from Perth to run the Exhibition at Coolgardie. Now I come to the Collie coalfield, and I may say I was one of those who opposed the railway to the Collie, because at that time I said I thought the coalfield should be proved before we started to build a railway to it. And how long has it taken to prove this coalfield? Up to the present time has it been proved that we have good coal at the Collie? The railway has been built, a number of leases have been taken up, and now a gentleman has obtained a lease of the Government colliery, and I believe is making a handsome profit out of it. I trust the Government will not pamper this industry, now that it is in the hands of private enterprise, but will allow private enterprise to work it. The lessee of the Government colliery is making, I have heard, a good profit, so that I hope the Government will let him carry on the industry, and not do as they have done in the past—grant funds to pamper that industry. If the coal is good enough, private enterprise will make it pay. Paragraph 7 deals with the Helena River reservoir, and really the paragraph is rather amusing. It says: "The works in connection with the Helena River reservoir are being proceeded with as rapidly as local conditions permit." We are aware that local conditions are not permitting the dam at that reservoir to go along as the Government would wish, and I should like to have seen something in the Speech with reference to the dam. I should like to know whose fault it was that borings were not taken right along the site of the dam, and why the work was started without those borings being taken.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Have you visited the works?

HON. F. M. STONE: No.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: Then you do not know.

HON. F. M. STONE: Perhaps we shall be able to gain some information

from the hon. member; but we cannot get away from the fact that a great mistake was made there.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: It is doubtful.

HON. F. M. STONE: And thousands of pounds have to be spent over the mistake; whereas I say the mistake could have been avoided had borings been taken right through the site of the dam.

HON. R. G. BURGESS: It is doubtful.

HON. F. M. STONE: I shall at some future time ask how much cost has been incurred, owing to this mistake. I was the one who, when this question was first mooted in the House, moved that the whole matter be referred to a Select Committee of both Houses; but the House did not follow me on that occasion. I went through the report of the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. O'Connor, and I told the House how guarded that report was; that he had left himself loopholes of escape in many ways, if any mistake were made. I said I thought it better, before this House committed itself to a scheme of such a character, that we should have every information upon it. Now we find that a mistake, and a very serious mistake, has been made. I do not say that mistake would have been discovered if we had had that Select Committee; but I think we should then have known how many borings had been put down. It might have suggested itself to some hon. member to ask whether there were sufficient borings, and whether the Government were satisfied that there was a good foundation on that site. Had that been done, no doubt good would have resulted; and I regret to see that a mistake of this kind has occurred, because it involves a great loss to the country. I wish the House had followed me at the time I have referred to, so that we might have had some chance of preventing the mistake which was afterwards made. With reference to paragraph 8, it is very satisfactory to know that the harbour works at Fremantle are such a success. It must be very gratifying to the Engineer-in-Chief to have seen one of Her Majesty's ships in the harbour; and I hope the mail steamers will now follow the example set, and not keep back in the way they have done, by allowing foreign steamers to come in and take the trade from this

colony. I hope the fact of Her Majesty's ship, the "Royal Arthur," having come inside the harbour, will enable the managers of mail steamers to realise that although the harbour is not yet half finished, we have even now a good harbour into which mail steamers can come with safety. I shall be pleased indeed to hear before long that the mail steamers of the P. & O. and the Orient lines will come into Fremantle. Now I come to paragraph 9, which deals with several jetties, and goes on to refer to the Bunbury breakwater. I knew as well as possible that this would come. I told hon. members it was only the thin end of the wedge. When we were told that £100,000 would be sufficient for the harbour for years to come, and that we need not mind, I said it was more likely that the cost would be £500,000. Directly £100,000 was spent, more was to follow; and we do not know where it will end.

HON. D. K. CONGDON: Is it for the good of the colony?

HON. F. M. STONE: Is it for the good of the colony?

HON. D. K. CONGDON: Yes.

