

an amendment upon the address—is to move an amendment in some paragraph of the address, expressive of the views of the House. There is no precedent for such an amendment as this to an Address-in-reply—an amendment which merely says that the House prefers to adjourn for a week. Prefers it to what? I ask Your Honor to rule whether the amendment is in order.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL: There is scarcely any necessity for that, for this reason, the hon. member who moved the amendment informs me that he made a mistake in wording the amendment, and that it was not his intention to move an amendment that would preclude us from debating the Address-in-reply. I understand that what the hon. member wishes is that the House should adjourn, in order that some further information with reference to the Enabling Bill may be received and communicated to the House. I must say I am quite in accord with him in thinking that it would be undesirable to formulate our Address-in-reply at the present time, but I do not agree with him that we should adjourn for so long a time as he proposes; for it is not at all improbable that some communication may be received from the Secretary of State, and it may be necessary for the House to take immediate action upon it, with the view of bringing some pressure to bear upon the House of Commons to induce it to proceed with the bill this session, if possible. In any case, I think it is very desirable that there should be no long adjournment, and that the House should keep in touch with His Excellency, ready to take any action that the circumstances may suggest. If we find that things are going against us, it is within the limits of possibility that some steps may be taken by the House which would prevent the bill falling through this session. That being so, I think it would be foolish for the House to adjourn for a week, because it may then be too late to take any action, and we might possibly regret that we had missed the opportunity of doing so.

THE SPEAKER: I think it would be better if the hon. member were to withdraw his amendment, and move that the debate be adjourned, if he wishes it adjourned.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BURT moved that the debate be adjourned until the following day.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 24th July, 1889.

Message No. 1: Telegram from the Secretary of State as to the Constitution Bill—Message No. 2: Floating of the £100,000 Loan—Railways Act Amendment Bill: first reading—Address-in-Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE (No. 1): THE CONSTITUTION BILL.

THE SPEAKER announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor has the honor, with reference to the third and fourth paragraphs of the Speech with which he opened the Session, to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that he has this day received from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State the following telegraphic despatch respecting the Bill to enable Her Majesty to assent to the Constitution Bill:

"London, 23rd July, 1889.

"In view of opposition to Western Australian Responsible Government Bill on both sides of House, and period of Session as well as necessary work to be accomplished, much regret that impossible to pass Bill before prorogation, but still hope that second reading can be got later, so as to affirm principle of constitutional change."
"Government House, 24th July, 1889."

**MESSAGE (No. 2): FLOATING OF THE
£100,000 LOAN.**

THE SPEAKER notified the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

"The Governor has the honor, with reference to the fifth paragraph of the Speech with which he opened the Session, to inform the Honorable the Legislative Council that a telegraphic communication, received this day from the Crown Agents, states that the Western Australian 4 per cent. Loan of £100,000 has realised an average of £108 15s. 3d. per cent.

"It will be remembered that the loan of 1885 was floated at the rate of £98 2s. 6d. per cent.

"Government House, 24th July, 1889."

RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Read a first time.

**CONSIDERATION OF MESSAGE (No. 1):
CONSTITUTION BILL.**

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that before the orders of the day were read he would like to consult the House as to the course it would be convenient to pursue with regard to His Excellency's Message on the question of Responsible Government.

MR. PARKER said he would suggest to the Colonial Secretary that he should move that the Message be considered on Friday. This would give hon. members time to make up their mind as to the course they would pursue.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser): Then I move that His Excellency's Message be considered on Friday.

MR. SHOLL suggested that it would be advisable not to prolong the matter so long, for they might be able to come to some conclusion by which they could remove the objections of the Imperial Parliament, and telegraph them Home.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): It will do no good.

MR. SHOLL: Of course the hon. member is an authority on the subject. I do not think it would be advisable to put off the consideration of the Message until Friday.

MR. PARKER: Until when?

MR. SHOLL: Until to-morrow. This is really a very important matter, and I think it would be a pity to lose time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): You have already lost time.

