

We have been waiting for the Address-in-Reply, which we have heard for the first time a few minutes ago; and some of us are anxious to consider the policy put forward by the Government before expressing our views upon it. Those views need not necessarily be hostile to the Address-in-Reply as moved, but I do think we should have some time to think over the matter. There is another reason why the debate should not be resumed to-morrow: several country members cannot be here to-morrow, and I think it is very desirable we should have a full House when considering the important matters placed before us in this Speech. The borrowing of a million and a half of money, and the construction of public works of such magnitude as are indicated in the Governor's Speech, are questions which require grave and careful consideration. I think the policy sketched out by the Government requires the gravest consideration at the hands of members, in several directions; and I do deprecate any hasty decision by proceeding to vote the Address-in-Reply to-morrow. With regard to the Supply Bill, it is for the Government to decide whether they want that measure passed to-morrow; if they do, there can be no objection to the House meeting to-morrow for that purpose; but it is not at all necessary that we should at the same time resume the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I think we are following the usual precedent of this House in adjourning the debate for two or three days, and in the meantime business of ordinary character may be proceeded with.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): If it is the wish of the House, there can be no great objection to adjourning this debate until Monday, and also adjourning the House. We shall have Monday and Tuesday in which to pass the Supply Bill, before the month closes; and, so far as the Government are concerned, we have no objection to the proposed adjournment.

Motion put and passed.

Debate adjourned accordingly.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Thursday, 26th July, 1894.

Address-in-Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

**THE PRESIDENT** (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 3 o'clock.

#### PRAYERS.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

**THE HON. S. J. HAYNES**: I believe it is my privilege to speak first on the present occasion, as being the mover of the adjournment of the debate; but I propose to make my remarks as brief as possible. The facts set forth in His Excellency's Speech are indeed most gratifying, showing, as they do, a very rapid increase in population and revenue, whilst great progress has been made with our goldfields during the last twelve months. It is also exceedingly pleasing to know the good financial position this colony stands in at the present juncture, which is shown by the fact of our last Loan having been floated at a premium. With respect to the objects Ministers have mentioned in the Speech, I am sure all hon. members present are with them, and especially so in the efforts that are to be made to settle a large and prosperous population in this colony. Whilst, however, I heartily agree with this object, I, in some manner, differ in regard to the details by which the desired end is to be attained. I notice that a further Loan of £1,500,000 is proposed, and whilst, personally, not averse to borrowing, I think we should do so with great caution. In the present instance the amount proposed is somewhat larger than I had expected. I do not say the amount is not justifiable; but I hope it is. It is certainly a very large one. When Responsible Government was started our debt was one million and a third, and to-day that debt has doubled itself, whilst the population has gone up from 46,000 to 76,919. We now propose to borrow £1,500,000, in itself a larger amount than our total debt was three years ago. The policy of borrowing like this seems to me to be a policy of great expectations, which I hope may be realised. We must bear in mind, how-

ever, that there may be a reaction and our hopes may not be realised. If this should be so I shall be sorry to realise the state this colony will be in. I am not averse to borrowing, but we must be careful, and see that the money borrowed is expended upon public works, if not directly payable, at least indirectly so. We should invest our money on similar lines to those upon which business men invest their capital, and see that we get a return for it. I would not like hon. members to think that I am timid on the subject; but I am impressed with the bitter experiences our sister colonies are now passing through, and therefore I think it wise that we should look seriously at the matter of borrowing, so that we may profit by the sorry examples of past Australian history. Coming to the public works set out in the Speech, the two chief items, I think, are justified; but I hope, when they come before us later on, the details supplied will be full. I refer to the two great railway proposals—the line to the Murchison and the line to Coolgardie. In dealing with those railways we must bear in mind that the returns for them will come from the goldfields only, for I do not think there is any prospect of any agricultural development *en route*; and therefore I hope the lines will be constructed in the cheapest manner possible commensurate with safety, so that if the fields do not turn out as we hope they will, the loss to the colony will not be so great as it would be if they are lavishly constructed. One could advocate the immediate construction of better lines if the fields were surrounded by land more suitable for agriculture than it is; but we cannot compare our land to that which is in the vicinity of the Ballarat and Sandhurst goldfields. With respect to the line from Donnybrook to Bridgetown, I cannot see my way clear to approve of it, unless it is portion of a scheme from there to Albany, so that the agricultural land in these districts shall receive the benefit of it, and the farmers have the benefit of a market. If it is portion of a scheme to take the line right through, then I shall support it, after satisfying myself that the land is of the nature described. I cannot support the railway to the Collie coalfields. I have not had the pleasure of visiting them;