HON. F. M. STONE: It may be good, no doubt, for some timber companies that are taking all the timber out of the colony, and whose dividends are being sent out of Western Australia. The Speech says "it is believed that a large export trade of coal will soon be established." When the coal from the Collie coalfield is used in all the mines of the colony and throughout Western Australia, I do not know where the export trade will be. Are we going to compete with Newcastle coal?

HON. D. K. CONGDON: Why not? A good many people burn Collie coal, and say it is better than Newcastle.

HON. F. M. STONE: Yes, there is a difference of opinion with regard to Collie coal; but if it be such a success, why are we continually experimenting with it? Why were 100 tons placed on the man-of-war the other day? I do not wish to condemn the coal—far from it. I am only too glad to know it is good coal. I wish it were as good as Newcastle coal, and I hope that when the Collie coal is worked at greater depth it will prove to be as good; but I do not see why we

should go into large expenditure until it is thoroughly proved. I have the same objection in relation to this subject as I had in regard to the Collie railway: it has too much of the "spec." business about it. If we find that the coal is thoroughly good, that it is used throughout the colony, and that it is admitted all round to be good marketable coal, then will be the time for constructing further harbour works at Bunbury; but I do not think that in the present financial condition of the colony, we should speculate in any way with public money. If we are going to rely on the coal to pay interest on the money we are going to spend on that harbour, I think it will be better to wait until they have gone down a sufficient depth, and have shown that Collie coal will be exported. We are now spending a large amount on the harbour at Fremantle, and I do not think we should go in for a further expenditure at Bunbury until, as I say, it is proved beyond doubt that there will be a demand outside the colony for this coal. I do not think there is much to be said in regard to paragraphs 10, 11, and 12; but I see by paragraph 13 that we are to be congratulated at last on the fact that the Observatory is finished. This "white elephant" is finished at last! and I feel sure we shall get more of those satisfactory reports stating, "If it does not rain to-day, it may rain to-morrow," which are of so much benefit to the colony. At any rate, it seems to me we have to go to Queensland for the reports now, notwithstanding the money that has been spent on this Observatory. Then we are congratulated on the fact that the additions to Government House have been completed. I may say the ball-room looks very nice indeed. No doubt it is a splendid one, and I suppose it will be used twice a year. I believe £18,000 or £20,000 has been spent on it.

A MEMBER: £14,800.

HON. F. M. STONE: £14,000 has been spent on this ball-room, and we have a wretched Court-house which the public have to use all the year round, and goodness knows when we are going to get a good one! It is a perfect disgrace to the colony that we should have such a Supreme Court-house.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think we will make a beginning this year.

HON. F. M. STONE : I am glad to hear it. Perhaps now the ball-room is finished we are going to get a new Court-house. Something has been brought out by that little remark of mine, and I am pleased to find that the Government are at last—it has taken a long time to shift them—going to start a new Court-house, and do away with a standing disgrace to this colony. As to paragraph 15, dealing with the erection of smelting works by a private company at Owen's anchorage, it is very satisfactory to hear that these works are now going on, and that they will be of advantage to the colony. In this case the Government were justified in assisting the company in every possible way.

HON. A. G. JENKINS : What about the damage to private property occasioned by the noxious fumes ?

HON. F. M. STONE : That is a matter the private owners can easily see to, if they like. Anyway, you are not going to get an opinion out of me in this House. With reference to paragraph 16, it is very satisfactory to know that at last the Royal Mint is open, and that we are now in full possession of a Mint coining sovereigns. It is a pity that a sovereign was not sent round to each hon. member at the first sitting of the House after the opening of the Mint ; and we might have handed it down to our children afterwards. With reference to paragraph 17, this is, with the exception of that relating to federation, the most serious one in the whole Speech. It says :

The expansion of the Gold Mining Industry renders it obligatory that railways shall be extended to all those centres which warrant it, as already by this means not only have the gold mines been assisted in the best possible way, but agricultural, timber, coal, and all other producing interests in the Colony have been stimulated and assisted at the same time.

