

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL.

The motion for the second reading of this bill (*Vide* p. 165 *ante*) was agreed to, without discussion.

The House adjourned at half-past four o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Wednesday, 21st March, 1888.

Esperance Bay and Hampton Plains Railway—Warehouse Rent at Fremantle—Water Supply for Perth—Repair of Pensioners' Barracks at Perth—Expurgated paragraph in Governor's despatch to Secretary of State, re Responsible Government—Provisions to be introduced in Constitution Bill (Mr. Hensman's resolutions)—Aborigines Estimates, 1888—Immigration Estimates, 1888—Estimates (Revised), 1888: further consideration of—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

ESPERANCE BAY AND HAMPTON PLAINS RAILWAY.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary if it was the intention of the Government to re-introduce the proposals made by Messrs. Stone and Burt, on behalf of an English syndicate, for the construction of a railway between Esperance Bay and Hampton Plains.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said that, in the earlier part of the present session, on the 4th January, the hon. member himself brought forward these proposals, which were negatived by the House.

WAREHOUSE RENT (CUSTOMS) FREMANTLE.

MR. A. FORREST, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary to lay on the table a return showing how the vote under the head of Contingencies, in the Customs Department, "Rent of Warehouses, £150," was spent,—to whom the amounts were paid, and for what purpose.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) laid the return asked for on the table.

WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF PERTH.

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government proposed to take any—and, if so, what—steps with a view of providing the city of Perth with an abundant supply of good water?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) replied: On the 18th August last the Council resolved to defer the whole question of Water Supply till the next session, and recommended that in the meantime the Government should place itself in communication with the Municipal Councils of Perth and Fremantle, so that those representative bodies might advise as to the best course to pursue. An address was presented accordingly to His Excellency, and the Municipal Councils communicated with; their replies have been placed on the table.

REPAIR OF PENSIONERS BARRACKS, PERTH.

MR. SHENTON asked the Director of Public Works whether it was the intention of the Government to repair the damage to the Police Barracks caused by the late fire?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said it was not the intention of the Government to spend any money on the building at present.

EXPURGATED PORTION OF GOVERNOR'S DESPATCH TO SECRETARY OF STATE, *re* RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, moved that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he will be pleased to furnish the House with the expurgated portion of the 12th paragraph of the despatch to the Secretary of State of the 12th July, 1887, referred to in Sir Henry Holland's reply of the 3rd January, 1888. He said that until the House were in possession of the information solicited, they were not in a position to know to what it referred, and as it referred to the Civil List it would be necessary to know it before dealing with the question of a change of Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) said no doubt the omission was intentional. He was not exactly aware of the reasons for that omission, and though he had no wish to oppose the hon. member's desire, he thought the result would not be exactly what the hon. member wished.

MR. HENSMAN desired to know why there should be any secrecy in the matter, which was he submitted a public one.

The motion was agreed to.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT: PROVISIONS TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE CONSTITUTION BILL.

MR. HENSMAN, in accordance with notice, rose to move the following Resolutions:—

That this House is of opinion that it is desirable that the Act whereby Responsible Government is granted to Western Australia shall contain (amongst other things) provisions to the following effect:

1. That the Executive Government of the Colony shall consist of a Governor appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, and of five Ministers of the Crown, who shall form the Cabinet, and who shall be appointed to, and shall hold their offices under the same conditions as exist in the other Australian Colonies.

[*Responsible Govt.*

2. That the Ministry shall consist of the following officials—the Chief Secretary, the Attorney General, the Treasurer, the Minister for Lands, Mines, and Immigration, and the Minister for Public Works and Railways, one of whom shall be the Premier.

3. That the members of the Ministry must all be members of the Parliament of the Colony.

4. That the salary payable to the Governor shall be £— a year, and the salary payable to each member of the Ministry shall be £— a year.

5. That the Legislature or Parliament shall consist of a single elected Chamber, which shall be called the Legislative Assembly, and which shall have full power to make, repeal, and alter laws for the Government of the whole of the Colony, including the power of creating a Second Legislative Chamber at a future time, if a majority of two-thirds of all the members shall consent thereto.

6. That the Legislative Assembly shall consist of thirty members, to be presided over by one of their number to be chosen by the members, who shall be called the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and who shall have such powers as shall be entrusted to him by the Assembly.

