

that this House will, in the words of His Excellency be "actuated solely by a desire to promote the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the land." I second the motion of the hon. member for Plantagenet that an address be presented in reply to the Governor's speech.

No other member rising,

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved, That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to prepare the address in reply: Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Burt, Mr. Brown, Mr. Crowther, and the mover.

Motion agreed to.

The Committee retired, and, after a brief absence, returned with the following address, which was read by the Clerk:—

"To His Excellency Major-General Sir Harry St. George Ord, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of Our Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c."

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

"We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, desire to express our gratification on this the first occasion of Your Excellency meeting the representative body of this Colony in Council, and to thank you for the assurance that its wishes will at all times receive your earnest attention.

"We regret to learn that Your Excellency does not deem the financial condition of the Colony so satisfactory as it was believed to be at the corresponding period last year, but trust that economy in our expenditure, suggested by Your Excellency, may enable us to tide over any temporary difficulty.

"The return of the probable actual Revenue and Expenditure for the current year, which Your Excellency has caused to be prepared, shall receive the early attention of this House.

"The Estimates for the year 1879 will in due course be considered; and we shall be careful to make proper provision for carrying on the Public Service. Your Excellency, in estimating the Revenue low, has, we feel assured, acted judiciously, though we trust that the works which have been undertaken to develop

the resources of the country may, in the coming year, yield a good return to its revenue.

"We hear with satisfaction that the Eucla Telegraph Line is finished, and that the Geraldton and Northampton Railway is drawing to completion; at the same time, we regret to learn that provision will again have to be made to meet the expenditure still required on it.

"We, in anticipation, thank Your Excellency for ensuring for this Colony increased facilities in Railway communication, and we will carefully consider Your Excellency's suggestion as to the nomenclature of the two lines of railway.

"We are glad to see that the state of the Roads of the Colony has occupied Your Excellency's attention; and we beg to assure Your Excellency that this Council will readily co-operate to secure improvement in this respect.

"We congratulate Your Excellency on the acquisition of the buildings recently belonging to the Imperial Government, which doubtless will save the Colony large future expenditure.

"Not the least important of questions connected with the Public Works is that of the improvement of Fremantle Harbor. Sir John Coode's report thereon shall be carefully considered, and the views of this House laid before Your Excellency.

"We concur with Your Excellency in thinking that Education should be encouraged throughout the Colony; and to this end, as likewise to the maintenance of our Charitable Institutions, we shall direct our efforts.

"We desire to thank Your Excellency for the marked attention paid to the subject of Police organisation, in view of a resolution of this Council; and we recognise with pleasure the evidence of careful consideration which the scheme submitted displays.

"We consider that Your Excellency, with the concurrence of the Executive Council, adopted a wise course in endeavoring to make other than the existing arrangements for the disposal of Guano on the Lacedpede Islands.

"The question of Steam Communication between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies, and also with Singapore and India, is one in which this Council is much interested. We regret to learn that Your Excellency's endeavors to

secure increased means of communication have not been attended with success, and we assure Your Excellency that this important matter, together with the subject of Immigration, shall receive our attention at an early date.

"We thank Your Excellency for causing this House to be furnished with the papers in connection with Telegraphic Communication with Europe, and for the Official Reports from the various Departments.

"It is gratifying to find that Your Excellency has seen fit, in accordance with a suggestion of a Committee of this House, to appoint a Commission to enquire into the administration of Hospitals, Gaols, Poor Houses, &c., and that its report bears testimony to the efficient manner in which they, as a rule, are managed.

"The various Bills submitted to us shall be carefully considered; and we doubt not, but that by God's blessing and guidance, at the close of the present Session, the work which is now before us, and which will then be concluded, will prove both to Your Excellency, and to the Country, that the Legislative Body of this Colony has not lost sight of the important interests entrusted to its charge."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) moved the adoption of the address in reply.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) seconded the motion.

The question was put and affirmed *nem. con.*

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. T. Goldsworthy) said His Excellency had expressed his willingness to receive the address in reply on the following day, and moved that it be presented accordingly by Mr. Speaker, and as many honorable members as could make it convenient to be present.

Motion agreed to.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE EASTERN COLONIES.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that the negotiations entered into with reference to a steam communication between Western Australia and the Eastern Colonies, with a

view to arriving at a decision in regard to the same, be now taken into consideration. The hon. gentleman said he did not rise at present to move any distinct resolution on the subject, for he understood that hon. members were desirous that some further information should be afforded them, with regard to the negotiations referred to, before committing themselves to any expression of opinion in the matter. His labors were materially relieved by the information embodied in the paper which had been laid on the Table of the House relating to the subject, and which embraced the correspondence, both postal and telegraphic, that had taken place between himself on the one hand, as the representative of this Government in the matter, and, on the other hand, the parties with whom the preliminary negotiations were entered into. His Excellency's instructions, communicated to him on the 21st January prior to proceeding on his mission to Melbourne, embodied all that was necessary to secure the service in its most advantageous form to this Colony. According to those instructions, provision was to be made for the steamer leaving Champion Bay, once a month, to convey the mails and passengers to Albany, for England, calling, *en route*, at Fremantle and the other intermediate ports, and reaching Albany in time to meet the English mail steamer calling there on its way to Galle, from the Eastern Colonies. Having transferred the mails and passengers for England on board the P. & O. Co.'s packet, the colonial steamer would then continue her voyage to Adelaide. Having taken in cargo there, she was to leave Adelaide, with mails and passengers, before the P. & O. steamer left for England, so as to ensure her arrival at Albany by the time the mail steamer from England would arrive at that port. She would then remain at Albany, if necessary, until the arrival of the outward mail—which might possibly cause a detention of three or four days—after which she was to proceed to Fremantle, and other ports, up to Champion Bay, with the mails, cargo, and passengers from England, and from the Eastern Colonies,—and occasionally to visit Nickol Bay and the North-West Settlements. This was the service which His Excellency had instructed him to endeavor to