

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 12th November, 1901.

Papers presented—Assent to Bill—The No-Confidence Resolution: Ministerial Statement—Criminal Code Bill, first reading—Supply Bill, all stages; Remarks on Procedure—Prince of Wales: Address of Congratulation—Ministerial Remarks, Valedictory—Adjournment.

THE PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the MINISTER FOR LANDS: 1, Plans showing Crown lands vacant in Perth district (as ordered); 2, Report of Government Storekeeper, 1901; 3, Return showing number of cases heard at York, Northam, and Newcastle Local and Police Courts; 4, Regulations (new) by Public Works Department, as to conditions of granting aid for buildings for purposes of Mechanics' Institutes, Mining Institutes, Agricultural Halls, and kindred objects.

Ordered to lie on the table.

## ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Governor received and read, assenting to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Bill.

## THE NO-CONFIDENCE RESOLUTION.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): Since the no-confidence debate (in another place), the Ministry have considered the situation, and have advised His Excellency the Governor to dissolve Parliament. His Excellency, however, has not thought fit to accept the advice, and has declined to grant a dissolution. The only course now open for the Ministry is to resign, and this will probably be done to-morrow, after a meeting of the Executive Council. The Premier proposes to ask the Assembly to pass the Supply Bill now before that House, and in all probability a Message will be received here almost immediately. When the Bill reaches us I intend to move that the Standing Orders be suspended in order to pass the Supply Bill, so that the new Administration may be

able to carry on the necessary public works in a proper constitutional manner. That is the only business we have; and at its conclusion members will probably agree to a short adjournment.

## CRIMINAL CODE BILL.

Received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time.

## SUPPLY BILL (£500,000).

## ALL STAGES.

On motion by the MINISTER FOR LANDS, Standing Orders suspended to permit of a Bill being passed through all stages at one sitting.

Supply Bill (£500,000) received from the Legislative Assembly.

Bill passed through all stages without debate, on formal motion at each stage, up to the final question.

Question—That the Bill do now pass and be entitled "An Act to apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from moneys to credit of the General Loan Fund a further sum of Five hundred thousand pounds to the service of the year ending 30th June, 1902"—put.

HON. J. M. SPEED: I do not know whether I am in order now; but I understand that doing any business in this Chamber is unconstitutional in the present state of affairs. I would like to have the President's opinion on the point.

THE PRESIDENT: In which way?

HON. J. M. SPEED: I wish to know whether we are going to do any farther business, or this business only.

HON. G. RANDELL: That would not make it unconstitutional.

HON. R. S. HAYNES: We must give supplies.

THE PRESIDENT: It is perfectly in order and in accordance with procedure.

Question put and passed.

Bill finally passed.

## PRINCE OF WALES—ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): It has been suggested that an address should be presented to His Royal Highness, the Heir Apparent, on his investiture with the title of "Prince of Wales." I suggest that you, sir, do leave the Chair for a few minutes.

At 4-57, the PRESIDENT left the Chair.

At 5-35, Chair resumed.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): I now move that the Legislative Council do send the following Message to the Legislative Assembly, with a request for concurrence:—

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Council having this day passed the following resolution, requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly therein:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the following Address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor:—

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

We, the Members of the Legislative Council and the of Western Australia, desire to offer to Your Royal Highness, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, our congratulations on the mark of royal favour which His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer upon you; and we pray that Your Royal Highnesses may long be spared to enjoy your exalted rank."

HON. G. RANDELL: I have pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and passed, and the Message accordingly transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

#### MINISTERIAL REMARKS, VALEDICTORY.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): Before the House meets again, my resignation as Minister for Lands and leader of the House will have been handed to His Excellency. I must express my very great appreciation of the kindly way in which you, sir, especially, and I may say the House also, have extended their sympathy to me. Coming into this office with a very short experience as a member and no previous experience as a Minister, I have felt at times much trepidation when endeavouring to conduct the business; and it has been only through the kind assistance of the whole of the members that I have been enabled to give a certain amount of satisfaction. I shall at all times look back with great pleasure to my short sojourn as Minister for Lands in this Council, and will ever remember how very