but from everything I hear, it seems that we have not sufficient information, nor has the coal been sufficiently proved to warrant the expenditure of so large a sum as will be necessary. I trust that ultimately the field will develop into a payable one, but that is a matter for the future. I regret to see that no mention is made in the Speech of the road from Esperance Bay to Dundas. I think this will be one of the main lines to the fields, and hence some attention might have been given to it. I am aware that this route is somewhat opposed to other interests in the colony; still it is portion of us, and we should not look at matters of this kind in a parochial sense, but in a broad sense. I should also have liked to have seen provision made for the culture of oysters at the port of Albany, because I think it would develop into an industry which might be of some assistance to the colony, instead of placing all our reliance upon the gold. With regard to the other measures referred to, I think they are all measures of utility, and when they come before us I shall give them every attention. I hope those mentioned will become law, and be of benefit to the colony at large. I do not propose to say much more, as, like most other hon. members, this is my first appearance, and I feel my position. I notice that His Excellency draws attention to the fact that this is the first time this House has been elected, and that we have been returned by the voice of the people. So far as I am concerned I believe the choice will be warranted, and that every member will do his best, not only in a parochial sense, but in a broad sense, and that we shall be able to say, when our time is over, that we have assisted in bringing about prosperity to the colony—a colony which, I think, is one of the grandest on the whole earth—this colony of Western Australia.

THE HON. D. K. CONGDON: I rise with pleasure to support the motion of the Hon. Mr. Henty; but I do not propose to take up the time of the House by going through the Speech in detail, for, really, there is nothing very new in it. It is simply a statement of facts we are all more or less acquainted with, and which we are all glad to know exist. In the first place, the increase of population to the extent of 14,209 in the year is

very satisfactory, and I have no hesitation in saying that I believe that the increase will keep up, mainly, of course, through people coming to seek for gold. Some of them we hope will ultimately settle on the land. As to the gold discoveries, they are of a startling nature. Bayley's Reward Claim startled the world, and on top of it comes the Londonderry, which is said to be of equal, if not more so, fabulous richness. This will prove a further inducement to people to come to us, and I hope it will be a good thing for the colony when they do come. I observe that many works are referred to in the Speech, but I should also like to have seen some proposal to erect a new courthouse for the city of Perth. Such is very badly wanted, and I hope the Government will yet consider the matter. I look on the present Supreme Court-house as a disgrace to the colony. It is bleak, badly ventilated, and has not the necessary accommodation. With regard to the question of establishing a Land Bank, I may say that I know very little of the subject. It is necessary that some financial aid should be available to farmers, and, as when the financial clauses of the Homesteads Bill were before us I supported them, I hope also to be able to support the Land Bank. I need say nothing further, except to repeat that I have much pleasure in supporting the motion of the Hon. Mr. Henty.

**THE HON. H. MCKERNAN:** As a new member of the House I may, perhaps, be permitted to say a word or two on His Excellency's Speech, and the matters contained in it. At once I may say that generally I approve of the schemes therein pointed out, and I endorse, to a great extent, the remarks which have fallen from hon. members generally, and particularly those of my hon. colleague, Mr. Henty. I have no desire to criticise; I rather prefer to say something which has not yet been said. In the first place a good deal has been said in regard to a Land Bank; but it strikes me that without details before us (which details the Government doubtless possess) this House is not in a position to deal with the question. I do hope, however, that when the details do come before us we shall find that instead of having a Land Bank we shall have a bank of another name—a State Bank. When we say a Land Bank,

I take it that it is to be a bank for a certain class of people. In the province which I have the honour to represent, there is a large number of farmers who have deserted their farms and have taken up the calling of carriers to the Murchison gold-fields; but in time these people will have to return to their lands, and they will the more quickly do so when they have a cash market for their produce. Such being the case, it is my opinion that the Land Bank should take another form, that of giving some encouragement to the farmers, not by way of advances, but by way of bonuses on the products they are able to get out of the soil. I was present in another place when the Premier was asking for an increase of duty on flour; but I thought at the time that this was a great mistake, because if we consider the great number of people who are coming to this colony, it is evident that products such as wheat must be imported, because here the supply is not equal to the demand. I think it would be in the best interests of the colony if the duty on flour were abolished altogether. It is a question whether the duty confers any benefit to the wheat-grower, and if we gave instead of it a bonus for all wheat grown over a certain quantity, it would be a direct incentive to the farmers. Therefore, in preference to a Land Bank I would rather see an out-and-out State Bank; and I would further favour a bonus to farmers, so as to induce them to go upon the land, and the colony would then produce more of what it now has to import. There is no getting away from the fact that the colony is bound to import for the next three or four years. I should just like to say a word as to the railway policy of the Government. The railway proposed to be constructed from Mullewa to Cue has a greater significance than appears at first sight. I have heard it stated over and over again, and sometimes by responsible persons, that the time will arrive when a grand trunk line will be started from some point in this colony and which will traverse the Australian Continent. When we come to look at the matter calmly and dispassionately, I think the starting point, having in view the future, should be Geraldton. We should, therefore, consider whether it is not desirable to have a line of railway

