

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. BICKLEY in moving the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech, said:—In addressing this honorable House for the first time, I feel it desirable, though possibly somewhat out of order, to advert to a personal matter. Hon. members are generally aware of my defective hearing, and it is quite within the range of probabilities that this defect may lead me into occasional error;—it shall not be willingly, but should it occur at all, I must entreat the indulgent consideration of the House. Having said this much, I have now the honor to proceed with the duty for which I have risen:—to move that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor expressive of the opinion of this honorable Council as to the satisfactory nature of the Speech from the Vice-Regal chair. I do this with the more confidence because I find the subjects adverted to in His Excellency's Speech not only show the desire of Government to meet all the reasonable requirements of the colony, but also because the wide range which they occupy evince that during the recess the Government have been minutely and carefully investigating every matter likely to tend to our material progress, and further because the tone of His Excellency's Speech is so conciliatory, and so trustful in the support and wisdom of this honorable Council, that it seems quite impossible anything but a reciprocal good feeling can prevail. Of course, during the discussion of the several subjects hereafter, differences of opinion will undoubtedly occur, and it is every way desirable to the end of good government that such differences should be freely ventilated, but just now we have only to look to the satisfactory nature of His Excellency's Address, and, in framing a reply, record our adoption of it accordingly. I will now, with your kind permission, advert cursorily to the subjects touched upon in His Excellency's Speech. With regard to the first and last paragraphs I may remark, as to the blending of the good and bad, that, as after a stormy night the morning sun peeps through the murky clouds and finally breaks forth with due effulgence, so may we after our night-time of adversity trace the gleams of sunshine struggling over the horizon of the colony, leading, we may hope, ere long, to substantial prosperity. No doubt in the cognizance of each member of this honorable House there yet exist many cases of distress and causes for depression, but still there can be no doubt of a great though gradually improving state of affairs, and when it is borne in mind the seasons of adversity the colony has latterly gone through, and the stagnation caused by the constantly decreasing

Imperial expenditure, it must be clear that only for a wonderful inherent vitality and elasticity, the distress and depression must have been far more intense. There are two other paragraphs which may be conveniently classed together;—the first alluding to the measures of self-government introduced during the past session, and the other proposing additions to the representation. With regard to the first it may be said that these have all been improvements over the old state of affairs and will lead naturally in time to still greater amendments,—and as respects the last, that the proposed additions to the representation seem especially desirable, and, doubtless, will afford the districts more immediately interested the greatest satisfaction. As respects the allusion to a public loan by means of which it is proposed to inaugurate several works of public necessity and utility, it must be apparent to all that without such aid no commencement can be made, and it is to be hoped that the success attending these primary undertakings will lead the Imperial Government to admit the advisability of placing us in a position to undertake works of far greater magnitude and importance. There can be no doubt that there are many works which time will show would tend to our material progress, but the world has been laboring for several years under a false impression as to our capabilities, and is yet slow to believe in them; hence it will be true policy to proceed somewhat cautiously, so that we may not, by falling into error on the one hand, destroy the prestige we may derive from success on the other. The paragraphs relating to the telegraphs; the construction, under terms of contract, of a railway in the Champion Bay district; steam communication on our coast; and opening of negotiations with a view to this part of this colony becoming the mail depot for steamers, appear to me particularly satisfactory. As respects the first, the expense of the working already falls upon the Government, and it surely cannot be doubted that sooner or later the entire property in, and control of, the telegraphs, must be in the hands of the State, as elsewhere has been found imperative; therefore, it would seem more satisfactory to do that now while it can be done conveniently and cheaply, than to defer it to a period when serious obstacles may intervene. As respects the railway, I consider that no reasonable offer should be refused, which would have the effect of opening out the vast mineral resources of the Victoria district; and as regards steam communication there can, I conceive, be only one opinion,—that every effort should be brought to bear so as to render it as complete and comprehensive as possible. The benefits would be

inestimable. The assistance proposed to be afforded to gold prospecting will, I fancy, be deemed a desirable expenditure. I should be glad to see a similar movement as regards coal. There can, I think, exist no difference of opinion as to the propriety of steps being taken to induce an immigration to these shores. In conclusion, the only portion of His Excellency's Speech which may, at first sight appear unpalatable, is that which alludes to the necessity for some addition taxation; but we cannot have all good, and we must cheerfully bear such burthens as may appear to be necessary, recollecting that they cannot be avoided, and looking upon them as an evil only that good may arise. I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address.

Mr. BUSSELL seconded the adoption of the resolution, briefly adverting to the various subjects alluded to in the Vice-Regal Address.

Mr. STEERE moved the adjournment of the debate until 6 p.m. the following day.

Mr. CARR seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Wednesday, 31st July, 1872.

Election Petition—Swearing in of Members—Standing Orders—Chairman of Committees—Address to Her Most Gracious Majesty—Public House and Sale of Fermented and Spirituous Liquors Bill: first reading—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: first reading—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) presented a petition on the part of Mr Gray, of Geraldton, one of the candidates for the representation of that district, against the return of the elected member, Mr. George Shenton, on the grounds of bribery, corruption, and undue influence on the part of his electioneering agents and committee. The Attorney General, in submitting the petition, did not wish to be understood that he identified himself with its contents; he was actuated by no other motive than the principle that no man should be denied the constitutional right of appealing to the House by petition, which could only be done through the agency of one

of the members. He was merely prepared to vouch that the petition contained nothing of a scandalous or impertinent nature.

A conversation ensued as to whether or not the petition should be read, and it appearing that there was a general desire that it should,

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved, and the ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) seconded, that the memorial be read. This being carried, the Clerk of the Council read it, and a motion that it be forwarded in due course to His Honor the Chief Justice was adopted.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The SPEAKER announced that he had received a Commission from his Excellency the Governor, empowering him to administer the usual Oath of Allegiance to members.

The Commission was read.

STANDING ORDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in accordance with notice, moved that the Standing Orders of the last session of the last Council be now adopted.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. J. Walcott) seconded the motion.

Mr. STEERE intimated that he wished to propose certain amendments in some of the rules, and a conversational discussion ensued as to whether the Standing Orders should be accepted, *pro tem.* in their present form, or whether the House should proceed to consider the proposed amendments of the hon. member for Wellington. Ultimately, it was agreed that the motion of the hon. the Colonial Secretary be adopted, and Mr. Steere gave notice that on Thursday he would propose that the Standing Orders be amended.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. NEWMAN, in eulogistic terms, proposed that Mr. Carr be appointed to the position of Chairman of Committees. Mr. DRUMMOND seconded the motion, which was adopted *nem. con.* Mr. CARR thanked the House for the confidence placed in him, which was a guarantee to him that he had, during the last Council, conducted the business efficiently. He would further endeavor to discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability. Mr. Carr also entered into an explanation to show that though his colleague and himself had consented to accept office, the electorate which they had the