

the colony to join federation, lose a portion of our customs; we must lose—to put it generally—a portion of the money that would otherwise have been in circulation. Some of us opposed the federation measure, and I am only too glad to hope we may yet live to see the falsification of our prognostications. Without detaining the House any longer with the matters set forth in the Speech, I have only to express my regret at the necessity which has arisen for the reference set forth in the second paragraph of the Address. It must be a subject of deep regret for every one of Her Majesty's subjects in this colony, as elsewhere, that the closing years of Her Majesty's reign should be darkened by such a sad bereavement as that which is referred to in the Speech. I can only hope and trust that the same fortitude which has been present to Her Majesty in more trying circumstances will yet be with her in this bereavement. Referring to the regret which is expressed in the third paragraph, in regard to the loss of life among members of the Contingent representing this colony during the military operations in South Africa, I wish especially to pay my tribute of respect to the gallant young officer (Major Moor) who lost his life in that campaign; for no matter what may be our individual opinions as to the merits or demerits of that war, at least we have the consolation of knowing that the troops which this colony contributed have continued to do credit to themselves and to this colony by the manner in which they have upheld the honour of Australia as a loyal portion of the British Empire, and that the young officer who has lost his life in leading them was worthy of the troops he commanded. In conclusion, I have great pleasure in moving that the following Address in reply to the Governor's Speech be transmitted to His Excellency:—

To His Excellency Sir Alexander Campbell
Onslow, Knight, Chief Justice, Administrator of the Government in and over the Colony of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the members of the Legislative Assembly, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure you of our loyalty and devotion to our Most Gracious Sovereign. We beg to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have addressed to Parliament. It will be our endeavour to carefully consider the

matters mentioned in the Speech, and all others that may be submitted to us; and we join with Your Excellency in the hope that the Almighty will so guide our deliberations that permanent good may result.

MR. D. FORREST (Ashburton): I have great pleasure in rising to second the adoption of the Address-in-reply, so ably proposed by my friend the member for North Murchison. This being the first time I have had the honour of addressing the Legislative Assembly, I hope I shall not be expected to say much; and indeed it can hardly be necessary to do so, after the mover has expressed so well all that can be said in regard to the Speech of His Excellency in opening the session—except the paragraph in the Speech referring to the proposed repeal of the duties on imported stock and frozen meat. I, as a pastoralist, have been for some time quite willing that the stock duty should be taken off; and while, at the same time, I do not think the removal of the duty off imported live stock will make much difference in the price of meat to the consumer, yet I think it is our duty to “give it a show,” and if after trying it we find that the “ring,” as it is called, does put the difference into the pockets of those engaged in the meat trade, it may then be our duty, as an Assembly, to put the duty on again. I will conclude by congratulating the hon. member (Mr. Moorhead) on the eloquent speech he has made, and have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

On motion by MR. ILLINGWORTH, debate adjourned until the next sitting.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion by the PREMIER, the House adjourned at 4:45 o'clock until half-past 4 p.m. on the next Tuesday.