

"sented at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition to be held in London next year; and it is a matter for congratulation that the services of the Colonial Secretary are available to represent us as Executive Commissioner.

"16. We look forward with much interest to the results of Sir John Coode's investigations in connection with Harbor Works.

"17. Any reasonable arrangement made with the Orient Company for their steamers to call at Fremantle will be hailed with satisfaction. This Council will be prepared to give every consideration to the terms offered.

"18. The various Bills to be presented to us will of course meet with our careful attention.

"19. Again thanking Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open this Session, we pray with you that our deliberations may be, by the help of Providence, fruitful of good to the Colony."

MR. LAYMAN, in seconding the motion, said he generally agreed with what His Excellency had told them in his speech, but there was one exception. He alluded to the proposal to appoint two members of that House to seats in the Executive. He did not see his way clear to fall in with that proposition; but, as they would have a further opportunity of discussing the question, he would not at present say any more about it.

MR. BROWN moved the adjournment of the debate until the next sitting of the House, which was agreed to.

The House adjourned at four o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 24th July, 1885.

Brands Act, 1881, Amendment Bill: first reading—Bush Fires Bill: first reading—Excess Bill, 1884: first reading—Dog Act Amendment Bill: second reading—Address in Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser) moved the first reading of the following bills: A Bill to amend the Law relating to the Branding of Live Stock; a Bill to diminish the Dangers resulting from Bush Fires; and the Excess Bill, 1884.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a first time.

DOG ACT, 1883, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was not necessary to say much, the measure itself being a very short one. It was what he might term a relieving bill, its intention being to relieve those who offended against the provisions of the Act, in ignorance of those provisions, or inadvertently, and who could show good cause why they should not be subjected to the full penalty. The object of the bill was to extend the time within which dogs must be registered from fifteen days to thirty days, and also to give magistrates discretionary power, in the event of non-compliance with this provision, to inflict a fine not exceeding 40s. At present the bench was bound to inflict the full penalty of 40s., no matter how trivial or unintentional the offence, and this was found to be a hardship in some cases. Speaking generally with regard to the Act now in operation he might say that it had worked well; many of its provisions were found to be most useful. It was true that it had proved rather an expensive Act to carry out its provisions, as regards the destruction of wild dogs, but he believed it had been found very beneficial in its operation, and he thought, if the present amendments were agreed