

16. Report of geological exploration in Western Australia.
17. Papers on sericulture.
18. Report of Inspector of Schools.
19. Report on Crown lands and surveys.
20. Blue Book for 1872.
21. Land Regulations, proclaimed 22nd May, 1873.
22. A Bill to simplify the titles to and the dealing with estates in land.
23. Letter from J. S. Harris Esq., Resident Magistrate at Busselton, relative to grants from public funds in aid of agricultural societies.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. STEERE, consequent upon the unavoidable absence of a number of hon. members, and with the view of securing their presence before the business of the session was proceeded with, moved that the House adjourn until Tuesday next, the 1st proximo.

Mr. LOGUE seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), on behalf of the Government, offered no objection to the adjournment, but intimated that, if the House desired it, the Government was prepared to proceed with sessional business without any delay.

Question put and passed.

The Council adjourned at 3 p.m.

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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 1st July, 1873.*

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—First Readings—Leave of Absence—Papers Tabled—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. MARMION, in moving the Address in Reply to the Vice-Regal Speech, said as the House would be afforded another opportunity of considering the measures embodied in the gubernatorial utterance, he would at present merely glance through it. He simply echoed the introductory paragraphs, but in alluding to that portion of the Speech which treated of harbor improvements he dwelt at considerable length upon the primary claims of

Fremantle to a recognition at the hands of the Council in dealing with the harbor question. It was gratifying to him that into any scheme entitled to consideration proximity to Fremantle must enter. It had been the fashion of a section of our local press to sneer at its vested interests and at the claims which, as the chief port of the colony, it was entitled to put forward. It would be as well to remind those journalists that Fremantle was the second town of importance in the colony; that its inhabitants numbered nearly one-eighth of the whole population of the colony; and, he might add, that many of those inhabitants were energetic colonists who by their own indomitable perseverance had obtained an honorable position—men whose patriotic efforts were directed to promote the best interests of the colony. With regard to the paragraph in the Vice-Regal Speech which dealt with the question of free trade, the hon. member hoped the House would reverse its former decision upon that point, and replace on the free list corn, grain, meal, and all kinds of horse feed, of which the local markets were now completely bare—a state of things which was a positive disgrace to a colony like our own. As to the other portions of the Speech, the hon. member expressed strong approval of the policy of which they treated.

Sir Thomas COCKBURN-CAMPBELL seconded the motion, the hon. baronet in the same manner expressing his satisfaction with the gubernatorial utterance. He thought it a matter for congratulation, that notwithstanding the adverse circumstances which the colony has had to contend with, the tendency of His Excellency's policy had been progressive. He was firmly of opinion that, under the influence of that policy, the colony might look forward to further progress in the future. As a step in that direction he might allude to the probable result of the official visit paid by the hon. the Colonial Secretary to the neighbouring colonies, and of his successful efforts there to make known the resources which in this country are opened to those able and willing to assist in their development. Tradesmen, merchants, and others, when desirous of expanding their trade and connection, or of making their wants known, had resort to copious advertisements. In his opinion what Western Australia chiefly required was a good advertisement, setting forth its capabilities; and perhaps we could not have a better advertisement than the presence of our Colonial Secretary at the recent Intercolonial Conference, and our exhibits at the Sydney Exhibition. Doubtless the mining resources of the colony were among its richest treasures,

and their development must be a matter of the utmost importance; and as a railway appeared to be necessary to the utilisation of those resources, and a proposal to that end was to be laid before the House, he hoped it would receive favourable consideration. He did not think the colony was in a position to borrow extensively for public works that could not be proved to be of a reproductive public character; but if the railway contemplated in one of the paragraphs of the Vice-Regal Speech could be proved to be a remunerative undertaking, he thought the money proposed to be raised for its construction would be money well spent. Reverting to the clauses which dealt with free trade, he hoped the House would see the wisdom of the suggestion made by His Excellency to remove the obnoxious prohibitive duties which had been imposed last session upon such necessary articles as corn, grain, meal, and horse feed,—duties which had already proved of such great inconvenience to the community. By protection a tax is placed upon progress; it is the means adopted by a short-sighted generation to enable them to continue their miserable existence in the same manner as others have done heretofore. Having briefly referred to the other subjects alluded to in the Speech, the hon. baronet seconded the motion before the House.

