

by the reduced cost of constructing the railways constructed during his supervision. Generally speaking, I must again, as on former occasions, offer my warmest congratulations to the present Government upon their management, generally, of the affairs of the colony; and I trust that the members of the present Ministry, knowing as they do that they have such a strong hold upon their constituencies that their seats may be regarded as safe, will not in the future submit to so much of this outside patronage in the public service, but will take a firmer stand; and that the people of our own colony, who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and earned their laurels by long service and a conscientious performance of their duty, will not again be overlooked, but meet with a fair and just reward for the services they have rendered to the country. In conclusion, sir, I must again express my deep sense of the honour that has been conferred upon me in having to move the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, and to again state that, as in the past so in the future, I shall always be prepared to extend to the present Government—I have that amount of faith in their integrity—my hearty support in any measures they may bring forward that in my opinion will tend to the well-being of the country. I now beg to move, Sir, that the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech to both Houses of Parliament be agreed to by this House:

*“To His Excellency Sir William Cleaver
Francis Robinson, Knight Grand Cross
of the Most Distinguished Order of St.
Michael and St. George, Governor and
Commander-in-Chief in and over the
Colony of Western Australia and its
Dependencies, &c., &c., &c.*

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

“We, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia in Parliament Assembled, desire to assure Your Excellency of our continued loyalty and affection towards the Throne and Person of Our Most Gracious Sovereign.

“We thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to deliver to us, and beg to assure you that the various matters to which Your Excellency has referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us,

“shall receive our most careful consideration and attention, and it shall be our anxious endeavour so to deal with them as to promote the advancement and welfare of this portion of Her Majesty's dominions.”

MR. CONNOR: Sir, in rising to second the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I have first to acknowledge the honour conferred upon me by asking me to perform that duty. I am here, for the first time, occupying a seat which was formerly occupied by a man whom we all respected very much—the late Mr. Baker—and I regret very much that he is not here himself. After the able and exhaustive manner in which the hon. member for West Perth has dwelt, in detail, with His Excellency's Speech, in moving the Address-in-Reply, I do not propose myself to go through the Speech, clause by clause; I shall only refer to one or two things which more particularly strike me. Although agreeing, as I do, with the Speech generally, there are some things which my experience at the North, and my knowledge of the requirements of the North, lead me to think would have been better included in the Speech. In regard to the paragraph referring to the recent failure of the Banks here, we all must regret that that trouble came upon us when we had another misfortune in the shape of smallpox; and no doubt it was a great blow to the colony, these two troubles coming upon us at the same time, and I am glad to see we are so well out of both of them. His Excellency in his Speech says that these financial difficulties resulted in great inconvenience, and had an injurious effect upon trade. I think so too; but it is satisfactory to think that up to the present, until these Bank failures, we have had no failures amongst our large business establishments; and I think our great effort should be to prevent the Banks from being the cause of any similar disasters to the colony in the future. Referring to the mining and pastoral and agricultural industries, the Speech informs us that everything is flourishing. Of course that is a thing the colony generally should be congratulated upon, because we all know there has never been such a season at the North as the present one. It is, therefore, very gratifying to think, after

the serious losses which our Northern squatters have suffered, that the prosperity of that part of the colony, so far as the present season goes, is assured. The third clause of the Speech says that it has been proved that good coal, in large quantities, exists on the Collie River. I think there is nothing that will bring the colony so much into notice as the discovery of a payable coalfield: the existence of deposits of coal suitable for use on steamboats and railways. We are told that the Government propose to have a survey made for a railway to this coalfield. If the field is proven to be a payable one, I shall be one of the first to support the construction of a railway to it, which I think would be in the best interests of the colony. I am very pleased to see that a Commission has been appointed, as promised last session, to revise the tariff. There are a few things which I think should be done by this Commission that probably have not been brought under the notice of the Commission. One of the things which I think it is necessary to deal with is the duty charged upon machinery used in the colony,—mining machinery, for instance. We are now depending very much upon the development of our mines, which is acknowledged to be our chief industry at present, or at any rate the industry upon the success of which the progress of the colony largely hinges. That being so, I think it is our duty, to the best of our ability, to develop it, and to follow the example of other countries in not charging a duty upon the machinery necessary for its development. For my own part, I think that instead of imposing a duty upon such machinery, we should offer a bonus on its introduction into the colony. Another matter that might be dealt with by this Commission is the removal of the present duty on imported stock. I have had a little experience outside this colony with stud cattle; and the introduction of well-bred stock is always subsidised, instead of being handicapped. Here, in this colony, we want to improve our breeds, and every encouragement should be offered to those who are endeavouring to do so. For this reason I think the duty upon this class of stock should be removed. Of course that does not apply to cattle or sheep brought here for slaughter. I think it is quite right that a duty should

