

a prosperous settlement. There was a general opinion among those practically acquainted with the subject, that it was impossible to stock and settle this part of our territory under the regulations now in force, and the question was—were they, by postponing the consideration of this matter until next Session, prepared to shut up the district for the next eighteen months,—until, in fact, the present stocking period expired—for that would virtually be the result of deferring this question for another year. He failed to see the necessity or the expediency of putting it off, if the sense of the House was, as it appeared to be, in favor of some modification or other in the existing regulations. If this district was anything like the magnificent territory they were led to believe it was, by the glowing accounts given of it when it was discovered, and if it was found that the present regulations were inimical to its settlement, it was their bounden duty—a duty which they ought not to shrink from discharging because of the late period of the Session,—to provide some remedy for the existing state of affairs, and if this motion to report Progress was intended as a deliberate attempt to burke the question for another year, he for one was not prepared to lend himself to any such course.

MR. BROWN said he merely wished Progress reported until the following day.

Cries of "Divide, divide."

The question was again put—that Progress be reported, and leave given to sit again for the further consideration of the subject next day; whereupon a division took place with the following result:—

Ayes	8
Noes	7
			—
Majority for	...		1

AYES.

Mr. Brown
Mr. Burges
Mr. Hamersley
Mr. Higham
Mr. Randell
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Stone
Mr. Steere (Teller.)

NOES.

Lord Gifford
The Hon. A. C. Onslow
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burt
Mr. Grant
Mr. S. S. Parker
Mr. Marmion (Teller.)

Progress to be reported.

The Speaker took the Chair.

The Chairman of Committees reported Progress, and asked leave to sit again on Friday, 16th September.

Ordered.

The House adjourned at a quarter to three o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 16th September, 1881.

Losses sustained by Contracts with Messrs. Beaver & Co.—Closure of Street in Busselton Bill: second reading: in committee: third reading—Message (No. 30): Assenting to Bills: Bills reserved—Kimberley Land Regulations: Adjourned Debate—Prorogation.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at eleven o'clock, a.m.

PRAYERS.

LOSSES SUSTAINED BY CONTRACTS
WITH MESSRS. BEAVER & CO.

MR. STEERE brought up the report of the Select Committee, appointed on August 18th, to inquire into and report upon the losses *re* guano contract with Beaver and Co., and moved that it be printed.

Agreed to (*vide* Sessional Paper, A13).

CLOSURE OF STREET IN BUSSELTON.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. M. Fraser), in moving the second reading of a Bill to make it lawful to close up a certain street in the township of Busselton—being that portion of Vines Street which lies between Church Street and the Vasse river—said the Bill was introduced in order to enable the Municipality to exchange this piece of land for another piece to be surrendered to them by the owner.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed through Committee without discussion, and, the Standing Orders being suspended, it was read a third time, and forwarded to the Governor for his assent.

MESSAGE (No. 30): ASSENT TO BILLS: BILLS RESERVED.

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

"The Governor has had under his careful consideration the Bills passed by Your Honorable Council during the present Session of the Legislative Council.

"To the following Acts he has this day assented on behalf of Her Majesty.

"1. *An Act to regulate the admission in certain cases of Barristers of the Supreme Court of Western Australia; and to prevent unqualified persons from taking fees in consideration of the performance of Conveyancing, and of work connected with the Administration of the Law relating to Real and Personal Property.*"

"2. *An Act to amend 'The Scab Act, 1879.'*"

"3. *An Act to provide for the destruction of Goats within the precincts of the Municipality of Geraldton.*"

"4. *An Act for the protection of Oysters and encouragement of Oyster Fisheries.*"

"5. *An Act to provide for the Payment of certain additional and unforeseen Expenses in the year One Thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, over and above the Estimates for that year.*"

"6. *An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year One thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, beyond the grant for that year.*"

"7. *An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws regulating the Branding of Live Stock, and to provide for the due Registration of Brands.*"

"8. *An Act for the Prevention and Eradication of Diseases in Vines.*"

"9. *An Act to amend 'The Distillation Act, 1871.'*"

"10. *An Act to confirm the Expenditure for the services of the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty, beyond the grants for that year.*"

"11. *An Act to amend 'The Law and Parliamentary Library Act, 1873.'*"

"12. *An Act further to amend 'The Municipal Institutions Act, 1876.'*"

"13. *An Act to appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Fifty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven Pounds Four Shillings and Sevenpence out of the General Revenue of the Colony for such Services as shall come in course of pay-*

ment during the year One thousand eight hundred and eighty-two."