Mr. STEERE complimented Mr. Marmion and Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell on the manner in which they had dealt with the Address; the former was already known in the House as an able and fluent speaker; and the latter, judging from his maiden speech, would prove a valuable acquisition to the House. With regard to the material progress which it was alleged in the Vice-Regal Speech the colony was making, he could not agree that we had made any political advance. There certainly had been some limited powers of self-government accorded to the various districts of the colony, but so far as the supreme Legislative Council was concerned he considered that the colony had made no advance whatever. Every member of that House must have been gratified to learn that the revenue of the colony was in such a prosperous state; but he would like to know whether this satisfactory state of the country's finances had been caused by the extra duties placed upon various articles at the last session of the Council. If the increase in the revenue was attributable to the latter cause, then, he conceived, there was not much ground for congratulation. He quite agreed with the hon. member who had moved the Address in Reply that lowering the telegraph charges throughout the colony was extremely advisable, and

doubtless the result would be beneficial to the colony and a boon to the public. There had been placed on the Table of the House a report upon harbor improvements, which the Council would doubtless take into its careful consideration. He would therefore at present merely remark that although at the last session he had supported the Government scheme of surveying the Challenger Passage, the result of that survey had been such as in his opinion would render it expedient to abandon all idea of expending any money on Cockburn Sound; and if a loan for harbor improvements should be raised, such improvements ought to be made, at Fremantle, which had paramount claims upon the consideration of the House. With regard to the proposed loan for railway construction at Geraldton, he thought the House ought to exercise the utmost caution before it attempted to raise any further public loans for any purpose; especially when it was borne in mind the fiscal burden which was likely to be thrown upon us probably necessitating an immense outlay, perhaps more than we can bear—by the claims made upon the colony by the Imperial Government on convict account. As to the question of free trade, he utterly repudiated the assertions made by the supporters of that policy that the present dearth of corn and grain in this colony is, in any way, attributable to the protective duties placed on those articles last session. Such an assertion was unfair, unjust, and unfounded. Having disposed of the sins of commission in the Vice-Regal Speech he would next proceed to the sins of omission, of which there were two flagrant ones. In the first place no allusion was made to what is admitted on all hands to be a desideratum—steam communication on our coast. Last session hon. members were pressed—unduly, he might say—to agree to a proposal put forward by the Government in regard of steam communication so that the proposal might go home by the then next outgoing mail, and we were assured we should have a steamer in a few months; but no steamer had yet put in an appearance. He had, within the last few days, received information which led him to believe that the long-expected steamer would not come at all! The agent of the company when questioned on the matter, had certainly been very taciturn, and there appeared to have been some want of caution on the part of the Government in not having such a contract drawn out as would have compelled the other contracting party to have placed a steamer on our coast before this. Another omission in the Speech was the subject of immigration, which was daily becoming a question of great importance. The

difficulty of obtaining labor was becoming quite serious, and interfered detrimentally with agricultural operations. The demand for female domestic servants, too, was far in excess of the supply, and he hoped some more liberal scheme of immigration than the present system would be adopted by the House.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) commenced with a happy illustration of the parable of the 10 talents, comparing this colony—inasmuch as comparatively little or no efforts had yet been made to develop what resources it is known to possess—to the servant who had kept his talent laid up in a napkin. The hon. gentleman did not propose to review the paragraphs of the Vice-Regal Speech *seriatim*. In alluding to that portion of the hon. member for Wellington's speech relating to harbour improvements he could not agree with Mr. Steere in putting such improvements at Fremantle pre-eminently before any other scheme; he certainly looked upon that work—important though it was—as one of secondary consideration. The cultivation of the natural produce of the colony, the development of its vast and varied mineral resources, these were essential elements of progress, the fundamental principles of prosperity. To enjoy them, improved facilities for transit were absolutely indispensable; and he did not see how those facilities were to be obtained but by means of railway communication. No less than 10,000 acres of mineral land had already been taken up in the Champion Bay district under the new Mineral Land Regulations, and the question whether these are worked or not, whether that district is to advance in the rapid way which it is capable of advancing, depends upon the chances of a railway being constructed to facilitate the removal of ore. While on the subject of land he might inform the House that the revenue from that source for the past year exceeded the estimate, and, as yet, the land revenue for the current year is in the same satisfactory state, while at the same time the scrip issued to the Western Australian Timber Company has all been floated, and without any injury, but rather benefit, accruing to the revenue of the colony. The hon. gentleman cordially supported the proposal to assist individual enterprise, by putting means at the disposal of the Government to conduct prospecting on a systematic scale, and to test the richness of the quartz reefs, already known in many cases to be auriferous, which abound in various districts throughout the colony.

