

informing the Government that His Excellency the Governor had been granted an extension of leave till August 16th.

2. A copy of the regulations laid on the table the previous evening had been sent to the Secretary of State.

3. Only so far as the regulations laid on the table affected the question.

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES REPEAL BILL.

Introduced by the PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest), and read a first time.

Ordered, that the Bill be printed, and the second reading made an order of the day for Monday next.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The adjourned debate, on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Administrator's Speech, was resumed.

MR. HASSELL: In rising to continue this debate, I have to congratulate the Government on the satisfactory state of the finances of the country, and also on the successful floating of a portion of the last loan. Paragraph 5 refers to the numerous public works authorised by Parliament, and now progressing. I wish to say a few words about the new post office at Albany, the stone for which has been obtained from outside the colony; and I wish to state that stone, quite as good as that imported for the work, could have been obtained close to Albany, at a less cost. Paragraph 8 refers to the establishing of a fortnightly steam service between Albany, Esperance Bay and other parts of the South coast. I am sorry to find, however, that there is no mention in the Speech of a railway to be made between Esperance Bay and the Dundas goldfield. I had hoped that the Government, with their large surplus this year would have been able to undertake the construction of that railway. Referring to the continuance of the Fremantle harbour works, it will of course be taken as a rule that members representing constituencies so far to the south and eastward, are supposed to be opposed to the spending of large sums on harbour works at Fremantle; and I must say that, in my opinion, harbour works there are likely to be a financial drain on the colony for a very long time, and of very little benefit when completed. As to the proposed establishment of a Mint in this colony, I am not at all in favour

of it, for I think the colony cannot stand the expense of about £10,000 a year, which we are led to believe will be the probable cost of maintaining it, merely for the gratification of being able to coin gold in the colony. We have heard a great deal about the proposed removal of the railway workshops from Fremantle, but my opinion is that the time has come for their removal to a more suitable site; and, as far as I can learn, there is no other site so suitable as that at the Midland Junction, where the Government have purchased 260 acres of land. It is a very good site indeed, and I shall give the Government my hearty support on this question, and hope they will be able to carry their motion. Other subjects are mentioned in the Speech, but I shall have opportunities of speaking upon several of them when they come before us in another form. In conclusion, I must again congratulate the Government on the state of the country, and the position of the finances, although it is perhaps not altogether due to the Government that the colony is in its present position.

MR. MOSS: In common with other hon. members, I congratulate the Government on the very magnificent position in which we find the finances of the colony. The Government are no doubt entitled to a certain amount of credit, but the great factor which has led to the colony being in this position is the magnificent developments that have taken place in the eastern portions of the colony, and the consequent increase in the population coming to these shores during the last two or three years. I am glad, however, that the Government have come down to the House with some definite proposals as to what they intend to do with the surplus revenue for the current year, and I am particularly glad that this excess of income over expenditure is not to be used for the purpose of creating large annual charges on the Government of the country, but that they intend to apply the surplus to the construction of reproductive works. I hope that when these proposals do come before us, they will not include such a scheme as the hon. member for Plantagenet has just been advocating—a railway from Esperance Bay to Dundas. I think the surplus should be devoted to the construction of reproductive works, and it is to be hoped we shall not be asked to sanction any political railway such as the hon. member has suggested for his district. I am pleased to think the Government recognise the importance of the