I quite agree so far. The paragraph continues :

Bearing this in mind, my Ministers consider that the extension of the railway from Menzies to Leonora has become an urgent necessity, and they propose to again submit the project for your consideration. The railway from Coolgardie to Norseman is one which my Ministers also consider to be justifiable ; while the extension and increase of railway facilities between Kalgoorlie and the Boulder group of mines, so as to embrace and give assistance to as many of the principal mines as possible,

and a short line to Bonnie Vale from Coolgardie, are works that are very necessary, and will also prove remunerative.

Members will see that last session we had almost a similar paragraph in the Speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open Parliament. That paragraph, No. 25, is as follows :

In order to keep pace with the growing requirements of the Goldfields, my Ministers propose to submit for your approval that the following railways shall be constructed :— A railway from Menzies *via* Niagara to Mount Malcolm and Mount Leonora ; a railway from Coolgardie to Norseman ; and a railway from Coolgardie to Bonnie Vale. The railway extension to Mount Leonora will bring the various mining centres on the Mount Margaret and East Murchison Goldfields into closer range with railway communication ; the railway to Norseman will unite the Dundas Goldfield with the railway system of the colony ; while the railway from Coolgardie to Bonnie Vale will give transit facilities to a rising and populous locality. It is also proposed to construct out of revenue a cheap railway from Northam towards Goomalling, in order to give assistance to the producers of that rich agricultural district.

The paragraph I have just quoted deals with the same railways, excepting that from Northam to Goomalling, which is placed in another paragraph of the Speech altogether as a sort of "blind," it seems to me, as if we might have slipped over the Northam-to-Goomalling railway and not noticed it. What I complain of is that the Government inform the House that they propose to place before them those railways, and yet they have not shown in any way where the funds are to be derived from for the construction. In the Speech last session it was stated in paragraph 26 how the necessary funds were to be obtained, and that paragraph was as follows :—

In order to provide funds to carry out these works, my Ministers propose to reappropriate a sufficient sum for the purpose from certain items of the loans already authorised, and by this means avoid any additional loan authorisation at the present time. No injury will be done to the works provided on the loans schedules by adopting this course, inasmuch as before the amount reappropriated will be required a new loan authorisation can be provided.

Members will observe that it was proposed to provide the funds by reappropriation from certain loans that were then made, and will remember that upon the Address-in-Reply to that Speech, the

Hon. R. S. Haynes proposed an amendment to this effect : —

We, however, desire to express our disapproval of the proposal for reappropriation contained in paragraph 26 of your Excellency's Speech. This course is, in our opinion, one which should not be followed, as it practically commits the colony to an expenditure without previously having made due provision for payment, and we feel that it would be unwise at the present time, directly or indirectly, to increase the indebtedness of the colony by raising further loans, or doing anything that would necessitate so doing, until we have at least exhausted the present loan authorisation.

That amendment was carried, and the Government had then full warning that this House would deal with those measures provided they were brought before us, and they were warned that the House had set its face against any further borrowing until the authorised amount had been expended. On the 31st March, according to a return published in the *Gazette*, the unexpended portion of the loans amounted to £2,518,315: yet the Government, in the face of that amendment of last session, now propose to build these very railways which were the subject of discussion last year. They try, in a slippery way, because it is a slippery way, to get over the difficulty of that amendment, and they do not, in this Speech, in any way inform the House how they are going to obtain funds for the construction of these railways. I do not think the House will submit to such a course, knowing it will be absolutely necessary for the Government to reappropriate or to have a fresh loan. Reappropriation means a fresh loan; or, if they do not reappropriate, they will have to get a Loan Bill passed for these particular works. So, whether you look at it as reappropriation or as a Loan Bill, it means a loan in the end, because if they reappropriate from the present loans they will, I repeat, at some time or other have to pass another Bill to get the money back. Members are well aware of the financial condition of the colony, and that it is impossible to construct these railways without appropriating the money from existing loans. Why did not the Government face the subject in this House, and tell us at once they intend to reappropriate, and not shirk the question? They have not faced it, because there is that amendment to the Address-in-Reply of

