**EXHIBITION BILL 1883**

**Legislative Council, 21 November 1883, pages 1675-86**

Second reading

The Standing Orders having been suspended,

The Hon. H. SCOTT presented a petition from 101 residents of Auburn praying the Council to reject the Bill.

The Hon. J. B. SPENCE presented petitions from 126 residents of Clare, and from twenty-four residents of Mintaro, of similar purport.

**The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay**), in moving the second reading of the Bill, said hon. members knew how very easy it was for people to make an outcry against the expenditure of any money in any other place but that where they happened to reside, and he noticed that it was particularly those places which had applied for public works which were not considered necessary that were protesting against the holding of the Exhibition. The Bill was merely intended to give effect to a resolution which had previously been carried by both Houses of Parliament. Commissioners had been appointed to carry out those resolutions, and the only alteration that had been made was that the Exhibition should be held in 1887 instead of 1886. It was intended to open the Exhibition about the beginning of June, 1887, and it would thus be accessible to visitors during the pleasantest months of the year, and while the country was in its fairest garb. The Bill was drawn on the model of those authorizing the Victorian and New South Wales Exhibitions, and the experience gained there by the South Australian Commissioner (Mr. Davenport) had also been brought to bear on the subject. The Bill gave the Commissioners all necessary powers, and also provided for the Exhibition Buildings being brought under the Building Act. There was no proposal in the Bill with regard to money matters, which would come before the House in the ordinary way. With reference to the question, whether the Exhibition should be held or not, he thought this was not a time to discuss the question (Hear, hear). Both Houses

would support the second reading of Parliament had already shown themselves deliberately of opinion that the project should be carried out, and it would be a reflection on the intelligence of the hon. Members to bring the subject up for discussion again. He hoped hon. Members would support the second reading.

The Hon. J. PEARCE rose on a point of order to ask the President’s ruling on the Bill. He wished to know if the Bill had been recommend by His Excellency the Governor, and whether it was a Bill requiring such recommendation. He would draw the President’s attention to clause 5, and ask whether it did not propose the appropriate revenue. If so, could the Council alter or amend the clause.

The PRESIDENT—Yes ; I think the Crown can alter or amend clause 5, and I am also of the opinion that this in no sense a money Bill. There is no authority to expend money contained in it, any more than in a Bill to authorize the construction of a railway. In this case if the money for the work is not subsequently voted by Parliament the Bill will remain a dead letter.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER would respectfully point out that clause 5 gave the Commissioners authority to do the work. It was only necessary that the plans and estimates should be laid before Parliamentment, which might not sit until six months after the beginning of the work.

The PRESIDENT—I presume the Commissioners cannot work without money. (Hear, hear and laughter.) This Bill is somewhat like a Railway Bill, and the carrying out of this work depends upon the funds being afterwards voted by Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. J. CROZIER thought it was now too late for the Council to retract after having committed themselves so far. (Hear, hear, and No). He thought a great deal of ignorance existed as the cost of the Exhibition would really be. He believed the permanent buildings that would be left after the Exhibition was closed would cost £130 000, so that the Exhibition Building proper would cost about £82,000, which was a long way off quarter of a million. He believed that those who now opposed the Exhibition would do more harm than one or two bad seasons—(Hear, hear)—and he only wondered that they did not bring their attacks to bear on the new Houses of Parliament which might well be dispensed with. (Hear, hear). To prevent the Exhibition would only be to publish to the world that we could not afford an expenditure of £82,000. He thought the country districts were acting in a very selfish manner in their opposition to the Exhibition.