"14. *An Act to make it lawful to close up a certain Street in the Township of Busselton.*"

"The Bills intituled 'An Act for the Re-appropriation of certain Monies appropriated for the purposes of a Steam Tug, by 'The Loan Act, 1878,' 'An Act to prevent the Destruction and Export of Immature Sandalwood,' the Governor has deemed it proper to reserve for Her Majesty's consideration.

"Government House, Perth, 16th September, 1881."

KIMBERLEY LAND REGULATIONS.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

MR. BROWN said he had prepared an amendment somewhat similar in its provisions to that put forward yesterday by the hon. member for Fremantle, with this exception, that, whereas the latter merely proposed to extend the period within which the present occupiers of land in the Kimberley district may stock their land to four years, the amendment which he was about to submit extended the same privilege to those who may take up land in the District any time within two years from the 31st December next—a proposal which, he believed, would commend itself to the majority of hon. members. He did not wish or expect the Government to be bound by the terms of the amendment, but that, if adopted, it should be accepted as indicative of the wishes of the House on the subject, leaving it to the Executive to frame such regulations as were best calculated to carry out those wishes, if they commended themselves to the approval of the Government. The amendment he had prepared, and which he now begged to submit for the affirmation of the Committee, was as follows:

"That all leases issued between 31st December, 1881, and 31st December 1882, shall not be liable to forfeiture for non-fulfilment of stocking conditions till 31st December, 1885. That all leases issued between 31st December, 1882, and 31st December, 1883, shall not be liable to forfeiture for non-fulfilment of stocking conditions until 31st December, 1886. That all leases issued

“between 31st December, 1883, and 31st December, 1884, shall not be liable to forfeiture as aforesaid till 31st December, 1887. That all leases issued between 31st December, 1884, and 31st December, 1885, shall not be liable to forfeiture as aforesaid till 31st December, 1888. And that it is desirable to rescind that portion of Clause 12 of the Kimberley regulations requiring that the proportion of stock provided for therein shall be upon the land comprised in each and every lease, and it is desirable to provide in lieu thereof that it shall be sufficient if the said stock shall be within the district. And further that the possession of the stock by the lessee shall for the purposes of the regulations be considered a sufficient compliance therewith.”

MR. STEERE was sorry that the hon. member for Geraldton had changed his mind since yesterday, when the hon. member was in accord with him that it was too late in the Session to deal with a question of this importance, especially in the absence of hon. members who took much interest in the subject, and one of whom, at any rate (Mr. Venn), had gone away under the impression that nothing definite would be done in the matter this Session. He could no more support the amendment now brought forward than he could the original one, for he believed they were going to do what he considered would be very injurious to the Colony, namely, afford increased facilities for land-jobbery. It appeared to him that hon. members, in dealing with these regulations, had solely in view the interests of those who had taken up land in the district referred to; but he thought that House had other interests to consider—the interests of the Colony at large, and he did not think those interests would be promoted by allowing people who took up land in the Kimberley district to obtain their leases on condition that they shall introduce a certain number of stock, not upon those leases, but anywhere within the district. The result would be this: they would make the settlers of the adjacent district (the North) masters of the situation, by reason of their proximity to this Kimberley territory. If they were going to allow the settlers of the North to take up land in the Kimberley district, by simply

driving a certain number of sheep across the border, these people would have every facility thus afforded them for taking up millions of acres of land in that district, at very little trouble or outlay, for the mere purposes of speculation. He was aware that there existed a general feeling, and it was one which he himself shared, that it would be advisable to modify and relax the stringency of the existing regulations, especially as regards the time for stocking and the quantity of stock required to be introduced; and if they did that, he thought they would do all that was at present necessary. He had read a paragraph in that day's newspaper, giving the opinion of a gentleman who probably knew more about the district than any one else (Mr. Julius Brockman), and he spoke in most hopeful terms of the probability of the whole district being soon stocked—although, at first, this very gentleman, like many more, was opposed to the present Land Regulations. For the reasons he had stated, he regretted he should not be able to support either of the amendments, but he would be prepared to submit a proposal which in his opinion would provide all that was at present required in the way of modifying the existing regulations.