Mr. LOGUE said that he saw no necessity for entering on a discussion of the various paragraphs *seriatim*; the Speech had been

ably reviewed by members on both sides of the House, and anything he could say would be to a great extent reiteration. Generally, he agreed with the hon. member for Wellington although on some matters which he would mention he dissented from him. He thought we were hardly justified yet in predicting what would be the harbor of the greatest importance in the colony. The recent vast discovery of minerals at the north led him (Mr Logue) to believe that at no distant day the port of Champion Bay would stand second to none. It was undoubtedly a good thing to have a fine harbor, but he thought that encouraging the development of our mineral resources was an object of primary importance. After further reviewing the Vice-Regal Speech, the hon. member referred in graceful terms to the allusion already made by the hon. the Colonial Secretary with regard to the sad loss the colony had sustained by the death, during the recess, of three members of the Council, to whose memory the hon. gentleman paid a very graceful tribute, which was evidently endorsed by every member in the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) said: It is not uncommon when a gentleman entertains a mixed assemblage of guests that they while fully appreciating the entertainment, yet criticise the completeness of the *menu*. Some wonder why this and that dish is absent, others why another is not more piquantly flavoured. In the same manner when the Governor of a colony assembles his guests at their Council Chamber, and places before them not only the bill of fare of a day, but a fare proposed for a whole community for the succeeding 12 months, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the programme should be more or less severely criticised, that one should wonder why this political dish was not present and why that had not been more highly seasoned. But, dropping metaphor, I must say that the remarks which have been offered on either side of the House, in reviewing the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, have been characterised by exceeding good taste and good temper; and I think that the commencement of our proceedings augurs well not only for the future conduct of the session, but for beneficial results being derived therefrom. Reverting again to the simile already adopted, I will simply state my firm belief that the legislative bill of fare which His Excellency has placed before the House will, when discussed, be found to contain very few dishes that will not be exceedingly digestible, as well as pleasant to the taste. The hon. member who moved the Address has, with his usual good taste, expressed

all that I think was necessary that he should do, and he has done so I am sure in a manner which—although there may be some of his remarks in which all hon. members may not be able to concur—cannot possibly offend the prejudice of any man, and which cannot in any way be deemed objectionable. The constituency of Fremantle is fortunate in having succeeded in securing for their representative a gentleman in every way so worthy to fill the place of him whose loss the hon. member himself in common with us all, must thoroughly deplore. The maiden speech of the hon. baronet who seconded the motion for the Address is a speech couched in modest terms and appropriate language. It gives promise of his future usefulness in this House; and, in thoroughly concurring in the praise bestowed by the hon. member for Wellington, I will only say that the hon. baronet bids fair to be a worthy successor to the hon. member who has been—shall I say?—promoted from a seat selected to a seat elected. With regard to the Governor's Speech, and the observations made thereon, I have no intention of trespassing on the patience of the House by any lengthy review of it; but I think I should be wrong if I passed over what first fell from the hon. member for Wellington when he said that the gist if not the text of speeches at the opening of parliaments elsewhere were usually known before the assembling of the House. I must certainly join issue with the hon. gentleman on that point; for I think if there is one thing above another which is kept a secret from Parliament until its delivery, that is the Queen's Speech. Of course it is perfectly well known that certain questions will be dealt with in the Royal utterance, but how it is proposed to deal with those questions is not made known. In other and more advanced colonies than our own, possessed of representative institutions, when the Vice-Regal Speech is going to be delivered a copy of it is generally forwarded some few hours before its delivery to the Leader of the Opposition. That, I believe, is also the rule adopted in England. I quite agree with the hon. member that the Speech of the Governor is a most important document in a colony like this; it not only reviews what has taken place during the preceding 12 months of the history of the colony, but also points out what course it is proposed to be adopted for the succeeding year; and I am very sure that this honorable House will give the Speech such attention as an utterance emanating from the source which it does deserves. With reference to the opening paragraph, in which His Excellency alludes to the reply made by the House to his previous Address, though to a certain extent I agree with

