

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

Legislative Council—First Session of 1879.

Opened on Wednesday, 15th January, 1879.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 15th January, 1879.

Opening of Council—Governor's Speech—Loan Act, 1878, Amendment Bill, 1879: first reading; second reading; third reading—Leave of Absence to Mr. Steere extended—Address of Condolence to Her Majesty—Address in Reply to Governor's Speech—Prorogation.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

THE Council was prorogued by His Excellency The Governor on the 24th July, 1878, until the 13th November next ensuing; thence to the 15th January, 1879, on which day it met for the despatch of business.

The Council assembled at noon.

Shortly afterwards, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR entered the Council Chamber, and took the Chair.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY was then pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

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

“I have called you together at a somewhat unusual season, for the purpose of considering a suggestion made in a Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which will be laid before you.

“In this Despatch it is pointed out that the Loan Act of 1878, which has received the Secretary of State's approval, makes provision for commencing the repayment of the Loan before ceasing to borrow.

“Such an arrangement is obviously somewhat inconsistent, besides being disadvantageous to the Colony; and the Secretary of State recommends that the course adopted in analogous cases in other colonies should be followed in this instance, and that the contribution to the Sinking Fund should commence five years after the first issue of Debentures.

“I concur in the opinion expressed by the Secretary of State that this arrangement would be more satisfactory for both borrower and lender; and I have therefore caused a Bill to be prepared, amending the Loan Act of 1878, in the manner proposed by the Secretary of State, which will be submitted for the consideration of Your Honorable House, and will, I trust, meet its approval.

“It is not my intention to trouble you with any further business at this time.”

HIS EXCELLENCY having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, withdrew from the Council Chamber.

LOAN ACT, 1878, AMENDMENT BILL,  
1879.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the first reading of a Bill to amend the Loan Act, 1878, and the motion being agreed to, the Standing Orders were suspended in order to admit of the Bill passing through all its stages that day.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) in moving the second reading of the Bill, said he thought it would be unnecessary for him to enter

into any explanation as to the reasons which had led the Government to bring forward the measure. Those reasons were fully set forth in His Excellency's Speech. He believed hon. members had had an opportunity before now of seeing the despatch in which the Secretary of State suggested the adoption of the course contemplated in the Bill now before the House. The despatch was received some six weeks ago, and immediately upon its receipt His Excellency the Governor telegraphed to the Secretary of State saying that the Council was not then in Session, but that it was prorogued until to-day, and that he would take the earliest opportunity of summoning members together, and procuring, if possible, their assent to the recommendations of the Secretary of State. At the same time, His Excellency urged upon the home authorities to make every preparation for the raising of the loan as soon as he might be in a position to telegraph to them that the Council had agreed to the arrangement suggested by the Secretary of State. Consequently, he believed every preparation had been made in London for floating the loan, so that if the Council saw fit to assent to the Bill now under consideration, and it became law, a telegram might be sent to that effect to the Secretary of State, and there was every reason to believe there would be no possible hitch or delay in issuing the debentures at once. With regard to the form of the Bill, hon. members would observe that it was, practically, a precise adaptation of the amendments proposed in the despatch of the Secretary of State.

The Bill was then read a second time, and advanced through all its stages.

#### EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) notified to the House that His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to extend the leave of absence granted to Mr. Steere, the member for Wellington, until the following October.

#### ADDRESS OF CONDOLENCE TO HER MAJESTY.

Mr. S. H. PARKER, with leave, without notice, moved that the following

address be presented to His Excellency the Governor by Mr. Speaker, with a request that he would be pleased to transmit the same to Her Majesty's Secretary of State to be laid before the Queen. In no part of her dominions had Her Majesty more loyal subjects than in Western Australia, and he was sure he was only expressing the feelings of every member in that House, and of every person in the community, when he said that they deeply sympathised with Her Majesty in her recent bereavement, caused by the death of her daughter, the beloved Princess Alice, whose virtues and loving charities had endeared her to all classes:

*"To Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria,  
"of the United Kingdom of Great  
"Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender  
"of the Faith, &c., Empress of India.*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,—

"We, Your Majesty's Most Loyal  
"and Dutiful Subjects, the Legislative  
"Council of Western Australia, in  
"Council assembled, humbly beg to offer  
"to Your Majesty our assurances of  
"affectionate Loyalty and Respect.

"We humbly tender to Your Majesty  
"our heartfelt condolence on the death  
"of Her Royal Highness the Princess  
"Alice, feeling assured that Your Mater-  
"nal grief has been assuaged by the  
"knowledge that Her Royal Highness,  
"by domestic virtues, has heightened the  
"tribute of respect her exalted station  
"in life would command. And in thus  
"approaching Your Majesty at so late a  
"period from your bereavement, we do  
"not desire to renew Your Majesty's  
"grief, but to express our sympathy with  
"our Sovereign in heavy domestic afflic-  
"tion."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy), in seconding the adoption of the address, said he would only echo what had fallen from the hon. member who had proposed it. The name of the late Princess was a household word, not only throughout Her Majesty's dominions, but in other countries where the fame of her virtues and her charities had extended.

The address was agreed to.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY TO GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

MR. HARPER moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the speech he had been pleased to deliver to the Council. The object for which the House had been called together having been accomplished, it was unnecessary for him to make any further reference to the speech itself, and he would therefore content himself by simply moving that an address be presented to His Excellency in reply thereto.

MR. MONGER, in seconding the motion, said they had met on the present occasion to work and not to talk. He would therefore say no more than merely formally second the proposal just made.

Motion agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved that a Select Committee be appointed to prepare the address in reply, such Committee to consist of Mr. Harper, Mr. Monger, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Shenton, and the Mover.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee retired, and after a brief absence returned with the following address, which was read by the Clerk:—

*To His Excellency Major-General Sir Harry St. George Ord, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, having been called together by Your Excellency to consider certain amendments to the Loan Act of 1878, which in the opinion of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies (concurring in by Your Excellency) it would be of advantage to the Colony to adopt, have much pleasure in returning to Your Excellency, through His Honor the Speaker, the Bill amended

"in the form proposed, which has duly passed through all its stages, and only awaits Your Excellency's assent.

"In conclusion, we beg to render our thanks to Your Excellency for the interest Your Excellency has invariably evinced in this and all that concerns the good of the Colony."

The address was adopted.

The Council then adjourned during leisure, and re-assembled at half-past one o'clock, p.m., when,

MR. SPEAKER announced that the addresses adopted by the House had been presented to His Excellency, in accordance with the resolutions agreed to.

## PROROGATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR shortly afterwards entered the Council Chamber, and delivered the following Speech:—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"I thank you for the readiness with which you have complied with my recommendation that the Loan Bill of 1878 should be amended in conformity with the suggestion of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"I have much pleasure in giving my assent to the Bill intitled an Act to amend the Loan Act, 1878.

"I acknowledge with gratification the kind appreciation you evince of the interest I take of all that concerns the good of the Colony.

"It will be my duty to transmit to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid before the Queen, the address of condolence that you desire to present to Her Majesty, on the melancholy occasion of the death of Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice.

"I now declare this Council prorogued until the 12th day of February next."

HIS EXCELLENCY having handed a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker, retired from the Council Chamber, and the Session closed.