

colony is greater than many persons anticipated, for I presume this is the balance after paying all expenses for the year. In the 12th paragraph we are told that the Government has under consideration the question of the re-organisation of the Works and Railway Departments; and it is proposed to secure the services of an Engineer-in-Chief, and also an officer of experience to manage the railways of the colony on a commercial and economical basis. The state of affairs in these departments has, no doubt, been made apparent to Ministers, and I must say that some dissatisfaction has existed among the country settlers, and probably the public generally, with regard to the working of the railways. I will not, sir, detain the House much longer, but I find by clause 13 that a new Audit Bill is to be proposed, and this will be another important matter, as it will enable the financial business of the country to be conducted in a proper and straightforward manner. Now we come to the question of the Federal Convention, which is to meet in Sydney on the 2nd March, and at which we are to be represented. This shows us that we are not to have a very long session. A great deal of time has been wasted hitherto, and I hope that those in authority will now have the business carried on with reasonable speed. I have no desire to hurry, but I am one of those who do not wish to see time unnecessarily expended, and as this important question of Federation is so near at hand, it is evident that the present Session will be an almost formal and short one. I think this colony should show itself alive to the necessity of joining the other colonies in this important matter of Federation. There are, however, a great many difficulties surrounding it. It is a question I have not gone into extensively myself, but when I have in any way considered it I have seen many obstacles; but whether they exist or not we should face them and endeavor to fall in, if possible, with the suggestions of the neighboring colonies. It may prove of great advantage to us, and if we lose the opportunity now of joining the other colonies, we may never again be in a position to take advantage of it, and therefore I hope the Government will be in a position to carry out their intention

of sending representatives to this Federal Convention. I have now come to the end of His Excellency's Speech. I have reviewed most of the questions submitted to us, and I can now only hope and trust that the labors of the Session, as regards both Houses, may be carried on with loyalty to Her Majesty, good judgment and fellow-feeling by each member towards the other, and for the general public interests of the colony. I now move the Address, as follows:—

"To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Western Australia, and its Dependencies, &c., &c., &c."

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—"

"We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

"We thank your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to deliver to us.

"The various matters to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, shall receive our most careful consideration and attention, and it shall be our earnest endeavor to so deal with them that our labors may tend to the advancement and welfare of the Colony."

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE:—Sir, I rise, with perhaps not much pleasure, to exercise that privilege which as a member of this House I may be expected to discharge, to second the motion of the hon. member and to thank the Governor for his Speech. The Governor is not a poetical man, nor is either of his Ministers; still they seem to recognise the truth of old Johnson's verse:—

*"How small of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure,"*

for there is not one word in the Speech of any wrong to be redressed or of any evil to be avoided. Responsible Government is now introduced. The colonists are now to govern themselves, and they have had given them as fine a patrimony as ever any people were started with in this world. They are to control a vast area

of 1,000,000 square miles, capable of sustaining an infinite number of people, with every variety of climate which the Torrid and Temperate Zones present; with every variety of soil; with every variety of produce, and which has been governed by the Crown for nearly 62 years. This vast territory, sir, has been handed over by the Crown to 45,000 people; but really the change of Government is slight. British rule has ensured us peace; we are distracted by no religious or political feuds; we read of war, but do not feel it; political animosity does not distract us; no man is diverted from his daily avocation by the exigencies of the State; and if our rulers are not the same persons their motives are the same, these motives being the public good. And here let me say that we are free from party feeling. There is nothing, sir, in the case of our money votes that should lead to discussions such as take place elsewhere. We have no questions such as the fortifications or the building of ships of war to consider; we have simply to discuss measures that should tend to our own good. Of its Ministers the colony may well be proud, for all are men who have taken a prominent part in its legislation—all are tried, and may fairly be said to be the choice, not of one side or the other, but of their fellow colonists at large. There are no party cries, and it is difficult to say what has led the electors to choose their members as they have done, except it be on the grounds of character. No one can live here in the fierce light that exists and be selected unless it be that he is liked and is known to be worthy. Beyond the desire of place and power—an honest desire to exercise that power which place gives, I do not think that any one of the Ministry has taken office merely for the sake of its emoluments, or of exercising power for the sake of the personal advantages it confers. Surely it is no small thing to be enabled to congratulate our Ministers that they take office under such circumstances, for I am certain that no one is to be found who will say that the £600 or £700 they receive is sufficient of itself to induce one of these gentlemen to leave his business. These gentlemen devote themselves to the public, and that public must be contemptible indeed that begrudges them the meagre

