

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Thursday, 2nd December, 1875.

Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech—First Readings—Members of select committees—Land Regulations for Northern and Eastern District: select committee—Railway from Fremantle to Guildford: select committee—Geraldton and Northampton Railway: select committee—Harbor Improvements, Fremantle: select committee.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 12 noon.

PRAYERS.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the Address to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to his Speech, be presented by the Acting Speaker and other members of the House at 12.30 p.m.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) 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 Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy): Confirmation of Expenditure Bill, Customs Ordinance Amendment Bill, Distillation Act, 1871, Amendment Bill, Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Bill, and the Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance Amendment Bill.

MEMBERS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved that the leave of the Council be given that more than five members may be appointed on the committees moved for by the Surveyor General.

Debate ensued.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

LAND REGULATIONS FOR NORTHERN
AND EASTERN DISTRICTS.

Select Committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser) moved for the appointment of a select committee to report on suggested amendments to the present regulations for the disposal of Crown lands in the northern and

eastern districts of this colony, which suggestions had been sent down to the Council by His Excellency the Governor prior to being submitted to the Secretary of State; and, with leave, the following amendment,—that the committee consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Brown, Mr. Monger, Mr. T. Burges, and the Mover.

Mr. SHENTON required that the committee be appointed by ballot, and hon. members having delivered the lists of names of members to serve on such committee,

The CLERK reported to the Acting Speaker the following names as having obtained the greatest number of votes:—Messrs. Fraser, Padbury, T. Burges, Monger, Steere, and Pearse. The numbers for Messrs. Steere and Pearse being equal, the Acting Speaker gave his casting vote for the former.

RAILWAY FROM FREMANTLE TO
GUILDFORD.

Select Committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), pursuant to notice, moved for the appointment of a select committee to consider and report on proposals which have been made to the Government by certain individuals to make a railway from Fremantle to Guildford, being the first section of a line to the eastern districts; the committee to consist of Mr. Crowther, Mr. Marmion, Mr. Padbury, Mr. Hamersley, and the Mover; having power to call for persons and papers.

Question put and passed.

GERALDTON AND NORTHAMPTON
RAILWAY.

Select Committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved for the appointment of a select committee to take into consideration the condition of the Geraldton and Northampton railway works as contracted for; to report on the whole question; and to recommend for the consideration of the Council the best manner in which they should be carried to a completion; such committee to consist of Mr. Steere, Mr. Randell, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Brown, and the Mover; and to have power to call for persons and papers.

Mr. SHENTON demanded that the committee be appointed by ballot, which was agreed to. A ballot was thereupon resorted to, resulting in the election of Messrs. Steere, Randell, Shenton, T. Burges, and Brown.

**HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS,
FREMANTLE.**

Select Committee.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), in accordance with notice, moved for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into the merits of certain schemes for harbor improvements at Fremantle, the plans and papers connected with which had been laid on the Table of the House: to consider the whole question; and to bring forward, with a view to its adoption by the Council, some definite proposition by which this most important, though difficult, question might be put into such a practicable shape as might conform with the present requirements of the port and the resources at the disposal of the Council; such committee to consist of Mr. Marmion, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Steere, and the Mover; and to have power to call for persons and papers.

Mr. SHENTON required that the committee be formed by ballot, and hon. members having delivered in their list of names,

The ACTING SPEAKER announced the result to be the election of the following members:—Mr. Crowther, the Surveyor General (Hon. M. Fraser), Mr. Pearse, and Mr. Marmion.

The Council adjourned at 1.45 p.m.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
Friday, 3rd December, 1875.**

First Readings—Chairman of Committees—Confirmation of Expenditure Bill: second reading: in committee—Colonial Passengers' Ordinance Amendment Bill: second reading: in committee.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motions by the Attorney General (Hon. H.H. Hocking): Bastardy Laws Bill, Election Petitions Bill, Capital Punishment Amendment Bill, Law of Evidence Amendment Bill, and the Protection of Witnesses Bill.

The following Bill was read a first time, in accordance with notice, on motion by the Surveyor General (Hon. M. Fraser): Closing of Streets in Perth Bill.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) pointed out to the House the necessity of electing a Chairman of Committees, and expressed a hope that the hon. baronet who, in deference to the unanimous wish of the House, had consented to perform, temporarily, the duties of Speaker, would likewise accept the office of Chairman of Committees. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that no hon. member would discharge the duties of the office with greater satisfaction and advantage to the House than the hon. baronet, and he would be most happy if hon. members would support him in moving his appointment. (Hear, hear.)

There being no opposition offered,

Sir Thomas COCKBURN-CAMPBELL intimated that he was quite willing to accept the office until the arrival of Mr. Speaker; but he particularly wished the House to understand that he did not bind himself to occupy the position when the Speaker arrived.

**CONFIRMATION OF EXPENDITURE
BILL.**

Second Reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that the Bill be now read a second time, and stated that it was to confirm the expenditure for the services of the year 1874, beyond the grant for that year.

The Bill was read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. BROWN moved that progress be reported in deference to the expressed wish of a prominent member of the House (the hon. member for Wellington) who was unavoidably absent.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) said that he had no objection if such were the wish of the House.

Progress reported, and leave obtained to sit again.

**COLONIAL PASSENGERS' ORDINANCE,
1861, AMENDMENT BILL.**

Second Reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved the second