

sible Government or not—whether it was desirable—was not discussed in the recent debate at all, and the debate would throw no light on it. There was another objection to the proposal before them: if this *Hansard* report were published and circulated as suggested, members, instead of facing their constituents, and personally explaining their views to them, would simply refer them to *Hansard*. They all knew that the *Hansard* here was most admirably reported, and probably the constituencies would be surprised to find what capital orators their members were. But he thought it would be a bad precedent to establish. It would leave the door open, when a member thought he had made a particularly eloquent speech, to move that the *Hansard* report of it be printed and circulated among the electors, and, if this motion were carried, he would point to it as a precedent. For these reasons he thought it would be undesirable to adopt this resolution.

Motion put and negatived.

FREE LEASE OF LAND IN KIMBERLEY TO MR. POULTON.

MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, moved the following resolution: "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying that he would be pleased to grant to Mr. J. G. Poulton, one of the pioneer settlers in the Kimberley district, a free lease of 100,000 acres for a term of 14 years, and similar to those granted to Mr. J. G. Brockman and the Murray Squatting Company." The principle of recognising conspicuous merit, indomitable pluck, and unflagging enterprise had before now been recognised by that House in a substantial way, when these qualities had been exercised in a direction tending to develop the resources of the colony and the progress of settlement. The gentleman whose claim he now asked the House and the Government to recognise was, as they all knew, one of the earliest pioneers of this Kimberley district, and, notwithstanding difficulties and privations, and perils which would have disheartened most men, he had pursued his work as a pioneer undismayed, and shown his faith in the capabilities of the district, notwithstanding the most serious drawbacks. It was men like Mr. Poulton who made districts like Kimber-

ley, and such indomitable pluck and enterprise deserved public recognition. He hoped the House would give its cordial support to this address, and that the Government would offer no opposition to it.

MR. A. FORREST said he had much pleasure in supporting the motion; and was proceeding to speak to it, when—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. Sir M. Fraser) interjected that the Government agreed to it.

Motion put and passed.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to eleven o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Thursday, 15th November, 1888.

Petition of Messrs. Stirling Bros.: motion for printing—Excess Bill, 1887: in committee—Inquests on Infants Bill: adjourned debate on third reading—Church of England Trustees Bill: third reading—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

PETITION OF MESSRS. STIRLING, BROS., re LAW OF LIBEL.

MR. SCOTT, in accordance with notice, moved that the petition of Messrs. Stirling, Bros., and Co., presented to the House on the previous day, be printed.

Agreed to.

MR. SCOTT moved that the petition be referred to a select committee, to consider the prayer of the bill—the introduction of a bill to amend the law of libel; such committee to consist of the Attorney General, Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Randell, Mr. Marmion, and the mover, with power to call for persons and papers.

Agreed to.

EXCESS BILL, 1887.

This bill passed through committee, *sub silentio*.

INQUESTS ON INFANTS BILL.

On the order of the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion for the third reading of this bill—upon which an amendment had been moved by Mr. Raudell, that the bill be read a third time that day six months—

Mr. BURT said, now that they had the bill reprinted, it would be seen how inconsistent it was. The first clause limited the application of the bill to townships, where there was a medical practitioner, whereas the third clause had no such limitation, but made it apply to all parts of the colony, whether there was a medical practitioner there or not. Even if the whole bill were restricted in its operation to places where there was a Government medical officer stationed, it might happen that the medical officer was away in some other part of the country, and there would be no one to give a certificate of an infant's death. In that case there would have to be an inquest, although there was no reason whatever for supposing there had been any default or neglect. Why should they submit bereaved parents to this unnecessary pain and annoyance. These inquiries should not be thrust upon the public, if they could be avoided. While sympathising with the object of the bill—more especially as he understood it had been recommended by the Medical Board,—still the bill, as at present drafted, appeared to him altogether impracticable, and he thought it would remain so notwithstanding any effort on their part to recast it. It was for the House to say whether it would reject the bill altogether, or pass it as a tentative measure, and see how it worked.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. C. N. Warton) admitted that there was an inconsistency between the first and third clauses, which had escaped his attention, but, if the bill were recommitted, this could be remedied.

Amendment put :

Upon a division the numbers were--

Ayes	7
Noes	7

AYES.
 Mr. H. Brockman
 Captain Fawcett
 Mr. A. Forrest
 Mr. Harper
 Mr. Horgan
 Mr. Richardson
 Mr. Marmion (Teller).

NOES.
 Sir T. C. Campbell, Bart.
 Hon. Sir M. Fraser, *s.c.m.e.*
 Mr. Keane
 Mr. Scott
 Mr. Venn
 Hon. J. A. Wright
 Hon. C. N. Warton
 (Teller.)

The numbers being equal the SPEAKER gave his casting vote with the Ayes, and the bill was consequently thrown out.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TRUSTEES BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at two o'clock, p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Friday, 16th November, 1888.

Excess Bill, 1887 : third reading—Scab Act Amendment Bill : third reading—Pearl Shell Fisheries Bill (Extra-territorial) : Federal Council—Railway to Eucla on Land Grant System (Dr. Boyd's scheme) —Queen's Plate for Gascoyne Racing Club—Closure of Streets at Albany : Powers of Commissioner of Railways—Reduction of Export Duty on Pearl Shells—Adjournment.

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

PRAYERS.

EXCESS BILL, 1887.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this bill,

THE SPEAKER said: I think it is right I should draw attention to the fact that there has been what I consider great irregularity in connection with this bill. The bill was referred by the House to a select committee, which committee was ordered to report on a certain day. Subsequently leave was given from time to time to extend the date for bringing up the report, and I was informed at last