

owing to circumstances over which he had no control. As to the pearl-fishery and whaling enterprise, there could be no doubt they were of great benefit to the colony, and were capable of being greatly extended. There was another subject to which His Excellency had referred, and that was the war which is now raging in countries so much more prosperous and civilized than ours, and though this colony is afflicted from other causes, yet all must be thankful that it is not from such dire calamities as those under which the countries referred to are suffering. The next subject is the report of the Government Geologist. He considered that the investigations of that gentleman would do good to the colony. They all knew that the country abounded in mineral wealth, but the precise spot, or nature of that wealth, was not known; hence the opinion of a scientific person, such as the Government Geologist, would not only be satisfactory to the colonists, but would also be the means of convincing people in other parts of the world that we really possessed the mineral wealth of which we had spoken so much. The next subject was the appointment of a Surveyor General, and it was satisfactory to learn that the colony would secure the services of a competent man, in the room of our old and much esteemed Surveyor General, whom old age compelled to relinquish that office. There are six or seven other matters touched upon in the Address which did not call for any particular remarks. There was one, however, to which he would allude, and to which His Excellency feelingly drew their attention. They were, that day, called upon to look to the past, and to pay a just tribute to the memory of the late Governor Hampton and Lieut. Col. Bruce, men who had worked hard, and well too, for the good of this colony. It was a solemn thing to look back to the proceedings of the last Council, and reflect that the late Colonel Bruce was then full of life and vigor, and who took such a deep interest in the proceedings, would no more be among them. The reflection would, at least, emulate them in the discharge of their duties. His Excellency Governor Weld referred, in a manly spirit,—he would call it a manly spirit—to the promised support of the country, in carrying out Representative Institutions, and he had no doubt they would work unitedly with His Excellency to secure the benefits they would undoubtedly confer. To the members of the House and to every one, it was a duty to assist His Excellency, and believing they would do so, he had much pleasure in proposing that the Address now before the House be adopted as a reply to His Excellency's the Governor's Speech.

Mr. STEERE rose and said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion of Mr. Brown,—that the Address now before the House be adopted. It might appear unseemly in him to do so, but he seconded the Address on that occasion to show that there was no such thing in that House as "opposition," and to prove that they all met to co-operate with each other for the good of the colony. He said there was no such thing as "opposition," nor would there be, unless the measures introduced by the Government called it forth. He was therefore able to second Mr. Brown's motion because, besides the reasons he had given why he could do so, it must be remembered that the Address did not bind them to any particular line of policy, nor commit them to anything fixed or definite. It had very properly been pointed out that upon the House important duties now devolved, as should anything go wrong it was not now in their power to turn round and blame the Governor or the Government. He accepted the responsibility, and was glad of the political change that had been effected, and to which he contributed largely; yet at the same time he would raise his warning voice and tell the people that they must not expect too much, and that it would be utterly impossible for that or any other Council to immediately change the present state of depression to one of prosperity. He was aware people entertained very extravagant ideas of what the Council would do, or was capable of doing, and as a sample of these expectations he would tell them an incident which occurred during what he might call his canvassing tour, though that term was not strictly correct, as he had only asked one man for his vote. However, the circumstance or incident to which he referred was this: Speaking to one of the electors in the south, he (the elector) said to him—"Well, Mr. Steere, you're a very good fellow, and speak very well, and all that, but you're not the man to make people rich." He was aware he was not, and in coming to the Council he did so in the hope of doing as much good for the country as possible, and not with a view of making people rich; but as soon as any Council could be found that could make people rich, he for one was quite prepared to resign his seat, and enjoy a share of the promised wealth. As regards the formation of road boards, he could speak for his own part of the colony that they had done much good, and would have done much more had legal authority been conferred upon the chairman, and he was glad to find that the Government intended introducing a measure for that purpose. It was certainly satisfactory to find our timber trade being developed, but he