constructed from Geraldton to Cue, instead of from Mullewa to Cue, and whether the line should not be a broad gauge one. Whilst not opposing the proposal to construct a railway to the Collie coalfield, I should be glad if the Government accompanied their proposals with such information as will entitle hon. members to support the line. I shall be very glad to receive such information as will permit me to support that railway, but until it is forthcoming, I shall object to the expenditure of any more money in that locality. A railway to Bunbury was constructed last year, and I should like to see the returns of the traffic, in order to gain an indication of the value of the work, so as to see whether we shall be justified in extending it. On the whole, I am very glad to support the motion of my hon. friend Mr. Henty.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER:** The policy disclosed in the Speech before us is a most liberal one, and shows that our position is second to none of the colonies in the Australian group. The Ministry have done, in the past, all they possibly could to help on Western Australia; and they are, therefore, deserving of all good wishes; but it will be admitted that they have had more than their ordinary share of luck.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (HON. S. H. PARKER):** Hear, hear.

**THE HON. F. T. CROWDER:** Had it not been for that large measure of luck, we should not be here discussing an address which breathes such high hopes for the future prosperity of the colony, but we should rather be considering a Speech asking our sanction to further taxation, in order to pay the interest on the money which has been expended on public works, because I think it will be admitted that but for the discovery of Coolgardie the present railway line to Southern Cross would have been simply a white elephant. Luck has followed the present Ministry in more ways than one. Even yesterday they had only to say in the Speech that the winter rains were late, and immediately the heavens opened. In regard to the borrowing policy, I am not at all frightened, because I consider the colony has a grand future before it; but the money should be expended in a way that will bring in a return. I am in favour of the railways to the

goldfields, but only on a pledge from the Ministry that such rates will be charged as will pay not only the interest and working expenses, but provide a sinking fund to repay the capital in from twenty to thirty-five years. These railways are not agricultural lines, upon which the Government may be justified in charging low rates of freight; and I am sure that the remarks made by the Commissioner of Railways to a deputation recently, met with the approval of the great majority of the community. As I said, in my address at Albany, people are quite content to pay £3 per ton for carriage until the Government take over the lines, and then they are not satisfied with a charge which is 15s. per ton less. But if these railway lines are going to be built, and the freight fixed at the same rates as on the agricultural lines, I, for one, will use my endeavours to oppose them being made. In regard to the railway to the Collie, I cannot support it unless it be first proved that there is a good paying coalfield there. Seeing that coal is as valuable to the colony as gold, the Government should take steps to prove the field. If it is proved that the field is valuable, then, of course, a railway will pay handsomely. At the same time, the Government should not overlook the indications of coal found near Albany, as, if coal is discovered there, it will not only benefit Albany, but the colony as a whole, more so than coal at the Collie. In regard to the Land Bank, if established on commercial lines, it will receive my support, for I think it is really necessary that something should be done to help the staple industry of the colony. My hon. friend Mr. Henty said that the goldfields were the backbone of the colony; but I beg to differ with him, the produce of the soil being, in my opinion, the backbone of the country. We must consider that at the present time we are not producing one-third of what we consume, and, until we do that, and have a surplus that we can export, the colony cannot be said to be on a sound footing. I regret that there is no proposal for a tax on gold. I would like to see the Government remove the charge for miners' rights and place a tax on gold, which would yield a revenue of five or six times more than the present receipts. At the present moment we are taxing men for

what they may never find, whereas, if we placed a substantial tax on gold found, no one would feel it, and the colony would derive a large revenue. I will not detain the House longer.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: I will just give my ideas on a few of the heads in the Governor's Speech. In the first place, I think it is a cause of congratulation that this colony has increased in population in the way stated; but, while we are getting a flow of population, we must endeavour to retain a good percentage of the new-comers in the colony, so that people shall not merely come and procure gold and go away to spend it in other parts of the world. We wish to get as many people here as possible, and get them to be *bona fide* settlers of Western Australia. Without population we cannot show that progress we ought to do. With regard to coal, I certainly think, with the Hon. Mr. Crowder, that the Government ought to leave no stone unturned to test the Collie seam and others, as coal is quite as valuable to the colony as gold. With regard to the loan, I am not afraid of this £1,500,000 the Government propose to raise. I hope they will not want to borrow more for some time to come; but there is no doubt as to our being justified in going on the market at the present time, particularly as the credit of the colony is so good. With regard to the railway to Coolgardie, I am certainly in favour of the line being extended in that direction; but it has occurred to me whether it is a good policy to put down now a good permanent line to that particular centre. I have given some consideration to the matter lately, and have thought whether it might not be better to put down a lighter and cheaper railway. I have thought more of this idea since the discovery of the Londonderry reef, because we do not know, as yet, which is the proper centre to take a permanent line to. A cheap line could easily be replaced by a permanent one if the circumstances warranted it. I think it would be a good thing to put down a permanent line to Cue. As to a railway to the tinfields, until I hear more in its favour I shall not support it. My own experience of the tinfields was a woeful one, as I spent my money and lost it. It is gratifying that the harbour works are

