

THE COMMISSIONER OF TITLES (Mr. J. C. H. James) said he should record his vote against the amendment; but, in doing so, he hoped he should not be guilty of using any language that would tend in any way to lower that assembly to the level of a parochial vestry. It appeared to him that the amendment resolved itself, shortly, into three propositions, which followed one another in a somewhat syllogistic form, which was this: "We want public works; we cannot have these public works until we have a constitutional change; *ergo*, let us have a constitutional change as soon as we can." With that amendment no doubt there were many hon. members thoroughly in accord; but the reason why he was expressing himself against it was this: it appeared to him that it was not in the address in reply to the speech of the Governor that such a proposition should find place.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said it undoubtedly was not usual to move amendments on the address in reply, under a constitution which admitted of a Ministry being turned out, except to attack their policy, but, as had been pointed out by the Colonial Secretary, we had not that form of Government here. It was no doubt he might say an unprecedented thing for an amendment upon the address to be moved in that House. But the occasion was an exceptional one. That House had been led to expect that when it met this month a Constitution Bill would be submitted for its consideration, and he thought it would have looked very strange if they had allowed this address to pass without any reference whatever to the special object for which they had assembled.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) said he had been rather amused to hear the hon. the junior member for Perth saying something about its being necessary to agree to this amendment in the address in reply for the purpose of its going to the Secretary of State. Even if it were assumed that the amendment must go to the Secretary of State—for which he saw no necessity—he thought the resolution they had already carried that evening, for a telegram to be sent requesting definite information on an early date on the subject, must necessarily reach the

Colonial Office long before this address got there; and it seemed to him that the most persistent supporters of Responsible Government might be well satisfied. It seemed to him they were rather spoiling the effect of that resolution, which the supporters of Responsible Government must regard as a triumph. Having agreed to send such a message as that—a somewhat strong one, he admitted—it seemed to him it was like pouring water into wine to break through the rule which he understood had hitherto prevailed in that House of not having an amendment to the address. If there had been any other part of the address than this to which hon. members took a strong objection he could understand hon. members seizing that part and giving expression to their views. But, inasmuch as a much stronger resolution had already been agreed to, and one that would be sent to the Secretary of State, while the present resolution need not necessarily be sent, it did appear to him there was no occasion to undo the work that had been done. Moreover they had been told that there was no precedent in that House for such a course as that now proposed, in moving an amendment upon the address; and, for his own part, he did not like to see things done without precedent.

MR. SHOLL saw nothing objectionable in the amendment in its present form. It had been toned down very materially since it was first framed, so as not to offend the susceptibilities of some hon. members, and it was now about as harmless a thing as they could well have. For his own part he thought they ought to have expressed indignation rather than surprise at the action of the Home Government. They had been called together for the special purpose of discussing a Constitution Bill, as they had thought; and the public had expected it, and that afterwards, when the bill had been discussed, there should have been an appeal to the country. There were plenty of other clauses in the Governor's speech with which he entirely disagreed himself; but this one alluded to what he might call the burning question of the day; and he did not see himself why they should not travel outside their usual course and adopt a respectful amendment to the address-in-reply.