

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 6th July, 1893.

Sessional Committees—Chairman of Committees: appointment of—Address-in-Reply: Adjourned Debate  
—Business Days: arrangement of—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The usual sessional committees were appointed (*vide* Votes and Proceedings 1893, page 7).

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES—  
APPOINTMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I move, sir, "That during the present session of Council the duties of Chairman of Committees be performed by the President, the Hon. Sir G. Shenton." I may be permitted, sir, to take this opportunity, which is the earliest I have had, of congratulating you upon the honour which has been conferred upon you. I feel that on no more worthy citizen of Western Australia could this distinguished honour have been conferred, and besides this I regard it as an honour both to this House and the colony at large. This House, sir, owes you a debt of gratitude for having been good enough to perform the duties of Chairman of Committees in the past, and I feel sure that in your good nature you will be glad to continue them in future.

THE HON. J. G. H. AMHERST: I have the greatest pleasure in seconding this motion and of endorsing what my hon. friend has said. I have already had the opportunity of congratulating you, sir, upon the honour conferred upon you, and I have now the greatest pleasure in doing so again.

Question—put and passed.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): I shall only be too happy to carry out the duties of Chairman of Committees during the present session.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

## ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I would like to say just a few words, sir, on the question of this Address-in-Reply, and I do so more especially for the purpose of congratulating my hon. friends, Mr. Hooley and Mr. Amherst, on the able speeches they have made on a text that has absolutely nothing in it. The Speech we have heard, which is said formally to be His Excellency's Speech, might more properly be called a Ministerial statement, and as it is, may I ask, what is it? It is simply a statement of facts we have all known for some time past, hashed up in the particular manner in which it has been. I have heard it said that the cleverest letter writer is he who can write the longest letter and say nothing; and on producing a long speech and saying nothing I must congratulate the Ministry. Anything so absolutely devoid of anything new I have never heard. We are told that commissions have been appointed to inquire into the Tariff Act, and also into the condition of the Railway workshops. We know that the first of these commissions is composed of men who thoroughly understand what they are about. They have examined a series of witnesses, as far as one can judge from the newspapers, who have all one fixed idea that there is nothing like leather. They have all stated that they require the tariff to be increased on their own particular manufactures. They do not seem to care what becomes of the colony, or whether the poor man has to pay extra for his loaf, so long as boots and shoes are charged 300 per cent. duty. Among the Bills to be brought up for our delectation is the Treasury Bills Bill. I should like to ask how much was realised from the issue recently made, and where the money came from? These are things that should be inquired into, although perhaps not by this House, as apparently we have but little to do with financial matters. It is also the intention of the Government, during the present session, to again bring in the Homesteads Bill and the Constitution Bill. The former measure never reached this House last session, and I trust it may not this session, because a greater question of spoliation and repudiation never came before the legislature

of any colony. The idea of the Bill is to hand over a certain amount of land to everyone, and make them a present of a certain amount of money to make it any good to them. There are numbers of people in Western Australia who have for years held from 40 acres to as many thousands of acres, and who have purchased it and improved it. Let me take the case of the man with 100 acres. He has bought it and paid the price demanded for it. He has fenced and improved it, and made it worth money; but he is now to find himself, by this Bill, surrounded by a large number of needy men, who have got 160 acres, for which they pay nothing; and when they improve it the Government has to pay. Now, I ask, is it fair to the man who has purchased and improved his land before this Homesteads Bill was brought in—purchased in good faith from the Government at the price fixed? It is utterly wrong. I will say nothing about the wrong to the land companies. One of them, at any rate, has built a railway and equipped it as thoroughly as any railway can be; and it has been paid for in land. Now, the Government practically wish to repudiate, by stating that the land is of so little value that they are willing, not only to give it away, but to give money with it to improve it. I can call it nothing other than a piece of pure repudiation. Then, as to the Constitution Bill: Last year it came to this House, and was thrown out by 9 to 5. Is there any reason, I ask, why we should not follow in the steps we have previously taken? We are the same members, and we should be unworthy of the positions we hold if we allowed it to pass on this occasion. This is, no doubt, a moribund House, and it is the last time we shall sit here.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker):** I hope to see you here again.

**THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT:** The last time we shall sit as nominated members. Is it intended, I ask, to waive this Bill in front of a certain number of members who may wish to be elected, and who may like to go before the constituencies and say that they are prepared to vote for a change of the Constitution? If we are to be influenced by any such motive we certainly are unworthy of the positions we hold. Then as to the Midland Railway, no one can be more glad than I am

to find the company has at last got to the end of its troubles so far as the raising of the remainder of its capital is concerned. The company has passed through a great deal of trouble, and the colony has passed through even more. But let us hope we have seen the last of it, and that the company may be able to complete and equip their line. When they have done that then their troubles will begin.

**THE HON. J. MORRISON:** What the hon. member who has just sat down has said as to the Governor's Speech coincides very much with my own views. I look upon the Speech as a very verbose report of the work of the Government during the past half-year. At the same time it may be a document that may do much good when published abroad. It gives a great deal of information, which, unless one had the files of the newspapers for the past six months, would be very difficult to collect. The recent financial troubles are referred to, and although this colony has suffered to a certain extent, we should all be very thankful that the injury done to us has not been in the same proportion as it has been elsewhere. Certainly, at one time there was every appearance of a panic, but it is satisfactory to know that there was no nervous action or undue haste on the part of the Government to intensify it. The Speech says that two of the banks which toppled over have arranged their affairs, but one of the most satisfactory outcomes of the crisis was to find the local bank riding safely at anchor after the gale, when two of the oldest banking institutions in Australia went under. This will, when known, do a great deal outside the colony to inspire confidence in our resources; besides which, it shows that the management was good, and that the public faith here was unshaken in the institution. The paragraph in the Speech referring to the yield of gold is rather disappointing. I had thought that the yield for the past six months would have been considerably more, but we know that a great deal of gold is smuggled out of the country. I do not know that I should use the term "smuggled," for there is no export duty upon gold. The duty that formerly existed was taken off to induce people to declare what gold they sent out of the colony; but it

evidently has not had the effect that was anticipated. Our goldfields cost us a considerable amount of money, and I should not be surprised to find the question raised as to whether the export duty on gold should not be re-imposed. I cannot say, at the present moment, how I should vote upon such a question; but I should like to see it raised. As to our Public Works, although we must all admit that they are expensively carried out, they are thoroughly carried out. I refer specially to the works on the Pinjarrah line. I went over the line the other day, and was rather surprised to see it so well equipped, and such handsome station buildings upon it. No doubt, at the present moment, we have gone somewhat ahead of the requirements of our population; but I trust that before long we shall not be able to say so. In going over the line there was no station at which I did not see two or three bundles of fruit trees put out, and this of itself affords a good indication of what is being done. The railway to Busselton is referred to in the Speech, and I understand that the work is to be commenced as soon as possible. I never could see what there was to warrant this expenditure; but as Parliament has promised the line, I suppose it ought to be carried out. Before, however, the work is commenced, the settlers interested should decide first of all whether the line is necessary, and, secondly, as to the route it should take. The line is to connect two townships—Bunbury and Busselton. When the matter was before Parliament we heard no difference of opinion as to which route the railway should take; but now we find some people wanting it one way, and others urging its construction in a different direction. Before, therefore, the work is started, the matter should be inquired into, and that route decided upon which will be of the greatest benefit to the greatest number. As to the breakwater at Fremantle, it must be gratifying to us all to know that at present everything is going on quite as well as can be expected, and I trust that the progress of the colony will be such as to allow of the work being continued to completion. It is also satisfactory to know that the dredger at Albany is doing good work. Already a channel has been opened up 300 feet wide, and when the rest of the

