

Legislative Assembly.

TUESDAY, 7TH JULY, 1896.

Meeting of the Assembly—Message: the Opening Proceedings—Re-election for the Williams—Auditor-General's Annual Report—The Speaker's Ruling on a Money Clause; Opinion obtained from London—Streets and Roads Closure (Eastern Railway) Bill; first reading—Death of Mr. W. E. Marmion; Resolution of condolence and sympathy—The Governor's Speech—Address-in-Reply—Adjournment.

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, which Proclamation was read by the Clerk.

MESSAGE—THE OPENING PROCEEDINGS.

A Message from his Excellency the Governor was delivered at the Bar by the Usher of the Black Rod, requesting the immediate attendance of the Speaker and members of the Assembly, in the Chamber of the Legislative Council.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and members of the Assembly proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, where his Excellency delivered a Speech, formally opening the third session of the Parliament.

RE-ELECTION FOR THE WILLIAMS.

MR. SPEAKER announced that, since the prorogation, he had received the resignation of Mr. F. H. Piesse as member for the Williams district (consequent upon Mr. Piesse's acceptance of a Ministerial office); and that Mr. Piesse had been since re-elected to represent that district in the Legislative Assembly.

The Hon. F. H. Piesse (Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works) was then introduced by the Premier and the Commissioner of Crown Lands; and, having taken the oath, the representative of the Williams subscribed the Members' Roll.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the table of the House the Auditor-General's Annual Report on the Public Accounts, for the year ended 30th June, 1895, made pursuant to the Audit Act.

Ordered—That the Report be printed, and lie upon the table of the House.

THE SPEAKER'S RULING ON A MONEY CLAUSE: OPINION OBTAINED FROM LONDON.

THE SPEAKER: I take this opportunity of making a statement with reference to a ruling which I gave last session, on an amendment made by the Legislative Council in the Crown Suits Bill. I never had any doubt, myself, as to the correctness of my ruling in that matter, and I may say no members of this House have expressed any doubt as to the correctness of that ruling; but, still, doubts were expressed elsewhere. Therefore, I thought that, considering the confidence placed in my ruling by members of this House, it would be a satisfaction to them if I could place before them an authoritative opinion on the question, from the person who is the most competent to give it—Sir Reginald Palgrave, Clerk of the House of Commons, who edited the last edition of "May's Parliamentary Practice," which is the book we all look to and profess to be guided by in our parliamentary practice. I was anxious to place the question before him as fairly as I could, and I should like now to read to the House the correspondence which took place between us, as follows:—

"Legislative Assembly Chamber,
Perth, Western Australia,
October 8th, 1895.

"MY DEAR SIR,—

"As a difference of opinion has recently occurred between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council as to the right of the latter to make an amendment in a Bill which had been passed by the Legislative Assembly, by which amendment a greater charge upon the people might be indirectly or consequentially incurred, I should feel much indebted to you if you would kindly give me your valuable opinion as to whether the ruling which I gave, a copy of which I enclose, was in accordance with the

practice of the Imperial Parliament. Our Standing Orders provide that, in all cases not specially provided for, our proceedings shall be governed by the practice of the House of Commons.

"The facts of the case are shortly as follows:—The Government brought in a Bill in the Legislative Assembly, intitled 'The Crown Suits Bill,' the main object of which was to enable any person having cause of action against the Government to take proceedings for the recovery of damages, without previously presenting a Petition of Right, and obtaining leave from the Crown to bring such action.

"When in Committee, a clause was inserted in the Bill providing that in case of accidents on Government Railways no person should be entitled to sue or recover from the Crown any sum of money exceeding £1,000 by reason of any personal injury sustained by such person, whether arising from negligence, breach of contract to carry, or otherwise.

"The Bill thus amended was passed in the Legislative Assembly and forwarded by message for the concurrence of the Legislative Council, which latter body amended the Bill by striking out 'One thousand pounds' and inserting 'Two thousand pounds' instead thereof, and the Bill was returned to the Legislative Assembly, asking their concurrence in this amendment. When the message returning the Bill came on for consideration in the Legislative Assembly, I ruled that it was a breach of the privileges of the Legislative Assembly for the Legislative Council to make an amendment in a Bill whereby, either directly or indirectly, an additional burden might be imposed upon the people.

