

“ expenditure under certain heads of the  
 “ Estimates, but you will find, I hope,  
 “ that the Estimates for the year have  
 “ been arranged on as economical a scale  
 “ as is consistent with efficiency and the  
 “ present requirements of the Service.  
 “ Her Majesty's Government having inti-  
 “ mated to me that as soon as possible  
 “ after the introduction of Responsible  
 “ Government the connection between the  
 “ Crown Agents and the Colony should  
 “ cease, I have placed on the Estimates a  
 “ sum to provide for the establishment of  
 “ an agency in London, but at the same  
 “ time I have requested the Crown Agents  
 “ to continue to act for the present until  
 “ Ministers shall be in a position to  
 “ make definite and satisfactory arrange-  
 “ ments for this highly important ser-  
 “ vice. The Estimates of Revenue have  
 “ been most carefully compiled, and it is  
 “ believed that they will be fully realised.  
 “ I am happy to inform you that on the  
 “ 31st December last there was a balance  
 “ to the credit of the Colony of £45,600.

“ 12. My Government has under con-  
 “ sideration the important question of the  
 “ re-organisation of the Works and Rail-  
 “ way Departments, and you will be asked  
 “ to vote an adequate sum to enable the  
 “ Government to secure the services of  
 “ an Engineer-in-Chief of recognised  
 “ standing and ability, as also of an officer  
 “ of experience to manage the Railways  
 “ of the Colony on a commercial and  
 “ economical basis. It is hoped that any  
 “ officers displaced by these arrangements  
 “ will be duly provided for elsewhere.

“ MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE  
 “ GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
 “ COUNCIL,—

“ MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF  
 “ THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,—

“ 13. An Audit Bill will be submitted  
 “ to you for approval, based on similar  
 “ Acts in force elsewhere, which will place  
 “ the Auditor General in a position re-  
 “ sponsible to the Government and  
 “ Legislature.

“ 14. The Federation Convention, which  
 “ is to meet at Sydney on March 2nd,  
 “ marks an important epoch in the history  
 “ of Australia. My Government consider  
 “ that it is of the utmost importance that  
 “ this Colony should be represented at  
 “ this Convention. An important ques-  
 “ tion closely connected with that of

“ future federation, namely, that of rail-  
 “ way communication between this Colony  
 “ and the Eastern Colonies, may probably  
 “ be fully discussed, and for this and  
 “ other reasons I trust that the Parlia-  
 “ mentary business may be so arranged  
 “ as to allow the Representatives of this  
 “ Colony to attend the Convention.

“ 15. I leave you to the labors of the  
 “ Session with a feeling of confidence  
 “ that, under the guidance of Providence,  
 “ you will so discharge the great respon-  
 “ sibilities which devolve upon you, as to  
 “ show yourselves worthy of the trust  
 “ reposed in you by the country.”

HIS EXCELLENCY having handed  
 to the President a copy of the Speech,  
 left the Chamber. The President then  
 resumed the Chair.

#### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON.  
 G. Shenton), by leave, without notice,  
 moved, “ That during the present Session  
 of Council the President (the Hon. Sir  
 T. Cockburn-Campbell) should perform  
 the duties of Chairman of Committees.”

Question—put and passed.

#### OFFENDERS CUSTODY BILL.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON.  
 G. Shenton), without notice, moved the  
 first reading of a Bill intituled “ An  
 Act to provide for the Custody of certain  
 Offenders.”

Question—put and passed.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

THE HON. T. BURGESS: I have much  
 pleasure, Sir, in rising, to move an  
 Address-in-Reply to the Speech with  
 which His Excellency has opened Parlia-  
 ment. The first paragraph of it, sir,  
 informs us and the country generally  
 that the inauguration of Parliamentary  
 and Responsible Government in Western  
 Australia is this day complete. I think,  
 sir, that that is a very satisfactory an-  
 nouncement indeed. It has been the  
 wish of a large majority of the colonists  
 for a considerable time past to obtain  
 Responsible Government, and to-day that  
 is accomplished. The Governor has, he  
 says in the Speech, found some difficul-  
 ties which surrounded him at the outset,  
 and prevented him from putting the Act