7. That the Colony shall be divided into 28 electoral districts, which shall each return one member to the Legislative Assembly, with the exception of the Perth and Fremantle districts, which shall each return two members.

8. That the electors of the Members of the Assembly shall consist of every man of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity who shall have been an inhabitant householder within the electoral district for which he shall vote for at least six months before the register of voters shall be made up, and whose name shall duly appear upon the register of voters in force at the time of the election, or who shall have occupied lodgings within such district of the annual value, unfurnished, of ten pounds for six months before the register

shall be made up, and shall be duly registered.

9. That the election of Members of the Assembly shall be by ballot as heretofore.

10. That the qualifications and disqualifications for a Member of the Assembly shall be the same as those now in force with regard to the elected Members of the present Legislative Council, with the exception of the property qualification, but that no Government contractor shall be eligible to be or remain a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

11. That the Legislative Assembly shall be elected for three years.

12. That the members of the Legislative Assembly, with the exception of the Ministers, shall each be paid out of the revenue of the Colony a sum for his actual expenses incurred in attending the sittings of the Assembly, not exceeding in the whole the sum of £50 a year.

13. That the Judges of the Supreme Court shall hold their offices during good behaviour, but that they shall be liable to be removed from office for judicial misconduct or incapacity by Her Majesty, upon an address from the Legislative Assembly praying for such removal.

The hon. member said that before referring to the particular points that were alluded to in the series of resolutions, he desired to draw attention to the present position of this question of Responsible Government. He did not intend to go back into the past and refer to the many years that this colony had been under a half-and-half system, nor did he intend to allude to the change of views which any hon. members of the House had made. He desired rather to look at the question as it was now before them, because it seemed to him that at the present time it was the only practical way of looking at it. The Governor, in his speech delivered in June last, used these words, and they seemed to be important as bearing on the present situation. He said: "Should your honorable House, as appears probable, place in my hands during the current session an address in favor of the adoption of Responsible Government, it will be my duty

"at once to transmit it to the Secretary of State, and to request that I may be favored at an early date with the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the whole question. On the receipt of those views, I would propose to make them public, and to dissolve the Legislature in order that the constituencies might pronounce their judgment. A general election having been held, the Legislative Council would be assembled without delay to discuss the matter, and it thus seems likely that there may be a second session this year." That was the Governor's speech in June last, and he did not suppose any member of the House would differ from the views suggested,—that before the Constitution Act was finally passed the opinion of the country should be taken, and members elected specially for the purpose of finally passing the Act. It would be observed that, according to the Governor's view at the time, it was not improbable that before the end of last year a second session might have been held, after the dissolution, and that the new Council would consider this question of Responsible Government. The House, however, went on with the business of the session in June, and it passed two resolutions of the simplest, but at the same time of the most clear character possible—(1) that the time had come for the introduction of Responsible Government, and (2) that it should be Responsible Government for the whole colony. These resolutions were carried by what might be called a distinctly overwhelming majority of the elected members who voted,—namely, of 12 to 1. There were some who did not vote, and there was undoubtedly one member who spoke against Responsible Government in principle, but who voted for it,—the hon. member for the Plantagenet district. That hon. member expressed himself thus: "Having very closely considered the working of Responsible Government in the other colonies, he had come to the conclusion that the principle was not a good one." He then proceeded to support that view, and afterwards expressed himself thus: "With regard to his present position with respect to the resolution now before them, his own opinion remained the same,—that the present form of Gov-