The Hon. R. C. BAKER moved- “That the Bill he read a second time this day six months.” (Hear hear.) He was always a strong opponent of the work, and had seen nothing to alter his opinion that this was one of the most extravagant and useless proposals of expenditure ever submitted to the Legislative Council. He was glad to see that the country was awaking at last to what their representatives were doing with their money. Was this large sum to be expended in developing the country? He had said before, and would say now, that £1,000 expended in printing ink in London would do more towards advertising the colony than the £300,000 or £400,000 to be spent on the Exhibition. The truth was that this Exhibition was born of the vanity of some few prominent colonists, who did not care how much of the people’s money they might spend so long as they attained some ephemeral title to gratify their con­ceit. (Hon. G. W. Cotton—“Oh no; nonsense.”) He had not alluded to the hon. member, but he appeared to consider that the remark applied to him. (Loud laughter.) He believed we should have a number of honours distributed amongst prominent citizens if the Exhibition took place, but he hoped the occasion for such a distribution would never arise, and he believed they would be dearly-bought honours to the colony. He knew the Press had advocated this matter so long that they had persuaded themselves that the colony was with them on the point, but he thought the petitions which had just been presented sufficiently proved the contrary; and he was sure that the longer they delayed their decision the more petitions they would have coming in from one end of the colony to the other. The Hon. Mr. Crozier said the Exhibition would only cost £82,000, but where did he get his figures from ? They had a paper on the table of the Council showing that up to the date when the paper was prepared the expenses of the Exhibition were estimated at over £200,000. and they all knew that these Commissions, which were responsible to nobody, went on increasing their expenditure at will. He knew he was backed up by the opinion of several of the Commissioners who sat in the Council when he said that the Exhibition meant a loss to the country of from £300 000 to £500 000 (Hon. Mr. Crozier – “No, No.”). He knew one of the Commissioners said he would have nothing to do with the Exhibition unless it cost £400 000although he acknowledged it to be a fearful waste of money, and he was certain that several of the Commissioners held the same views. Doubtless, there were others who really believed that this was a proper expenditure of public money—(The Hon. W. C. Buik— “ Hear, hear”)—but these were men who had very little experience, had never seen other Exhibitions, and looked at the matter from the standpoint of local speculators. He knew some hon, members thought the whole world was agog about this Exhibition, and that its notoriety was such that if it were not held the distant nations would feel grievously disappointed — (laughter) — but, as a matter of fact, people in other parts of the world knew little about our Exhibition, and would not be at all disappointed if it were not held. It was alleged by hon. members of the Council and by the public Press that we were pledged to this Exhibition, but he thought such expressions were meaningless, and would ask to whom we were pledged ? (The Hon. J. Crozier—“ To the world.”) The world knew nothing about it, and did not care either. He knew a certain resolution on this subject was passed in Parliament some time ago without any discussion. At that time the whole matter was considered such a long way off that people did not give it due attention, and the circumstances of the colony were very different then from what they were now. We should be breaking faith with nobody if we now in a sane frame of mind said we would not spend this money. He hoped the Council would not pass the Bill, because if now thrown out they would hear no more of an Exhibition for some time. To return to the cost: The Hon. Mr. Crozier said it would amount to £82,000. Did that include the cost of erecting a new Destitute Asylum and a new Police Barracks, which would have to be placed somewhere else ? Did it include all the expenses connected with the carrying out of the Exhibition ? He was perfectly certain that the Hon. Mr. Crozier in that estimate was not considering the whole circumstances of the case, and that the country was perfectly correct in estimating the expenditure at a quarter of a million. On reproductive public works he was prepared to spend millions, but at present we were merely a few people living along the seacoast, and had no right to spend our money on luxuries like the Exhibition, whose effect would merely last a short time, and would leave a heavy debt behind. He might have spoken warmly on this subject, but he felt warmly on it, and lie stated a general principle, whose truth was acknowledged, when he said that a new country with a small population should devote its resources to developing that country and making it prosperous and populous, instead of expensive luxuries of this sort. (Hear, hear.) One of the petitions which had been read that day said that the storekeepers of Adelaide would be benefited, but that was not the case. They knew that the Melbourne and Sydney shopkeepers were the first to cry out against their Exhibitions, and were injured the most. In fact those Exhibitions merely kept a number of foreign shopkeepers going without paying any rent. He quite admitted that the hotelkeepers and the newspaper proprietors might benefit by the Exhibition, as it would create an excitement, bring some visitors here, and increase the circulation and advertising of the papers; but beyond these two classes he knew of no one who would be benefited. We knew that many would be induced to spend their money on things they did not want—(Hear, hear)—and that money would go out of the colony. This was the first opportunity the Council had had of dealing with this Bill, and if they did not reject it they would soon have another Bill on the same subject. He would vote that the Bill be thrown out.