MR. GRANT said the hon. member for the Swan seemed afraid that the settlers at the North would take advantage of their proximity to the Kimberley district to send their sheep across the border, and thus entitle themselves to take up “millions of acres of land, for purposes of speculation.” In the first place, such a thing was impracticable. No sheep could be driven across from the North District to that of Kimberley in the present state of the country, and it would require twelve months, at least, of well-sinking, before anybody in his senses would attempt to drive stock from one district to another. In the next place, there were no sheep in the North District to be driven across, simply because the settlers in that district were not half stocked themselves, and some of them not one-fourth stocked. Therefore, there was no ground whatever to fear that, as regards sending sheep to stock the Kimberley District, the settlers at the North were likely to become “masters of the situation.” He did not think that, with one solitary exception

(Messrs. Brockman and McRae), any of the Northern settlers had taken up an acre of land in the Kimberley District, and he was surprised that the hon. member for the Swan should have taken such a view of the position of the settlers at the North. For his own part, he thought, as he had said the other day, we could not be too liberal in forming Land Regulations for a new territory like this. We should have something higher in view than the paltry revenue to be derived from these lands; our object ought to be to settle upon it a prosperous and contented body of settlers, who would do good for themselves and for the Colony at large. It was too early yet to impose any stringent restrictions upon these pioneers; we must not handicap them too heavily. In time to come, we could saddle our horse and weight him as heavily as we liked, but, for the present, we ought to be content to let him run under a feather weight, if we expected him to make any show in the struggle which he had entered upon.

The question was then put, that the words proposed to be struck out of Mr. Higham's resolution of the previous day be struck out, which was agreed to. The amendment brought forward by the hon. member for Geraldton was then put, whereupon,

MR. STEERE moved the following amendment, which he thought would give intending settlers every possible advantage they could reasonably expect: "That the minimum rental of all pastoral lands within the Kimberley District shall be ten shillings per annum for every one thousand acres and fraction of one thousand acres, payable in advance. And every lease shall be subject to the condition, whether expressed in the instrument of lease or not, that before the expiration of the third year of the term the lessee shall place, have, and depasture, and keep depastured for the remainder of the term of the lease or leases, at the rate of at least one head of large stock or ten sheep, the actual property of, or in the possession of, the lessee, for every one thousand acres, on some portion of the lands comprised within such lease or leases, and that in default the said lease shall be deemed to be forfeited to the Crown, or an additional rent of 10s.

per one thousand acres shall be assessed in respect of the area comprised in the lease until the said land shall be declared by the officer representing the Government in the District to be stocked." The hon. member said he thought the condition as to double rent, in the event of non-compliance with the requirements of the stocking clause—although it had not met with the approval of the Secretary of State on a former occasion—would be very likely to do so now, if backed by that House and supported by the Government.

MR. SHENTON said the amendment submitted by the hon. member for the Swan was more in accord with his own views than any of the other propositions put forward, and contemplated all the concession which he thought could be reasonably expected. As a holder of land in the district, he was perfectly ready to accept this modification, as one calculated to meet all their requirements.

MR. STONE said that, before he heard the present amendment, he had been inclined to give his support to that put forward by the hon. member for Geraldton, but he thought the concession here offered was ample, under the circumstances, and he would be prepared to vote for it.

POINT OF ORDER.

MR. S. H. PARKER rose to a Point of Order. Several hon. members were admittedly interested in these regulations, pecuniarily, having taken up land in the district; and he should like to know whether, under these circumstances, it would be competent for them to vote? The hon. member referred to the case of *Clarke v. Bradlaugh*, in which it was held that Mr. Newdegate having agreed to indemnify the plaintiff in respect of the costs of the proceedings, he was to that extent considered to be interested in the suit, and it was held that he was not at liberty to vote on the question of Mr. Bradlaugh's right to sit in the House. On the same ground, it appeared to him that hon. members pecuniarily interested in these Land Regulations should be excluded from voting on this question.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES said—the rule in such cases was, that where a member was directly interested in a matter which was not a question of

public policy, he was not entitled to vote, but that in questions of public policy, such as the one before the Committee, the mere fact that a member might be indirectly interested did not preclude him from giving his vote.

DEBATE RESUMED.