ernment, with certain modifications, "was better suited to our needs and necessities than Responsible Government." The hon. member went on to say, however—the country having sent a majority to the House entertaining opposite views to his own:—"Such being the case, he asked himself, as a practical politician, what was the best policy now to pursue in the interests of the colony and of those whom he represented, and he felt bound to answer the question in this way: that it would be unwise for them to carry on any further opposition to Responsible Government." Now, every other elected member who voted on that occasion—he was speaking of the majority of 12—expressed himself in favor of Responsible Government as a principle—except the hon. member for Plantagenet, and that hon. member felt bound to vote for it. That being so, the propositions were carried by the majority he had alluded to. They were simple to the last degree. There was some difference of opinion at that time as to what was the best course to adopt. There were some who thought that the resolutions should have been followed up by a bill, or at all events by something more practical than a general proposition. Others took a different view—he spoke of those who were in favor of Responsible Government, and who he believed were all honest in wishing for it; and these took a different view, considering that the resolutions referred to were all that were necessary. In passing those resolutions all that they did was to affirm their rights to Responsible Government. They affirmed them because they believed they had a right, a common law right, as Englishmen, to have Responsible or Constitutional Government, and, further, because they were aware that there was a statute of the Imperial Parliament which expressly said that the Legislature of this colony should have the power, in common with the other colonies, of passing an Act for giving the colony Responsible or Ministerial Government. So far, it would have been thought there would have been no difficulties in their way, when they bore in mind the speech of the Governor, that it was possible that before the end of the year there might have been a dissolution, or at any rate at a very early date; and when they bore in mind that they had

swept away all opposition so that only one elected member voted against them—for whatever might have been the views of others they carried them with them to the lobbies, and kept them to themselves. When they saw all this, they might well have thought that they were certainly in a fair way of getting what they were entitled to. But then began our difficulties. Unfortunately the Governor wrote a long despatch to the Secretary of State, in which, instead of merely sending on our resolutions—for we the people, the Legislature representing the people of the colony, were those who were concerned—instead of sending our resolutions, and, if it pleased him, saying he supported them or differed from them, the Governor wrote a long despatch, in which he touched again and again upon subjects which he (Mr. Hensman) thought had better have been left alone. He referred to the question of Separation, and the suggestion that the people of this colony should not be trusted with the control of the aborigines. What was the result? Telegrams were sent by the Secretary of State in reply, and were followed by two despatches, which arrived here not long ago; and what was our position now? That the Secretary of State asked for a reply to his despatches. These despatches which were now passing backwards and forwards were arguments between the Governor of the colony and the Secretary of State in Downing Street, upon the various points at issue. Now he should like to know why we who wanted Responsible Government were to wait until these lengthy despatches which were now passing backwards and forwards were to cease? We had our own views; we required Responsible Government at the earliest moment, and we required it for the whole colony; and we were prepared, he believed, to go on with the question and to settle at once the form of the Constitution which we desired. Had the question been sprung upon us? Had it not on the contrary been before the country for years? He could find from the very debate to which he had alluded as having taken place last session that the question had been before the country as long ago as Sir Frederick Barlee's time, in 1874. Even so long ago as that there was a movement, apparently a very feeble movement, be-

[*Responsible Govt.*

cause it appeared that as soon as Mr. Barlee left and Governor Weld left—according to the hon. baronet the member for Plantagenet, “the *raison d’être*, he “might say” (he was quoting the hon. baronet’s own words) “for Responsible Government in those days came to an “end.” Therefore, he said it must have been a very feeble movement, because it appeared it depended entirely upon these two individuals, the Governor and Sir Frederick Barlee. At all events, the question was before the country so far back as that time. But they knew now that the feeling in favor of the movement had gradually spread throughout the length and breadth of the colony. Whatever views might be entertained as to details, the colony was unanimous in opinion that the time had come, whether we liked it or not, when Responsible Government must be introduced. He desired now to bring this business if possible to something like the commencement of the end. His desire was that the Legislature, having discussed the general principles, should now proceed to business, in order that they might see something like a Constitution Act before them. The only question was the question of time. Let any man get up and say that we shall not have Responsible Government in this colony—whether he gets up at a public meeting or in that House—and he would not be listened to with patience or gain a single person’s support. The day must come, no matter what the views of hon. members may be, when Responsible Government must be introduced, and the only practical question now was the question of time. Was it to be put off indefinitely while the despatches backwards and forwards between the Governor and the Secretary of State barred the way; or were they going to push it forward, and show that they were determined to get it without any unnecessary delay? The other evening—he was not in the House himself, but from what he saw in a newspaper report—the members of that House were twitted from the Government, bench with not dealing with this question in a vigorous manner; and they were told that it was their fault if they had not got Responsible Government, and that they ought to press on with it. Well, he thought so, too. The Governor himself had stated that