trusted that greater concessions had not been made to these companies than he could agree with; he had heard that one company possessed such privileges that they positively refused the Road Committee the right to cut, on their land, timber which was required for necessary public works. However, full information on these points were now before the Council. Telegraphic communication was calculated to do much good for the colony, and without the small Government guarantee he believed it would ultimately pay. There was one matter upon which he disagreed with the mover more than on any other, and that was with regard to Mr. Forrest's expedition. As far as he was aware, the York Agricultural Society had nothing whatever to do with it. The York Agricultural Society did solicit the Government, in Governor Hampton's time, to send an expedition to Port Eucla, and made most liberal offers of assistance to the Executive, but their offers and request were disregarded. The Forrest expedition was originated and undertaken by Governor Weld, and he certainly believed that it would prove futile in practical results to this colony. Some said that it would be the means of encouraging telegraphic communication, but it was clear that it would not do that, as the route to Adelaide via King George's Sound was much better. Others again contended that it would cement the two colonies more closely than heretofore, but that it would not be calculated to do anything of the kind must be evident to all, as no one would ever dream of undertaking the journey to South Australia overland. Looking at the expedition altogether, he must say that it was a great waste of public money; he had a practical mind, and he would like to have seen some practical results from the expenditure of the public funds. If the expedition had been sent to Eucla, and there engaged in surveying that portion of the country, great advantages would have resulted to the colony; as it is, the expedition has done no good to the colony either at the present time, or that can be reasonably hoped for in the future. To Mr. Forrest and his party, however, great credit was due for the skill and perseverance displayed by them in successfully crossing the country to Adelaide. The pearl fisheries were no doubt of much benefit to the colony, especially to those resident at Nickol Bay. Native industries were particularly deserving of encouragement, and he was therefore glad that the rope works at Bunbury had received the countenance of the Government. Some short time since a rumour was abroad that a gold-field had been discovered in the north, and many went there: he was sorry to say only to be disappointed. They had now the

report of the Government Geologist before them, and though no gold-field had yet been found, still it was not improbable that a paying gold-field may yet be discovered. As to the Survey Department, it was a subject of regret that our respected Surveyor General's advanced age compelled him to retire, but it was satisfactory to learn that the coming man was a competent person, as a good deal of the well-being of the colony depended upon the Survey Department. He was glad to find that a certain class alluded to were to be franchised, and that the very high property qualifications for members were to be abolished. The Government had also at last, he was glad to find, introduced a new Insolvency Bill, after two or three years' talking on the subject. He regretted, however, very much the Government did not intend bringing in an Education Bill; he fully expected to find a comprehensive scheme on education submitted to them. As to education in this colony, they only knew a little, and he would suggest the appointment of a commission to take evidence on that question, as it was impossible for them to form conclusions without having reliable evidence before them. As to the Aborigines, though efforts in their behalf were praiseworthy, his experience led him to the conclusion that they were irreclaimable savages, and that in Western Australia, do what you would for them, they would relapse again into their savage habits; and he looked upon the large annual sums paid to the Albany institution as a waste of public money. As to public works, until the Colonial Secretary brought forward the Estimates, and foreshadowed the policy of the Government, it would be useless to speak. As to the other important measures mentioned by the Government, when he knew what they were he would be prepared to give his opinions upon them; he did not wish to shirk his work, nor did other members; and he hoped the Government would not keep back important measures simply for their "convenience." Though he was opposed to the late Governor Hampton, and to Lieut.-Colonel Bruce, yet he believed they worked honestly for the good and welfare of the colony, and he therefore now most cordially joined in a tribute of respect to their memory. He knew Governor Weld well, and he could say no man had the good of the colony more at heart than he had; and though he had lost some power by the change in Constitution, yet, when it was for the good of the colony, the Governor was satisfied. He was sure the Council might depend upon the cordial support of Governor Weld and his Government in their efforts to promote the welfare and good of the colony.