

MR. T. BURGESS said he had not intended taking any part in the debate, had it not taken a turn which he did not expect it would have taken. For his own part he approved very much of this idea of the Governor in asking that House to nominate two of its members to hold seats in the Executive Council. It was unnecessary for him to travel over the ground that had been already travelled by other speakers, and he would therefore content himself by saying that he quite approved of the idea. With regard to what had been said as to the dissatisfaction at Geraldton, he thought it was his duty, as a resident of that district, to say a few words. The hon. member for Geraldton in his remarks on this subject the other day did not perhaps go as far as he might have done; therefore he thought it was necessary he should strengthen the hon. member's hands. Dissatisfaction undoubtedly did exist, for the people felt that they had not been fairly treated so far as public expenditure was concerned. No doubt they had some share of the public expenditure, but the people felt that there were other works which the district stood very much in need of, and a public meeting was called to consider the question. That meeting resulted in some very important resolutions being adopted, which resolutions asked the Government to take in hand certain public works which in the opinion of the meeting and of the district generally were very much required; and the people were much hurt at the reply they received from the Government to those resolutions. It was a very unfortunate reply; but the expression of sympathy which the Governor had given since had somewhat removed the feeling of dissatisfaction, but not altogether. The people attached considerable importance to the local works referred to, and especially to the request that Sir John Coode should, while in the colony, visit the district. They were consequently very much disappointed at the curt reply which they received; but he trusted, if that question came before the House—the question of Sir John Coode visiting Geraldton—that hon. members generally would approve of the idea, so that the harbor might be reported upon by a competent authority. Geraldton might not be the most important port in

the colony, but it was second or third in importance, and it was a harbor that certainly required improving. It would be necessary either to extend the present jetty or to build a new one; and before a large expenditure like that was incurred it was very desirable that some reliable opinion should be obtained. He assured the House that the feeling of dissatisfaction felt by the settlers and expressed by the hon. member for the district was not a myth. It had existence still, although partially allayed. With regard to the question of immigration, there was a very great want of labor in the country districts, and he hoped that the suggestion of the Immigration Board would have the effect of improving our position as regards this labor question. The class of men we had been getting out in the past had not on the whole proved satisfactory, and it appeared to him that an Agent-General was very much required to represent the colony in England, and he hoped that at the proper time the Council would take steps in that direction. In conclusion, he could only express a hope that their deliberations would be characterised by a liberal and progressive spirit, in the interests of the whole colony and not of any particular part of the colony. There were only a few new bills promised for their consideration, and in that case hon. members would have more time to carefully and deliberately consider the other very important matters that would come before them during the session.

MR. GRANT said it had been stated that the feeling of dissatisfaction at the North was only the irritation that a few sandflies would cause, but he begged to intimate very plainly that it was no such thing, and that the cry for separation was much stronger than the southern people imagined. The little mistakes made by the Government from time to time no doubt did give rise to a feeling of irritation, which might pass away again, but the feeling in favor of separation was much more deep-rooted, and was shared in by all classes of the people. The very uncourteous reply that came back from Perth to certain resolutions representing the public wants of the district did certainly cause a great deal of irritation, and, though that irritation had since been to some extent re-

moved, yet he assured them separation was only slumbering. This was shown at the late election, when the successful candidate, after pledging himself not to oppose separation, was elected by a two-fold majority over one of the most popular men in the district, Mr. Maley. If the conciliatory attitude of Governor Broome had not allayed the irritation felt in the district, and, had the agitation continued, hon. members might depend upon it the rents of the settlers of the district would not have been paid. He thought no one looking at the subject in a broad light, and without prejudice one way or other, could deny that there was ground for this dissatisfaction, for, there was no mistake about it, the district had not received that consideration which its importance entitled it to. The exports of their ports amounted to something like two-thirds of the exports of the whole colony as regards that staple product of the colony, wool; and the North was quite justified in looking forward to self-government, and to Federation with the other colonies. With regard to the election of two members to the Executive, he considered it would weaken the power of that House very much, and, more than that, he did not think he would be doing his duty to his constituents if he were to vote for it, or anything else of the kind. It was very possible that the members who might be appointed to these seats might be loyal and true and all that; but they might be men with strong proclivities in favor of Perth and Fremantle, and the South generally, and the North would get none of their favors. He was glad to find from the Governor's speech that there was a prospect of the telegraph being carried on to Derby, and that the importance of the Kimberley district was beginning to be recognised. There was very little doubt in his own mind that gold would be discovered there yet—there was every reason to believe it—and unless the district was placed in direct communication with the seat of Government, what would be the result? Men would go there from the other colonies, who had been accustomed to live under free institutions, and Kimberley would fly from our possession. We might bid good-bye to it. He thought we ought to take immediate steps to prevent such a thing happening. He was glad to hear

that the land regulations of the colony would come under their consideration this session. It was about time they were attended to, in the interests of the country at large. As to the Northern districts they wanted a longer tenure, so as to encourage people to improve their lands. The whole subject was one that deserved the greatest attention. As to the coming Exhibition in London, he was somewhat sorry that it was to be held at all, or, rather, that any attempt should have been made to have this colony represented at it, for he felt that we were in a very poor position indeed to compete with the other Australian colonies in the eyes of outsiders. He was very much afraid, if he was the gentleman appointed to represent this colony at the Exhibition, he should be very much ashamed of the very paltry show that Western Australia was likely to make, side by side with the other colonies. We might perhaps have a good show of timber, but our wools would look very poor indeed beside the exhibits of the other Australian courts, and he thought himself it would have been better if we had not gone to any expense in connection with this Exhibition, whereas he was very much afraid it was going to be a very costly affair.

Mr. SHENTON said he had listened with gratification to the speech with which His Excellency had opened the session, and which called attention to the continued prosperity of the colony. As to the question of Separation, to which reference had been made in the course of the debate, he thought a great deal of this cry about separation emanated from the brain of the hon. member for Newmericarra. He believed that so long as the people of the North found their requirements supplied and their wants attended to, they would rest quite satisfied with the present order of things. He was very much afraid that what troubled the hon. member was not so much the question of the separation of the colony as his being himself separated from the hon. members of that House. But he hoped the hon. member, before he returned to Newmericarra would find that all the reasonable wants of his constituents would be attended to. He was glad to find from the Governor's speech that Her Majesty's Government had at last recognised the