last year, and they were afraid of it. If I remember aright, the House passed that amendment because members were of opinion that the financial condition of the colony did not warrant further loans until the present loan authorisations were expended. Have the circumstances of the colony altered at all? Have they altered for the better? We have gone through a slump, and are gradually recovering; but at the same time we have a large deficit—a deficit on the 31st March of £295,000. Have the circumstances of the colony altered since the House passed that amendment? I say they have not.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: The mines have developed.

HON. F. M. STONE: Has the revenue altered?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; it is increasing.

HON. F. M. STONE: But we are not justified in going in for a further loan until we have expended the amount already authorised. If the revenue of the colony has increased, why was there this deficit on the 31st March? We have to pay that off first. I repeat that the circumstances of the colony have not altered. If they have altered, it has really been for the worse, because last session we were told there would not be a deficit, but a balance to the credit of the colony. There is not the slightest doubt that on the 30th June there will be a large deficit; and in the face of that, how can this House go behind what we have already done—how can we alter that which we have already agreed to, that there shall be no further loan until the present loan authorisations have been expended? I do not see how any members who voted in favour of that amendment to the Address-in-Reply can at the present day go back on it. They are bound to vote for it again, because the circumstances of the colony have not altered for the better in any way. It was through the financial circumstances of the colony that we passed the amendment. With reference to the merits of these railways, we have nothing to do with the merits at this stage. What we have to look at is this: shall the colony go in for further loans or not, or shall we go along quietly spending the money already authorised, and wait till a better time comes before we go in for other loans?

HON. A. G. JENKINS: It is the good old "wait-a-while" policy.

HON. F. M. STONE: That is the very policy recommended by the Premier himself, and I will refer you to what was said by him.

HON. A. G. JENKINS: A recommendation by the Premier does not make it perfect, does it?

HON. F. M. STONE: The Premier said:

In regard to the borrowing of money for new projects, and to the demands made upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund, hon. members must recognise, as I have to recognise every day, and as the people of this colony ought to recognise and must recognise, that works which will not pay must, for the present, stand aside.

He goes on to say:

Unless hon. members are prepared to say, in regard to new works, that they will be remunerative and will pay, such works must stand aside for the present. Some necessary works, such as hospitals and other institutions, are not intended to pay; but railways and works of that character are on a different footing: and even if it can be shown that these works are likely to pay, it may not always be convenient, financially, that they should be commenced.

Those words were used by the Premier in his Financial Statement (1897). Is it, I ask, now financially convenient that the works proposed should be commenced? As I have pointed out, financially we are in a worse condition than last year, for we have now a large deficit: so I think I could not use a stronger argument against any further loan than the words of the Premier. Yet in the face of what happened last year, and the financial condition of the colony not being better this year, he is prepared to come down to Parliament for the construction of these works. I warn the Government, and I trust hon. members who voted in favour of that amendment will do so also, that when the construction of these particular railways is proposed, I shall do everything in my power to oppose the expenditure, not on the merits of the railways, but because their construction would further increase the indebtedness of the colony and would necessitate further loans. I ask the House to adhere to the amendment passed on the former Address-in-Reply, until the circumstances of the colony have altered. Now I come to paragraph 19. and am glad to see the

