

ADJOURNMENT.

On the motion of Mr. SCOTT, the House adjourned till Tuesday, 20th January, 1891, at 3 o'clock, p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 20th January, 1891.

Opening of Council—Governor's Speech—Election of Chairman of Committees—Officers' Custody Bill: first reading—Address in Reply—Supply Bill: suspension of Rules of Procedure; first reading; second reading; committee; third reading; passed—Adjournment.

OPENING OF COUNCIL.

The Council, in accordance with adjournment, met at 3 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT (Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.) took the chair.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR shortly afterwards entered the Chamber, and took the chair.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The members of the Legislative Assembly, in obedience to His Excellency's command, attended the Chamber, after which His Excellency delivered the following Speech:—

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

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

"The inauguration of Parliamentary and Responsible Government in Western Australia is this day complete.

"2. I found on my arrival, three months ago, that there were a few initial difficulties to be overcome, due partly to a want of definite language in certain sections of the Constitution Act, which

"prevented me from appointing a Responsible Ministry as speedily as I could otherwise have desired; but these are now at an end, and in meeting you to-day, after the re-election of Ministers, it may be said that the Reign of your new Constitution has been fully established.

"3. It is unnecessary for me to remind you of the many benefits which may be expected to follow on the change of Constitution. But you will allow me to express to you my earnest hope that your highest anticipations may be realised, and that while ever remaining, as you are to-day, one of the most loyal provinces of the Empire, the principles of self-Government may be so administered as to promote in the heart of every citizen those sentiments of self-respect and true patriotism which purify political life and can make a community great. As I remarked on a recent occasion, all hearts in the old country are in sympathy with you at this important moment. The Queen herself has been graciously pleased to express the warmest interest in your welfare; her Ministers wish you well; politicians watch with interest the extension of Parliamentary Government to the last of the Australian provinces which can ever receive it; numbers of intending settlers, attracted by recent discussions and events, are probably at this moment turning their attention to your shores; and last but not least, we have the sympathy and good will of the neighboring Eastern Colonies, whose support and assistance were so valuable to us in connection with the recent change, and who see in that change, as we do ourselves, a further step towards the ultimate federation of Australasia.

"4. These are the sentiments which I expressed at the moment of proclaiming your new Constitution. I venture to repeat them to you now, in the course of the few words which I address to you as from myself personally to-day, because time has but served to strengthen my belief in your future prosperity under Responsible Government; and it only remains for me to convey to you the confident hope of Her Majesty's Government that the trust reposed in the Colony will be administered with judgment in the pres-

"ent, and with full regard to the interests of future generations.

"5. It was a great pleasure to me to be able, in obedience to public opinion, to select as your first Prime Minister one who has been identified with your Colony from his childhood, and who in the past has done valuable service to his native land; and it will be a further gratification to me to find that the Government which he has formed is possessed of the confidence of Parliament.

"6. On behalf of my Ministers I have now to observe to you that the short time that has elapsed since their appointment has rendered it impossible for them to prepare much new Legislation for your consideration. Their whole time since the 29th December last, when they took office, has been devoted to taking over their respective departments, investigating the financial position of the Colony, preparing their policy, and arranging at the earliest moment after their re-election to meet Parliament. They have been unwilling to commit the Colony to anything more than was absolutely necessary until they had been brought into personal communication with Parliament, and I anticipate that you will therefore consider it desirable that the present session should not be unduly prolonged. And that, with the exception of certain necessary and pressing measures, new Legislation may, as far as possible, be deferred until next Session.

"7. At the same time my Ministers are keenly alive to the importance of a vigorous though prudent policy in regard to Public Works, and after careful consideration have decided to submit to you a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a total sum of £1,336,000 to be expended on the works enumerated in the schedule of the Bill.

"8. These works include a Railway from Perth to Bunbury and extensions up the Preston River from Boyanup to Minninup Bridge, and from Boyanup to Busselton; a Railway to the Yilgarn Goldfields; a Railway from Geraldton to Mullewa; Harbor Improvements at Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Ashburton, Cossack, and other ports; Telegraph extensions from Flint Cliff to Freshwater Camp in Sharks Bay; from

"Beverley to Broome Hill, along the Great Southern Railway; from Busselton to Cape Leeuwin; as also the completion of the line from Derby to Wyndham. Other projected undertakings include the development of Goldfields and mineral resources; a Lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin; Immigration; Improvements to the Eastern Railway and to the Perth and Guildford Railway Stations; additional Rolling Stock for existing Railway lines; Surveys of Railway lines, and of lands for Agricultural settlement; Public Buildings at various places; and the purchase of a Steam Dredge, for deepening the entrance to Princess Royal Harbor and other ports of the Colony.