the hon. member for Wellington that the reply to the Vice-Regal Speech, especially in a colony like this, where we have no distinct political parties, is as a rule a mere echo or reflex of the Speech itself; still, if I mistake not, the hon. member himself was one of the committee appointed last year to prepare the Address in Reply, and in agreeing to it he must in a measure have concurred in the sentiments it conveyed. I do not mean to say that he or any other hon. member appointed on such committees are expected to bind themselves to the reply word for word, but I do not think that any hon. gentleman, having been a member of a committee appointed to prepare a report, or any member who has agreed to its adoption, should afterwards repudiate the sentiments contained therein. And after all, what has been the extent of the objection urged by the hon. member against the introductory paragraphs of His Excellency's Speech? Simply the question of whether the colony has progressed or not, and possibly whether it has politically advanced. I think that it has progressed politically; and were I to discuss the question with the hon. member, I believe I could prove to his satisfaction that such is the case, and that there is every promise of a further advance being made. As to the material progress of the colony, we are told in the Governor's Speech that the revenue of the colony is in a more flourishing condition than it ever was before. Of course, having been absent from the colony, and having returned to it so recently, I am not in a position to speak so confidently and minutely as on previous occasions on this matter, but I am sure that I will be borne out by facts and figures when I say that the revenue of the colony is in a very satisfactory condition. Fresh taxation was imposed last year, but at the same time hon. members will bear in mind that concurrent with increased taxation extra expenditure was involved by the undertaking of public works which may be said to have absorbed all that fresh taxation. Looking at the state of the country consequent upon a succession of bad harvests, and in the face of adverse circumstances, and despite the reduction of Imperial expenditure, it appears to me to be a very gratifying fact that the revenue of the colony is in such a flourishing condition, and that, notwithstanding the extra expenditure entailed by the contraction of a public loan, there is in my opinion no fear that money sufficient to meet all demands until the end of the current year will be forthcoming, and as far as I can see at present there will even be a surplus. This, of course, is my own individual opinion; papers and statistics will shortly be

placed on the Table of the House, which will enable every hon. member to form his own. With regard to the question of harbor improvements at Fremantle, I will at this stage of the session simply say that I hope at a very early day to see the matter brought under the consideration of the House. Much has been done since we met here last year, and when the proceedings of the Harbor Improvements Board come to be discussed I think suggestions can be made which will enable us to come to a conclusion as to what ought to be done, when it ought to be done, and how it ought to be done. There is a great diversity of opinion on the subject, and without getting the assistance of some reliable authority on such matters it is doubtful whether we will be able to arrive at a definite and final decision. With regard to the proposed loan I am very glad to hear from hon. members, and I most heartily endorse their sentiments, that the utmost caution should be exercised in raising any further loans for public works without first ascertaining that such works are unquestionably of a reproductive nature. But on the other hand, it is one of the most important things for a colony that its resources should be developed, if that can be done at a cost which will be fairly repaid. Statistics will be placed on the Table of the House, and when thoroughly analysed by hon. members, they will, I believe, prove beyond a doubt that the proposed railway to the mining district of Geraldton will not only produce returns that will pay the interest on the sum devoted to its construction, and the working expenses of the line, but that the traffic will be a source of revenue. If, then, this can be proved to be not only a reproductive work but a remunerative undertaking, I think we should be doing egregiously wrong if we did not carry it out. Were it the result of a purely speculative matter then I would certainly say we would be unwise in undertaking such a work, and in borrowing money to carry it out. I can quite understand how hon. members of this House, in their desire not to lose a chance in connection with making a safe harbor at Fremantle, may naturally expect that the first loan raised should be expended for that purpose; and I should be very much inclined to go with them—for I think that a central, safe, and commodious harbor is one of the greatest desiderata this colony stands in need of;—but the question will have to be very closely discussed in this House, and when we arrive at any decision in regard of it, it is not probable that we shall be in a position to take any definite steps towards attaining the desired end. I am more sanguine than ever that something may be done, and something will be done, and that much useful information will be gathered