MR. SHOLL: The hon. gentleman has wasted more time than anyone else. This was a very important matter, and if we could push it on, even if we gave way as regards the lands, it might be a good thing. If we gave way on this point, it might at once remove the objection in the way of the bill passing through the House of Commons. His Excellency could telegraph Home that we were willing to waive the clause as to the control of the lands, and with this clause out of the Enabling Bill, the Imperial Government might be induced to press the matter forward at once.

MR. VENN thought that Friday was quite soon enough, for they knew that the second reading of the bill at Home was not going to take place for a day or two, at any rate.

MR. PARKER: If we take the Message into consideration to-morrow, we shall not have time to arrive at any united conclusion. If hon. members are to discuss the matter and devise some means of making a united representation, by means of the telegraph wire, I do not think it possible to do so if we are to meet at noon to-morrow. There are several courses we may adopt. I dare say, if we were to authorise the Governor to telegraph to the Secretary of State that we were willing to forego the clause in the Enabling Bill vesting the land South of 26th parallel of Latitude in the local Legislature, the Home Government would be prepared to press on the measure, thus making Responsible Government (without the land) an accomplished fact during the present session of the Imperial Parliament. We know that Lord Knutsford is pledged to the colony, by his despatches to the Governor, to give us all the land South of the 26th parallel, and we know from the discussion which is going on in the English press and in the Imperial Parliament, that the great objection to this colony having Responsible Government and taking upon it the management of its own affairs is solely on account of this land question. If, therefore, we forego our claim to the land,

and tell the Secretary of State he need not carry out his pledge to embody in the Enabling Bill a clause vesting those lands in us, I have not the slightest doubt but that the Imperial Parliament will grant us Responsible Government, keeping the control of the lands, as at present. If we do not adopt that course, we must be content to wait until the next session of the Imperial Parliament, and abide the course of events. It may be that owing to the lapse of time, and probably from the additional information that will be gained at Home in the meantime, —no doubt a great deal of light will be thrown on the subject even in the course of the debate on the second reading of the bill in the House of Commons—people in England may come to form a different opinion as to this question; and that when the Enabling Bill comes on again, when the Imperial Parliament meets in February, or early next year, the opposition to the bill will have moderated, and we may obtain Responsible Government with the lands vested in the colonial Legislature. For my own part, I cannot help thinking that the wiser course for us is to wait; for I still think it would be disastrous for us to take Responsible Government without the lands. It would be better rather to adhere to the position we have taken up; for, although we shall have to wait some time, we are bound to succeed in the end. The Imperial Parliament will not be influenced by any foolish airs we may put on, it will not be influenced by any feeling of pettishness we may indulge in, or by what we may call strong measures. After all, we are only a very small community; and, so far as the British Empire is concerned, we are only an insignificant portion of the Empire. The British Parliament has opposed other measures greater than that of Responsible Government for Western Australia; but as a rule we find that the Imperial Parliament is composed of men of good sound views—men who are prepared to do justice to all Her Majesty's subjects. Although, therefore, we may have to wait a short time longer, no doubt, we shall have justice done—full justice; and we shall have the lands in the same manner as the other Australian colonies have had them. Seeing how great the issues are that we have to determine—whether

we shall give up our claim to the lands, or whether we shall wait and insist on our rights, I cannot but think that Friday night would be quite early enough to consider this message.