"9. You will understand of course that the money will not all be raised at once, and that the Government in raising it will take advantage of the state of the market to do so from time to time on terms most advantageous to the Colony. Furthermore the specific sanction of Parliament will be sought for each separate Railway as soon as the Government is prepared to undertake it, and in all other items Loan Estimates will be submitted to you before the works are undertaken. The present Loan Bill is put forward as indicating the policy of the Government in regard to public works, and your approval of the measure will enable the Government to proceed without delay in arranging for their due execution.

"10. My Ministers confidently believe that the policy of public works now recommended to Your Honorable House will be productive of great benefit to the Colony. It will, they are confident, attract population, develop our mineral resources, encourage the settlement of the land, greatly increase facilities of transit, and will be the means of placing the people of the Colony in a position to develop its great and varied resources.

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

"11. The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure will be submitted for your consideration. The Expenditure has been as closely scrutinised as the time at the disposal of Ministers would permit. The change of Government has necessarily involved some increase of

"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 intimated 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 arrangements for this highly important service. 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 consideration the important question of the re-organisation of the Works and Railway 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 responsible 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 question closely connected with that of

"future federation, namely, that of railway communication between this Colony and the Eastern Colonies, may probably be fully discussed, and for this and other reasons I trust that the Parliamentary 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 responsibilities 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 Parliament. 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 announcement 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 difficulties 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 Busseiton. 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

of 1,000,000 square miles, capable of sustaining an infinite number of people, with every variety of climate which the Torrid and Temperate Zones present; with every variety of soil; with every variety of produce, and which has been governed by the Crown for nearly 62 years. This vast territory, sir, has been handed over by the Crown to 45,000 people; but really the change of Government is slight. British rule has ensured us peace; we are distracted by no religious or political feuds; we read of war, but do not feel it; political animosity does not distract us; no man is diverted from his daily avocation by the exigencies of the State; and if our rulers are not the same persons their motives are the same, these motives being the public good. And here let me say that we are free from party feeling. There is nothing, sir, in the case of our money votes that should lead to discussions such as take place elsewhere. We have no questions such as the fortifications or the building of ships of war to consider; we have simply to discuss measures that should tend to our own good. Of its Ministers the colony may well be proud, for all are men who have taken a prominent part in its legislation—all are tried, and may fairly be said to be the choice, not of one side or the other, but of their fellow colonists at large. There are no party cries, and it is difficult to say what has led the electors to choose their members as they have done, except it be on the grounds of character. No one can live here in the fierce light that exists and be selected unless it be that he is liked and is known to be worthy. Beyond the desire of place and power—an honest desire to exercise that power which place gives, I do not think that any one of the Ministry has taken office merely for the sake of its emoluments, or of exercising power for the sake of the personal advantages it confers. Surely it is no small thing to be enabled to congratulate our Ministers that they take office under such circumstances, for I am certain that no one is to be found who will say that the £600 or £700 they receive is sufficient of itself to induce one of these gentlemen to leave his business. These gentlemen devote themselves to the public, and that public must be contemptible indeed that begrudges them the meagre

sum that is set apart for Ministers. The 7th and 8th paragraphs of the Speech show to what objects the attention of Ministers has been directed. They have been read once before, but I will read them again. Paragraph 7 says: "My Ministers are keenly alive to the importance of a vigorous though prudent policy in regard to Public Works, and after careful consideration have decided to submit to you a Loan Bill to authorise the raising of a total sum of £1,336,000, to be expended on the works enumerated in the schedule of the Bill." Why say £1,336,000? Surely £1,500,000 would be as well expended, and it is only £140,000 more—not much for Ministers to scramble over if they were inclined to do so. Paragraph 8 says: "These works include a railway from Perth to Bunbury and extensions up the Preston River from Boyanup to Minninup Bridge, and from Boyanup to Busselton; a railway to the Yilgarn Goldfields; a railway from Geraldton to Mullewa; Harbor Improvements at Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Ashburton, Cossack and other ports; Telegraph extension from Flint Cliff to Freshwater Camp, in Sharks Bay; from Beverley to Broomehill, along the Great Southern Railway; from Busselton to Cape Leeuwin; as also the completion of the line from Derby to Wyndham. Other projected undertakings include the development of Goldfields and mineral resources; a Lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin; Immigration; Improvements to the Eastern Railway and to the Perth and Guildford Railway Stations; additional Rolling Stock for existing Railway lines; Surveys of Railway lines, and of land for Agricultural settlement; Public Buildings at various places; and the purchase of a Steam Dredge for deepening the entrance to Princess Royal Harbor and other ports of the Colony." Ministers are not such fools as to believe, nor are we such fools as to believe, that all these works can be done for £1,336,000. Multiply it by 10, and the chances are we will be nearer the mark. At the same time what Ministers have done is to place before the colony those works they consider of public necessity. Paragraph 9 says: "You will understand of course that the money will not all be raised at once." Let us hope not. It goes on:—