kind and considerate hon. members have been to me. The position has been a very great honour and has been appreciated very highly. For a young man coming lately into the State to be entrusted with such a position, is a reward which does not fall to the lot of many; and I shall therefore look back to it with all the more satisfaction. I have made many friends in the House; I have always endeavoured to do my duty; and the measures I have introduced have been, many of them, on the whole for the benefit of the State. While I have occupied the position of Minister, I have given my undivided attention to the work. My duties have been agreeable to me; in fact, this is the only position in the Ministry which I should have cared to accept. When I was told I was likely to be offered a portfolio, I hoped that my colleague the Premier would see fit to offer me the position of Minister for Lands. He did so. I took a great interest in the work; and I trust my efforts during the short time I have been in office may be of use to this State hereafter. I say again, I appreciate very highly indeed the honour of occupying this position, and have again to thank the whole of the members for their very great kindness to me, in spite of many outbursts of temper and some mistakes I have made.

HON. M. L. MOSS: There have not been many.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: I desire again to thank you all very heartily. (General applause.)

HON. A. JAMESON (Minister): I also should like to join with my colleague in thanking hon. members for the invariable courtesy they have all shown to me in the little work I have had to do. The various measures sent up for the consideration of this House are sometimes rather difficult measures for a layman to deal with; but I have always found I have received ample assistance from hon. members here, particularly from the legal members, in carrying through those measures, which I hope will prove useful to the State if they ultimately pass into law. I had some doubt as to the wisdom of accepting this position. It was pressed upon me, but I declined it till it was offered me a second time. And I clearly saw there were many members of the House

better fitted and more suitable for such a position. Especially does this apply to the legal members. At the same time, I thought it might be of advantage to the State to have one of my profession taking up the office. [HON. R. S. HAYNES: Hear, hear.] Of course, there are nowadays many political questions which are somewhat familiar to the medical profession. I therefore, with considerable trepidation, took up the position which I hold as the first honorary Minister in this Chamber. But I may say, from my experience it would be well that there should always be at all events a second Minister in this House. I have often wondered how, in the past, the leader of the Government in the Council got through the amount of work that has been done, when that Minister had his time fully occupied in his department through the day. It is impossible for him to become familiar with the different measures that have to pass through this House. That is really a very great task for any man; and I hope my colleague may have found me of some little assistance, seeing that I was able occasionally to relieve him of some of those Bills; because the taking charge of a Bill involves going through the work already done in another place in relation to that Bill; and there is also the work of bringing some fresh information to bear upon the measure. Moreover, we have introduced a great many Bills in this House during the current session, and thus in our short term of office we have really had a fair amount of work, and I felt that it must have been a very difficult task indeed for one Minister to master all the details of these Bills and carry them through the House, especially considering the way in which the work is done, so many measures coming up at the last moment. Therefore I hope that for the future there will always be two Ministers in this Chamber. If we cannot have two stipendiary Ministers, perhaps an honorary Minister is better than none at all. I must say I regret very sincerely the untimely end of the present Ministry; and I hope that in future years it may again fall to my lot to hold such a position as I have held during the last four or five months.

HON. G. RANDELL (Metropolitan) : My friend Mr. Hackett has suggested to

me that I should make a few remarks with regard to the events now transpiring, and the retirement of the two gentlemen who sit on the Ministerial bench. I am sure that even those who, for some reasons at any rate, are not exactly in harmony with the policy of the present Government, will regret that the Government should have come, as Dr. Jameson has just expressed it, to an untimely end. However, I think the two hon. members I refer to may take heart of grace. They are not in the sere and yellow leaf of life. Mr. Sommers is a comparatively, if not an absolutely, young man; whilst Dr. Jameson is not very far advanced in life. No doubt, if they continue to manifest a liking and an aptitude for public affairs they will be called on, possibly at some early and possibly at some more distant date, to fill their present positions again. At any rate, henceforth this House will have three members who will feel in sympathy with the leader of the House; and that circumstance I think represents a distinct advantage gained. Dr. Jameson kindly referred to myself—

HON. R. S. HAYNES: There will be four members.

HON. G. RANDELL, Four?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Yes; including the President.