the time had passed when the present form of Government could be carried on satisfactorily. But there would still be some whose tactics would be delay. He was about to ask the House to delay no longer, nor to allow themselves to be misled by anything that might be said to them in favor of delay. Delay in this question would be most injurious to the interests of the colony. Even those who might not agree with Responsible Government must be well aware that the present period of uncertainty, this state of transition, was one in which it was impossible for the colony to grapple with those important questions that were before it, in order that the interests of the colony might be advanced and its resources fully developed. We were now in the position of persons who were crossing a plank over a stream, and it appeared to be the interest or policy of some to get us to delay in the middle of the stream,—he supposed in the hope that before we arrived at the other side something might occur to retard our progress, and prevent us from safely reaching the other bank. He had put down on the notice paper a series of resolutions, but he thought it was obvious that these resolutions, or any of the other resolutions of which notice had been given, could not properly be discussed and disposed of by a speech merely in the House; and he hoped hon. members would be of opinion that we ought to go into committee; not only upon these resolutions but also any other resolutions that were put forward, in order that they might be fully and freely discussed. And he felt sure that in this important question of Responsible Government no member would shrink from devoting time and trouble to its consideration. He had observed that it was stated in a public newspaper that the resolutions which were standing in his name ought not to be considered at all, or, at all events, only be considered to be rejected. He was well aware of the quarter from which that came. It was stated by the writer that such provisions as these ought not to find a place in a Constitution Bill, and that those who were best competent to express an opinion on the subject of constitutional change did not go about it in this way. He was quite

content that the writer, or any other writer, should have his own views; nor did he wish to convince him. They were all entitled to their own views. But he did say that the writer, or those who put forward these arguments, had overlooked the fact that in the Constitution Acts passed in the other colonies all these matters were set forth. He was not now speaking without book; and he must also remind the House that although we may pass a Constitution Bill, that bill would certainly have to lie on the table of the House of Commons for so many days before receiving the Royal assent, and, not improbably, it would be followed—inasmuch as we wished to deal with the waste lands of the Crown—by an Act of the Imperial Parliament; and, whether it be in the local Act or in the Imperial Act, every matter (and many more) that was to be found in these resolutions would have to be fully considered. And why should we not now consider them? For instance, he found that in the Act of the Imperial Parliament which authorised the New South Wales Constitution Act, every matter that was down here was referred to—the tenure of office of Legislative Councillors, the number of members to constitute the Assembly, the Presidency or Speakership of each body, the number of the electoral districts—no doubt power was given to alter them as occasion might arise—the qualification of members, and the disqualification of members, by reason of a member holding certain offices or being a Government contractor; the duration of the Legislative Assembly, the election of a Speaker, and all the other matters, and more than were down here, were set forth. And so in the Act relating to Victoria; all these matters were gone fully into. Therefore, when it was suggested that it was out of order or out of place to refer to the Governor, the members of the Ministry, and these various officers in the Constitution Bill, he would point out that the Secretary of State himself said: "I agree, also, that any Constitution Act which may be passed must provide an adequate Civil List, in which the salaries of the Governor, the Judges, and the three or four Ministers required for carrying on the Government would be included." Therefore all these things would have, sooner or later, to be considered; and

[*Responsible Govt.*

what he was now asking the Council was this: what was there to prevent them from going into this matter? What more urgent questions were before them? They had the Estimates, which were partly gone through, and what else was there for them to do? What were they there for? He hoped they would at once go into these matters, and consider them in committee, and consider them again and again until they had threshed them out, and arrived at something like a conclusion. In putting these resolutions he had not attempted to put them as amendments upon the resolutions of the senior member for Perth, because it appeared to him that the hon. member's resolutions dealt with three matters only,—namely, the division of the colony—that was to say the question of Responsible Government for the whole colony—the control of the aborigines, and the question of whether we should have one or two Legislative Chambers. But by settling these matters we should get very little forwarder. He did not think half an hour's debate would be required to show that there was almost entire unanimity in the House as to the question that we wish to remain one and undivided. We had already passed a resolution to that effect. He also thought they were united upon the second point, that if we were fit to govern ourselves and to govern the white population we were entitled to be trusted with the control of the black population. These two matters would be disposed of, he should think, very quickly. Therefore, the hon. member's resolutions only really touched on one practical question, and that was the question of one or two chambers. With regard to the hon. member for Wellington's resolutions, those resolutions were put forward as amendments. He (Mr. Hensman) had no wish to conflict in any way with any other member's resolutions further than this: he had put forward his own resolutions—which, as he said when giving notice of them, did not by any means exhaust the whole subject—in order to invite discussion, so that they might get nearer to the object they had in view. He did not feel that it was necessary for him to pin his faith to any of them—there might be one or two of them