"In this ruling of mine I felt that I was supported by 'May's Parliamentary Practice,' by the example of the ruling of the Speaker of the House of Commons in the case which I quoted, and by 'Branwell's Proceedings on Bills in the House of Commons,' where, at page 152, it is stated, 'The Lords cannot begin Bills or make amendments which indirectly or in their consequences may be a charge upon the people.'

"In accordance with my ruling, the Bill was returned by message to the Legislative Council with the following reason for disagreeing with the amend-

ment:—'That the amendment of the Legislative Council increases the limit of the burden fixed by the Legislative Assembly on the public in respect of damage for personal injury sustained through accidents on Government railways, and is therefore an infringement of the privileges of the Legislative Assembly.'

"When this message came on for consideration in the Legislative Council, the President was asked to give his ruling upon it, which he did in the following words:—'I have carefully considered this question, and my opinion is that this House is perfectly within its rights in making the amendment it did in clause 37 of this Bill.' In the sequel the Legislative Council insisted upon the amendment which the Legislative Assembly for the reason quoted had disagreed to, and eventually the Bill was laid aside.

"As the Legislative Council has, on more than this one occasion, attempted to usurp authority in money matters, which is in my judgment wholly subversive of all constitutional and parliamentary practice, I should be glad to know whether my ruling was founded in accordance with those principles which guide your practice in the House of Commons, and which by virtue of our own Standing Orders must be my guide.

"I remain, &c.,

"JAS. G. LEE STEERE,
"Speaker of the Legislative
"Assembly."

"Sir Reginald Palgrave, K.C.B.,
"Clerk of the House of Commons,
"Palace of Westminster, London."

"Swanage, Dorset, 15th November, 1895.

"MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER,—

"In your ruling, which you have placed before me, regarding the amendment made by the Legislative Council to Clause 37 of the 'Crown Suits Bill,' which increased the amount of compensation, in case of accident, payable by the Government, from £1,000 to £2,000, you acted precisely as the Speaker of the House of Commons would have acted.

"He would, if the incident had arisen in our Parliament, have called the attention of the House of Commons to the amendment; he would have pointed out that the effect of the amendment was to

place an increased charge upon the people, and that in so doing the House of Lords had exceeded the bounds of their legislative capacity.

"Yours, &c.,

"REGINALD F. D. PALGRAVE.

"The Hon. The Speaker, the Legislative Assembly, Western Australia."

STREETS AND ROADS CLOSURE
(EASTERN RAILWAY) BILL.

Introduced by the Premier (by leave), and read a first time.

DEATH OF MR. W. E. MARMION.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): Mr. Speaker—Sir,—Before we proceed to the consideration of his Excellency's Speech, it is my sad duty, and I ask the indulgence of the House, to say a few words in regard to a very distressing event which has occurred amongst us a few days ago. Ever since we have had Parliamentary institutions in this colony, from 1870 up to the present time, our late lamented friend, Mr. Marmion, has sat as member for Fremantle, or I think he was for a little while a member nominated by the Crown. For the most part of that long period he has sat in this House as member elected for Fremantle; and although I believe we are, in the circumstances, prevented from adjourning the sitting of this House—which we all would very much like to do in order to show our respect, if we might by adjourning show that respect in a greater degree, for the memory of our late friend and fellow member—still I am sure I am but acting as every member of this House would like to do, in making a few observations on this sad event, in regard to the great loss this House has sustained, and also the colony has sustained. I am sure to every one in this House it must be, as it is to me, most difficult—almost impossible—to realise that our old friend, the genial companion of our youth (most of us) and of our middle age, should have been snatched away from us so unexpectedly, almost without any warning; for, to most of us, the first intimation we had of his illness was the report that he was dead. I think I am but saying what every one in this House would

say, and what every one in the colony who knew him would say, that he has not left behind him one single individual in all this community who will say an ill word of him. He was the friend of every one; his good nature was unbounded; and he never resented any unpleasantness that occurred between one and another; but was always one of the most generous and forgiving of men—we all will say that, I am sure, who have had anything to do with him. His genial courtesy to all, high and low, rich and poor, was proverbial. I think I may say that, during the long public services he rendered to this country, no one could have rendered services more unselfishly than he did. No matter in what position we regard him—whether we look at him as a member for Fremantle, or as a member of Parliament, or as a citizen, or as a friend—I am sure there will be only one opinion: that he was moulded of that mould which we see so rarely in our intercourse with one another. We know he saw the ups and downs of this country during the last thirty years, from his early manhood up to the present time. He was not without difficulties—indeed, difficulties did beset his path, as they have beset the path of many others in this country, during the last twenty years; but during this long period, whether good fortune or ill fortune was upon him, I do not know that any one can say that Mr. Marmion's word was not always his bond. As I have said, whether as a private citizen or as a member of this House, his conduct was always actuated by a desire to do what was right and honorable in everything. I have had, myself, many opportunities of knowing his good qualities as a member of the old Legislature, in which we sat together, also as a member of the Ministry in which he was for several years my colleague, and as my trusted friend during a long period; and I can say that I never wish to have a more generous opponent or a more true friend. We shall all miss him in this House—every one of us. As I said before, we cannot realise that he is no longer amongst us. We shall miss him; but I hope, and feel sure and trust that we shall not forget him.