from the report that has been placed before us and the debate that will ensue when it is under discussion, but I doubt whether such information will lead to immediate action. I however say this, that the impetus which the development of our mines will receive by the construction of a railroad in the Champion Bay district, will be an impetus which will benefit the whole colony, and which will even have its effect upon the question of harbor improvements, and possibly, nay probably, enable us to undertake larger works than could now be contemplated. The interest aroused and the confidence evinced in the resources of this colony by our neighbours consequent upon the display of our mineral exhibits at the Intercolonial Exhibition is perfectly astonishing, and as soon as improved means of intercolonial communication and increased facilities for internal transit are secured I am quite certain that capitalists will be prepared to invest their money in the development of mineral resources which they believe will pay, and which when developed we also know will place the prosperity of the colony on a secure and lasting basis. With reference to the question of steam communication, alluded to by the hon. member for Wellington, one almost daily receives information from various sources, and I have, since the House met today, received some information from that hon. gentleman that I was not in the least aware of before—namely, that the steamer which is expected to ply on our coast is a myth, that there is no prospect of its ever arriving in the colony, that the agreement was loosely drawn out between the Government and the contracting firm, and so forth. Now, all I can say is that this information is entirely new to me. The agreement entered into between the Government and Messrs. Connor and McKay was put in legal shape by the duly-appointed lawyer of the colony—and I will gladly place it on the Table of the House, and if there is anything wrong in it I am not to blame. When in the other colonies I naturally made inquiries as to the status and reliability of the contracting firm, and gentlemen from New Zealand who were in a position to know the stability and the respectability of the contracting firm assured me that in their hands we were perfectly safe, that we need not be in the least alarmed, that there was not a more respectable firm in the whole colony than Messrs. Connor and McKay. When I was at Albany, proceeding to the Intercolonial Conference, I there met one of the members of the firm who was then proceeding to England to superintend the construction of the steamer. The agreement entered into was that it should be on the coast by the first of May, and as yet no very great

delay can be said to have occurred. I have no doubt but that it will come, and I know that the agent of the company is looking forward to its speedy arrival, and that he is making preparations, in the absence of coal, for the supply of wood at the various jetties of the ports where the steamer is to call at. Certainly His Excellency could not be blamed for not alluding to it in his speech, for before that speech was delivered to the House the steamer might have been in Gage's Roads, where it may arrive at any minute. After some further observations with reference to immigration, the hon. gentleman again congratulated the House with reference to the tone and temper which had characterised that debate on the Vice-Regal Speech, and moved that a committee be appointed to prepare the Address in Reply, such committee to consist of Mr. Marmion, Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Steere, Mr. Monger, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Dempster, and the Mover.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

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

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Members of The Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Council assembled, desire to express to Your Excellency our thanks for the Address with which you have opened the present Session, and to assure you that the progress of the past year is in our opinion matter for congratulation.

We concur with Your Excellency in believing that the financial condition of the Colony is sound, and that in the face of the failure of the wheat crop—a calamity which has entailed hardship and loss on a large and deserving class of our population.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Public Works authorised by us to be undertaken last year are fast approaching completion, and we endorse the action taken by Your Excellency in reducing the charge on telegrams,—a measure, in our opinion, calculated to increase the revenue from such source.

We believe that it is of paramount importance to the future progress of the Colony to secure, if practicable at Fremantle, or as near to that port as may be possible, a safe anchorage in all weathers for vessels of large tonnage, and we will give our earnest attention to any

recommendation made by the Board appointed by Your Excellency at our suggestion to examine and report upon the question of Harbor Improvements.

We recognise the wisdom which induced Your Excellency to cause the Colony to be represented at the Inter-Colonial Conference and at the Inter-Colonial Exhibition held at Sydney, and we rejoice that Western Australia has at last been admitted to a voice in the Councils of Australasia.