Government propose a Bill for enacting a dividend tax on companies. I should like to have seen on what companies it is proposed to impose a dividend tax, whether foreign companies, loan companies, or breweries. I think the statement made relative to the enormous dividends paid by gold-mining companies must lead us to infer that the Government propose to tax only gold-mining companies. I suppose that is a matter we shall have before us at some time or other, that we shall have the information when the proposal comes before us, and shall then be able to deal with it; but at present we are rather in the dark about it. Any way, I should be in favour of a dividend tax, because I do not see how we could work a gold tax. A gold tax would work very unsatisfactorily indeed; for though a rich company might well afford to pay a tax on gold, yet such a tax would be a great hardship on miners who are struggling and perhaps only making a living, or it would be hard on a few persons who work together and may be able to obtain only sufficient gold to pay their way; so I think we can put aside any question of a gold tax. It appears to me that what the Government intend is a dividend tax on gold-mining companies, and that will be a fair way of raising revenue. Now I come to paragraph 21. and that again deals with railways. We hear the Government intend that the Northam-to-Goomalling railway shall be constructed without any further delay; but they are silent as to the source of funds for constructing it. I notice from the Speech of last year that it was then proposed to construct the railway out of revenue. Whether this railway is inserted at the end of the present Speech, so that it may come in with those other railways I have spoken about, I do not know; but it seems to me, from the way in which these railways have been mentioned in the Speech, that the question of where the funds are to be derived from for their construction has been a little dodge and a "blind," it being thought that the House would pass the subject without any comment. I do not know who has put the Government up to it; I might almost have said that it was, perhaps, the hon. and learned member, Mr. Hackett, if that gentleman had the ear of the Premier, for he knows



a thing or two; but I feel sure he has not the ear of the Premier. I hope members will follow the course I have adopted, and warn the Government how they intend to deal with these railways; so that after the Government have heard such expression of opinion from the House, I hope they will not insist on bringing forward these particular works.

On the motion of Hon. F. WHITCOMBE, the debate was adjourned until the next sitting day.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the House adjourned at 5:35 until the next Tuesday afternoon.

## Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 27th June, 1899.

Elections (2): Swearing-in - Resignation of a Member (Geraldton) - Papers presented - Petition: Closure of Right-of-way, East Perth - Address-in-Reply: Notice of Amendment Question: Diamond Mining, Reward for Discovery - Question: Embezzlement (Customs) at Albany - Question: Federation, the Premier's Promise - Sessional Orders Motion: Leave of Absence to the Speaker - Papers granted: Federation, Proceedings at Conference of Premiers - Return granted: Federation Delegates' Expenses, etc. - Return granted: Public Batteries, particulars - Address-in-Reply: Second Day of debate - Adjournment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

#### ELECTIONS (2): SWEARING-IN.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER announced that during the recess the member for the Gascoyne (Mr. Hubble) and the member for York (Mr. Monger) had resigned their seats; and that, upon new writs issued, they had been re-elected for the same constituencies in each case.

MR. HUBBLE, introduced by the Premier, then took the oath and signed the roll.

MR. MONGER, introduced by the Premier, also took the oath and signed the roll.

#### RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER (GERALDTON).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER announced that the member for Geraldton (Mr. T. G. Simpson) had resigned his seat on that day; and that, so soon as the seat was declared vacant, a writ for a new election would be issued.

On the motion of the PREMIER, seconded by MR. LEAKE, the seat for Geraldton was declared vacant.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the PREMIER: 1, Report of the Ivanhoe Venture Lease Commission; 2, Correspondence with the Coolgardie Municipal Council re Re-arrangement of Electoral Districts.

By the MINISTER OF MINES: 1, Regulations under Mineral Lands Act; 2, Regulations under Mining on Private Property Act; 3, Regulations under Mining on Private Property Act, by the Hampton Plains Estate Limited; 4, Regulations under Goldfields Act.

By the ATTORNEY-GENERAL: 1, Bankruptcy Rules, 1898; 2, Supreme Court Rules, 1899.

Ordered to lie on the table.

#### PETITION—CLOSURE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY, EAST PERTH.

MR. JAMES presented a petition from Messrs. Coombe, Wood, and Company, Limited, timber merchants, East Perth, praying for inquiry into injury suffered in consequence of the closing of a right-of-way on land adjoining the East Perth railway station.

Petition received, read, and ordered to be printed.