The Hon T. HOGARTH took a very different view from the last speaker. He was proud of South Australia—(Hear, hear)—and would be glad that the whole world should know what sort of a country this was. Any healthy and industrious man who settled in this colony might be independent in fifteen years; and what other country could say the same ? In some respects even the late poor harvests had been a benefit, for they prevented the greedy man from taking all the good out of the ground at once. (Laughter.) South Australia would grow as much wheat as any country in the world, only it took a long time to get it out of the ground. (Loud laughter.) In this country, too, a man could work every day in the year, whereas in Canada he had to produce half the year and consume the other half. It was only the other day that he was informed by a Queenslander that this was the finest colony of the lot. (Hear, Hear). He approved of the Bill and would vote for it.

The Hon. G.W. COTTON had not altered his position since he first voted for te building under the impression that it could be erected for about £100,000. He was in favour of an Exhibition, and had always maintained that this was a great colony, but that was no reason why we should squander £200,000 or £300,000. With regard to this question, however, he thought the disadvantages had been rather exaggerated, and it was all nonsense to talk about a four-bushel harvest. He had said before, and he intended to keep to it, that he would not sanction such a sum of money as had been mentioned. The Exhibition Commissioners seemed to be acting like children with a new toy. They had apparently made up their minds to spend any amount of money because they had got a nice picture before them— (Hear, hear) — but he maintained that they should retain their senses even in Government House. If the London Fisheries Exhibition cost £60,000 he thought this colony should be satisfied with an expenditure of £100,000. He would much rather see a large sum of money expended in reproductive works than in removing the Destitute Asylum and the Police Barracks and erecting a library that was not yet needed. As for the Hon. Mr. Baker’s remarks, he thought his reference to some people wanting to see this Bill passed in order that they might get a title in connection with the Exhibition very small indeed. Then another reason why they should put off this Exhibition was that we were on the eve of a general election, and the electors should have an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the subject at the hustings. As the time for holding the Exhibition had been extended to 1887, there was, therefore, no need to hurry the matter on. Then Parliament had not met the expectations of the country with respect to the Land Bill and an equitable system of taxation, which ought to have been passed this session, and he thought the opportunity should be afforded the electors of showing what they thought about the Government and Parliament, even if it were necessary to sacrifice the Exhibition Bill. He was not opposed to an Exhibition at a reasonable cost, because such would be a very desirable educational institution, and there were thousands who would see things there that they otherwise would never see. Besides this it was extremely necessary to stir up the public sentiment and interest occasionally. There were such things as Sleepy Hollows, and they should try and prevent South Australia from becoming such. He was very sorry that the Chief Secretary’s motion at a recent meeting of the Exhibition Commissioners, to keep the expenditure within a moderate limit, and which he seconded, was not carried, because as far as possible he liked to be in accord with the Government. Under the circumstances of the case, however, he would be inclined to support the Hon. Mr. Baker’s amendment, in order that they might have an opportunity of ascertaining whether those who had sent in the petitions against the passing of the Exhibition Bill were in a majority or minority.