HON. G. RANDELL: Dr. Jameson has referred to the difficulty which he himself has sometimes experienced in carrying on the business of the country in this House. Like himself and Mr. Sommers, I have experienced every consideration from hon. members. In my own case, however, I held it to be a consideration which, perhaps, would not have been extended to a younger man.

SEVERAL MEMBERS: No.

HON. J. M. SPEED: You can always take your own part.

HON. G. RANDELL: I thought that possibly the consideration shown me was extended because hon. members had some little special sympathy with a man getting on in life. I thought that possibly it was an act of courtesy and grace on their part not to be too hard on the representative of the Ministry in endeavouring to discharge the duties falling on him in this House. I must say I have often felt the position to be an extremely difficult one. I consider

that for one Minister to perform the duties of leading this House is a very heavy task. During my term of office I had to introduce various Bills, some of which it was utterly impossible I should know much about. This remark applies especially to Bills dealing with legal questions. I may also apply the remark to the Land Bills which it was my duty to introduce from time to time. The Minister for Lands appears to have a liking for that part of the work: he has taken a great interest in it and knows a good deal about it—much more than I do, about the country lands at any rate. For that reason I think it was very desirable that he should fill the position of Minister for Lands in this House. I must say I think all hon. members will agree with me in this: that he has endeavoured to bring his best abilities to bear on the work allotted to him. I think he may take credit to himself for that. Farther, I think there has been very little cause of complaint against him as leader of the House. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] I am glad to see that the good feeling which existed at the beginning of the session still continues. It must be a satisfaction to the two Ministers to know this is the case, and to know they resign their positions in this House with that kindly feeling on the part of every member of this House still existing. They will have the pleasure of taking that knowledge with them into their retirement. No doubt both gentlemen will be looking for opportunities to replace themselves in their present position: no doubt they will have laid out for themselves a political career; and it is only right for us to expect that they will closely scrutinise and possibly criticise the actions of their successors in office. So long as the new Ministry may last—it is not my province to suggest whether they will last for a long or a short period—I can only hope for the sake of the efficient administration of the country that the Government will be a stable one, whoever may be members of the Ministry. This is the point I look to: that the administration of the Government shall be of such a character as to win the approbation of the country at large and be in its best interests. Probably the new Ministers to be appointed—indeed we may be certain of it—will be animated

by the same patriotic motives as those retiring. I trust the latter will not feel depressed over a change of circumstances which must come to us all in time. We must all expect such changes. It would be a very poor recommendation to the filling of such positions as theirs again, that they should allow themselves to be depressed by a circumstance of this kind, which represents only the ordinary fortune of war. No doubt their turn will come again. Meanwhile I can only wish both Dr. Jameson and Mr. Sommers a quiet and happy time during their period of retirement.

HON. J. W. HACKETT (South-West): I wish to add my meed, my small tribute, to our general sense of the manner in which Ministers opposite have carried out their work during the past five months. I am sure we all part with them with regret. I am glad to see the feeling of regret is shared by the Ministers themselves. In the circumstances I only beg them to remember that it was not this House which took action. (Laughter.) We had no say whatever in the matter. I must congratulate my friend Mr. Sommers on the diligent attention he has always given to the work of this House. His diligence was not more marked than the courtesy he has always extended to every member, and the consideration he has shown to the wishes and feelings of every member of the Legislative Council. I join heartily with my friend, Mr. Randell, in the wish that the two Ministers experience a feeling of relief at being freed from the cares and toils of office. To judge by their faces, it seems certainly to be a relief to them. I never saw Ministers take their dismissal with such smiling countenances. (Laughter.) I hope that both hon. members will enjoy the rest and repose which they undoubtedly deserve.

