

Mr. BICKLEY laid upon the Table of the House the following paper:—

Plan of harbor works and other portal conveniences at Fremantle, designed by himself.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

Mr. SHENTON rose to move that a respectful Address be presented to His Excellency in reply to the Speech which he had been pleased to deliver. He craved the indulgence of the House while he briefly reviewed those important measures which were to be submitted for consideration, and, in an exhaustive speech, expressed his opinion with respect to them, giving his adhesion to most of the paragraphs, including that referring to the desirability of postponing the adoption of a change in the Constitution.

Mr. W. BURGESS seconded the motion, which, after some conversation, was adopted.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) moved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Steers, Brown, Padbury, Randell, and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. H. H. Hocking) seconded the motion.

The House then adjourned during pleasure, to enable the committee to prepare their Address. After an interval of half-an-hour,

The ACTING SPEAKER resumed the chair, when

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy) brought up the report of the committee. The Address, read at the Table by the Clerk, was as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Members of the Legislative Council of Western Australia, in Council assembled, desire to express our thanks for the Address with which Your Excellency has been pleased to open this Second Session of this Honorable Council. The correspondence on the subject of Responsible Government will receive our careful attention. Those who are in favour of the immediate adoption of that form of Government will doubtless feel some disappointment at the postponement of the accomplishment of their wishes, but it is evident that further agitation at the present time and under

existing circumstances would be undesirable, and therefore His Lordship's decision will no doubt be accepted in the spirit in which it has been arrived at.

We receive with much gratification Your Excellency's opinion that the financial position of the Colony is highly satisfactory. We shall be prepared carefully to consider the Estimates when placed before us, and to vote such supplies as may be necessary to provide for the efficient support of the Public Service.

It is satisfactory to learn that there is so large an increase in the occupation of Crown Lands, both for Pastoral and Agricultural purposes. We view such an increase as a certain indication of the progressive settlement of the Colony. We shall gladly give our advice on any additional Land Regulations Your Excellency may lay before us, having it for their object to encourage a more extended occupation of the large pastoral areas yet unoccupied in remote districts, and to secure to small farmers greater facilities in depasturing their stock.

We learn with pleasure that there is an increasing demand for our Jarrah timber, and that Your Excellency considers that this industry may now be regarded as fully established. We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that steps should be taken, where necessary, to prevent an undue destruction of this valuable public property.

The papers connected with the Geraldton and Northampton railway shall receive our early attention and careful consideration.

We are glad to learn from Your Excellency the satisfactory progress of the Eucla Telegraph Line, and we look forward with much interest to the completion of this large and important undertaking.

The question of Public Works, especially in regard to the formation of a harbor at Fremantle, and the construction of a railway from Fremantle to Perth and Guildford, will receive our earnest attention.

We cordially concur with Your Excellency in welcoming Mr. Giles and his companions on their arrival in this Colony, and congratulate them on the success that has attended their adventurous

exploit. At the same time we would express our gratification on learning that the Secretary of State has recognised the services of our own explorer Mr. Forrest.

The question of Immigration is one in which the future welfare of the Colony is deeply involved, and we are glad to perceive that Your Excellency is fully alive to its importance.

We agree with Your Excellency in thinking that the want of a high-class school in the Colony is largely felt; and the proposal to establish such a school at the public expense is well worthy the consideration of this Council.

The questions to which we have alluded, and the other questions referred to in Your Excellency's speech, are indeed intimately connected with the social welfare of the Colony, and we can assure you that we are fully prepared to consider them in the spirit indicated by Your Excellency.

We concur in the prayer that we may be guided by Divine Providence to the adoption of such measures as shall most conduce to the honour of the Crown and the happiness of the inhabitants of this portion of Her Majesty's Dominions.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. A. O'Grady Lefroy), in moving that the Address be adopted, said that it was a mere echo of the Vice-Regal Speech, and in moving its adoption the hon. member observed that while the majority had agreed to the reply in its entirety, two of the committee—the hon. member for Swan, and the hon. member for Wellington—had not given their personal adhesion to the second paragraph, relative to the postponement of the introduction of Responsible Government.

Mr. RANDELL seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. STEERE moved, as an amendment, that the question of the adoption of the reply be postponed until the following (this) evening.

Mr. BROWN, who saw no objection to the adjournment of the debate, seconded the amendment, which was adopted.

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The SURVEYOR GENERAL (Hon. M. Fraser), with leave, without notice, moved that Mr. Steere, Mr. Shenton, and Mr. Burt be appointed members of the House Committee.

The Council adjourned at 5.15 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Wednesday, 1st December, 1875.

Election Petition—Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech.

The ACTING SPEAKER took the Chair at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION.

The ACTING SPEAKER reported to the House the receipt from His Honor the Chief Justice of the following letter, announcing the action taken in the matter of the petition of Mr. S. S. Parker of York, against the return of Mr. Monger, presented to the Council on the 18th November, 1874, and referred to the Chief Justice on that date:—

Chief Justice's Chambers,
30th November, 1875.

To The Honorable the Speaker of the Honorable the Legislative Council.

Sir,—I have the honor to report, for the information of the Honorable the Legislative Council, that the Petition of Stephen Stanley Parker, presented to the Council on the 18th November, 1874, against the Return of John Henry Monger, the then sitting Member for the Electoral District of York, and referred to the Chief Justice agreeably to the provisions of the Ordinance 33rd Vict., No. 13, remained without action thereon until the 26th day of December, 1874.

On that day I was attended at Chambers by the Attorneys of the Petitioner and Respondent respectively, and an Order was made for the delivery of Particulars in writing to the Respondent's Attorney.

On the 1st day of February, 1875, a further Order was applied for and made, directing that the hearing of the Petition should be taken at the Common Court Hall in Perth, on Wednesday, the 17th day of February, then instant.

On the 17th day of February, the day so appointed for the hearing of the Petition, a motion was made by Counsel for the Petitioner for leave to withdraw the Petition, on terms alleged to be set forth in a written Agreement between the parties, dated the 15th day of February. The Respondent did not appear in person, by Counsel, or Attorney.