MR. RICHARDSON: Allusion has been made to the idea that ultimately truth and justice will prevail with the Imperial Parliament in regard to this matter, and that we may rely upon getting our rights: I am not so very clear in my own mind where the "truth and justice" is going to come in. It appears to me, after watching the course of events at Home, that all the truth and justice of the Imperial Parliament, as regards this question, will be found confined to themselves; and that if we rely upon a mere sentimental notion of truth and justice prevailing, we shall find ourselves disappointed. I think it would be wiser for us to adopt some more practical way of accomplishing our purpose. I think we ought to point out, and demonstrate by means of facts and figures, that the idea which seems to have possessed people in England as to the land question, and as to our object in desiring to have the control of the lands, is a completely erroneous idea; and that when they talk about millions of acres of land being alienated, they are simply under a delusion as to the conditions under which this land is held. I think it would be far better to do this than to rely upon any sentimental idea of truth and justice prevailing in our favor in the Imperial Parliament. We should endeavor to show them that they have nothing whatever to fear from our having the control of the lands vested in the local Parliament. We have to show them that so far from our having any desire to shut out emigrants who may desire to come here from the mother country, we are only too anxious to see them coming here, so long as they are of the right stamp. What we ought to do, in my opinion, is to try and disseminate such information as will remove the present idea, which seems to pervade the minds of the English people both in the press and in Parliament, so as to bring about a reaction in our favor: that seems to me the wiser course to adopt. I do not believe that the mere sentimental idea of truth and justice prevailing will bring about that which we

all desire. It is evident to anyone who reads between the lines of the telegrams that reach us from Home that a much more selfish view is taken of this question than sentimental. We hear of immense schemes of colonisation being on foot; we hear of prospectuses of a most elaborate character being placed before the British public; and it strikes me that these large schemes have quite as much to do with the opposition in the English press and in the House of Commons as any sentimental ideas of truth and justice. It is unnecessary to point out to this House the absurdity of some of the statements that are put forth at Home on this subject; but it really is amusing, in one sense, to observe the utter absurdity of the arguments that are put forward against vesting the lands of the colony in the colonial Legislature, and giving the control of them to a mere handful of 40,000 people—which seems to be the stock argument. We read in some of the telegrams that have come through within the last few days of millions upon millions of acres of land having been alienated, and now in the hands of the banks and private individuals; we read of startling imputations and charges made about millions of acres having been alienated to private individuals, and millions more held by the banking and other financial institutions of the colony. Well, allowing that there are some millions of acres leased to individuals, and millions of acres held by the banks as security; let me ask how have these lands come to be leased to these private individuals? Were they not leased under the Land Regulations of the colony? And were not those Land Regulations approved by the Imperial Parliament itself? Do not these people who hold these lands hold them under the conditions that have been approved by the Imperial authorities, and have they not obtained them on payment of the rents fixed by the Imperial Government themselves? Do not all these lands come under the regulations which are the statute law of the colony, and which has become the law of the colony with the concurrence and approval of the British Parliament? Yet we hear it said that we are a colony of land-grabbers, and what not; and anyone would think that we had dishonestly alienated these lands,

and that we intend to do more of that sort of thing if we get the lands under our own control. Of course all this is very absurd to people here, who know better, and who are aware of the conditions under which the lands have been alienated and leased to these private individuals, and why they are held by the banks and other financial institutions of the colony. But they do not understand these things in England; and our object should be to try and throw some light upon the subject and so remove the prejudice and the crass ignorance that prevails in the minds of English politicians and English press writers on the subject. What we have to do, it appears to me, is to show by facts and figures that the statements which obtain currency at Home are altogether misleading. Let it be pointed out that these millions of acres that have been what is called "alienated," have been "alienated" under the Land Regulations of the colony, and that they only form a fractional part of the lands of the colony. Let it be pointed out, as I find on reference to Mr. Knight's little work, the "Year Book" for 1888, that the total area of the colony is about 678,000,000 acres, and that out of this only 1,898,000 acres were alienated at the end of last year.

MR. KEANE: Is the hon. member in order?

THE SPEAKER: No, the question is whether His Excellency's Message should be considered on Friday night.

MR. RICHARDSON: I am coming to that. The line of argument I am adopting is that it would be useless to frame a resolution on Friday evening to try and induce the Imperial Parliament to withdraw its opposition to the Enabling Bill if we are going to rely simply upon the sentimental idea of truth and justice prevailing. I wish to point out that in my opinion it would be more desirable to make some effort to remove the existing ignorance and prejudice which prevail at Home, and that we may then hope to have the Constitution Bill pass into law. I think we can best attain this end by means of hard facts and figures. I think we are more likely to convince the House of Commons with facts and figures that cannot be controverted than we are by relying upon any abstract ideas of truth