HON. R. S. HAYNES (Central): As one who has always considered that the retiring Ministers have done their duty [interjection] by disregarding interruptions (laughter), I also desire to congratulate my friends, the Minister for Lands and Dr. Jameson, on the able manner in which they have discharged the duties of their office. I am indeed surprised, and pleasantly surprised, at the able manner in which my friend Mr. Sommers has performed his duties as

leader of the House. I was agreeably surprised; and I think every member of the House was. We were afraid, at first, that Mr. Sommers knew nothing about land; but we subsequently discovered that he knew probably more about land and the Land Act, not so much as regards this State, but as regards Victoria, than probably any of us; not even excluding my friend Mr. Randell. The Government were, however, very fortunate in securing the assistance of Dr. Jameson, who brought to bear on all matters committed to his care a degree of honesty of purpose which in politics is quite refreshing. I cannot help thinking that Mr. Sommers should also thank Dr. Jameson for the kindly support which that gentleman gave him in this House. The universal courtesy to which Mr. Hackett has referred has made itself felt in a marked degree. If there is one thing in this House that we all ought to endeavour to cultivate, I think it is courtesy from one to the other. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] Mr. Sommers, as leader of the House, has shown himself courteous all round. Unless that spirit of courtesy be present in the leader, the opposite quality quickly filtrates through the body of members, with the consequence that the Chamber becomes a bear-garden. I am pleased to think that the period of office of the two retiring Ministers has been marked by an absence of acrimonious debate. I must certainly say that we have had contentious matter before the House, and that feeling at times has run high here; but a spirit of fairness and good sense has always characterised both sides of the House. The general good feeling of hon. members was made manifest by the way in which they met each other outside the House. The new legislation introduced by the present Government, unfortunately, has not been carried through; and I regret this exceedingly. If there is one matter which more than another I should have liked to see carried to the point of fruition, it is the resolution asking that steps be taken towards the establishment of a university in Perth. I know we had a friend to that course in Dr. Jameson, and I regret the change of Government; since we may not find in the new Ministry a representative with the same feeling in this particular matter.

If it should prove so, it is to be deplored. I do hope that whoever may take office, or whatever Government may take office, the necessity for the establishment of a university will be recognised. Unfortunately, many people do not appreciate that necessity to the extent to which, I am sure, Dr. Jameson would have made it manifest to his fellow Ministers in the Assembly. In my opinion, it is a pity that the Government have not been allowed to carry out those measures of a social character which they introduced, and which I think would have met with the approval of members here. However, Ministers must always be prepared when taking office to quit it at a moment's notice. I am only too sorry to observe that the seats around them are deserted this evening. There is an old adage about a certain animal that deserts a sinking ship. Of course, I do not think that adage can apply to the Ministerial supporters on the back bench. I again desire most cordially to congratulate the two hon. gentlemen who are leaving office on the able manner in which they have discharged the onerous duties which have been cast on them; and I join with my friend Mr. Randell, in hoping that at some future date we may again see those hon. members filling responsible positions here. I do feel that the country has reason to be grateful to the present Government; and I pay this tribute of praise to the whole Government. I think the State, as a whole, should pay some tribute of praise to the expiring Government for having done what the State demanded at the time of their taking office. Some few months ago there was an undoubted demand for a change of Government. There was a demand that the pigeon holes of the past, as it was phrased, should be inspected. That was a mere clap-trap cry; but, undoubtedly, amongst all thinking people there was a desire that the affairs of the State should be surveyed by possibly even hostile critics, so that the finances might be put in order. I do not think I am going too far, or that I am attacking any party, when I say that the present Government in taking office found a great many troublesome matters to deal with, and that they have nobly and manfully discharged the duties which the people called on them to perform. I think they have put the

finances in order; and I trust that whatever the incoming Government may do, they will at least leave the finances in the same order as the outgoing Government are leaving them. To these few words of congratulation to the retiring Ministers I desire to add an expression of my hope that this House will always lend its support to any Ministry, whoever they may be, irrespective of party, provided the measures introduced are felt to be for the benefit of the country as a whole.