sum that is set apart for Ministers. The 7th and 8th paragraphs of the Speech show to what objects the attention of Ministers has been directed. They have been read once before, but I will read them again. Paragraph 7 says: "My Ministers are keenly alive to the importance of a vigorous though prudent policy in regard to Public Works, and after careful consideration have decided to submit to you a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a total sum of £1,336,000, to be expended on the works enumerated in the schedule of the Bill." Why say £1,336,000? Surely £1,500,000 would be as well expended, and it is only £140,000 more—not much for Ministers to scramble over if they were inclined to do so. Paragraph 8 says: "These works include a railway from Perth to Bumbury and extensions up the Preston River from Boyanup to Minninup Bridge, and from Boyanup to Busselton; a railway to the Yilgarn Goldfields; a railway from Geraldton to Mullewa; Harbor Improvements at Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Ashburton, Cossack and other ports; Telegraph extension from Flint Cliff to Freshwater Camp, in Sharks Bay; from Beverley to Broomehill, along the Great Southern Railway; from Busselton to Cape Leeuwin; as also the completion of the line from Derby to Wyndham. Other projected undertakings include the development of Goldfields and mineral resources; a Lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin; Immigration; Improvements to the Eastern Railway and to the Perth and Guildford Railway Stations; additional Rolling Stock for existing Railway lines; Surveys of Railway lines, and of land for Agricultural settlement; Public Buildings at various places; and the purchase of a Steam Dredge for deepening the entrance to Princess Royal Harbor and other ports of the Colony." Ministers are not such fools as to believe, nor are we such fools as to believe, that all these works can be done for £1,336,000. Multiply it by 10, and the chances are we will be nearer the mark. At the same time what Ministers have done is to place before the colony those works they consider of public necessity. Paragraph 9 says: "You will understand of course that the money will not all be raised at once." Let us hope not. It goes on:—

"And that the Government in raising it will take advantage of the state of the market to do so from time to time on terms most advantageous to the Colony. Furthermore, the specific sanction of Parliament will be sought for each separate railway as soon as the Government is prepared to undertake it, and in all other items Loan Estimates will be submitted to you before the works are undertaken. The present Loan Bill is put forward as indicating the policy of the Government in regard to public works, and your approval of the measure will enable the Government to proceed without delay in arranging for their due execution." It does not say, Sir, that the loan is required to enable the Government to execute works, but it enables them to say what are the works of the most pressing nature, and I think Ministers deserve our thanks for the honest manner in which they have laid their views before us, and have asked us for an instalment of £1,336,000 to go on with. It is strange that with all the mineral wealth of the Colony the gold and tin should have been reserved for the present crisis. That gold exists in abundance in the reefs of Yilgarn has now been fairly demonstrated, and that alone will warrant the construction of a Railway to that district. Look, Sir, at what would be the advantages of such a Railway, and if there be these advantages surely it is a matter that demands the instant attention of the Government. The experience of the Eastern Colonies shows us the value—the surpassing value—of metallic ores to any new country. The copper of the Burra Mines gave to South Australia an impetus which nothing could permanently arrest. So too with the gold of New South Wales, of Victoria, and New Zealand, and the gold and tin of Tasmania. They attracted population, and that population developed the other resources of these colonies. All these resources we have stored up by no niggard hand, and it only remains for the country to supply the Government with the means, and for the Government to carry out the work of constructing a railroad to these fields to induce a larger population and to further develop the mines. Besides this, its construction would be the means of opening up fresh locations, and so induce a fur-