progressing in the way stated; and I agree with the Hon. Mr. Henty, that it will be a grand thing if we can have a harbour of refuge on the West coast, where vessels can run to in a storm and be perfectly safe. I am glad to see the reference to the conservation of water which, in regard to the Eastern goldfields, is certainly very necessary indeed; and I certainly think, also, that we should spend a fairly large amount of money in boring for artesian water. If we strike artesian water, it will not only serve the goldfields, but a great proportion of the country which is first-class for agricultural and pastoral purposes could then be utilised. I am glad to see the reference to the opening of roads, and I think main roads ought to be laid out at once, and not left until after the land has been surveyed, and then have to be bought back, as heretofore. As to the Land Bank, I want to learn more of the subject; but if I can give it my support, I certainly will do so, because farmers and others engaged upon the soil do need some assistance.

THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER: I did not know that it would be considered the duty of hon. members to express their views on the speech of His Excellency, or I might have given the matter some consideration; but I will do my best to give my opinion on some of the subjects mentioned. I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves on having a Ministry who have taken the interests of the country so fully into consideration and have proposed measures of so great magnitude. It is the duty of this Council, I take it, to consider these measures very carefully, as they will necessitate a very large expenditure of money. I, for my part, do not consider we are justified in borrowing so large a sum, unless we see some prospect of paying off the debt in the future, as well as the interest for the present. No doubt the colony is progressing, but it seems to me an enormous sum to borrow, and I would have thought better of the proposal had the amount been less and there had been a fewer number of works. Hon. members should be careful to satisfy themselves before approving of the works that they will be reproductive. In considering the proposals, I think the line from Southern Cross to Coolgardie will be a repro-

ductive work. The rich finds there make it clear, I think, that this line will pay beyond others that have been proposed. This line also will be so much towards the completion of the trans-continental railway, so that, under any circumstances, the line will not be entirely wasted. I do not look on goldfields as resources of a permanent nature. They may be rich for a year or two, but in our instance we have satisfactory assurances that there is an enormous extent of gold-bearing country, extending 200 miles east to Coolgardie, to Dundas Hill on the South, and to Kimberley on the North; therefore, we shall not be incurring too great a risk in building this line. The line to the Murchison is double the distance of that proposed to Coolgardie, and, before it is constructed, hon. members ought to be afforded some information as to the character of the country it will pass through. The next important point is the line proposed from Donnybrook to Bridgetown. From my experience of the country, I would say the land can never be made an agricultural country, although it might become a fruit country; and I think we should be very careful before we approve of that work, unless it can be shown that by further railway extension the land can be made reproductive. With respect to the line to the coalfields, if it cannot be shown there is an unlimited supply of good coal, it will be our duty to pause before we approve of the work. I quite agree with the Hon. Mr. Haynes when he speaks of no mention having been made of a line or road from Dundas to Esperance Bay. That portion of the country has been most unjustly treated. There seems to be an idea here that making such a line would be the means of diverting the trade from this part of the colony, and this is considered to be undesirable. I think this is a mistaken idea, and an unfair idea, because many go to the fields by this route who would not incur the expense entailed of going from here. Esperance Bay is the nearest point to Dundas, and with a view to opening up that field it is fair that something should be done towards laying out the road. It can make no difference to this part of the colony, when once the people arrive at the goldfields, from which side they get there. The question of

the Land Bank is a subject for serious consideration. I can see many advantages to be derived from a bank from which farmers can obtain money. If it means a bank from which they can get sums of money to enable them to improve their holdings, it will be advisable to have it, but it will have to be well handled. Notwithstanding the cry of land being locked up in the hands of a few holders, if at any time any holder asks for the Crown price of the land, *plus* a fair sum for improvements, he cannot get it. I know an instance of a very desirable block of land being sold, with £2,000 worth of improvements upon it, for under £1 per acre; so that we must be careful how the advances are made. I know if I wanted to sell my holdings, and asked a fair value for the improvements, I could not get anything like their value. I do not think I need say anything further just now. I have the welfare of the country at heart, and I hope hon. members will give me credit for doing my best while I am here.