MR. RANDELL (Perth): I assure you, Mr. Speaker, and other hon. members of this House, that I am very glad the

Premier has found an opportunity of expressing the views which he has given to the House, with regard to our late and much-lamented friend. Perhaps I have known him the longest of any member in this House, for I knew him since he was five years of age, and I have always felt a regard for him. I do now feel a deep respect for his memory, as one of the most intelligent members of this House, as I think he has always manifested himself to be—very clear in his insight into public matters; and during the whole course of his career I have never heard a single syllable that could reflect on either his honor or his honesty. He has been identified with the public affairs of Western Australia even before he became a member of the old Legislative Council. Public affairs had a fascination for him which it seemed impossible for him to resist, and whether as Chairman of the Fremantle Town Board, or as nominated member of the old Legislative Council, or as an elected representative under the late Constitutions, he has always put his heart into the work, and been intensely earnest and loyal. He has, at the same time, never lost an opportunity of advancing, or endeavoring to advance, to the best of his power the interests of the town of Fremantle. While carefully guarding the interests of Fremantle, he has always at the same time taken a large view of the political affairs of the country, and has endeavored, to the best of his power and ability—and that ability, every one will allow, was very great—to advance the interests of the colony at large. I am sure every member in this House will regret to see the place which has been filled so long by that hon. member vacant in this House. We have lost one who had great powers of debate, and who on many occasions has excited the admiration, not only of members in this Assembly, but of the audience, the spectators, which may have, from time to time, gathered within its walls. I concur in all that has fallen from the hon. the Premier; and I think it is not necessary we should enlarge, on an occasion of this sort, in expressing our feelings, when we remember that a colleague of ours has been taken from us suddenly, and when perhaps our language is too weak to give that expression to our feelings which we

would like to give. I trust that a message of sympathy and condolence from the members of this Assembly will be conveyed, through the Premier, to the widow of our deceased friend.

MR. SOLOMON (South Fremantle): As a colleague of the late member in the representation of Fremantle, I feel it incumbent on me to say a few words in regard to the deceased member. As a member for Fremantle and as a citizen, Fremantle does not know its loss. It is a loss which will take many years for the people of Fremantle to overcome. In all cases, the hon. member who has departed from us thought no trouble too great, no expense too great, in fact nothing too great, in the performance of his duty as a representative of Fremantle. He worked heart and soul for the welfare of the district in which he was born, and I also say that not alone for the district, but for the colony generally. His opposition at times may possibly have been displeasing; but we all feel that, whatever he did, it was done with an honesty of purpose which no member of this House can gainsay. I thank the hon. the Premier, and also the hon. member for Perth, who have been so generous in their remarks; and, on behalf of Fremantle, I may thank them also for the encomiums which they have passed upon the deceased member. This is one of those subjects on which we cannot speak at length, because it makes one's heart too full, when we recollect, as I do, that for the last thirty years we have been fellow-workers in many associations, both political and social—one's feeling is too great for words to adequately express it. I thank heartily the members who have spoken, for the manner in which they have referred to the late member.