ther settlement of the soil. But we are not dependent on this alone. We have timber; we have an unsurpassable climate and good soil. Our climate makes the colony the natural habitat of the vine and the olive. All these things we have, and they have been given to us with no meagre hand. Ministers need praise for the exposition of their general policy. They point out generally what is intended. Everyone must coincide with them in that. Which work is to be selected for primary undertaking is left to the experience which the future shall give. The Governor's Speech indulges in no clap-trap. It presents in plain language the ideas of the first Government of the Colony constituted as it is of its own men. It promises nothing. It shows what patrimony the colonists have and states how they will develop it. If they get money to develop it, and people to settle it, their work is done. There are few who will differ from them and will not help them. Their course is easy; they have nothing like an Opposition who will oust them for the sake of place. If members in either House sit opposite to them it will be for the sake of discussion rather than of resistance. That, I know, will be my course, and I believe it will be the course of those who sit in this House with me, for I think that an unstable Government is the greatest curse that can beset a State. We have a population of 45,000. We have almost no poor here. There is not a man of the age of 21 who cannot by honest industry acquire the franchise. We have yet to feel the weight, the depressing and degrading weight, of the political pettifogging adventurer and pre-eminently the organiser and leader of strikes. These are the men who prevent development, but they are not going to impede our progress or drag us to their own level here. As yet the franchise is a prize which every man can earn. It is the due of honest labour and it is the boundary mark set between barbarism and civilization. To this the Speech makes no allusion, yet it must be present to the minds of honorable members. To universal suffrage I shall give an unwavering resistance. I speak of myself personally, although I do not doubt but that many will think as I do. I will conclude by reminding

hon. members of both Houses that it is their duty, and I believe it is their inclination, to support Ministers, whose work is arduous. We must consider that we are all, whether in or out of office, to assist in governing the country, and that largely as the country they govern is endowed by Nature, political dishonesty cannot strip it of its solid worth. Political mistakes may be made, but personal honesty is the surest guide to the fortune and well being of those they govern. I am not a place hunter. I have before this had a place in the Legislature, and I would not have said so much as I have if this were not the most fitting occasion for declaring what course I shall pursue in common with many others in the changed economy of the State. Not that I wish or seek to hold myself up as an example, socially or politically, but as expressing the views which I entertain without fear, favor or affection, or hope of reward. I second, Sir, the motion of the hon. member.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the Council.

Question—put and passed.

SUPPLY—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The President announced the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:—"The Legislative Assembly having this day passed a Bill intituled 'An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of Sixty Thousand Pounds to the Service of the Year 1891,' present the same to the Legislative Council for its concurrence."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton), by leave, without notice, moved, "That so much as necessary of the forms and usages of the Imperial Parliament as at present guide the proceedings of this Council be suspended, in order that the Supply Bill just received from the Legislative Assembly may be passed through all its stages at the present sitting."

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT seconded.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I would like to point out to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that it is not usual to move the suspension of the Standing Orders without some explanation being first given as to the necessity of such a course.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably that will be done when the Hon. the Colonial Secretary introduces the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

The Bill was then introduced, and read a first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton), in moving the second reading, said the Bill was to provide the Government with means to carry on with until the Estimates could be dealt with. The other branch of the Legislature, which had the right and privilege of passing Money Bills, had agreed to the measure in a very short time, and that was sufficient to show the urgency of the matter. The Bill would only give the Government £60,000 to carry on with, as he had said, until the Estimates could be dealt with.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said there could be no doubt as to the necessity for passing the Bill, but at the same time after what had fallen from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, it would be as well if the privileges of both branches of the Legislature were defined at the outset. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary referred to the right of the other branch of the Legislature to pass Money Bills. It was as well that hon. members should know that both Houses had equal rights in regard to the passing of these Bills, although it was the privilege of the lower branch to initiate them. They had no right, however, to pass them there and send them here with a demand that they should be passed.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Hon. the Colonial Secretary meant that it had gone through all the necessary forms in the other branch of the Legislature.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I said the Bill had passed through the other House, and that showed the necessity of it.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes; but the Hon. the Colonial Secretary put it as a right the other House possessed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I made a mistake if I put it in that way.

The Question, That the Bill be now read a second time, was then put and passed.

The Bill was then taken through its other stages, and passed.