be charged on these, if only to protect our own squatters at the North. But I do think that all duty on stud stock, brought here at enormous expense and risk, should be done away with. I hope this is a question that will not escape the attention of the Tariff Commission. A question, which is a very vexed one, is referred to in the eleventh paragraph of the Speech, and that is the question of Chinese coming here in such numbers. I think the great fault, and the cause of so much of the outcry recently raised against the Chinese—although myself opposed to the Chinese in any shape or form—has been the glaring evasion of the provisions of the Imported Labour Registry Act. We know that, according to that Act those who import Chinese are required to send them back to their own country at the end of their engagement; but we know very well that hardly a single man of these Chinese servants are sent back again. That is not as it should be. I now come to the question of mining. As I said before, we are depending to a great extent upon the development of our mines, and, if by any means we can encourage more gold-diggers to come here, and stay here, we must do our best to do so. It is sometimes said of miners that they are not a desirable class to bring to a country, because when they come they simply make what money they can and go away again. I think, at any rate, we ought to do our utmost to keep these people here when they do come, and it seems that we are going the wrong way to work when we refuse them any say in the affairs of the country, by not giving them a vote. We ought to give these men a voice in the government of the country, so as to induce them to take some interest in the country; and I trust that the Constitution Bill which we are promised will provide for this. It will be a very graceful act on the part of the Government, and a popular measure, if they extend the franchise to *bonâ fide* miners, after a certain term of residence in the colony. I regret very much to find no reference in His Excellency's Speech to an industry which at one time was one of the most important industries of the colony, the pearling industry, but which has been languishing very much of late. I think it would be a wise thing if the Government were to appoint a Commis-

sion to inquire into the cause of the decline of this industry. Boats that were trading at the North are now going elsewhere, and I think it would be a mistake on the part of the Government to allow this industry to languish and die out, but they should do all in their power to restore it. Sandalwood and its protection is a subject I am not very much acquainted with, and I do not propose to refer to it, except to say that I think it is very necessary to protect the young trees. This leads me to another matter, of which I find no mention in His Excellency's Speech, and that is the conservation of our forests. Our timber is well known to be a most valuable product, and for many years past its destruction has been going on indiscriminately; and, unless some steps be taken to put a stop to this wholesale destruction, we shall rue it some day. I think it is very necessary that steps should be taken to protect our timber forests, more especially close to the coast. Another industry which I think the Government should take into consideration is that of viticulture. I think they should consider the advisability of appointing an experienced Inspector of Vines, a competent man who could advise our vine growers as to the best classes of vines to cultivate in particular soils, and the most likely localities. I now come to a question which, I am afraid, before long will be a very vexed question, and that is the native question, especially at the North. The blacks at the North have been a great source of trouble and loss to the settlers. Some time ago no active steps were taken by the Government to stop these blacks from committing their depredations, but I am glad to see that some months ago, probably nearly a year ago now, the Government did take action in the matter, and, if they will only continue to keep down the blacks as they are now doing, we may anticipate that this native trouble will cease in time. It certainly requires attention. The settlers, who risk their lives and who invest their capital in opening up the country, deserve the fullest protection which the Government can give them, and I hope the present Government will continue to take action to keep the blacks in subjection. I do not purpose saying much more, but I cannot conclude without paying a personal tribute to the members of the

present Government. When I first came here, a perfect stranger, and before I had any idea of entering Parliament at all, I had several business communications with each of them; and I must say they were most courteous, and very willing to do their best even for a stranger coming into the colony, and to give him any suggestions which they thought would be to his benefit and for the welfare of the colony. Sir, I have much pleasure in seconding the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

MR. DEHAMEL: I beg to move the adjournment of the debate until the next sitting of the House.

Agreed to.

Debate adjourned.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION TO
HER MAJESTY.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL.

The following Message was delivered to and read by Mr. Speaker:

"Mr. Speaker,

"The Legislative Council informs the
"Legislative Assembly, in reply to its
"Message No. 1, that the Legislative
"Council concurs with the Legislative
"Assembly in the Address of Congratu-
"lation to Her Majesty the Queen on the
"marriage of His Royal Highness the
"Duke of York and the Princess Victoria
"Mary of Teck, and in the further Address
"to His Excellency the Governor request-
"ing him to communicate the said Ad-
"dress by telegraph to the Secretary of
"State for the Colonies, for presentation
"to Her Majesty.

"GEO. SHENTON,

"President.

"Legislative Council Chamber, July
"5th, 1893."

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 25 minutes to
5 o'clock p.m.