MR. MOSS (North Fremantle): I trust I may claim the indulgence of hon. members, for a few moments, while I express my cordial agreement with everything that has been said in regard to my late lamented colleague. It has been my good fortune to have known the late Mr. Marmion for something approaching five years. During my tenure as a representative of Fremantle, he has been my colleague; and when the Premier says that the late member, in his public capacity, has in all respects been an upright and honor-

able man, and that for many years Mr. Marmion was his trusted colleague, I have only to add my confirmation of that opinion, in having watched during the past five years Mr. Marmion's public career in this colony. I suppose the late member for Fremantle occupied an almost unexampled position, not only in Western Australia, but throughout this great continent; for during 25 years he has had the confidence of one of the most important constituencies in this colony; and from the time that he was first returned to represent that locality in the Parliamentary institutions of this country, whether under the present system of Government or whether under the various old systems, the late Mr. Marmion sat continuously from that time until the day of his death as the representative, I say, of one of the most important constituencies in the colony. The colony at large has lost one of its very best representatives, but it is to Fremantle particularly that the loss will be a severe blow. A vacancy has occurred now which, I venture to say, will not be filled by the public men who are in view at the present time. I suppose that, if we refer only to the public work done during the last session of Parliament, we shall have to make but a slight retrospect to find our late friend fighting shoulder to shoulder with the other representatives of Fremantle and those who assisted them, in a very severe fight on the floor of this House; and not only in that matter, but in others, we have found the late member always desirous to do his duty, and to do even more than his duty, for the advancement of the district which he represented. I thank the hon. gentlemen who have referred in such feeling terms to him; and I only regret my acquaintance with him was not of long standing. I fully endorse and concur in all that has been said, and I only wish, with the hon. the Premier, that it was possible to adjourn the House at this time, as a mark of respect for Mr. Marmion's memory.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (Nannine): Occupying as I do to-day the position of being the only member sitting on the direct Opposition benches, I feel I should be lacking in duty if I were not to express those feelings which I most sincerely

entertain in reference to the painful matter now before us. I may say, at the outset, that the late hon. member has been most kindly to me, personally, and in saying that, I am only saying he has been kindly to every hon. member in this House, and indeed to every person he has met during his life's history—at any rate, since I have been in this colony. I say, also, that this House has lost one of its brightest ornaments. There were few superior to the hon. member as a speaker and debater, and not many his equal. And there is one thing certain, that he carried into his practice an axiom which it is well for us as legislators always to remember, and that is, that he was intensely earnest upon any subject to which he gave attention, and that he devoted his time and energy to the carrying out of those convictions which he sincerely cherished. If we can in this respect imitate him, if we can in this regard rise to that high respect for principle, and that high intelligence and determination of character which characterised the hon. member, I think his loss will be a profit in this particular respect. His loss will be a distinct loss to this House, and the loss of such a man is a loss to the country. There are but a few men of his build and of his calibre; and the least we can do, upon an occasion like this, is to express our heart-felt sympathy with those whose loss is more close and more keen even than our own. I hope the suggestion which has been thrown out by the hon. member for Perth will be adopted by the hon. the Premier, and that the kindest wishes of this House and of every member in it will be expressed in a letter of condolence, which I trust the Premier will see his way to send, as head of the Government, and as leader of this House.

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest): I think it would be in better form, probably, if you, Mr. Speaker, were to send a message of condolence and sympathy on behalf of this House. If I am in order in doing so, I will move—"That a message of condolence and sympathy from the members of the Legislative Assembly be conveyed to the widow and family of the late member for Fremantle, by the hon. the Speaker." By taking this course, the resolution of the House will

be recorded in the Minutes of our proceedings.

Motion put and passed.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

THE SPEAKER reported to the House that he had, with members of the House, attended his Excellency the Governor in the Chamber of the Legislative Council, when his Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which Speech Mr. Speaker said he had, for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he read to the House. (*Vide* report of the Council's proceedings.)

MOTION—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

MR. LEFROY: I rise, Mr. Speaker, with diffidence in my powers to do justice to the Speech before the House, but with a sense of pleasure and with pride in my native country, to move an Address-in-Reply to the Speech which has been set before us by his Excellency the Governor, and which has just been read to the House. As a supporter of the Government which is presided over by our esteemed Premier, and which I consider deserves well of the country and of Parliament, in spite of some errors of administration which may occasionally have crept in, and which will occur in the best-regulated Ministries, I think it must be admitted that the Government have worked with zeal and honesty of purpose for the best interests of Western Australia. It is most gratifying to me that this colony has advanced so materially during the last 12 months, and of late years has risen from a position of almost insignificance to one that is unique, and that is almost envied by some other communities in the world. I must congratulate his Excellency the Governor upon having assumed office at such an interesting period in Western Australia, where her Majesty's representative is at all times looked upon as a link between the mother country and the colony—a link typical of the great Empire to which Australians are proud to belong. The Speech which is now before hon. members bristles with hope, and gives birth to many important enterprises. Let us hope that it will not