MR. BURT said, what the hon. member for the Swan proposed was, to reduce the number of stock required to be introduced by one-half, to extend the time within which such stock shall be placed on the land from two years to three, and, in default, to double the rent, instead of forfeiting the land. If the hon. member would go a little further, and provide that it should be regarded as a sufficient compliance with the regulations if the stock were within the district, and not upon each particular lease, and also that possession of sheep by a lessee should be regarded as equivalent to actual ownership, for the purposes of this clause, he should be prepared to support the hon. member. His amendment would then meet his (Mr. Burt's) own views to a greater extent than the amendment put forward by the hon. member for Geraldton did—though, even then, he should consider the regulation a stringent one. There would be no danger of opening the door to jobbery, by making the actual possession of sheep by a lessee equivalent to ownership; the sheep could not be driven about from place to place and made to serve the same purpose in the case of several lessees, for one of the conditions attached was that the number of sheep in possession of any lessee, for the purposes of this clause, shall not be diminished during the continuance of the lease. He thought it was very important indeed that the possession of sheep should be regarded as equivalent to actual ownership, for in nine cases out of every ten the probability was that the sheep would be rented by the lessees, on terms, and not their actual property. But, under the amendment proposed by the hon. member for the Swan, sheep so rented would not be regarded as sufficient for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the stocking clause. They must be the actual property of the lessee himself. He thought this would be a great hardship. The conditions would be in no way too liberal, if they

were to accept possession as proof of ownership (for the purpose of this clause), and he hoped the hon. member would amend his resolution to that effect, and also as regards having stock in the district and not upon any particular block. If we did not take care what we were about, we should make as great a muddle of this Kimberley district as we did (or as the Government did for us) with regard to our blessed guano deposits—we should place too much value upon it altogether, and the result would be, instead of getting a fair return in the shape of land revenue, we should shut up the district altogether, and it would prove of no greater benefit to the Colony than its guano deposits did.

MR. STEERE said he was willing to accept the suggestion made by the hon. member for Murray, to this extent—that sheep or stock in the possession of a lessee should, for the purposes of this regulation, be regarded as if they were his actual property. This he considered was but fair, regard being had to the conditions upon which stock in the great majority of cases would be held by the lessees in this district. He was also prepared to go to this extent with regard to the introduction of stock into the district—namely, that instead of requiring the same to be placed on every lease rented by a lessee, it should be sufficient that the stock should be on any one or more of his leases, within the district.

MR. BURT: Surely, if they are within the district, that would be tantamount to being on a man's lease. It is not likely that people will go to the trouble and expense of driving sheep all that way, in order to place them on another man's block. So long as we provide that the sheep shall be within the district, we shall do all that can reasonably be required.

MR. BURGESS said he would be prepared to go to this extent with regard to the disposal of land in this district: he would propose that any company of settlers who shall land one thousand breeding sheep in the district should be entitled to take up four blocks of 100,000 acres each, and hold the same free of all rent for a term of three years, upon the following conditions—that all the increase of these one thousand sheep shall be considered as belonging to these four blocks, and shall not be sold to other

parties who might wish to secure runs; and that, at the end of the term of three years, provided the foregoing condition had been complied with, the lessee should be entitled to obtain a lease of these runs on the terms provided in the Kimberley Land Regulations.

Mr. BROWN said the amendment submitted by the hon. member for the Swan was as widely different from his own as any two proposals could possibly be. Although the hon. member had expressed his readiness to modify the conditions originally put forward, still he insisted that the stock introduced shall be upon a man's lease—a condition which he (Mr. Brown) regarded as one of the most damaging features in the existing regulations, and, if it were only on this point alone, he should feel bound to divide the Committee. As to double rent, he thought that was a very fair and sensible condition, but, seeing that the Secretary of State had already, within the past twelve months, refused to assent to that condition—notwithstanding the fact that it was recommended by the Commission and also by the Governor—he did not think the Secretary of State was likely to alter his views on the subject now.

The amendment introduced by Mr. STEERE was then put, and the Committee divided with the following result—

Ayes	5
Noes	10

Majority against	5
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AYES.

Sir L. S. Leake
Mr. S. H. Parker
Mr. Shenton
Mr. Stone
Mr. Steere (Teller.)

NOES.

Lord Gifford
The Hon. A. C. Onslow
The Hon. M. Fraser
Mr. Burges
Mr. Burt
Mr. Grant
Mr. Higham
Mr. Marmion
Mr. Randell
Mr. Brown (Teller.)

The amendment was therefore negatived.

The resolution submitted by Mr. BROWN was then put and passed, and reported.

Mr. S. H. PARKER: Before the House adopts the report of the Committee, I should like to ask the hon. member who brought forward this amendment, in what sense he intends the words "in possession of" to apply to stock held for the purposes of this regulation?