containing such self-evident propositions that probably there would be hardly any difference of opinion with regard to them, while, on the other hand, there were many points on which they were bound to differ, as to details. But if his views, which he should put forward and attempt to support during the course of the debates that may ensue, should be overruled, he would cheerfully submit. It would not alter his opinion as to Responsible Government. It would be a strange thing if every member were in accord as to these details. That would show that we were simply following one another in a groove, and were not men of independent mind. He should be prepared to take the opinion of the House upon these matters, and come to some conclusion as to these details, for they knew the House must be dissolved, and that the colony must have something before it, before it could return members to deal finally with the Constitution Bill. It was no use dissolving the House and going to the country on the simple question of Responsible Government. That question had passed far behind them. What the country wanted to know was what were the twenty or thirty points which it was proposed should form the basis of the Constitution Bill. Therefore it was that he had put forward these resolutions as a step in that direction. They might go further and let the resolutions which the House affirmed go as an instruction to a select committee to draft a bill to be brought up to the House. Then the colony would have something before it, and the country would be in a position to say, "These men are in earnest; they are not trifling with this subject, in passing mere abstract resolutions." He might now go into the various matters referred to in these resolutions, or he might leave them to be considered in committee; he was quite ready to adopt either course, and he should be glad to know what the opinion of the House was on that point. If he were to proceed now, he should have to say something at all events upon each of these resolutions. In bringing forward these resolutions he had endeavored, he might honestly say, to sink all personal views he might have in favor of any particular views. He desired to be open to conviction, when he

heard the arguments that might be put forward on any of these propositions. He believed that the future of this colony would not depend, in the main, upon whether we have one chamber or two chambers. He could quite believe that we may be able at the outset to avoid difficulties, by the adoption of a certain course; and, as regards many other points, he thought the House might, by carefully considering the question, avoid difficulties in the future. He believed himself fully that the happiness and prosperity of the people of this colony would not be very much affected by the exact form of their Constitution at first. He presumed that any Constitution Act which they were likely to pass would contain a clause giving them power from time to time to amend it, as necessity might arise. We should be certain to make mistakes. We might apply ourselves with our utmost energy, and with the most candid and honest desire, to the consideration of this question, but we were bound to make some mistakes. All that he wished was that we should make the fewest mistakes possible, and that we should have, in the machinery which we eventually adopted, power to rectify these mistakes as we went along. He thought he should best consult the views of the House by not going now into any of the details of the various resolutions he proposed. He believed the House would rather consider them *seriatim*, in committee. All he desired was to assist others in getting Responsible Government at the earliest possible day, and to get the best Constitution that we were capable of framing. The question they had to consider was, were they now to go on, or to allow the session to pass without grappling with this question? Were they, in fact, equal to this occasion? It was a matter that would affect this colony for many years. Were they now to say, as a Legislative Council, and as those who represented the people of the colony, "We take this matter in hand, and we are determined that we will not part with it until we have settled it." How were they to do that? They could only do it by the due exercise of their constitutional rights—and they had some, even under this form of Government. One of those rights they exercised a short time ago, in only voting a portion of the

