

great interest and favour, and its prosperity, as far as he could see from impressions gathered while in England, was in every way assured. He again thanked the Premier and hon. members for the welcome extended to him.

ABOLITION OF ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION.

The Council having amended the resolution passed by the Assembly (again affirming that the Aborigines Protection Board should be abolished), by striking out of the resolution the words "is subversive of the rights of the people of this colony and," the amendment was now taken into consideration.

IN COMMITTEE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved that the amendment made by the Legislative Council, in the resolution passed by the Assembly, be agreed to. He said that, speaking for a moment from the point of view of the member for Geraldton, as the original mover in the matter, the resolution, as now amended by the Council, would be quite strong enough in its terms to give effect to the hon. member's view.

MR. SIMPSON said that, as mover of the original resolution in this House, he was inclined to fall in with the view expressed by the Premier, in order to secure the object aimed at. He still regarded the bargain as a sordid one; but the most expedient course, in present circumstances, would be to accept the amendment which the Council had made in the resolution as passed by this House.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported to the House, and report adopted.

Ordered—that a message be sent to the Legislative Council, informing them that the Assembly had agreed to the amendment made by the Council in the resolution.

THE PREMIER (acting on the suggestion of the Speaker) further moved "That an address be presented to his Excellency the Governor, requesting his Excellency to forward the resolution of Parliament to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

Put and passed.

MESSAGES—CONCURRENCE IN BILLS.

Several messages from the Legislative Council, formally intimating concurrence in Bills, were received at this sitting.

At 7:55 p.m., the SPEAKER left the chair, awaiting further messages expected from the Council.

At four minutes past 11 p.m., the SPEAKER resumed the chair.

The only other messages received from the Council, after this interval, were formal intimations of concurrence in Bills; particularly the Council's concurrence in the Menzies Railway Bill, as to which there had previously been a difference of opinion.

ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of the PREMIER, the House agreed to adjourn, at its rising, until the next day, at 4 p.m., for the prorogation at 4:30 p.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at eight minutes past 11 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Tuesday, 27th October, 1896.

Vote of Thanks to President and Officials—Prorogation.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

VOTE OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT AND OFFICIALS.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. Wittenoom): Before the session terminates, I desire to propose a vote of thanks to you, sir, as President, and to the

officials of the House. We have had a great many sittings, some of which have been of a prolonged character, and it must have been rather tiring at times for you, sir, to remain in the chair for so many hours without interruption. We all, I am sure, appreciate your efforts, and we desire to thank you for the care and attention you have given to the work. We understand that you are about to take a short holiday, and we all unite in wishing you a pleasant trip, and hope that you will return to discharge your duties in an even more satisfactory way than you have done in the past. We also appreciate the manner in which the officers of the House have carried out their duties. They have always been attentive and careful, and have rendered every possible assistance to hon. members. We are now about to break up, and I trust we shall be able to look back on the past with satisfaction. We have had many debates, some of which have been of an acrimonious nature, but I hope that any little disagreements we may have had will not make any difference to us outside the House. These debates do good, for they bring out every point and enable the people to judge of both sides of the question. If, during the session, I have unintentionally said anything to offend any hon. member, I trust he will forgive me. I now move a vote of thanks to yourself, sir, as President, and to the officials of the House.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: I have great pleasure in seconding this vote of thanks. I do not myself believe that, however we may differ in debate, it will make the slightest difference in our personal relations. We all fully recognise that there are various sides to every question, and that no 21 gentlemen can be expected to meet and all agree on any subject. While we give the Government credit for being actuated by the best of motives, they must give to those who differ from them equal credit. I have great pleasure in wishing you, sir, every enjoyment during your absence; and I trust that you will return reinvigorated and able to carry out the duties of your high office more ably and with greater satisfaction to yourself than in the years which have gone by. I may say that while you have occupied the position of President you have given such entire satisfaction

that I feel that it will make matters very difficult for your successor. The statement of the hon. the Minister in reference to the officers I fully endorse. We all recognise that we are indebted in a great measure to the Clerk of Parliaments for the many hints which he has given to us, and particularly to those members who have been somewhat strange to our procedure.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I thank you, gentlemen, for your kind expressions towards myself and towards the officials. I am not sure that I shall be able to take a holiday, but if I am I trust I shall return to my duties with fresh vigour, and shall be able to give more satisfaction in the future than I have in the past. I should not have been able to carry out the duties of President even so successfully as I have done had it not been for the able assistance of Mr. Lee Steere, the Clerk of Parliaments. I thank hon. members for their appreciation of my efforts, and for the kind words expressed in regard to the officials of the House.

THE PROROGATION.

The Governor's Deputy (Sir Alexander C. Onslow) entered the chamber and commanded the attendance of the members of the Legislative Assembly, who having arrived, His Excellency, after assenting to a number of Bills, *vide* pages 1239-40, *post*, delivered the following speech:—

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

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

“I have pleasure in releasing you from
“your Parliamentary duties.

“2. The projects which you have
“approved of, and the legislation which
“you have effected, will remain as
“evidence of your determination to take
“full advantage of the prosperous con-
“dition of the finances, by placing the
“colony in a position to develop its
“various and important resources.

“3. The Constitution Amendment
“Act which you have passed, and which
“has already been transmitted for the
“signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.
“will, so soon as it is proclaimed in the
“colony, provide for an increase of

"members in both Houses of the Legislature, and will particularly provide for additional representation of the people living on the goldfields of the colony.

"4. The scheme for supplying the Coolgardie Goldfields with water will be of immense advantage to the goldfields, and will at the same time assure investors of the confidence of Parliament in the richness and permanency of the gold deposits.

"5. The purchase of the whole of the interests of the Western Australian Land Company, which you have approved, has given much satisfaction.

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—

"6. I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service, and for the authority to raise and expend loan funds for many urgent and necessary public works.

"MR. PRESIDENT AND HONOURABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.—

"7. The Act you have passed, authorising this colony to take part in the framing, acceptance, and enactment of a Federal Constitution for Australasia, will enable this colony to exercise an influence on a subject which closely affects the future welfare of this continent.

"8. I now prorogue this Parliament to Tuesday, the 23rd March next."

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 27th October, 1896.

Question: Railway extension to Owen's Anchorage—Compliments to Mr. Speaker and officers of the House—Question: Reported removal of cattle yards at East Fremantle—Prorogation: Assent to Bills.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 4 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

QUESTION—RAILWAY EXTENSION TO OWEN'S ANCHORAGE.

MR. SOLOMON, by leave and without notice, asked whether the Premier had considered the request for an extension of the railway at Fremantle to Owen's Anchorage.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said he had not considered it further, and that the subject had not come before him.

COMPLIMENTS TO MR. SPEAKER AND OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): The work of the session having been completed, and as in a few minutes the prorogation will take place, I would like, before we separate, to express on my own behalf, and I am sure I may do so on behalf of all the members of the House, our thanks to you, Mr. Speaker, for the consideration and kindness you have extended to us during the session. Looking back, sir, during the last ten years or more that you have occupied the honourable position of Speaker of this House, I can say that, as the years roll along, our regard and respect for you increase. You have always upheld in this House, with firmness and with dignity, all our privileges; and I am sure I am only speaking what every member must and does feel, when I say that I hope, for many years to come, those who may be members of this House may have the advantage of sitting under your Speakership. During the time you have been the Speaker of this House, now over ten years—and I think it must be some twenty years longer that you have been a member of the Legislature, extending over a period of thirty years altogether—great changes have taken place in