Mr. BROWN: In this sense—that stock in the actual possession of any lessee,

and kept within the district, for the ordinary purposes of settlement, shall be considered sufficient for the purposes of this clause. I think it will be found that the majority of young fellows who take up land in this district will not be the actual owners of the sheep, but they would have such "possession" in them as would entitle them to the land.

Mr. S. H. PARKER: Then, according to that, the man in possession of the sheep, and also the actual owner, would be entitled to hold different blocks of land in respect of the same sheep.

Mr. BROWN said that was not his intention. Manifestly, it would not be right to allow two different persons the privilege of taking up separate blocks of land in consideration of the same lot of sheep, and he hoped the attention of His Excellency the Governor would be called to this matter when framing the amended regulation—if the proposals now agreed to by the House were accepted by the Government.

The report of the Committee was then adopted.

PROROGATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR shortly afterwards entered the Council Chamber, and delivered the following Speech:

"MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF

"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,—

"In relieving you from further attendance in Council, I have to thank you for the care and attention which you have bestowed on the work of the interesting and important Session which has now been brought to a close.

"My special acknowledgments are due for the ready support which you gave to my proposal to establish monthly steam communication with the North-West Coast. You are aware that the contractors have already purchased a third steamer in order to carry out the new service without disturbing the Southern itinerary which has already been of so much advantage to this part of the Colony; and I feel sure that Messrs. Lilly & Co. will fulfil their enlarged obligations in their usual satisfactory manner. Although the new contract will only be made for three years in the first instance, I think it is

“evident that regular Steam Communi-
 “cation with the Northern Ports having
 “been once established, cannot afterwards
 “be abandoned, and therefore I consider
 “that the step now taken marks a most
 “important advance in the progress of
 “the Colony.

“I trust that the subsidy which you
 “have authorised me to offer as an induc-
 “ment to an Ocean Line of Steamers to
 “make Fremantle a port of call may
 “enable me to carry out the object which
 “we have in view. I am sorry to say
 “that my negotiations with the Nether-
 “lands India Company have not resulted
 “in an agreement, but I am now in
 “communication with another firm, and
 “will do everything in my power to
 “further the scheme proposed. The
 “question is one of very considerable
 “importance, for even if the establish-
 “ment of direct communication with the
 “Straits should not be immediately
 “followed by any great accession to
 “trade, it is of great consequence to
 “break down the injurious prejudice
 “which exists against Fremantle as a
 “port of call, and I should regard any
 “reasonable expenditure by which this
 “might be accomplished as money
 “judiciously spent.

“It was with much pleasure that I
 “announced to you a few days ago that
 “the Secretary of State is prepared to
 “sanction the construction of a Railway
 “to Albany on the Land Grant system,
 “provided the scheme should be
 “brought forward by responsible and com-
 “petent persons on reasonable and ad-
 “vantageous terms. I will lose no time
 “in advancing this most important pro-
 “posal, and will gladly use my best exer-
 “tions to bring it to a successful close.

“Your Resolution on the subject of
 “the construction of a Telegraph Line to
 “Roebourne by a syndicate of land-
 “holders in return for grants of land
 “within their respective leases, will be
 “forwarded by me to the Colonial Office,
 “and I shall be happy to give the pro-
 “posal my general support. This line, if
 “constructed, will become of intercolonial
 “importance in the event of a cable
 “being laid at any future time between
 “Java and our North-West Coast.

“I have to acknowledge the careful
 “attention which you have bestowed on
 “the various questions which I brought

“to your notice during the course of the
 “Session. I quite concur with you as
 “to the propriety of encouraging the
 “establishment of Smelting Works at
 “Champion Bay, and I hope that your
 “liberal action in this matter may lead
 “to a successful development of the
 “Mining industry. Your Address on
 “the subject of Timber Concessions will
 “receive my best consideration.

“Various legislative measures of more
 “than ordinary importance have also
 “occupied your attention.

“I am glad to find that the Audit Bill
 “has met with your general approval;
 “and for my own part I feel confident
 “that it will prove an exceedingly useful
 “measure. The Secretary of State hav-
 “ing already taken considerable interest
 “in this matter, I have deemed it right
 “to reserve the Bill in order that His
 “Lordship may have an opportunity of
 “considering it in detail before its final
 “adoption; but I shall have much
 “pleasure in submitting it for favorable
 “consideration, and I think that the
 “Government and the Council may be
 “alike congratulated on the settlement of
 “this question on a basis which cannot
 “fail, I believe, to be satisfactory to all
 “parties concerned.