"And that the Government in raising it will take advantage of the state of the market to do so from time to time on terms most advantageous to the Colony. Furthermore, the specific sanction of Parliament will be sought for each separate railway as soon as the Government is prepared to undertake it, and in all other items Loan Estimates will be submitted to you before the works are undertaken. The present Loan Bill is put forward as indicating the policy of the Government in regard to public works, and your approval of the measure will enable the Government to proceed without delay in arranging for their due execution." It does not say, Sir, that the loan is required to enable the Government to execute works, but it enables them to say what are the works of the most pressing nature, and I think Ministers deserve our thanks for the honest manner in which they have laid their views before us, and have asked us for an instalment of £1,336,000 to go on with. It is strange that with all the mineral wealth of the Colony the gold and tin should have been reserved for the present crisis. That gold exists in abundance in the reefs of Yilgarn has now been fairly demonstrated, and that alone will warrant the construction of a Railway to that district. Look, Sir, at what would be the advantages of such a Railway, and if there be these advantages surely it is a matter that demands the instant attention of the Government. The experience of the Eastern Colonies shows us the value—the surpassing value—of metallic ores to any new country. The copper of the Burra Mines gave to South Australia an impetus which nothing could permanently arrest. So too with the gold of New South Wales, of Victoria, and New Zealand, and the gold and tin of Tasmania. They attracted population, and that population developed the other resources of these colonies. All these resources we have stored up by no niggard hand, and it only remains for the country to supply the Government with the means, and for the Government to carry out the work of constructing a railroad to these fields to induce a larger population and to further develop the mines. Besides this, its construction would be the means of opening up fresh locations, and so induce a fur-

ther settlement of the soil. But we are not dependent on this alone. We have timber; we have an unsurpassable climate and good soil. Our climate makes the colony the natural habitat of the vine and the olive. All these things we have, and they have been given to us with no meagre hand. Ministers need praise for the exposition of their general policy. They point out generally what is intended. Everyone must coincide with them in that. Which work is to be selected for primary undertaking is left to the experience which the future shall give. The Governor's Speech indulges in no clap-trap. It presents in plain language the ideas of the first Government of the Colony constituted as it is of its own men. It promises nothing. It shows what patrimony the colonists have and states how they will develop it. If they get money to develop it, and people to settle it, their work is done. There are few who will differ from them and will not help them. Their course is easy; they have nothing like an Opposition who will oust them for the sake of place. If members in either House sit opposite to them it will be for the sake of discussion rather than of resistance. That, I know, will be my course, and I believe it will be the course of those who sit in this House with me, for I think that an unstable Government is the greatest curse that can beset a State. We have a population of 45,000. We have almost no poor here. There is not a man of the age of 21 who cannot by honest industry acquire the franchise. We have yet to feel the weight, the depressing and degrading weight, of the political pettifogging adventurer and pre-eminent-ly the organiser and leader of strikes. These are the men who prevent development, but they are not going to impede our progress or drag us to their own level here. As yet the franchise is a prize which every man can earn. It is the due of honest labour and it is the boundary mark set between barbarism and civilization. To this the Speech makes no allusion, yet it must be present to the minds of honorable members. To universal suffrage I shall give an unwavering resistance. I speak of myself personally, although I do not doubt but that many will think as I do. I will conclude by reminding

hon. members of both Houses that it is their duty, and I believe it is their inclination, to support Ministers, whose work is arduous. We must consider that we are all, whether in or out of office, to assist in governing the country, and that largely as the country they govern is endowed by Nature, political dishonesty cannot strip it of its solid worth. Political mistakes may be made, but personal honesty is the surest guide to the fortune and well being of those they govern. I am not a place hunter. I have before this had a place in the Legislature, and I would not have said so much as I have if this were not the most fitting occasion for declaring what course I shall pursue in common with many others in the changed economy of the State. Not that I wish or seek to hold myself up as an example, socially or politically, but as expressing the views which I entertain without fear, favor or affection, or hope of reward. I second, Sir, the motion of the hon. member.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the Council.

Question—put and passed.