into operation as soon as he might have desired; but these have now been overcome, and at last we are on the high-road of Responsible Government. The benefits to be derived from the change of constitution are, in my opinion, very many, and I hope that they will be fully realised. There are very many important points for our consideration; but in starting on our new career we have the sympathy of Her Majesty and the good wishes of our neighbors in the other colonies, as well as those of Her Majesty's Ministers in the Old Country. As to the sentiments expressed in paragraph 4, I feel sure that Her Majesty's Government will have no cause whatever to regret having handed over this large territory of Western Australia to be governed by the people of the country. We have undertaken a very serious charge—a charge which I trust time will show the Mother Country has not misplaced. The fifth paragraph of the Speech informs us of the gentleman His Excellency has selected as our Prime Minister. I think, sir, that the Governor showed considerable wisdom in selecting the gentleman he did to form the first Ministry, and I think that that gentleman, from his long experience and knowledge of Colonial matters, is eminently qualified to carry out the duties he has undertaken. He is a native of this country, and not only is he such himself, but he has associated with him as Ministers others who are also natives of the Colony. I feel confident, sir, that these gentlemen have the interests of the country at heart, and that they will do their utmost to carry on the Government to the satisfaction of the people and to the benefit of the Colony at large. The Ministry have had but a very short time to prepare a policy. They have only been in office for something like three weeks, and, as the Governor in his Speech says, they have had during that time many duties to attend to in taking over the Departments allotted to them. The responsibility of these Departments is very great and has required much attention, and therefore we could not expect Ministers to come forward to-day with a very extensive policy, or any great deal of fresh legislation. The chief item in His Excellency's Speech is contained in paragraph 7, which announces that Ministers have arrived at a

certain policy, and that to carry it out they are going to introduce a Loan Bill for £1,336,000, to be expended on works which are enumerated in the schedule of the Bill. That is, sir, a very bold and extensive policy—a policy which I feel sure will be received by the country at large with some degree of hesitation. All may not approve of that policy, but I think it is only right and proper that Ministers should have foreshadowed their policy as a whole, and then carry it out as time and the circumstances of the colony may require. The amount of the loan is very large, and I must say that I myself am somewhat surprised to see it so large; but when you look at the next paragraph, and observe the number of public works which it is intended to carry out, I doubt, sir, very much whether the amount named is sufficient. For instance, paragraph 8 points out that we are to have a railway from Perth to Bunbury, with various extensions to Busselton; and a railway to the Yilgarn goldfields, a distance of some 160 miles. I am not altogether in favor of that at the present time. Of course the day may come when a railway to Yilgarn may be necessary, and so soon as the goldfields show that so large a public expenditure is warranted, then I think will be the proper time to construct the railway and thus open up that part of the country. We must, sir, be all aware of the great necessity that exists for developing our mineral resources, for the prosperity of this country depends to a great extent on its mineral wealth, which we know very little about at the present moment, and it is the duty of the Government to encourage the mining industry as much as possible; consequently I think Ministers are right in including this proposal for a Railway in the Loan Bill, for there is no knowing the day it may become necessary to undertake this important work. I hope it may be very soon, because on the development of our mineral resources mostly depends the influx of people we shall get. If we will only develop our mines we shall have people coming here rapidly. If people know minerals are to be found, and that public works are to be carried out on an extensive scale, they will soon come here. Another Railway proposed is one from Geraldton to Mullewa. This is a work

that has not had much consideration, but, sir, there is a goldfield in the neighbourhood, from which some good specimens have been obtained, and we do not know but that in a short time an extensive goldfield may be found in that direction. There is, too, a large amount of wool coming in from the Murchison District and a large amount of stores and fencing wire going back, which would cross over that railway, and hence I think the Ministry were warranted in including this work in their estimate. The question of Harbor Works at Fremantle has been a vexed one for some time past, and I have no hesitation in saying that some better shipping accommodation than now exists must be provided. Vessels will not come to that port unless we provide some reasonable accommodation for them. It is not stated in the Speech in what way any improvements are to be effected, but I have no doubt that they will have due consideration and that the best possible work that can be undertaken will be put forward by the persons responsible in that behalf. I hope when the question of these improvements comes forward for consideration the possibility of improving the entrance to the Swan River will not be neglected. In all other parts of the world I have observed that where any river exists and it is possible to make an entrance such is done; and I can see no reason why the Swan River should not be made accessible at its mouth for steamers of a reasonable size, and wharfage accommodation provided at its sides, where there is now a large amount of land which is perfectly useless, but which with the river improvements would be of considerable value to the Government. Then, sir, the Speech refers to harbour improvements at Geraldton and other ports. All these outports are of course of importance, and I think it is quite right that provision should be made for them in the Loan Bill and that the improvements required should be undertaken speedily. At Geraldton steamers loaded at Fremantle cannot come alongside—steamers such as the "Otway" and "South Australian"—in consequence of the bar of sand which is collected outside; but I hope that something more than the mere use of a dredge to clear away the sand will be undertaken, such as more jetty accommodation and sheds.