be found necessary to strangle any of these infants in their birth; but this I feel, that this House has to consider first—as they are chiefly matters of a financial nature, and will have to come before us this session—whether these shall live or die. I feel certain, at the same time, that they will be given due and careful consideration by the House and the country, without any feeling—that they will be judged on their merits, without any feeling of factious opposition. Federalism takes a prominent position in the Speech—it is “in the air;” and I consider that Western Australia should not stand aloof from the Councils of Federation. This question alone would give food for a lengthy speech; but suffice it for me to say that I look forward to the time, which I am sure will come, when there will be federation, not only of Australia, but of the whole of those countries over which waves the flag of Great Britain, and which are inhabited by the English-speaking race. One of the first questions alluded to in the Speech is the giving of further representation to the goldfields, which we all feel and know to be necessary. I shall with pleasure support any amendment of our Constitution Act which will give further representation to the goldfields; but I must at once say that I shall not be in favor of centralisation. I shall do all in my power to discourage centralisation, or the granting of Parliamentary representation on a population basis only. Water supply is given a prominent position in the policy of the Government. Seeing what an important question this is in the future development of the goldfields, I would not liken the goldfields to the homely and cumbrous bird, the goose—I would rather compare them to the swan that lays the golden eggs; and I know that as this dignified and graceful bird cannot exist without water, so at the same time our goldfields cannot do without water. Yet while endeavoring to encourage this industry, I think we must be careful not to exceed reasonable caution. We ought to try and strengthen the industry so as to make it more fitted to live through the arid vicissitudes which it has to experience in this colony. There is scarcely a paragraph in the Speech which does not refer to the goldfields, in one way or other. The railway line having been extended to what I may

call the goldfields capital, Coolgardie—a name that is well known throughout the whole of the world—I hope it may not be long before we may find it necessary to extend these railways even further than is proposed in the Speech, and that we may have a line running in one continuous chain from Perth *via* Coolgardie, the Murchison, and Geraldton. We also find a proposal to provide sewerage for Perth and Fremantle. This undoubtedly is one of the most important questions which can possibly come before us. The health of the country is one of the first considerations; for as it is no use enabling people to get rich, unless we do our best to keep them in health, I shall be most happy to support any scheme that has for its object the stamping out of disease germs, for defective sewerage may be a hot-bed of dissemination throughout the length and breadth of the colony. Paragraph 9 shows us what has been done throughout the colony. We are not told here or anywhere what has not been done. Possibly some hon. members may call to mind work which has been authorised by Parliament, and which unfortunately has not been brought to completion. Sometimes, in my anxiety for the people I represent, I have felt myself dreaming, and in my dreams I have gone round to the door of the Public Works Department. I have knocked, and have heard a voice within say, “You have waked me too soon; I must slumber again.” Of course this was only a dream, but at the same time it has come forcibly before me; and, when I have awakened, I have sometimes wondered whether they were dreams or not. Clause 12 no doubt is very gratifying, as I learn from it that the Government propose to provide for the construction of certain public works from general revenue. It shows that we are, at any rate, on the right track. When we have the revenue to spend in this way, our future is a pleasant one—at any rate, it is fairly so. Clause 13 is a very gratifying one. Of course it is not necessary to tell us whether it has been raining yesterday or the day before. If anything, we want to know whether it is going to rain next month or the month after. Still, there is no doubt that, as a rule, the agricultural and pastoral prospects of this country are better now than they have been since the introduction of Re-

sponsible Government. Of course it is generally said, and no doubt it is so, that living is expensive in this colony. But, if we are to cheapen the cost of living, it will be necessary to give all the assistance that we can afford to the producer. I am quite prepared to find that, in this Speech, the Government have not been altogether carried away by the goldfields, and that the farmers and the pastoralists have a little to be considered. The country party have always been considered by the present Government—[MR. ILLINGWORTH: Hear, hear. MR. GEORGE: Not too well.]—and I feel that any Government of a country like this will soon go to the wall if they do not have consideration for the producers in the country. There is one question that is often upon my mind, that the enormous territory between here and Geraldton is locked up, and the sooner some means are devised for opening it up, the better it will be for West Australia. I know, of course, that the land is not in the hands of the Government, and I know very well that, if it were, they would do all in their power to settle it. At the same time, the people along the line are unable to reap that benefit from the assistance which is given to other parts of the colony which they ought to be able to do. I do not intend to deal further with the Speech, which is full of matter that we may fully discuss when the various measures of which it speaks are before us. On this occasion my duty is one of compliment, not of criticism. In this hour of prosperity, it behoves the State, as well as the individual, to be careful how they carry on their business, and how they comport themselves. At this time the eyes of the world are upon us, and it is my hope that the oft-repeated and expressive words may be echoed forth from our kinsmen and friends—“Well done.” I beg to move that the following Address-in-Reply to his Excellency the Governor’s Speech to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:—

To his Excellency Lieut.-Colonel Sir Gerard Smith, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to assure you of

our continued loyalty and affection to our Most Gracious Sovereign.