year's supplies. In the past, as they knew, in England, in times of trouble, in times when a despotic Government had attempted to tyrannise over the people, the power of the purse had always been considered the great hope of liberty. Fortunately we here lived in times when we had no prospect or apprehension of bloodshed or any evils of that kind; still we lived in times when the prospects of the colony might be very much injured, by delay. Our great power was therefore the power which we had in voting supplies; and he hoped that House would say that it would not vote the supplies for the whole of this year, but only a certain portion of them, so that they might adjourn from time to time, and keep their hands on this question until they had settled it, so far as that Council could settle it. He knew there were members who would say that everything would be right if we left it to the Government, that we might trust to the Secretary of State and to the Governor to manage it for us. We ought to manage it for ourselves. We merely asked for what was our right, and we desired to have it at the earliest possible time. And he hoped that, in the future, when we had passed away, those who came after us might be able to say that the men of Western Australia, at the time when a constitutional change took place, were equal to the occasion; that they were not men of words but men of deeds; that they did not allow themselves to be beguiled by those who said "Wait, and trust in others," especially when they knew there were those ready to taunt them with this remark, "Why don't you take the matter in hand, and settle it;" that they were men who did not need a second time to be taunted in that way; that they felt that upon them devolved the serious duty of bringing about a change in the constitution, not in the interest of any individual, or in the interest of any clique, or for the benefit of any particular class, but in the interest of the whole colony. When he heard some arguments or observations made, he should almost think that this was a question of whether A or B, or half a dozen gentlemen were to come in and sit on the Government benches. But he thought it was nothing of the kind. He spoke there as one who was prepared

to say that it was certainly not to his special pecuniary interest to be devoting himself, night after night, and day after day, to the affairs of that House. [MR. HARPER: Whose is it?] The hon. member might answer that question himself. Nor did he believe that under Responsible Government it was likely to be a very profitable thing for those who had business of their own to take upon themselves the cares and business of the colony. But he did desire this: to see this colony not pausing now, when it had made up its mind, not prolonging this state of suspense which was injurious to the interests of the whole colony, but going forward, saying: "Now, at all events we will press this on to the best of our ability, taking no excuses, nor listening to the voice of anyone who counsels delay, but sitting here if necessary from day to day, from week to week, and from month to month until we have brought this question nearer to the stage to which we all desire to see it brought." He would now formally move his resolutions, because, as he had already observed, he thought it would be more convenient to discuss their details in committee, either that evening or on some future occasion.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT seconded the motion.

MR. PARKER expressed his surprise that the hon. member who had submitted the resolutions, after having spoken for forty minutes, had not said a single word in support of them. The House was now asked to affirm a series of resolutions which the mover had not even taken the trouble of reading to them. If the hon. member's desire was to consider them in committee, why did he not move the Speaker out of the chair? To ask that House to affirm all these resolutions, after the hon. member had occupied forty minutes in discussing merely what he might call the prelude, without ever coming to the real point, was, he thought, simply ridiculous. He (Mr. Parker) was not going to discuss them himself, but if it came to a question of voting, he should vote against the whole of them, and, if necessary, divide the House.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said the situation was extremely peculiar. He thought, perhaps, that having introduced his resolutions, and given his reasons, the hon. member might now

[*Responsible Govt.*

withdraw them, and, when the House went into committee on the other resolutions already tabled, the hon. member could bring them forward again as amendments to those resolutions.

THE SPEAKER said of course it was not for him to say what course should be adopted, but he thought it was only right he should point this out to the hon. member: that if his resolutions were all negatived, *en bloc*, probably some of them would be negatived which some members would wish to see affirmed when the other resolutions of which notice had been given were affirmed, but that the hon. member could not bring them forward again, because a decision would have already been taken upon them.

MR. VENN said they seemed to be in some trouble. He had asked a few members what course they would wish pursued, but he could get no information whatever, and he felt rather sorry that such an important question as this should be hitched up in this apparently absurd situation. The hon. member who had put forward the resolutions had favored the House with a speech which he (Mr. Venn) felt sure everyone had listened to with the utmost attention—at any rate he had; and, as to a great deal which the hon. member had said, he endorsed it most thoroughly. He believed the hon. member had but one desire—which he thought was shared by every other member—that the sooner this question of Responsible Government was settled the better would it be for Western Australia. The position in which the colony was placed at present was deplorable; and, as they had been twitted from the Government side of the House, the other night, with inaction in this matter—a charge which appeared to have acted as a stimulant upon hon. members—they were desirous of showing that they were not prepared to remain much longer in this state of uncertainty. He felt satisfied himself that the general feeling of the House was that something definite should be done, and, with that view, the hon. member for Greenough had tabled a series of resolutions, as also had the hon. member for Perth, and he (Mr. Venn) himself. He thought with the hon. member for Greenough that we should have to go a little further than that.