HON. C. E. DEMPSTER (East): As one of the oldest members of the House, I think a few words will be expected from me on this occasion. I can only say, with respect to Mr. Sommers and Dr. Jameson, that the whole of the proceedings in which they have taken part and the whole of the measures they have brought forward have been conducted with great credit to themselves. Although on many occasions we have had differences of opinion, particularly on the land question, with Mr. Sommers, yet our ill-feeling has never gone out of this room; and when we have met together elsewhere, I am sure the same good feeling has always existed as exists at present. I much regret that events have taken the course which we now see. I think the whole country would have benefited considerably had the present Government remained in office for at least twelve months longer; and they ought to have been allowed to carry out the work which they have so creditably commenced; for there is not the slightest doubt they started reorganising where reorganisation was absolutely necessary. I shall not say much on this, because to do so would perhaps be unwise; but I regret that the Minister for Lands will not appear longer in that capacity, unless at some future time he be reinstated. I hope both Ministers may again be able to take their positions in this House, as they have shown themselves eminently adapted to carry out the duties required from them. They have been at all times courteous and gentlemanly, and I must say they have won the good will of every member in this House, as has been already admitted. Though circumstances have rendered it necessary that they should withdraw from office at present, there is not the slightest doubt the public will

recognise their ability, and that they will in future be reappointed. I am sure the feeling throughout the country is that it would have been more in the public interests if this change of Government had been avoided, and the present Ministry had remained in power long enough to bring about some changes which we all must admit are necessary. There is no doubt that certain departments required careful attention; and having commenced their re-organisation, I do not hesitate to say that in my opinion it would have been better for the country had the Government been allowed to finish it. However, I hope things may turn out for the best in the end, that we may continue in this House to live together in peace and unity, and that every public department will be carried on in the interests of the country. I do not think it right that one department should be working in opposition to another department of the public service, as has happened in the past; and I think very decided steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of anything of the kind. I hope that those who may in future be put in these public positions will be able to bring about a great change. I hope the same unity and good feeling will exist between the two ex-Ministers and other hon. members, as existed when our friends occupied their official stations.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): I also wish to add my quota of praise to the Ministers for the way in which they have done their work in this House; and still more satisfactory is it to me to ascertain that their conduct has met with the approval of those members of the House who may be looked upon as the most conservative members.

HON. G. RANDELL: Who are they?

HON. J. M. SPEED: Yourself, for instance—members who, like the hon. member interjecting, were at one time opposed to a railway being constructed from Fremantle to Perth. When we find such hon. members praising Ministers for the measures introduced and the way in which they have introduced them, I cannot help thinking that this is the place where all social legislation should be introduced; and I cannot help thinking, also, that when these measures are brought down, as I trust they will be by

the new Government, they will receive the same hearty support from hon. members as they would have received had they been brought forward by the Ministers whom we have just been eulogising. I have pleasure in endorsing the remarks made by the other speakers, more particularly because I believe it is not a matter of persons, but of measures; and as regards the measures brought down, I am sure my remarks will meet with the support of every member in this Chamber.

**THE PRESIDENT:** As President, I am more frequently in communication with the leader of the House than is any other hon. member; and before we part, I should like to place on record my appreciation of the way in which Mr. Sommers has carried out the important duties with which he has been entrusted. As he said, he came into office as a novice, and as one who had to learn his business. He has had many communications with me as President, as to procedure in this House; and in every case I found Mr. Sommers one who was only too anxious to carry out his duties; and I am sorry the time has arrived when he must sever his official connection with us, because, during the short time he has held this office, I think he has proved his competence to every member of the House. Some exception was taken in the early part of the session to the appointment of a second Minister. Now I can speak from experience, as one who for two years held office as leader of the House. I may say it was almost impossible for the leader to carry out his duties by himself, and I think it was a wise innovation on the part of the present Ministry to appoint a second Minister to assist the leader of this House. In Dr. Jameson, we found a gentleman whose great experience has been of immense value to this Chamber in respect of the important subjects such as have been before the House: and I think I am only re-echoing the sentiments of all hon. members when I say we are thankful to the Premier for appointing a gentleman of the high attainments Dr. Jameson possesses to be the second Minister in this Council. During this session, there have been times when we have had animated discussions; but there have not been any acrimonious debates here, nor any recrim-