THE HON. C. A. PIESSE: In saying a few words in support of the motion before the House, I might point out that the Speech is of such a cheering nature that there is very little to say, except of a congratulatory character. In regard to railways, the line to Coolgardie is very much needed, and will receive my strong support. It will not only be of great advantage to the fields, but will be the means of opening up the pastoral lands which, from my own observation and the observation of others, I know are in the vicinity of Coolgardie. There are, I believe, hundreds of thousands of acres of good pastoral land, and it is simply a matter of water conservation—which I am glad to see the Government has taken in hand—in order to bring them into occupation. There is one work I should have liked to have seen included, and that is a branch line from the Williams — from the South-Western Railway. Although we have the Great Southern railway, portions of the district are not served by it. If we had such a railway, it would serve large numbers of settlers who are now cut off from communication. With regard to borrowing this amount of £1,500,000, it is a large sum of money, but it is necessary we should have it if we are to keep pace with the demand for the

further development of the colony; and I hope when next we meet we shall find ourselves in the position of wishing to borrow another million and a half, provided it is for reproductive works. With regard to the Land Bank, it will, no doubt, require a lot of caution in dealing with it. I think the word "farmers" is a misnomer, and if "tillers of the soil" had been substituted for it, it would have been better and would have done away with a lot of feeling against the scheme. There are thousands of acres of land in my district suitable for horticulture and viticulture, the owners of which would not come under the designation of farmers and thus be able to borrow from the Land Bank.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: I shall not detain the House more than a minute or two. My chief object in rising is to offer a double congratulation—in the first place to congratulate the House on the members which have been added to it, and which, from the speeches we have listened to, and from the speeches we have not yet heard, but hope to hear—I believe, without any word of disparagement to the old House, will show, at all events, the new House, in seeking the suffrages of the people, has not, so far, done wrong. My first congratulation is to the House that they have now among them a band of members animated certainly by progressive feelings, although, if the utterances of a distant corner may be taken as an index, couched as they are in the most cautious mood, we shall not lack criticism. My second congratulation is to yourself, sir, and I offer it with the utmost heartiness and sincerity. I believe you are the oldest Parliamentarian present. Your parliamentary career, I believe, dates from 1870, many years before any other member of this House entered the old Legislative Council. I hope that the six years it will be your duty and pleasure to serve in the House will be years of dignity and impartiality—such impartiality as we have been acquainted with in the past—with happiness to yourself, and advantage to the House at large. And I do the more readily offer my congratulations, because I stand here as one of the small, attenuated band of survivors of the old House. I believe we are five, and of the five there are only two—Mr. Hardey and myself—who were with you,

in the late Council as at first formed. Nevertheless, I believe that the more your conduct in the Chair is observed by new members, the more they will agree they have done a very fortunate thing in securing you as their President. I am not going through this Speech at length, for the reason that it does not contain anything, with the exception of the paragraph about the rain yesterday, that has not been heard of before, and upon which, including myself, all hon. members, with one or two exceptions, have not addressed their constituents; and if hon. members read the papers they will have learnt what are my views concerning most of the subjects referred to. I would, however, make one or two remarks of a general character. The Hon. Mr. Haynes has very justly uttered a protest—a protest of a most timely character—against the House considering anything from a parochial point of view rather than from a national one. That warning should be borne in mind, because, if I were to close my eyes and only listen to what hon. members were saying, I think I could guess what provinces they represent by the peculiar aspect of their remarks. For example, almost the very last speaker advocated the opening of a road from Esperance by way of a station—not one in which my friend, Mr. Dempster, is interested, but a station held by Messrs. Dempster Bros.—to Dundas Hills. It shows how broad are the views of the hon. member, for though he represents the East Province, his vision takes in so far a place as Esperance Bay. Then again, my friend, Mr. Haynes, has regretted there is nothing said in the Speech about laying down oyster beds at Albany—

THE HON. S. J. HAYNES: And elsewhere.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: And elsewhere. I hardly think the House has much to complain of because the list of the works to be constructed out of the loan does not include the stocking of Albany harbour with oyster beds, which the leading authority on this question (Mr. Saville-Kent) has told us can be done for £300. I refer to these two points to ask the House, in all seriousness, when these matters come before us, to bear in mind that it is the whole country we have to consider, and not a single

district. I believe the failure of the old Government—although I am one of those who believe that Government was happier under the old form, under which there were fewer responsibilities and less worry, than under the new, under which they are accepting far higher duties and responsibilities, as the sister colonies have done, in seeking to drive this colony forward—was due to the fact that there was a want of responsibility to the country. The House must bear in mind that, if the colony is to progress as a whole, it must stand together as a whole. It will never do to take out individual works, and, because no immediate benefit to one's own district appears, say "I am opposed to this." What Western Australia expects from us is a single devotion, and a devotion not to a single interest but to the colony at large. It is impossible to discuss this Speech in detail, because the matters outside what we previously knew of are not before us. For instance, certain Bills are mentioned, but we do not yet know what they are in detail. We do not yet know what are the works under this proposed loan. We must wait for the Loan Bill to be put before us before we discuss it. I listened, with a certain sense of regret, to the hon. member who objected—I do not say the hon. member did so captiously—to certain lines. Those objections seem to me rather premature. The case which the Government may be able to make out is not before us. With regard to one line—and I am not alluding to it for the purpose of building my own castle of glass for hon. members to throw stones at—the line from Donnybrook to the Blackwood, I am satisfied, from what I have seen of the case the Government will be able to make out, that hon. members, unless they are so prejudiced as to refuse to be swayed by argument, will vote unanimously for it.