These resolutions would help to bring the matter to a head. The hon. member said something about referring the matter to a select committee, with instructions to bring in a bill. He was in accord with that proposition. He said so distinctly. Yet he would not be averse to discuss all these resolutions, *seriatim*, now, if it was the intention to refer the matter to a select committee with the view of having a bill framed, but, if he was beaten here twenty times over upon these resolutions, he should fight them over again in the Constitution Bill; and he believed other members would be inclined to do the same. He would take the same course as he did with regard to the Land Regulations, and fight every clause of the bill not in accord with his convictions. Therefore it appeared to him it would be well to discuss all these resolutions at this stage, if the intention was to refer the matter to a select committee, with instructions to bring in a bill, although the whole matter would be discussed again in the Bill. Personally, he did not particularly care whether the session lasted a month or six months; he was determined that, on the views which he held, he should only be beaten on a division, on every point. He thought if there was anything like unanimity of feeling at all in the House, it would not be a waste of time to refer the matter to a select committee. There might appear to be a considerable divergence of opinion upon some points, but he thought all agreed as to the broad principles upon which the proposed change should be effected. It might clear the way if the House were to say at once whether it was in favor of a single chamber or not. He felt sure if the hon. member for Greenough, who had made a single chamber one of the main features of his programme, found the House unanimous in its opposition to the single chamber system, they would have the hon. member's cordial co-operation in framing a bill providing for two chambers. He did not know whether he had a right to say so, but he had an instinctive feeling the hon. member had simply put his views on this subject forward as a sort of test point. The hon. member, doubtlessly, felt that although he might be left without support in regard to the single

chamber system, in the present House, he still had a chance of bringing his views before the country, and, if he could persuade the constituencies to come to his own way of thinking, the hon. member might come back to another House with a majority in favor of a single chamber. Personally he was entirely opposed to the unicameral system, but, as the hon. member had not yet favored them with any arguments in support of his own particular views, but simply introduced his resolutions, it was no use attempting to anticipate his arguments. But he did not think anything would convince him that a single chamber constitution would be a good thing for Western Australia. He would not detain the House at present; he had only spoken for the purpose of giving the hon. member for Greenough time to consider what course he should take with respect to his resolutions.

MR. RICHARDSON said that, in order to get out of the difficulty, he would move that the debate be adjourned until Friday evening.

MR. SCOTT seconded the motion. He agreed with the hon. member for Greenough in wishing to see this question pressed forward to a settlement as quickly as possible. There were points involved in the hon. member's resolutions which went to the very root of the whole question, but it would be difficult to proceed to discuss them until they had heard the hon. member's own views upon them.

The motion to adjourn the debate until Friday was agreed to.

Friday, 23rd March, 1888.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT : MR. PARKER'S RESOLUTIONS TRAVERSING SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESPATCHES.

MR. PARKER, in accordance with notice, rose to submit the following resolutions for the consideration of the House:—

[*Responsible Govt.*

That this Council, having taken the two despatches of the Secretary of State, dated 12th December, 1887, and 3rd January, 1888, on the subject of constitutional change for Western Australia, into careful consideration, resolves as follows:—

(1.) That to indicate, at the present time, the possible future boundary of a Northern political subdivision of the Colony would be premature and open to serious objection; and that in any case the line suggested by the Secretary of State would be most undesirable.

(2.) That special statutory reservation to Her Majesty's Government in the Constitution Act of power to control legislation affecting Northern lands is unnecessary, the Crown having a right of veto upon all such legislation.

(3.) That the proposed arrangement for funding the proceeds of sales of Northern lands, with a view to their future local use, would be a needless complication, the Regulations lately sanctioned by the Secretary of State not contemplating alienation of those lands except in townships and in special areas.

(4.) That the Constitution of the Colony should, from the first, provide for the establishment of a second Legislative Chamber.

(5.) That the second House of Western Australia should be elected by the people.

(6.) That in view of persistent differences of opinion disclosing themselves between the Legislative Chambers, it is highly desirable that definite provision should be made for peaceable and final settlement of disputes, and, at the same time, for preserving the co-ordinate powers and equal authority of the two Houses in the passing of laws.

(7.) That no ground whatever of necessity has been shown for placing the interests of the aboriginal population in the hands of a body independent of the local Ministry.

The hon. member said he intended, with regard to these resolutions, to ask the House to consider them separately, in committee of the whole House. In a matter of such very great importance as