and justice animating English politicians in a question of this kind.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): As a certain amount of latitude has been allowed to previous speakers, perhaps I may be allowed to say how heartily I agree in the general observations made by my hon. and learned friend opposite, the member for the Vasse, when he suggests that two or three days might be allowed in which the House may decide upon the best course of action to adopt in dealing with this question. The hon. member for the Gascoyne, who thinks that not a day should be lost, must have forgotten how much precious time was lost when the bill was under discussion in this House a few months ago; the hon. member must have forgotten the agonising delay that took place over this very question of the land; and how I then told him that by insisting upon the land clause going into the bill you had killed the bill for this year. Anxious as I was to promote the passage of that bill, during those agonising days of suspense and procrastination; knowing as I did, from my experience of the House of Commons, first of all that the present session of the Imperial Parliament was drawing to a close and that there was no time to lose; knowing also as I did how the House of Commons looked at a measure introduced at the far end of a session, and knowing,—

THE SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman is certainly getting out of order now. A certain amount of latitude has been allowed to every member, but I think they all confined themselves more to the point than the hon. gentleman is doing.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton): Then I shall reserve what I have to say until some future occasion.

Question—that Message No. 1 be considered on Friday evening:

Put and passed.

THE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Upon the order of the day for the resumption of the debate upon the Address-in-reply,

MR. BURT said he only desired to state that, under the circumstances which had occurred, he had no intention of

saying anything at all at present. He felt quite unable to speak to the Address-in-reply, with the Message they had just received before them.

MR. PARKER said it seemed to him that no good would result from protracting this debate, as they would have an opportunity of discussing the question of Responsible Government, and the action they might wish to take, next Friday. The Address was only a reflex of the Governor's Speech, and they had merely to formally pass it, and present it to His Excellency. They all agreed that His Excellency had done the best he could for the cause they had at heart, that their best thanks were due to him, and it would hardly be gracious to say they refused to pass the usual address at the earliest possible time.

MR. SHOLL said he was going to move the adjournment of the debate. He thought the House was not in a humor to discuss this address; he, for his part, did not feel in a humor to do so, until they had arrived at some decision with regard to His Excellency's Message. The position had been completely altered by the telegram which had come through that day; and, considering the fact that the Message which had just been brought down had upset and disappointed hon. members—and would disappoint the whole colony,—he thought the discussion should be postponed until after hon. members had taken the Message into consideration. He therefore moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. A. FORREST seconded the motion.

MR. BURT said hon. members would see that the Address said nothing about this all-important question of the Constitution Bill; and he, therefore, thought it would be a mistake to pass it in its present form, as it in no way expressed the feeling of the House upon that question. Some expression of that feeling ought to find a place in the Address to the Governor's Speech. He was sure they were all most ready to agree that they could not say too much in praise of the action the Governor had taken; and in saying this he was sure he spoke the mind of everyone. It had been most gratifying to him, when he thought some action ought to be taken in the direction of removing the erroneous impressions prevailing at Home, to have found the

Governor had forestalled him, and by that opportune letter to the *Times* had placed the whole matter before the British public. Still, he thought some expression of the feeling of the House ought to find a place in the Address, and, unless someone was prepared with a paragraph that would reflect their feelings in the matter, they had better postpone the debate.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL said the Address-in-reply was simply a formal matter. He understood the Colonial Secretary would move as usual that a select committee be appointed to bring up the Address. Those gentlemen knew the feeling of the House, and it would be very easy for them to introduce a clause in the address to the effect that they would give to the Message their most earnest consideration. It was a mere formal matter, and it would be far better to get rid of it.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said he was about to say the same thing. The Council had generally, at previous sessions, disposed of this address before proceeding to other business; and, on the present occasion, the Governor had gone out of his way to communicate with the Council before the Address was passed. If it should be the general wish that some allusion should be made to the fourth paragraph in His Excellency's Speech referring to the change in the Constitution, it was quite competent for the select committee to insert a paragraph in the Address.

Question put—That the debate be adjourned.