**THE HON. C. E. DEMPSTER:** That is for the district you represent.

**THE HON. J. W. HACKETT:** I have worked up my glass castle, and the Hon. Mr. Dempster has pitched a stone at it, although I should have thought that the hon. gentleman would have been the last to object to it, seeing that it is the one farmers' line in the whole list. With regard to railways generally, my attitude in the matter is this: considering the cost at which we are able to build these

lines, we are hardly capable of going wrong wherever we run a line in Western Australia through the present settled districts. They are not only cheaper than roads, and for the most part return something on the outlay, but the indirect advantages are enormously greater than the revenue they bring in. In regard to the great saving in the cost of cartage, if hon. members were to sit down and tot up the difference in the amount to individuals which has been paid for cartage between Northam and Southern Cross for the last couple of years, and compare it with the cost for the next two years, they will see a sum which will pay the interest on the railway twenty times over. The railway will supersede the roads, bringing passengers, produce, and mails in a space of time which would seem like a flash as compared with the present time of transport. The railways proposed by the Government, with the approbation of their professional advisers, should have very strong arguments against them before the House imposes its veto upon them; and hon. members should consider the manifold advantages, both directly or indirectly, to the country and the individual. In regard to other matters, they will come before the House in a more concrete shape than in the Speech before us, and we shall then have opportunities to consider them; but I ask hon. members to remember that they have professed not to be timid or alarmed at the magnitude of the Government enterprises. When we reflect that this colony is equal in size to the whole of Victoria, the whole of New South Wales, and the whole of Queensland rolled together, with a little bit to spare, and that we have now a population of only 75,000, while the merest fringe of the country only has been occupied, our mineral treasures barely examined, all that has been done being to scratch the surface—I can hardly use that term—merely to prick the surface I will say—we should come to the conclusion that we do not need to hold the Government back from driving the colony forward, but that we should give every assistance in our power not to check its progress, but to see that the progress is directed in the most cautious and judicious manner possible.

**THE HON. R. G. BURGESS:** I am glad, sir, to have a chance of speaking after

the Hon. Mr. Hackett, who, with his oratorical powers, can "take us all down." I do not propose to take up the time of hon. members very long. The increase of population, which we are all glad to see, has been attracted to the colony mainly by the Coolgardie goldfield, and I therefore think a railway to this field should have the first consideration. It is this population which has added to the prosperity of the colony, and increased the revenue through the Customs. There is no doubt that there is a large extent of gold-bearing country which has only been scratched, as the Hon. Mr. Hackett says, and I consider that this House should have the railway pushed on at once. There is no doubt this railway is of more importance than the line to the coalfield. I would like to see the expenditure of a large sum, if necessary, in proving if coal exists on the Collie in payable quantities before putting down a railway, because it will cost as much for ten miles of railway in that hilly country as it will for twenty miles of line to the goldfields. It would be better to spend £20,000 in proving that coal exists in sufficient quantities before we put down a railway, because we know of nothing beyond which will feed the railway if there happens to be a failure of the coal deposits. Another railway mentioned is that from Donnybrook to Bridgetown. I know the country, and it is good country for horticulture and viticulture, but no man in his senses would settle there to start agriculture, as it would ruin him. Pioneers in that country would want more than a Land Bank, or a State Bank, or the Homesteads Act to get the trees out of the way. They would want the million and a half loan to clear the land down there. Another work is the railway of 240 miles to Cue. This is the longest line in the schedule of works. It is a very great work, and I hope the Government will be able to lay something before us which will enable us to support it. I consider that this work will take one-third of the loan. One hon. member has stated that the country about Coolgardie is no good at all. I am sorry that gentleman is not better acquainted with the facts of the case. I know of land 150 miles from York being cultivated, and growing better crops than land only

seven miles from the Avon. There is little doubt that there is good land in the vicinity of the goldfields, and hon. members should go about and see it for themselves before they condemn it. There is good land from the Coolgardie goldfields to the Murchison, and I am sure that the Hon. Mr. Dempster will bear me out in that statement. All that is wanted is the conservation of water. One of the most important works the Government should undertake is to provide permanent water on the goldfields. It would be far better to spend £20,000 or £30,000 in that way than on the railway to the coalfields. The cry is, "Why do not the Government put down deep bores?" We have reports saying one week that there is plenty of water at places, and next week we hear that there is no water there, and that it has to be carted 20 miles. The first thing we should do is to get water on the fields. I say, without fear of contradiction, that the Government has not done its duty in this matter. I do not say it because that part of the country is in the province that I represent, although I am of opinion that I represent the chief part of the colony. I give the Government credit for their bold and progressive policy in regard to the railways. We know we could not grow corn in the Eastern district now to pay, without the railways; and in reference to the increase of the duty on flour, which an hon. member wishes to have taken off, I may say that that is of more consequence in the settlement of the land than any State Bank we can have.