work is done, steps should be taken to compel the subsidised mail steamers to come into Princess Royal Harbour, for it is not fair to the colony to pay the subsidy and expend large sums of money in deepening and improving the harbour when the principal vessels will not use it. I notice that the Government intend to bring in another Homesteads Bill, and upon this subject I may say that I quite agree with what the Hon. Mr. Wright has said. To give the land away as is proposed is quite unfair to former purchasers of land from the Government, the money derived from which very materially helped to keep the Government going in the early days. Those who purchased land did so clearly on the understanding that they were paying the minimum price which would be taken, namely, 10s. an acre; and when the land companies agreed to construct their railways this was the price of the land. In consideration, however, of these companies taking a quantity and having it in 12,000-acre blocks, the land was given to them at 5s. per acre, and now it would be most unfair to give it away. The re-introduction of the Constitution Bill is mentioned, and that is all. It is not stated whether it is to be the Bill of last session, or whether it will be presented to us in a modified form. If it is to be the Bill of last session, I trust it will not be allowed to pass. The public, no doubt, think a great deal was given to them by this Bill, and they complained of our narrow-mindedness in rejecting it; but I hope those who thus complain will look into the measure, when they will find that it is not what they think it is. The Treasury Bills Bill which it is proposed to introduce will, I presume, be made retrospective, on account of the issue which was made not long ago, for which there was no Parliamentary sanction. This was, to my mind, a step in the right direction at the time, and one which will be endorsed by all business men. The people who took up these bills were nervous as to the banks during the crisis, and they considered Treasury bills a handy kind of security, although any one to see one of them would be very much astonished, for they were very nearly as large as some of the small lots in Perth. I quite agree with the issue of Treasury bills, and the more money the Govern-

ment can borrow in this way the better, for the benefits accruing are twofold. In the first place, the interest is payable in the colony and is spent in the colony; and, secondly, when the money is subscribed here the people will be more careful as to its expenditure than if it were money obtained from outside sources. I am glad to find that something is to be done in the direction of amending the Post Office Savings Bank Act, for I am sure much good will be done by it if the alterations are in the right direction. In clause 11 of the Speech the subject of the importation of Chinese is dealt with, and it is stated that it is proposed to bring our legislation into accord with that of the other colonies. I am not inclined, however, to say that we should always do as our neighbours have done, for it must be remembered that they have not always proved themselves to be right. Where there is so much difficulty in obtaining a certain kind of labour, which is especially the case in the North of this colony, we should be careful what we do. The labour of the Chinese there is worth quite as much as that of the whites, if not more, for the former can do the same work with less loss to themselves and less exertion than ordinary white labourers. For my part, I do not object to the introduction of Chinese as servants, but they must be brought here just as you would import a shipment of horses. They should come and go to the service of those who require them. They should have no rights of citizenship, and thus the labouring classes, who cry out, would have but little to complain of. In fact, it would be the means, if anything, of advancing them a step, for they would become the overseers and employers of the Chinese, who would do the work instead of themselves. I notice that the Speech gives us some information relative to the Midland Railway. The telegram which the Hon. Mr. Amherst quoted stated that the money was already over-subscribed, and that the list would close on the following day. Now, any business man who would swallow a telegram with such an ending would be rather green. When the Government, to help a friend, brought down the price from £98 to £95, I should think there would be no doubt as to the money being raised, but to state that the amount had been already oversubscribed, shows that the

tenders must have been opened before they should have been.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: No, certainly not.

THE HON. J. MORRISON: Do you mean to say that the result of tenders is known before they are closed?

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: Are you sure the Loan was by tender, or was it by subscription?

THE HON. J. MORRISON: Certainly. You do not mean to say that the Government would allow them to do it other than by tender? They would, of course, insist upon tenders. It is bad enough to go down to £95, and then raise the money by tender without suggesting a subscription at that price. At all events, I consider it very peculiar for people to know how much had been subscribed before the tenders were opened. If the tenders had been opened before the date of closing, it is certainly not right; and, again, if after this statement it is necessary to keep them open until the following day, it shows that the money has not been subscribed. There is one other matter I should like to refer to, and that is the closing up of some of the sandalwood country. Last session a resolution was carried in this House with only three dissentient voices, in favour of closing the country. It was sent down to the other House, and they rejected it. I should like to know why, in the face of that, the Government have closed the country? Certainly such a matter should have been mentioned in the Speech, but perhaps it will be referred to later on.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): Notwithstanding the remarks of my hon. friend opposite (Hon. J. A. Wright) I think the Government is to be congratulated on the tone which has been taken in this debate. My hon. friend says it was a long Speech with nothing in it, and that he knew everything in it before it was read, but yet some portions of it seemed to have excited him extremely. One of the portions which seemed to astonish him was the audacity of the Government in proposing to re-introduce the Homesteads Bill, and therefore we may presume that he has learnt something.