“I have felt it my duty to withhold for
 “the present my assent to the Fencing
 “Bill, in order that the country may
 “have an opportunity of forming an
 “opinion upon so highly important a
 “measure before it becomes law. In
 “taking this course, I do not feel called
 “upon to express at this moment my
 “personal views as to the principle or
 “details of the Bill, but having regard
 “to the strong objections to the measure
 “which have been publicly expressed,
 “and to the circumstance that it was
 “carried by a very slender majority, I
 “cannot doubt that my proper con-
 “stitutional course is to defer legislation
 “until the country shall have fully con-
 “sidered the question. I trust that the
 “opportunity will be taken to discuss
 “the subject throughout the various
 “districts of the Colony, and that when
 “Council next meets there may be no
 “longer any doubt as to the feeling of
 “the constituencies in the matter.

“The Acts to amend The Scab Act, to
 “Regulate the Admission of Barristers,
 “to Consolidate the laws relating to the

“ Branding of Stock, and to Provide for
 “ the prevention and eradication of Dis-
 “ eases in Vines, are all of them measures
 “ of consequence, and calculated to be of
 “ much public advantage.

“ I have to thank you for the provision
 “ which you have made for the revision
 “ and consolidation of the Statutes—a
 “ work of much importance, which has
 “ been already too long delayed.

“ The Mineral wealth of the Colony
 “ continues to be occasionally brought to
 “ light, and I look forward to the time
 “ when I shall feel justified in asking
 “ Your Honorable Council to provide for
 “ the appointment of a Geologist, in order
 “ that a systematic attempt may be made
 “ in this most important direction. For
 “ the present I have it in contemplation
 “ to make use of a small building at Fre-
 “ mantle, which is no longer required for
 “ Imperial purposes, as a place of deposit
 “ for such specimens of our mineral
 “ wealth as may from time to time be col-
 “ lected; and I hope in this way to form
 “ the nucleus of a collection of records,
 “ such as are duly kept and esteemed of
 “ great importance in other colonies,
 “ which shall hereafter be available for
 “ the purposes of trade or science.

“ Tenders have been invited for the
 “ construction of the second section of the
 “ Eastern Railway, which will carry the
 “ line to a point twenty-one miles east of
 “ Guildford. This extension should be
 “ completed in about eighteen months,
 “ and I have no doubt that, under the
 “ direction of the Works Department,
 “ the work will be carried out with the
 “ same success which has attended the
 “ construction of the section from Fre-
 “ mantle to Guildford. The traffic on
 “ the first section has been so far most
 “ encouraging, and promises well for the
 “ future when the line shall be extended
 “ to York.

“ It cannot be denied that the last
 “ eighteen months has been a period of
 “ some anxiety to those entrusted with
 “ the conduct of public affairs. When I
 “ arrived here in April, 1880, I found
 “ that complaints existed as to the state of
 “ the Public Accounts, that the Audit
 “ was in arrear, and that the Colony was
 “ in debt on current account to the extent
 “ of about £79,000. Now, the Treasury
 “ is in perfect order—the assistance
 “ which the Treasurer had long demanded
 “ having been given to him, and the double
 “ entry system revived; the Audit is well
 “ up to date; and the financial equi-
 “ librium has already been almost
 “ restored, without any stoppage of
 “ public works, and notwithstanding the
 “ heavy extraneous claims which we have
 “ recently been called upon to liquidate.
 “ In alluding to these circumstances, I
 “ must not omit to remark that the pro-
 “ posal to pay off a large portion of the
 “ deficit, by restoring from Loan to
 “ General Revenue the bulk of the amount
 “ which had been expended on the con-
 “ struction of the Eucla Telegraph Line,
 “ originated with Your Honorable House;
 “ and in pointing to the results which
 “ have been attained, as evidence that our
 “ form of Government is not in itself
 “ inconsistent with the protection of the
 “ public interests and the steady progress
 “ of the Colony, I desire to express to you
 “ my cordial thanks for the assistance
 “ and support which you have given to my
 “ Government in all matters tending to
 “ the welfare and advancement of the
 “ Colony.

“ I now prorogue this Council to
 “ Monday, the 19th December, next.”

HIS EXCELLENCY, having handed
 a copy of the Speech to Mr. Speaker,
 retired from the Council Chamber, and
 the Session closed.