

"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

the colony; changes that only those who are acquainted with its condition in those days can fully understand and appreciate. Those great changes, I am glad to say, are for the better. Great changes have also taken place in this House; for we can notice, in our mind, many vacancies left by men who have occupied prominent places in this House, some of them having been with us until recently; and I think it is a matter for congratulation that you, Mr. Speaker, have been able for so long a period to take a part in the conduct of the public affairs of the colony, and I am sure you have the respect of every one in this House. You always had that respect, and I am glad to say you continue to hold it. I am glad also to be able to say that, although we often differ in this House, and perhaps party feeling runs a little high at times, still it must be pleasing to every one, as it is to me, that to-day we part, all of us, on excellent terms of friendship and mutual regard. I do not believe there is the least bit of bitterness in the mind of any of us, one towards the other, but that we all part to-day on terms of friendship. As hon. members all know, it is very probable that, before we meet here again, there will be a general election; and I can only hope that all those members who desire to seek re-election will be re-elected. I am sure it will be pleasant for us to meet again, and to continue our work; doing our best for the colony, and endeavouring to promote its interests in every way that is possible. I again, on behalf of the House—and perhaps some other members would like to say a few words—desire to express to you, Mr. Speaker, the friendship we all entertain for you, and the esteem in which you are held. I should like also to thank the officers of the House for their continued courtesy, and for the assistance they are always willing to render to every member of the House. I am sure they, too, have our best thanks and our regards.

MR. LEAKE: If I may be permitted to add a few words to what the hon. the Premier has said, I shall be glad to do so. Although it has not been my privilege to be here during the present session, I have from past experience known with what ability you, Mr. Speaker, approach all the subjects which are brought before this House; and when I say, sir, that

you have what I think must be more dear to you than perhaps anything else, that is the profound respect of every member of Parliament, you will, I am sure, believe me. If I had been here I am sure I should not have been called to order more frequently than other hon. members of the House; and I always notice that, when any member has been called to order, it has only been under circumstances which have justified the Speaker's rebuke. I gladly offer my tribute of praise to your ability, sir, in presiding over this Assembly; and I may say it is not only in this Parliament that your ability is recognised, but that whenever our institutions are represented by you outside the colony, your name, sir, becomes well known, and it is a pleasure to travel and hear our Speaker always so favourably mentioned elsewhere.

MR. ILLINGWORTH: I desire to add, if it is possible to add, my congratulations on the successful termination of another session of Parliament under your able guidance, sir, as Speaker of this House. It has not been my pleasure to be so long associated with you, sir, as have some other members in this House; but during the few years I have had the privilege of holding a position here, it has been indeed a pleasure, from the standpoint which is the subject of our present remarks. In the session now closing, and in the sessions which have preceded it, I am certain that every member who has sat in this House must have felt that under your guidance, sir, he has been directed aright, and that the privileges of this House, as well as the privileges of individual members, have been carefully conserved. I desire to express the hope that you may be long spared to preside over this House; and that when you retire from it, under any circumstances whatever, it may be with the consciousness that you are carrying with you, not only the good feeling of those who may then be members of this House, but also of every member who may have sat in it during the many years you have presided over it.

THE SPEAKER (Hon. Sir J. G. Lee Steere): Honourable members,—It cannot but be extremely gratifying to me to find that, at the termination of the present Parliament, Sir John Forrest as the

head of the Ministry, and Mr. Leake as leader of the Opposition, also Mr. Illingworth, have so kindly referred to my services whilst occupying this very important position. It is my endeavour, in presiding over this House, always to act with the most perfect impartiality, and to take care that the rights of the minority, at any rate, shall be safely guarded. I know it is sometimes thought that the Standing Orders and the practices of Parliament, under the British system, give undue advantage, perhaps, to the minority of the House, as against majorities, and in that view the Speaker must have peculiar difficulty in guiding the House; but, having made a close study of this question, I have come to the conclusion, which I think there is no doubt of, that all these practices of Parliament and the Standing Orders are designed to protect the minority. That is the feeling I have always held; and, if I continue to occupy the position of Speaker, it is the view which I shall always try to uphold. As hon. members know, and I need scarcely remind you, the Speaker of this House would be perfectly powerless if it were not for your support; for he derives no power from his position, except through the willing support of members themselves. I have always had the unanimous support of the members of this House, and, therefore, have been able to carry out my duties in a satisfactory manner. Of course I am not able to say whether I shall continue to occupy this position, after the present Parliament is dissolved and a new Assembly is elected, and we do not even know whether I or any other member of the present House will be returned here by the electors; but I can only say that, if I am re-elected to this House, I shall place my services at the disposal of the new Assembly for election to the Speakership, which is a position I feel proud of; and so long as I continue to hold the confidence of honourable members, I do not think I can occupy a position more honourable than that of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