The measure for the protection of those persons employed in various Industries on the North West Coast, and that to give extended powers of Local Self-Government to the Inhabitants in the North District, shall receive our careful attention, and we will not fail favourably to consider the increased representation in this Council proposed for that and other districts.

The assent of Her Majesty to the Land Regulations will, we doubt not, tend to promote the further development of the Mineral wealth of the Victoria District; and the Bill to raise a loan for the construction of a railway from Geraldton to Northampton will, Your Excellency may rest assured, receive that attention so important a matter deserves.

We shall not hesitate to turn our deliberations to and advise Your Excellency on the expediency of granting concessions in land to persons who may desire to establish industries among us, and the terms on which such concessions should be granted; and we will not fail to give our best attention to the several measures of importance alluded to by Your Excellency.

In again thanking Your Excellency for the Address with which you have formally inaugurated the Session, we join with Your Excellency in hoping, that under God's Providence, we may be guided to promote those ends which may result in the advancement and prosperity of the Colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Address be adopted.

Mr. STEERE seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

## FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motions by the Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. P. Barlee): Confirmation of Expenditure Bill, The Auctioneers' Bill, Increase of Members in Legislative Council Bill, Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill, Duty on Transfer of Landed Property Bill, Administration of Criminal Law Bill, and Warrants of Distress Bill.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mr. STEERE, in accordance with notice, asked for leave of absence for the member for Perth (Mr. Carr).

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid on the Table of the House a copy of a letter dated 19th February, 1873, from Mr. Carr to His Excellency the Governor, applying for leave of absence for 12 months, and a copy of His Excellency's reply of the 24th February.

Motion agreed to.

## PAPERS TABLED.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid on the table a copy of a letter from the Chief Secretary of South Australia to the Colonial Secretary of Western Australia, relative to the necessity of adopting measures to ensure none but genuine jarrah timber was shipped as such from Western Australia.

Also, a copy of a letter from Mr. Thomas Hayward of Pinjarrah, to the Colonial Secretary submitting for consideration a few remarks on a minute forwarded by His Excellency the Governor to the Wellington Roads Board; also a copy of the minute of His Excellency on Mr. Hayward's letter.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) moved that the Address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech be presented by the Speaker and other members of the House.

Mr. STEERE seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

Sitting suspended.

The Council reassembled at 3 p.m.

The SPEAKER announced that the Address to His Excellency the Governor had been presented in accordance with the resolution of the House.

The Council adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 2nd July, 1873.

Papers Tabled—Northern District Representation: petition—Sessional Clerk Assistant—Concessions of Land: select committee—The Williams District—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: second reading: Chairman of Committees: in committee—The Auctioneers' Bill: second reading: in committee—Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, 1872, Amendment Bill: second reading—Administration of Criminal Law Bill: second reading: in committee—Warrants of Distress Bill: second reading: in committee—Importation of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs Bill: second reading.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 6 p.m.

PRAYERS.

## PAPERS TABLED.

Mr. BICKLEY laid upon the Table of the House the questions referred to in the Harbor Improvement Board's report, and correspondence relating to their rejection.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee) laid upon the Table of the House a copy of a letter from Thomas Elder, Esq., of Adelaide, to the Colonial Secretary of Western Australia, dated the 14th June, 1873, relative to the disposal of the camels and the persons accompanying Colonel Warburton's expedition from Alice Springs, in the event of the expedition being successful, and moved that the same be read.

The letter was read.

## NORTHERN DISTRICT REPRESENTATION: PETITION.

Mr. LOGUE presented a petition from 43 settlers residing in the northern district praying that the Council would take into consideration the desirability of no longer denying to that district the privilege of returning its own representative to the Legislative Council.

The petition was received and read.

## SESSIONAL CLERK ASSISTANT.

Mr. Laurance Stirling Eliot was sworn in as Clerk Assistant.

## CONCESSIONS OF LAND.

Select Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. P. Barlee), in moving for a select committee to consider and advise upon the expediency of making concessions of land to persons who may establish industries in, or otherwise benefit the colony, said that the Government had received several applications from persons desirous to introduce new industries and to prosecute others on condition that they be granted a concession of land, and that the