THE HON. J. A. WRIGHT: I cannot learn anything about the audacity of the Government.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): At all events, the present Ministry is not a Government of surprises. We are a Ministry desirous of carrying on the affairs of the colony in the interests of the people, so far as we can with the comparatively small means at our command. We have no funds with which to embark in great works, and we are consequently not able to startle the public, or perhaps increase the popularity of the Government by entering upon large undertakings involving a considerable amount of money. Especially at the present time, when the financial resources of the whole of Australia are depressed, the Government is bound to be as economical as possible in the expenditure of public funds; and with that end in view, some of the works authorised out of Loan, and others sanctioned by Parliament out of revenue, have not yet been undertaken, on account of the difficulty of obtaining money. It is not that the credit of Western Australia is any worse than it was a year ago; but from the mere fact of the suspension of some of the banks, and the depressed state of the financial market generally, it has been found impossible to obtain the balance of our authorised Loan, and it has also been found almost impossible to obtain the necessary assistance locally. Owing to the financial difficulties which existed at the time, the Government thought it would be of great advantage to the colony to import 50,000 sovereigns, which they did, and paid them into one of the banks in Perth. If it had been possible to obtain money in the colony by the sale of drafts on London, at any reasonable rate of exchange, the Government would not have introduced the gold; but this could not be done, and the action of the Government was, I think, a wise one under the circumstances, strengthening, as it did, the coin reserves held by the banking institutions of the colony. Hon. members will see from the Speech that the Government has done all in its power to carry out the mandates of Parliament. We have undertaken all the public works we possibly could, and we have done our best to administer the laws which Parliament directed us to carry out; and I may add that since we last met matters have gone on smoothly and

well. Hon. members will, therefore, see that the Government have done their best to promote the greatest good to the greatest number, and that, as far as I know, is the main object of all Governments. I regret, however, that it has been impossible to introduce into this Speech something startling or exciting. All we have been able to do is to place before hon. members a plain and unvarnished statement of facts which, I have no doubt, will be of interest abroad, even if they are already known in this colony. They contain such a summary of our affairs, and such a statement of our financial position as, I hope, may infuse confidence among those who are inclined to invest in Western Australian securities; and I trust that these, with other assistance, may enable us to raise the balance of the money authorised by Parliament, and which we require to carry on our public works with. As to the Homesteads Bill, I think all hon. members will agree that it is the duty of Parliament and of the Government to strive, as far as possible, to put the people on the soil; and this is the object of the Government in introducing this Bill. We desire to see a large and flourishing population on the land. At present a large quantity of land is idle, and as far as the colony is concerned, whether it is given away, or whether we get 10s. an acre for it, is nothing compared to its value when brought into occupation and cultivation. If we give it away, and thereby get a population upon it, it at once becomes wealth-producing to the State. I think it is very probable that the Bill the Government now propose to introduce will be passed in another place without opposition, and I trust, when my hon. friend opposite sees it, he will also come to the conclusion that it is a measure that will do good all round—even to the Railway Company he so well represents. My hon. friend will see, I am sure, that although his Company has the major portion of the best land along its railway, if the Government give away the balance and get it settled and cultivated, it will be a grand thing for the railway by reason of the freight it must bring. Besides this, the lands already held by the Company must become so much the more valuable when the lands adjoining them

are settled and cultivated. There is another way of looking at the matter: We know that in Australia there is a complaint that people are congested in the towns, and are living upon the borrowed money. As soon as the money is expended, an unemployed difficulty arises in all the great towns, for these persons do not care about going into the country. Our object, however, is to induce them to settle on the land, where they may always be sure of obtaining a livelihood, and of making a competence, perhaps, for themselves in a few years. I hope, when this Bill becomes law, that it will induce many persons who now drag on a somewhat miserable existence in the towns to devote their energies to the cultivation of the soil, and to raise themselves and their families to a brighter and more comfortable future. With regard to the Constitution Bill, hon. members will see that the Government is bound to re-introduce this measure. The fact that it was thrown out last session does not relieve the Government of their promise to do their utmost to pass such a Bill. As far as I am concerned, I am thoroughly in accord with it. When I occupied a seat in the Lower House, I was instrumental in procuring the pledge from the Government that they would bring in such a Bill; and when it comes before this House again I am sure that hon. members will regret the vote that was given last session, and will allow the measure to become the law of the land. Hon. members will see that there are some portions of it which are essential to the Legislative Council. Before next session this House will have become elective, and some of the provisions of this Bill are intended to regulate the elections, and the number of members is increased. Therefore, in the interests of this House, and of the colony, it is essential that a portion of the Bill, at any rate, should become law. With regard to the question of the Chinese, I have no doubt that the subject will provoke a discussion in both Houses. It does, perhaps, seem a harsh measure to exclude the Chinese, or the members of any other nationality from any part of Her Majesty's dominions. When I was at Home I had an interview with Mr. Gladstone, and in the course of conversation he said he could not