SUPPLY—MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The President announced the receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:—"The Legislative Assembly having this day passed a Bill intituled 'An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of Sixty Thousand Pounds to the Service of the Year 1891,' present the same to the Legislative Council for its concurrence."

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton), by leave, without notice, moved, "That so much as necessary of the forms and usages of the Imperial Parliament as at present guide the proceedings of this Council be suspended, in order that the Supply Bill just received from the Legislative Assembly may be passed through all its stages at the present sitting."

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT seconded.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I would like to point out to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary that it is not usual to move the suspension of the Standing Orders without some explanation being first given as to the necessity of such a course.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably that will be done when the Hon. the Colonial Secretary introduces the Bill.

Question—put and passed.

The Bill was then introduced, and read a first time.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton), in moving the second reading, said the Bill was to provide the Government with means to carry on with until the Estimates could be dealt with. The other branch of the Legislature, which had the right and privilege of passing Money Bills, had agreed to the measure in a very short time, and that was sufficient to show the urgency of the matter. The Bill would only give the Government £60,000 to carry on with, as he had said, until the Estimates could be dealt with.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT said there could be no doubt as to the necessity for passing the Bill, but at the same time after what had fallen from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, it would be as well if the privileges of both branches of the Legislature were defined at the outset. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary referred to the right of the other branch of the Legislature to pass Money Bills. It was as well that hon. members should know that both Houses had equal rights in regard to the passing of these Bills, although it was the privilege of the lower branch to initiate them. They had no right, however, to pass them there and send them here with a demand that they should be passed.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the Hon. the Colonial Secretary meant that it had gone through all the necessary forms in the other branch of the Legislature.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I said the Bill had passed through the other House, and that showed the necessity of it.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Yes; but the Hon. the Colonial Secretary put it as a right the other House possessed.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. G. Shenton): I made a mistake if I put it in that way.

The Question, That the Bill be now read a second time, was then put and passed.

The Bill was then taken through its other stages, and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT.

At six o'clock the House adjourned until Thursday, 22nd January, at three p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 20th January, 1891.

Communication from His Excellency the Governor—
Message (No. 1) from His Excellency the Governor
—Suspension of Standing Orders—Election of
Chairman of Committees—Supply (£60,000)—Ways
and Means—Supply Bill—Privileges Bill—His Ex-
cellency the Governor's Speech—The Address in
Reply—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 3 o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Shortly after 3 o'clock a Message was conveyed by the Usher of the Black Rod that His Excellency the Governor requested the attendance of the Speaker and hon. members of the Assembly in the Council Chamber. Accordingly Mr. Speaker with members of the House went to attend His Excellency, who delivered his Opening Speech.

On the resumption of the sitting,

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

MESSAGE No 1: SUPPLY (£60,000.)

"In accordance with the provisions of "Section 67 of the Constitution Act, "1889, the Governor recommends to the "Legislative Assembly that provision be "made to the extent of £60,000 towards "defraying the expenses of the various "Departments and Services of the Colony "during the year ending on the last day "of December, 1891.

"Government House, Perth, 20th Jan-
uary, 1891."

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved: That so much of the forms and usages of the Imperial Parliament at present guiding our procedure, pending the adoption of Standing Orders, be suspended, as will admit of the immediate constitution of the Committee of Supply, and Ways and Means, and of the reporting and adopting of Resolutions therefrom on the same day on which they shall have passed these Committees; also of the passing of a Bill through all its stages in one day.

Agreed to.

THE TREASURER (Hon. J. Forrest) moved that His Excellency's Message be referred to the Committee of Supply. It was the desire of the Government to have the Supply Bill passed through all its stages at once, in order that they might be placed in possession of funds. As hon. members were aware, up to the present time, there had been no vote for the public service for this year, to cover any expenditure incurred by the Govern-ment, and therefore the Government were desirous of placing themselves in possession of funds at the very earliest moment they constitutionally could. He had therefore to move, in the first place, that His Excellency's message be referred to the Committee of Supply, when that committee was constituted.

Agreed to.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF
COMMITTEES.

THE PREMIER (Hon. J. Forrest) said it now became his pleasing duty to move that the House appoint a Chairman of Committees, and he had very great pleasure, upon behalf of the Govern-ment, in proposing that Mr. George Randell, the hon. member for the elect-oral district of the Moore, be appointed Chairman of Committees of the whole House. The hon. member was an old colonist, and had sat in the House for many years as the representative of the city, and throughout his whole career, whether in the House or out of it, he had always earned the respect and con-fidence of the community. It therefore gave him great pleasure to propose that Mr. Randell should preside over their deliberations as Chairman of Committees