We beg to thank your Excellency for the Speech which you have addressed to Parliament.

It will be our endeavor to give the most careful consideration to the important matters mentioned in the Speech, and to all other subjects that may be submitted to us, and we join in your Excellency's hope that the Almighty may so guide our deliberations that permanent happiness and prosperity may result.

Mr. WOOD: It is with very great pleasure that I rise to second the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I must remark however, that I am in a little difficulty, because my friend, the honorable member for the Moore, has left me so little to say. The Speech of his Excellency the Governor is really a confirmation of the hopes we all entertained concerning the prosperity of the colony. We expected a good statement, and have not been disappointed; indeed, I venture to say that no Treasurer of this colony ever had such a good tale to tell. The Speech foreshadows the large public works for the development of the country that are absolutely necessary to meet the demands which the progress of the colony has necessitated. The time is past when we could stand still. If we do not keep moving with the great wave of prosperity which has overtaken the colony, and make the best of our present opportunities, we shall be unworthy of the great gifts Providence has bestowed upon us. It may be said caution is necessary. I agree that we should look well before we leap. But caution is, after all, only a matter of degree, because if our resources and capital have increased fivefold, and we have an overflowing treasury, we can increase our present responsibilities to a greater extent, and still be within the bounds of caution. Reference has been made by the Governor to this being the first occasion on which his Excellency has had the pleasure of meeting Parliament since his assumption of the Governorship. I hope that his Excellency will meet us many more times yet, and that his term of office will be most pleasant to himself and beneficial to the colony. The second paragraph of the Speech deals with federation. Perhaps I may go so far as

to say that we, in this House, are all federationists—if not in reality, at least in the abstract, and it is only in the abstract that Australia has shown any desire for federation, up to the present time. Look at the other colonies—no two of them are in accord over the question. It will be time enough for us to move in the matter when we see the greater colonies—New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia—taking a prominent lead. However, if a Bill for the appointing of delegates to the convention does come before this House, I think no very great harm would result from it. But I would like to see the greater colonies, which have more cause for federation, join first, and then allow Western Australia to come in when we are ready. There is plenty of time, and we are not ready for it yet. Speaking personally, I do not see any great advantage from the proposed Federal Union. I consider that there has been a great loss of time over this question, owing to some of the other colonies not giving that attention to the work of the Federal Council which they might have done. If the work of the Council had been taken up by those colonies in the same resolute manner that it has been by this colony, I think we should have been almost ripe for federation to-day, because all the smaller and less important laws would have been assimilated, and only the great fiscal questions would have remained to be settled. The proposed re-distribution of seats gives me, on the whole, a feeling of very great pleasure, and it must be satisfactory to all of us. Increased population has made it necessary to have some alteration of the present system, which prevents hundreds—I may say thousands—from being represented in Parliament. I hail with pleasure a Bill that will give us an amended Constitution Act and a re-distribution of seats, although it seems hard that gentlemen who have been elected to this House for four years—and I don't suppose we will get much consideration for it when the elections come—should be turned out in two. However, I won't complain, and I think honorable members won't complain, as the necessity has arisen owing to the increased prosperity and the enormous addition to the population of the colony. I hope that the Government,