**THE HON. H. McKEARNAN:** That is your opinion.

**THE HON. R. G. BURGESS:** I can give more instances about the land than any member here, and that is saying a good deal. We may get a State Bank, a Land Bank, or whatever it may be called—and I should like to give my support to it—but I would like to see how it is to be carried out first. It might be like the irrigation schemes in the other colonies, which I can only call a swindle, because the farmers would not pay the interest, and when asked for it they only laughed. Hon. members had better go carefully into the matter of the Bank, because, unless we are careful, it will only cause dissension if it is not well carried out.

Any one who has tried to borrow money on land will know that there is no security upon which people are less inclined to lend money; and if the farmers get money easily they will, in many cases, be ruined and bring the bank down with them. The same thing brought banks—the re-constructed banks—down last year. My opinion of the Land Bank is: wipe out the miserable Homesteads Act. It is an attempt to settle the people on a paltry 160 acres of land, on which a Chinaman would not be able to live, and over which you could barely swing an animal round. If you want to encourage settlement on the land you should give at least 500 acres. What are 160 acres? Some people say that the land is locked up in the big estates, but many holders would be very glad to get rid of their land. I have had some personal experience in reference to the construction of the Eastern Railway; and I bought land to an amount which would pay for two miles of the line. We must, therefore, not always look at what a railway will bring in, but we must also look at the amount of land sold and the increase in the settlement. The Hon. Mr. Henty said that the goldfields were the backbone of the country. No doubt they are a great assistance, but the settlement of the land is really the thing.

THE HON. E. W. DAVIES: Unaccustomed, sir, to Parliamentary life, and with lots to learn, I thought it more desirable to listen than to express my views on the excellent Speech delivered to us yesterday. I will, however, say a few words. I think with other hon. members we may congratulate ourselves on the satisfactory position of the country. No doubt this is due largely to the finds at the Coolgardie goldfields, but while we are a happy family, it is well we should have some one to control us, and I think the country might have been in a very much worse position had we not had the present men at the helm. I thoroughly approve of the proposed railway to Coolgardie, and as to the Murchison line, although it is a long one, we have the assurance of the Premier that it is justified, and we cannot do better than accept the testimony of a gentleman of his experience. With reference to the proposed Collie line, I remember that a very few years ago this field was booming. A steam-

boat was supposed to be run between Fremantle and Geraldton with the coal from this field, and the shares went up £20 each. But it was afterwards stated by some of the crew of the vessel that they had not used the Collie coal at all. If the Government can prove that these coalfields are capable of a yield which is good in quality and sufficient in quantity to justify the line, I will not be averse to supporting it. As to the line to the tinfields, the Government have also to prove that there is a sufficient quantity of tin to justify the line.

THE HON. J. W. HACKETT: The line is not to Greenbushes but to Bridgetown.

THE HON. E. W. DAVIES: As to the Land Bank, I would like more information before expressing an opinion on the proposal. With regard to the borrowing of one and a half millions of money, the increased population, consequent upon the continued finds on the goldfields, will justify the Government, I think, in going again to the Home market. We have now 75,000 people, and I hope we shall in the next three years have 150,000. I join with the Hon. Mr. Henty in the motion he has put forward, and I hope it will be agreed to unanimously.

THE HON. T. H. MARSHALL: It is with a certain amount of diffidence that I rise to support the Government policy. I do not support it in its entirety, for there are a few things I certainly object to. The principal proposal is the borrowing of a million and a half of money. Is it not possible not to have a Land Bank, but to have a State Bank, or raise the money, not by borrowing at home at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but by issuing notes on the Western Australian Government, and making the banks keep half their reserves in West Australian notes? Hon. members will see that New Zealand has quite recently issued notes to the extent of a million pounds on exactly the same terms. Why should not Western Australia do it? New Zealand has a large population, it is true, but we have just as able men here at the head of affairs as in New Zealand. There are a number of works proposed, but as the Hon. Mr. Hackett says, a discussion upon them now is premature. We cannot do anything until—as the Hon. Mr. Hackett has very properly pointed out—we have more statistics before us to show what is going to be

done with the money. While I congratulate the Government on their success, yet I may point out they have had a certain amount of luck in the goldfields turning out so well—it has been simply Providence, or good fortune, whichever they like to call it. I will not detain the House longer, as we shall have all these items sent up to us one by one from the Assembly, and we can then accept or reject them, as we like. I think, however, we should do all we can to support a Ministry who have done their level best for the country. If we put them out to-morrow, I do not think we can get another set of men in the Assembly as good. I support the policy of the Government.

**THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. S. H. Parker):** I may be permitted to say, sir, that I welcome all the members of the House collectively and individually. I rejoice to meet them, and I am very glad to be in that position to meet them, as at one time it seemed rather doubtful whether some other hon. member would not occupy my place. The hon. member who so ably and well represents the South-West Province has spoken about the small number of the old members who have been returned. I assure hon. members that the gentlemen who have retired into private life did, during their occupancy of the chamber, work well and harmoniously together, and I think they deserve the thanks of the community, if only for the liberal measures which have become the law of the land. At any rate, they deserve our thanks in supporting the amendment of the Constitution, which enabled this House to increase its members. I have also to thank those two gentlemen who, at very short notice indeed, have been good enough to move and second the *Address-in-Reply*. I congratulate these hon. members for the admirable way in which they addressed themselves to the subject, under the circumstances. There was a certain influence that prevented them from speaking in the perfect manner they might otherwise have done. I regret, personally, that these influences—the ladies—are not always present, but probably, when the time arrives when the Parliament of the colony confers the suffrage on women, the time will not then be distant when we shall have

ladies sitting beside us in the House. I observe that in New Zealand, in a debate which took place in the House of Assembly, it was seriously proposed that women should have the right of being elected to both Houses of Parliament; and it seems to me if we grant them the suffrage, it is only a logical conclusion that we should have them here. Hon. members have been very good indeed in their criticisms of the Government. One and all have spoken in most kindly terms of our efforts. I must remind hon. members that the Ministry do not claim to have supernatural powers, but only the powers of ordinary men. Notwithstanding the remarks of the junior member for the West Province (Hon. T. H. Marshall), even if the Ministry were rejected I believe gentlemen who would perform the task of governing equally as well could be selected. We know, however, "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads to fortune." The Government take the credit to themselves that they have taken advantage of the flood tide in the affairs of Western Australia, and have promoted, as far as they could, the prosperity and happiness of the people. We do not take credit for having found the goldfields, nor do I think it advisable for the Ministry to take much of the credit for the increase in the population. But we do take credit in having been fortunate to hold office when there were large discoveries of gold, and that when population was arriving in large numbers we did our best to develop the goldfields and induce the population to remain here and become prosperous and happy citizens, and by their industry and by their exertions to promote also the welfare of the agricultural population to a very large extent. I agree with those hon. members who have said it should be the main object of the Government to promote the settlement of the soil, and our endeavour will be to induce those people to settle here and permanently cast in their lot with us and do their best to send the old colony along. Some hon. members have taken exception to the Speech in regard to certain matters which have been omitted, and which they thought ought to have been mentioned in it. The hon. member who so well represents the South-East

Province spoke of the absence of a provision for a road from Esperance to Dundas. Although this is an important matter in itself, hon. members must remember that all important matters are not mentioned in the Speech, but if hon. members will look at the Speech they may congratulate themselves that such matters as these will certainly receive the consideration of the Government. It will be observed that in paragraph 7, amongst the works to be undertaken out of the loan money, are the surveying and opening of roads. Now, if I were particularly interested in the Dundas goldfields, I would regard this statement as referring to the opening up of that very important route. One hon. member has mentioned the fact that there is no reference to providing oysters in Princess Royal Harbour. No doubt, if we visit that charming Southern town, we should be pleased indeed to eat the oysters produced there; but that is hardly a subject which may be considered important enough to be mentioned in the Governor's Speech. I assure the hon. member I will do my best to bring the matter under the consideration of the Government. If it is important to provide people with this delicious food, the Government will certainly do its best to further this object. The hon. member has also spoken about the coal measures of Albany. No doubt if coal were discovered there it would be a very great thing for the colony, as, in consequence of its geographical position, and its admirable harbour, a coalfield within reasonable distance of the Sound would be of more advantage than coalfields situated in any other part of the colony. Hon. members may rest assured that, as the Government exists for the benefit of the whole colony, if a coalfield can be opened up at Albany the Government will do its best to have it tested and worked at the earliest opportunity. I think I may congratulate myself that I have the opportunity of speaking after one of the hon. members who represent the East Province, who spoke in such an energetic and fiery manner that he really inspired some life into the debate. He said that "farmer" did not include horticulturist and viticulturist, but I may assure the hon. member that the word "farmer" will cover the whole of the class of people to which

he alludes, and I agree that they equally deserve assistance from public funds as those who cultivate cereals. I again thank hon. members for all the kind words said in regard to the Speech, and I hope it will be found that we shall work as harmoniously as the old Legislative Council, and I feel sure that our main object will be to promote the whole of the interest of Western Australia.

Question put and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council, at 5-20 o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 31st July, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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## Legislative Assembly,

Monday, 30th July, 1894.

Tenders for Public Buildings at Cue—Sessional Orders—Election of Chairman of Committees—Supply (£150,000): Suspension of Standing Orders—Supply Bill: first reading; second reading; committee; third reading—Return of money expended on Stock Route between Mullewa and Roebourne—Address-in-Reply: adjourned debate—Adjournment.

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

#### PRAYERS.

#### TENDERS FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AT CUE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH, in accordance with notice, asked the Director of Public Works,—

1. If tenders for the public buildings at "The Four Mile" and (other than the Warden's quarters) at Cue had been let or called for. If so, when.