inations passing between one side of the House and the other. All our debates have been carried on with good temper, and, as one speaker has said, no ill-feeling that may have been exhibited has been carried out of the Chamber. We are just as fast friends at the end of this short session as we were at the beginning; and personally, I deeply regret that we are losing the services of such able men as my friends, Mr. Sommers and Dr. Jameson.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS** (in reply): I should indeed be wanting in appreciation if I did not thoroughly and heartily appreciate the very kindly remarks that have fallen from hon. members. As to my friend and colleague, Dr. Jameson, whom I previously omitted to mention, I appreciate his services most heartily. It was with great feelings of relief on one occasion, when I had to introduce four Bills and make second reading speeches on them, that I reflected that the fifth Bill on the Notice Paper fell to my friend; and I can quite sympathise with you, Mr. President, and with Mr. Randell when each of you conducted the business of the House single-handed. A Minister in his own department must work very hard, perhaps from early morning till nearly half-past four, when we come to this House to deal with questions to which we have had little time to attend. We have to stand the criticism of hon. members; and the advice and assistance of my friend Dr. Jameson have always been highly appreciated by me. I thank you all very heartily for the very kind things you have said about me, of which I shall always have a very pleasant remembrance.

**HON. G. RANDELL:** I should like to say that Ministers in this State have too much detail to attend to; and it is very trying when they have to carry on the business of the House in addition. I hope the system will by-and-by be altered.

#### PRINCE OF WALES—THE ADDRESS.

Message (in reply) received from Legislative Assembly, expressing concurrence in the resolution of congratulation to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Address will be transmitted through His Excellency the Governor.

## ADJOURNMENT.

**THE MINISTER FOR LANDS:** The Legislative Assembly having, as he understood, adjourned till 4:30 on Monday next, he moved that the House at its rising do adjourn till the same day and hour.

Question put and passed.

The House accordingly adjourned at 12 minutes past 6 o'clock, until the next Monday afternoon.

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**Legislative Assembly,**

*Tuesday, 12th November, 1901.*

Papers presented—Assent to Bill—No-confidence Resolution: Statement by the Premier—Prince of Wales: Address of Congratulation—Select Committees: Extension of Time—Adjournment.

**THE SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

## PRAYERS.

## PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the **COLONIAL TREASURER:** By-laws, Municipalities of Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

By the **MINISTER FOR MINES:** 1, Amendment of Regulation 26 (Code of Signals), Mines Acts. 2, Regulations, Prospecting Areas for Coal and Oil, Mineral Lands Acts.

By the **PREMIER:** Return, Perth Park Board, particulars (on motion by Mr. Daghish).

## ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Governor received and read, assenting to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Bill.

## NO-CONFIDENCE RESOLUTION.

## STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER.

**THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake):** On Saturday morning I informed the

House that, in consequence of the vote which had been carried against the Government, I should consider the position in which I found the Ministry and make an announcement to the House this afternoon. Due consideration has been given to all the circumstances; and Ministers have in the meantime advised His Excellency the Governor that Parliament should, in the circumstances, be dissolved. His Excellency, in the exercise of that constitutional discretion which is vested in him, does not see his way to follow the advice of Ministers on this occasion. It follows, therefore, that the only course for Ministers to pursue is to tender their resignations to His Excellency the Governor; and that will be done without any unnecessary delay. Indeed, it would have been done before now, had I not realised the fact that my immediate resignation would place my successor in the position of being without supplies, and consequently unable to carry on the business of the country constitutionally. It was my privilege to ask the House to grant supplies for a month; and the Supply Bill, introduced for that purpose, has passed its second reading in this House. The introduction of the no-confidence motion, however, prevented the passage of the Supply Bill, which is now on the Orders of the Day for its third reading. I propose, therefore, to ask the House, before we adjourn, to pass the third reading of the Supply Bill and immediately transmit the Bill by Message, in the ordinary way, to the Legislative Council, which body now awaits its arrival and will, I believe, suspend its Standing Orders for the purpose of carrying the Bill through all its stages this afternoon. The only duty then left to us will be to await a Message from the Legislative Council announcing the passage of the measure. His Excellency's assent will, of course, be given to the Bill in due course, and the incoming Ministry will find they have means at their disposal to administer the affairs of the State. I think this is the proper course for me to pursue; and I make the announcement that, should the Bill be passed this afternoon, my resignation will be in the hands of His Excellency to-morrow; and in the exercise of his discretion, he will no doubt seek the advice of another leader and other Minis-