in their wisdom, when bringing forward the Bill, will make ample provision for increased representation of the centres of population—in particular, Perth, Fremantle, Guildford and the Swan, and other parts of the colony included in the South-West Province. So far as this great water-supply scheme for the goldfields is concerned, I shall at present say little about it, and wait for details. We all recognise that the most important thing, which is the life-blood of the gold-mining industry—an ample supply of water—must be provided, whether procured from the Darling Ranges or other portions of the colony. I would prefer, however, not to say anything more on this head until a later stage, when we get details, before committing myself to it definitely. We are also told that the Government wish to purchase a large quantity of rolling-stock for the railways. This is absolutely necessary, and I am glad they recognise the fact. If the needs of the Railway Department for this rolling-stock had been anticipated last year to a greater degree, the great trouble that stirred up the community some five or six months ago would not have occurred. Sewerage for Perth is one of the necessities of the times. It is absolutely necessary for Perth and Fremantle. At the present time some of the inhabitants of these towns are in a most pitiable state. They do not know what to do with refuse or waste water. They cannot throw waste water into the streets or put it into dry wells; the only alternative they have is to throw it into their backyards, where it lies and festers all the summer, and creates fever beds all over the city. I am glad that provision will be made for the matter, and I shall give uncompromising support to the proposal for providing deep sewerage in Perth and Fremantle. I am glad the Government are going to consider the Tariff question again, for I think some more of the necessaries of life should be placed on the free list. At the same time, we must see that the natural products of the soil are not interfered with too much. We must take the duty off those things that we cannot produce, and so reduce the cost of living, but in such a manner as will not interfere injuriously with the best interests of the country. I am glad the

Government have under consideration the needs of the goldfields of the far North, or rather in the direction of Marble Bar. There have been great developments in that district, and the people there are entitled to due consideration. I think hon. members will see that those people are allotted their fair share of expenditure, if not even more than the proportion of revenue contributed by them may strictly justify. But we should not forget that they are a part of Western Australia—a part that, a few years ago, we were proud to boast of. In the present glitter of gold in the eastern parts of the colony, we must not forget that at one time the trade and development of the North-West were regarded as the mainstay of the colony. The Fremantle harbor works must be a cause for very great satisfaction indeed to all concerned. It only requires a visit to the Port in order to realise the great strides that have been made towards the completion of these grand and noble works, for I cannot call them anything else; and if we compare the inadequate accommodation now provided with what will be given in the future, I think we will all wish to see the early completion of the good work which has been begun. The increased volume of trade necessitates better shipping accommodation and facilities at our chief port. Reference has also been made in the Speech to a dock to be constructed at Fremantle as a necessary addition to the harbor works. That is a step altogether in the right direction, because, if Fremantle is made a port of call for steamers and vessels of all sorts, it will be a wise expenditure. Accidents to shipping will inevitably happen, and we should give facilities to enable injured vessels to call there and be put to rights. I will not refer fully to clause 9 of his Excellency's Speech. It is a magnificent record of public works—I cannot describe it in any other terms. Looking at this clause, we can see that nothing has been neglected, from Wyndham down to Esperance. I also notice that, as far as possible, other public works have been carried out, and I think any reasonable man ought to be satisfied with what has been done, without expecting a reference in the Speech to what has not yet been done. The revenue of the colony has almost

doubled. That is a great result, and when we see that the revenue is very nearly two millions, it almost staggers those of us who are old residents of the colony. It is most gratifying to us to see now that Western Australia has come on top. The loan, I am happy to say, was a success, although a thing of the past. Better still is the announcement, in clause 12, that the Government propose to construct, out of current revenue, certain public works which have hitherto been made out of loan funds. That has always been my desire, and I can say that the Ministry have always recognised the principle, and, as far as they could, have undertaken necessary works out of current revenue instead of constructing them out of loans. I shall always favor their financial policy, if it rests on such a firm basis. I am glad that the necessity for constructing railways to agricultural centres has not been overlooked, and I hope that loop lines will be made to the various wheat-producing centres of the colony, because we must all recognise that the permanent prosperity of the country comes out of the soil. We may have our prosperity now from the goldfields, but in the long-run we must come back to the soil. I trust the House will support the Government in constructing agricultural railways. I do not like to mention any districts in particular, but I have two or three in my mind, and a proposal to construct railways to them will have my support, when brought before this House. We must assist those who produce from the soil. [MR. ILLINGWORTH: Don't you get the gold out of the soil?] Yes, but gold does not grow again. No one can recognise more than I do the value of the goldfields to this colony. If it had not been for the goldfields, we should to-day have been floundering and struggling on in the old way. The hon. member for Nannine, by his interjection, has given me an opportunity of saying how fully I recognise the importance of the goldfields. They have made this country, and had it not been for them the country would, for years and years, have gone floundering on in the old stupid way. The survey of the coast is a most necessary work; for the coast of this colony has, in this respect, been neglected in the past—at all events the surveys that have been carried out have

