

tration of Crown Lands, a matter of pressing importance, and Your Excellency has consulted the urgencies of the Public Service in taking steps to fill the vacancy without delay.

Our earnest consideration will be given to the various measures that Your Excellency has expressed your intention of laying before us, and to the important matters to which you invite our attention.

We unite in Your Excellency's commemoration of Governor Hampton and Colonel Bruce, and it will be our earnest desire calmly, considerately, and dispassionately to approach the work that lies before us.

We warmly thank Your Excellency for the reliance you have placed upon the assurances of support you have received from the country in establishing a representative form of Government, and it will be our endeavour, with God's blessing, so to co-operate with Your Excellency as to overcome difficulties and promote the advancement of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. STEERE suggested the appointment of a Chairman of Committees. He said what they wanted was an efficient man—a working man as Chairman of Committees—and he considered that they could not select a better person for that post than Mr. Carr, and if Mr. Carr would accept it, it would give him much pleasure in proposing that gentleman.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) concurred with Mr. Steere and begged to second Mr. Carr's nomination.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. BROWN rose and said he had much pleasure in proposing the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, which had been read, be received. And as this was the first meeting of the Legislative Council, it would be well, in his opinion, to consider all the questions put before them in His Excellency's Address, or Speech. He therefore proposed, as briefly as he possibly could, to consider the Speech paragraph by paragraph. His Excellency Governor Weld had, in the first place, pointed out, that upon them now depended the future weal or woe of the colony, and His Excellency had justly referred to the commercial depression under which this colony had been laboring for three

years past, owing mainly to bad seasons, and from which it would, in his opinion, take her some time yet to recover, but as had also been well said, Representative Government was deemed the best remedy for the ills from which the colony was suffering—it was strongly sought for and obtained, and he believed that every one there present would labor to the best of his ability for the good of the country, and to attain the benefits which the possession of those privileges enabled them to acquire. The institution of road boards had been productive of much good, and though they did not possess as much power as was desirable, they possessed as much as His Excellency could grant, and it was pleasing to know that they had resulted in benefiting the colony. The next subject touched upon in the Address was the timber trade, He looked forward to great results from the development of our timber trade, and at a period of such commercial depression to find companies formed and capital invested in its development, was highly satisfactory. The next subject was telegraph communication, and though at present only Perth and Fremantle enjoyed the benefit of it, he had found it a benefit, and, he believed, others had too, yet he was convinced it would soon be spread over the whole colony, and without the guarantee which had been wisely given, would be made to pay. The next subject was the expedition to South Australia, by Mr. Forrest and his party. On this subject, he was aware, there was much difference in opinion. He believed the expedition was despatched through the instrumentality of the York Agricultural Society—one of the oldest societies in the colony—and the representations of that society ought to have weight, and he himself thought, with His Excellency, that the thanks of this colony were due to Mr. Forrest and his party, and also to the Governor and people of South Australia, for the very kind and hearty reception they gave to that explorer and his party. It must be remembered that Mr. Forrest and party, did not go in their private capacity—they went from this colony as the representatives of the Government and people of Western Australia, and therefore their reception by the Governor and people of South Australia of Mr. Forrest and his party, should be warmly recognised, apart from the question as to its utility or necessity. As he had said, there was great difference of opinion respecting the expedition; but he had some knowledge of exploring, and he could say that Mr. Forrest and his party had suffered many and severe privations, and the reason why he did not diverge from a certain straight line, was simply

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