

16. Report of geological exploration in Western Australia.
17. Papers on sericulture.
18. Report of Inspector of Schools.
19. Report on Crown lands and surveys.
20. Blue Book for 1872.
21. Land Regulations, proclaimed 22nd May, 1873.
22. A Bill to simplify the titles to and the dealing with estates in land.
23. Letter from J. S. Harris Esq., Resident Magistrate at Busselton, relative to grants from public funds in aid of agricultural societies.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. STEERE, consequent upon the unavoidable absence of a number of hon. members, and with the view of securing their presence before the business of the session was proceeded with, moved that the House adjourn until Tuesday next, the 1st proximo.

Mr. LOGUE seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), on behalf of the Government, offered no objection to the adjournment, but intimated that, if the House desired it, the Government was prepared to proceed with sessional business without any delay.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Tuesday, 1st July, 1873.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—First Readings—Leave of Absence—Papers Tabled—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. MARMION, in moving the Address in Reply to the Vice-Regal Speech, said as the House would be afforded another opportunity of considering the measures embodied in the gubernatorial utterance, he would at present merely glance through it. He simply echoed the introductory paragraphs, but in alluding to that portion of the Speech which treated of harbor improvements he dwelt at considerable length upon the primary claims of

Fremantle to a recognition at the hands of the Council in dealing with the harbor question. It was gratifying to him that into any scheme entitled to consideration proximity to Fremantle must enter. It had been the fashion of a section of our local press to sneer at its vested interests and at the claims which, as the chief port of the colony, it was entitled to put forward. It would be as well to remind those journalists that Fremantle was the second town of importance in the colony; that its inhabitants numbered nearly one-eighth of the whole population of the colony; and, he might add, that many of those inhabitants were energetic colonists who by their own indomitable perseverance had obtained an honorable position—men whose patriotic efforts were directed to promote the best interests of the colony. With regard to the paragraph in the Vice-Regal Speech which dealt with the question of free trade, the hon. member hoped the House would reverse its former decision upon that point, and replace on the free list corn, grain, meal, and all kinds of horse feed, of which the local markets were now completely bare—a state of things which was a positive disgrace to a colony like our own. As to the other portions of the Speech, the hon. member expressed strong approval of the policy of which they treated.

Sir Thomas COCKBURN-CAMPBELL seconded the motion, the hon. baronet in the same manner expressing his satisfaction with the gubernatorial utterance. He thought it a matter for congratulation, that notwithstanding the adverse circumstances which the colony has had to contend with, the tendency of His Excellency's policy had been progressive. He was firmly of opinion that, under the influence of that policy, the colony might look forward to further progress in the future. As a step in that direction he might allude to the probable result of the official visit paid by the hon. the Colonial Secretary to the neighbouring colonies, and of his successful efforts there to make known the resources which in this country are opened to those able and willing to assist in their development. Tradesmen, merchants, and others, when desirous of expanding their trade and connection, or of making their wants known, had resort to copious advertisements. In his opinion what Western Australia chiefly required was a good advertisement, setting forth its capabilities; and perhaps we could not have a better advertisement than the presence of our Colonial Secretary at the recent Intercolonial Conference, and our exhibits at the Sydney Exhibition. Doubtless the mining resources of the colony were among its richest treasures,

and their development must be a matter of the utmost importance; and as a railway appeared to be necessary to the utilisation of those resources, and a proposal to that end was to be laid before the House, he hoped it would receive favourable consideration. He did not think the colony was in a position to borrow extensively for public works that could not be proved to be of a reproductive public character; but if the railway contemplated in one of the paragraphs of the Vice-Regal Speech could be proved to be a remunerative undertaking, he thought the money proposed to be raised for its construction would be money well spent. Reverting to the clauses which dealt with free trade, he hoped the House would see the wisdom of the suggestion made by His Excellency to remove the obnoxious prohibitive duties which had been imposed last session upon such necessary articles as corn, grain, meal, and horse feed,—duties which had already proved of such great inconvenience to the community. By protection a tax is placed upon progress; it is the means adopted by a short-sighted generation to enable them to continue their miserable existence in the same manner as others have done heretofore. Having briefly referred to the other subjects alluded to in the Speech, the hon. baronet seconded the motion before the House.

Mr. STEERE complimented Mr. Marmion and Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell on the manner in which they had dealt with the Address; the former was already known in the House as an able and fluent speaker; and the latter, judging from his maiden speech, would prove a valuable acquisition to the House. With regard to the material progress which it was alleged in the Vice-Regal Speech the colony was making, he could not agree that we had made any political advance. There certainly had been some limited powers of self-government accorded to the various districts of the colony, but so far as the supreme Legislative Council was concerned he considered that the colony had made no advance whatever. Every member of that House must have been gratified to learn that the revenue of the colony was in such a prosperous state; but he would like to know whether this satisfactory state of the country's finances had been caused by the extra duties placed upon various articles at the last session of the Council. If the increase in the revenue was attributable to the latter cause, then, he conceived, there was not much ground for congratulation. He quite agreed with the hon. member who had moved the Address in Reply that lowering the telegraph charges throughout the colony was extremely advisable, and

doubtless the result would be beneficial to the colony and a boon to the public. There had been placed on the Table of the House a report upon harbor improvements, which the Council would doubtless take into its careful consideration. He would therefore at present merely remark that although at the last session he had supported the Government scheme of surveying the Challenger Passage, the result of that survey had been such as in his opinion would render it expedient to abandon all idea of expending any money on Cockburn Sound; and if a loan for harbor improvements should be raised, such improvements ought to be made, at Fremantle, which had paramount claims upon the consideration of the House. With regard to the proposed loan for railway construction at Geraldton, he thought the House ought to exercise the utmost caution before it attempted to raise any further public loans for any purpose; especially when it was borne in mind the fiscal burden which was likely to be thrown upon us probably necessitating an immense outlay, perhaps more than we can bear—by the claims made upon the colony by the Imperial Government on convict account. As to the question of free trade, he utterly repudiated the assertions made by the supporters of that policy that the present dearth of corn and grain in this colony is, in any way, attributable to the protective duties placed on those articles last session. Such an assertion was unfair, unjust, and unfounded. Having disposed of the sins of commission in the Vice-Regal Speech he would next proceed to the sins of omission, of which there were two flagrant ones. In the first place no allusion was made to what is admitted on all hands to be a desideratum—steam communication on our coast. Last session hon. members were pressed—unduly, he might say—to agree to a proposal put forward by the Government in regard of steam communication so that the proposal might go home by the then next outgoing mail, and we were assured we should have a steamer in a few months; but no steamer had yet put in an appearance. He had, within the last few days, received information which led him to believe that the long-expected steamer would not come at all! The agent of the company when questioned on the matter, had certainly been very taciturn, and there appeared to have been some want of caution on the part of the Government in not having such a contract drawn out as would have compelled the other contracting party to have placed a steamer on our coast before this. Another omission in the Speech was the subject of immigration, which was daily becoming a question of great importance. The