understand why we wished, in Australia, to exclude the Chinese. He said it was altogether opposed to his views of right and wrong. I pointed out to the right hon. gentleman that it was not on account of the vices of the Chinese, but because of his thrift, and because he lived on so small a sum as to compete unfavourably with the European labourer. And I told him that the effect of allowing the Chinese to come to Australia in unlimited numbers would be to drive European labour from the market altogether. We certainly do not want to see Australia overrun with Chinese, and our white population driven out by those who live on what has been called the smell of an oil-rag. We want to see our own people here settling on the soil, and not a migratory race, the people of which make all the money they can, spend the smallest possible amount, and carry the balance to their native country, thus draining us of our resources. Some hon. members say that we want the Chinese for cooks and gardeners; but I cannot help thinking that if we exclude these people, who enter into competition with our own, we shall not have much trouble in obtaining cooks and gardeners. I hope, in this matter, that we shall be able to bring our law into accord with that of the other colonies, which, after years of agitation and consideration, has been found to be what is best. At the present time Chinese are being introduced in large numbers, not only by Europeans, but by their fellow Chinese, who bring them down by every steamer; and therefore I hope to see this Bill passed at the earliest opportunity. I do not think there is any occasion at this stage to say anything more. I thank hon. members for the kindly way the Speech has been treated, and I am delighted to find that the criticism on the action of the Government has been, in this House, so mild; and I hope the Government will so conduct itself in the future that it will experience no more harsh treatment than it has this evening.

THE HON. G. W. LEAKE: Can the hon. gentleman say how many Chinese there are, at the present moment, in Western Australia?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker): I cannot say.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton): Before putting the question, I

should like to thank hon. members for the kindly references they have made to the honour which has been conferred upon me by Her Majesty. From the numerous telegrams and letters I have received, I believe the choice of Her Majesty has given general satisfaction throughout the colony. I consider that a great honour has been conferred upon this House by its President having been selected for this special distinction. I also feel proud in being the second native-born West Australian who has received the honour of knighthood from Her Majesty. I trust that in the future, as in the past, my public duties will be so carried out as to meet with the same approval that they have done in the past. I again thank hon. members for their kindly references.

Question—That the address be presented—put and passed.

#### BUSINESS DAYS—ARRANGEMENT OF.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker), by leave, amended the motion of which he had given notice, and moved, That unless otherwise ordered, the Council do meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, at half-past two o'clock p.m., and on Thursdays, at half-past four o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 8:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 11th July, at half-past two o'clock p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 6th July, 1893.

Water Supply for Travelling Stock—Sessional Orders: Business Days and Hours: Precedence of Government Business: Standing Orders Committee: Library Committee: Printing Committee: Refreshment Rooms Committee—The Address-in-Reply: Adjourned Debate—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

#### PRAYERS.

#### WATER SUPPLY FOR TRAVELLING STOCK.

MR. RICHARDSON, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works what progress had been made towards obtaining a good supply of water for travelling stock, between Northampton and Roebourne, and also between Roebourne and Kimberley.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. H. W. Venn) replied:—The Government having obtained sufficient information respecting the most suitable line for a stock route, the matter was decided, and the stock route gazetted. Sufficient troughing has been forwarded to the various Roads Boards through whose districts the stock route runs, and these boards have consented to undertake the sinking of the wells which it was deemed desirable to provide, or the deepening of others, funds having been allocated for the purpose. Representations have, however, been made that the sums allocated will not be sufficient; provision will therefore be made on the Estimates (to be submitted) for this purpose.

#### SESSIONAL ORDERS—BUSINESS DAYS AND HOURS.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) moved, "That, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for despatch of business on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; and on Tuesdays and Fridays at 2:30 p.m., and, if necessary, until 6:30 p.m."

MR. PLESSE moved, as an amendment, "That all the words after the words 'business on' be struck out, and that