QUESTION—REPORTED REMOVAL OF CATTLE YARDS, EAST FREMANTLE.

MR. A. FORREST, by leave and without notice, asked the Commissioner of

Railways whether it was true that the cattle yards at East Fremantle were to be removed for railway extension; and, if so, what provision was intended to be made for the cattle trade at Fremantle.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS (Hon. F. H. Piesse) replied that he was not aware anything had yet been done by the Railway Department in this direction, nor that a final decision had been come to; but it was decided that another situation would have to be provided for the cattle yards at East Fremantle, and it was possible that the land at present used for the yards would have to be resumed for other purposes. Some other site must be provided for the cattle yards, for the reason that the present site would be required for railway purposes.

PROROGATION.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

At 4:35 p.m., the Usher of the Black Rod delivered the usual summons from the Governor's Deputy.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and members of the Assembly proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, where the GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY (His Honour Chief Justice Onslow) was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bills:—

21. "*An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and from moneys to credit of the General Loan Fund, to the Services of the Year ending the last day of June, One thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.*"

22. "*An Act to amend 'The Transfer of Land Act, 1893.'*"

23. "*An Act for closing portions of certain Streets or Roads in the Perth Park Reserve.*"

24. "*An Act providing for the Pensions of the Judges of the Supreme Court.*"

25. "*An Act to regulate the Carriage of Passengers by Vessels engaged in the Coast-ing Trade.*"

26. "*An Act to make provision for the Purchase of Lands suitable for immediate settlement, and for facilitating the better Settlement of the People on the Land.*"

27. "*An Act to amend the Law of Evidence.*"

28. "An Act to authorise the raising of a sum of Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Pounds by Loan, for the Construction of certain Public Works, and other purposes."

29. "An Act to consolidate the unrepaid Balances of Loans."

30. "An Act to facilitate the Administration of Justice and the taking of Statutory Declarations."

31. "An Act to amend the Laws of Evidence."

32. "An Act to enable Western Australia to take part in the Framing, Acceptance, and Enactment of a Federal Constitution for Australasia."

33. "An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Cue to Nannine."

34. "An Act to amend the Railways Amendment Act, 1879."

35. "An Act to amend the Bastardy Laws Act, 1875."

36. "An Act to amend the Goldfields Act, 1895."

37. "An Act to authorise the construction of a Railway from Kalgoorlie to Kanowna."

38. "An Act to amend the Jury Act, 1871."

39. "An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from York to Greenhills."

40. "An Act to amend the Public Health Act, 1886."

41. "An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Bayswater to Perth Racecourse."

42. "An Act to amend the Lands Resumption Act, 1894."

43. "An Act for the Purchase by the Government of Western Australia of the whole of the Interests of the West Australian Land Company, Limited, in Western Australia, including the Railway from Beverley to Albany, commonly called the Great Southern Railway."

44. "An Act to authorise the Construction of a Railway from Kalgoorlie to Menzies."

"An Act to empower the Diocesan Trustees of the Church of England in Western Australia to sell, mortgage, or lease Perth allotments H7 and H1, and to apply the proceeds or rents and profits thereof subject to and in accordance with certain trusts."

"An Act to repeal and re-enact with amendments the provisions of 'An Act to incorporate the Shareholders of the Western Australian Bank, and for other purposes.'"

The GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY delivered the Speech proroguing Parliament (vide pages 1236-7, ante).

The session then closed.