The House divided with the following result.

Ayes	5
Noes	16
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Majority against	11

AYES.
Mr. Bart
Mr. Grant
Mr. A. Forrest
Mr. Keane
Mr. Sholl (Teller.)

NOES.
Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
Mr. Congdon
Mr. Harper
Mr. Loton
Mr. Morrison
Mr. Parker
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Pearce
Mr. Randall
Mr. Rason
Mr. Richardson
Mr. Scott
Mr. Venn
Hon. C. N. Warton
Hon. J. A. Wright
Hon. Sir M. Fraser, S.M.C.
(Teller.)

Question—That an Address be presented—put and passed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that a select committee be appointed to consider the Address-in-reply; such committee to consist of Mr. Venn, Mr. Randall, Mr. Burt, Mr. Parker, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

The Committee withdrew to prepare the Address.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) brought up the Address prepared by the Committee, and moved that it be read.

Question—put and passed.

The Address was read at the table by the Clerk, as follows:—

*"To His Excellency Sir Frederick
"Napier Broome, Knight Commander
"of the Most Distinguished Order of
"Saint Michael and Saint George,
"Governor and Commander-in-Chief
"in and over the Territory of Western
"Australia and its Dependencies,
" &c., &c., &c."*

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

"We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, desire to express to Your Excellency our thanks for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Session of this Honorable Council, and to assure you of our earnest desire to coöperate with you in effecting the object for which we have been specially summoned at this date.

"The Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to elections to the Legislature, and the other Bills Your Excellency states are to be placed before us, will, of course, have our earnest consideration, and we trust that the important measures committed to our charge will be duly passed in a satisfactory form.

"While we learnt with much satisfaction that the Bill to enable Her Majesty to assent to the Constitution Bill had passed the House of Lords, it is with feelings of the deepest regret and concern that we have since learnt, that owing to expected opposition in the House of Commons, the Imperial Government does not intend to press the passing of the measure during this Session of Parliament.

"We desire to express to Your Excellency our appreciation of the able and timely efforts you have made to further the cause of Self-Government.

"It is satisfactory to know that active preparations are in progress for working our deposits of gold, of tin, and of coal, and we share in the hope that in a short time the mines will be yielding a rich result.

"The opening of the Great Southern Railway is a source of gratification to all, and must result in promoting settlement and the progress of the Colony.

"We rejoice in the prospect of a good season to the various interests of the Colony, and we trust with Your Excellency that our labors may, under Providence, promote the general welfare."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that the Address, as read, be now adopted.

Agreed to.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) moved that the Address-in-reply be presented to His Excellency by Mr. Speaker and other members, on Thursday, 25th July, at a quarter past twelve o'clock.

Agreed to.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past eight o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 25th July, 1889.

Presentation of the Address-in-Reply.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PRESENTATION OF THE ADDRESS-
IN-REPLY.

THE SPEAKER and other members of the House proceeded to Government

House, in order to present the Address-in-reply to His Excellency the Governor.

Upon their return,

THE SPEAKER informed the House that he had presented the Address, to which His Excellency had been pleased to reply as follows: "Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: I beg to thank you for your cordial Address in reply to my Speech."

The House adjourned at half-past twelve o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 26th July, 1889.

Mr. J. J. Harwood engaged in doing private work—Kimberley Mail Services: Correspondence relating to—Leave of Absence to Mr. Shenton—Accident on the Eastern Railway: "Woods v. Commissioner of Railways": Commission to inquire into—Consideration of Message No. 1: Passage of Constitution Bill through the House of Commons—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

MR. HARWOOD DOING PRIVATE WORK.

MR. KEANE, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works, whether the statement which had appeared in the public press, to the effect that "Mr. J. J. Harwood, of the Public Works Office, is now engaged upon preparing plans for a large bonded warehouse for a private firm or company at Fremantle," is correct; and, if such was the case, what had become of the instructions given by the Governor after a deputation of local architects had waited upon His Excellency?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Mr. Harwood is engaged in preparing plans for a warehouse at Fremantle. The in-