At Carnarvon I know a large jetty has been constructed, but at the present time it is almost useless on account of the sand bar which exists in front of it and which prevents steamers getting up to it. Therefore to do something there is absolutely necessary. At Ashburton and Cossack similar impediments in the shape of sandbanks exist, so that vessels cannot approach the wharves. The extension of the Telegraph to Sharks Bay is much required, and although I do not know much about the necessity of a line from Beverley to Broomehill I have no doubt it is wanted. It is also proposed to erect a wire from Busselton to Cape Leeuwin, and of course, if it is intended to erect a lighthouse there it will also be necessary to place it in telegraphic communication with other parts of the colony. It is proposed to complete the telegraph line from Derby to Wyndham. That, sir, I am not altogether in accord with, although as it is included in this proposed Loan Bill I presume there are some good reasons for bringing it forward. I was under the impression that this line was fully completed and that communication from Derby to the Goldfields and from the Goldfields to Wyndham was fully established, but it appears that it is not so, or that at least something in connection with it is required. Then we are told in the 8th paragraph of the Speech that other projected undertakings include the development of Goldfields and other mineral resources, a lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, &c. Now this lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin has been spoken of in our own colony, and also by our neighbours, for some time past, and as such a large amount of shipping out to Australia and from Australia homewards passes there, I think the proposal is a very proper one indeed to be included in a Loan Bill, and I am sure it is one that will be received with great satisfaction by the shipping interests in all parts of the world. Cape Leeuwin has always been looked upon as a most dangerous point. Several vessels have met with mishaps there, in many cases owing to the want of a lighthouse, and I think in these days when the trade and the commerce of the world are so extensive, such a prominent place as Cape Leeuwin should be provided with a lighthouse and placed in

telegraphic communication with both Albany and Busselton. It appears also that some improvements are required on the Eastern Railway and at the Perth and Guildford Railway Stations. These are works I am not fully conversant with. I am aware that these Railway Stations require considerable improvements, and I think such are proper items to include in this Loan Bill. I notice, also, that extra rolling stock is required, and that the purchase of a steam dredge is anticipated, and this particularly for deepening the entrance to Princess Royal Harbor, at King George's Sound. I am aware this harbor has for some time past been silting up, and it is therefore a matter that should receive the very early attention of the Government, so as to make it available for steamers which visit there. I am glad to find in the 9th paragraph that it is proposed to borrow the money only as it is required, and also, that the sanction of Parliament will be sought for each railway as soon as the Government is prepared to undertake it, and that all other items in the Loan Bill will be submitted before the works are undertaken. We have gentlemen in our Ministry whose experience in the past will be of very great service in the future, and I do not think they will put forward any proposal that is not fully warranted. Any hasty matters brought forward—such as the construction of railways or other public works—would be most unwise, but I think this clause of the Speech is sufficient guarantee to us and the country that the Ministry will use every caution and care that this £1,336,000 which it is proposed to borrow, will be expended judiciously and on reproductive works. I consider all the works mentioned in the 8th paragraph are reproductive directly or indirectly. They are all improvements and conveniences this country requires, and if we are to have a large population among us, which we hope we soon shall have, all these proposed works will be urgently needed, and I feel confident that the money will only be raised as the Government finds itself in a position to carry out the works which are shadowed forth in the Speech. The 10th paragraph says that we may rest assured that the policy of public works now recommended will be productive of great benefit to the Colony. I

have just said I believe it will be so. We come next, sir, to the 11th paragraph, which deals with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure which will be submitted for our consideration. The expenditure, the Governor informs us, has been closely scrutinised in the time at the disposal of the Ministry, and I think we must make every allowance for them, as it is only some three weeks since they have taken office, during which time they have also prepared this Loan Bill. The country has been anxiously looking out for a Loan Bill and the Ministry has no doubt considered it one of their first duties to bring forward a policy which would include a very liberal and extensive loan expenditure. It has always been said that with the change of Government we must expect there would be a great many extra expenses, and we must be prepared to accept them with a good grace. Good Government and public works and public conveniences cannot be carried on satisfactorily without the people who have the management and control are fairly paid. I believe, sir, in paying men well and making them do their work. We find in the item referring to the Estimates that it is proposed to appoint an Agent General or an Agency in London. This I know has been a necessity for a considerable time, and I think it will be universally admitted throughout the Colony that some independent agent of our own in England is essential. We cannot expect our affairs to be attended to in England with the same care and attention by Crown Agents who know little about us, and care as little, as we would by a gentleman of experience and position appointed from here, and I am glad indeed to see that the Ministry now in office have not lost sight of this important matter. From my experience in England I have found that we are very little known, and if we want to overcome that we cannot do better than have a gentleman in the same position as the other Colonies have. It is very satisfactory to find that after the hard times of last year and the forewarnings we had of a balance on the wrong side of the ledger, we should now have a sum of £45,600 to our credit. The Ministry are therefore starting with a very fair balance in hand, and such only shows that the prosperity of the

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