been of a very perfunctory nature. This is also a step in the right direction. I am glad that the colony is now able to have a steamer for coastal surveys, and that a gunboat has been purchased from Victoria for the purpose. When we see the colony in a position to make coastal surveys, I hope the Imperial Government will see their way to help in the work. I am a little bit sorry that the Speech has not included any reference to what I may call social and domestic legislation; but I trust that private members will be able to take up some questions that affect the social and domestic life of the community, and that the Government will accord to the efforts of those members a generous support. There are several matters which could be dealt with, such as the compulsory closing of shops at a certain hour, a compulsory half-holiday for shop assistants, and some regulation of the working hours of bank clerks. I consider that at the present time the life of a bank clerk is but little removed from the life of a slave. Those who have the ordering of these matters should look round and see what can be done in the direction of a remedy for existing evils; and if we can do some good to our neighbors, even by making a little sacrifice, I think we should do so. I was glad to hear the kind words that fell from the hon. the Premier in regard to our dear old friend, the late member for Fremantle. My own connection with him has been life-long, extending back almost longer than I can remember; and I thank the hon. the Premier and other hon. members for their kindly references to my able and genial friend—a man whose word and whose honesty were above suspicion. I have very much pleasure in seconding the Address-in-Reply.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE DEBATE.

MR. ILLINGWORTH said that, according to the ordinary custom, in the absence of the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Leake), and after conferring with the Premier, he moved—"That the debate be adjourned until Tuesday next."

THE PREMIER (Hon. Sir J. Forrest) said that, according to the practice, no other business could be taken until the Address-in-Reply had been disposed of.

THE SPEAKER said it was not usual to do so.

THE PREMIER said the House might meet, perhaps, for the giving of notices.

THE SPEAKER said that could be done.

MR. RANDELL said that business of a formal nature might go on. The House might be adjourned until the next day, on the understanding that only formal notices should be taken.

MR. ILLINGWORTH (by leave) withdrew his motion, and in lieu thereof he moved—"That this debate be adjourned until to-morrow." He moved this on the understanding that, when the House met on the morrow, the debate would be further adjourned.

Motion put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned accordingly, at six minutes past 5 o'clock p.m., until next day.

Legislative Council,

WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1896.

*Address-in-Reply: Adjourned debate—
Adjournment.*

THE PRESIDENT (Hon. Sir G. Shenton) took the chair at 4.30 o'clock.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

ADJOURNED DEBATE.

THE HON. S. H. PARKER: When I bear in mind, Sir, that this is the first time in the history of the colonies since the establishment of representative institutions in 1870 that Parliament has met without the presence of a gentleman who so well and ably represented Fremantle for a great number of years, I feel that, although he did not belong to this House, it is almost incumbent on me who knew him so well, and who was so intimately acquainted with him, not to

allow this opportunity to pass without recording my views as to the great loss the colony has sustained through his death. Mr. Marmion was nominated to the first Legislative Council when a representative constitution was granted to this colony. Shortly afterwards he was elected to represent Fremantle, and he continued to represent that important town in the old Legislative Council until 1890, when he became the member for Fremantle in the Legislative Assembly. I feel sure, Sir, we all recognise, and I am certain the people of Fremantle recognise, that no more able advocate could be returned to represent Fremantle than the late Mr. Marmion. I knew him for a great number of years, and I was associated with him in the old Legislative Council. I was for some time the leader of the elected members of the House, and Mr. Marmion was amongst those who were good enough to elect me. I had also been associated with him on a number of committees. I was associated with him as a member of the Government for some two years, and I can safely say that Mr. Marmion had no enemy in the whole community. He was a man without guile. I hope and trust Fremantle will now return a member who will be able to represent its interests, but I feel sure the people there will have to look far and wide before they are able to find another gentleman whose interests are so wrapped up in Fremantle, and who is so anxious to advance the well-being of the town and promote its welfare as the late Mr. Marmion. I repeat, Sir, I feel sure it will be long before the people of Fremantle find a gentleman who will prove so capable and earnest in his work as my late friend. I am, perhaps, somewhat digressing, but I do so from a strong feeling of the great loss which not only Fremantle, but the Parliament and the country generally, will sustain by his death, and I trust hon. members will therefore pardon me for the digression. I may also be permitted to congratulate the hon. gentleman who moved the Address-in-Reply in having been elected to the position he now occupies. I feel sure he will give all the learning and efforts he possesses to promote the interests of Western Australia and the constituency which has been good enough to elect him. With respect to