The Hon. W. D. GLYDE thought it was a very pleasant thing to hear the Hon. Mr. Hogarth speak in such terms as he had used of the colony— of the good things that it had done for him—and it would have been a splendid thing, instead of building this great erection, to send him home and ticket him “a product of South Australia.” (Laughter.) He would do more to introduce emigrants to the colony than an Exhibition. (The Hon. W. C. Buik— “ He is a product of Scotland.” Hear, hear.) He had opposed the Bill before, not because he thought it would do any harm; but we had done really very little to develop this immense country, and the money could be much better spent in such a work. He protested against an expenditure of so much money for such a purpose, while the many extensive works necessary to develop the country and ensure its prosperity were not yet finished, such as a railway to unite the north and south of the colony. He did not think, however, that there were hon. members so mean as to vote for the Bill because they might then be in a position to fish about for any small titles that might be given. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon.. A. HAY said that when the matter was first mooted he voted that it should be put off until 1890, when our railway system would probably be approaching completion, but the motion which he then moved was defeated. Since that time further action bad been taken in the matter, and it had been given out that we were going to have an Exhibition, and under such circumstances he thought it would be an indication of cowardice and feebleness to back out now. (Hear, hear.) It was a wise provision of the Government to put the Exhibition off till 1887, and he thought it would have been better if it had been still later, but as the time had been fixed, if the Exhibition were opened in May or June visitors in September or October would see the colony at its best. The Hon. Mr. Baker had advanced the opinion that £1,000 spent in printers’ ink in London and on the Continent would do the colony more good than an Exhibition; but while he would remind the House that various kinds of publications had been sent to Europe with this object, for the most part he thought they were too bulky. He remembered that in 1838 he and a number of persons were attracted to the colony by reading a small pamphlet of twenty or thirty pages, called the “Great South Land.” Then a great deal of the success of the colony depended on the settlement of the Crown lands, which should not be given to men who had no money, but to those who had capital to develop them. In this direction every facility should be given to the squatters to take up and develop country. He did not speak merely as a squatter, but nothing would have such an effect in inducing people to come and stay in this country as the sight of farmers and squatters comfortably settled on what were now Crown lands. Reference had been made to the complaints by the Melbourne storekeepers against the exhibitors in the Melbourne Exhibition, but that was only at first. The Melbourne shopkeepers and hotelkeepers must have been greatly benefited by the money expended by people from the country and the other colonies. With regard to the Destitute Asylum buildings, he would not be sorry to see that ramshackle structure removed, and the inmates taken to some other place where they might find pleasing employment in looking after the garden or something of the sort. A better place should also be got for the Police Barracks, but that was a question for the Government to decide. He intended to vote for the second reading of the Bill, but he hoped the Commissioner of Public Works would give some intimation when tenders would probably be called for the remainder of the railway between the Murray Bridge and the Border. Then it should not be forgotten that a large portion of the Exhibition Building would be permanent, while the west end—the Institute Building—had been erected. In Victoria and New South Wales, on the contrary, the Exhibition Buildings had always been sources of great expense, and the burning of the Sydney Exhibition was probably no great loss to the colony as a whole. Although his name had been put upon the list of Commissioners it was without his consent and he never acted. As there had been a sanction by both Houses of Parliament to the holding of the Exhibition in the year of jubilee he would assist in carrying it to a successful termination. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. M. SALOM intended to vote for the amendment, because, with very few exceptions, he agreed with every word said by the Hon. Mr. Baker. An Exhibition as proposed would be a most wasteful and extravagant expenditure of public money, and he fully believed that if the question were remitted to the constituencies instead of a few petitions against it every township in the colony would rise and protest against it. (Hear, hear. Hon. W. C. Buik—“No.”) He also was an Exhibition Commissioner, but his name had been added to the list without his consent. The Hon. Mr. Crozier had said that we had published the holding of this Exhibition to the world, but he had been unable to find any reference to that fact in the *Times;* indeed, he very seldom found South Australia mentioned in that paper at all. The Hon. Mr. Crozier had also said that they were ignorant of the cost. Well, he believed they were, or they would never sanction the scheme. (Hear, hear.) Instead of about £80,000 the actual cost would probably be £300,000 or £400,000 before the thing was finished. It had been said also that we were pledged to go on with this matter now; and supposing we were would the world not think a great deal more of us if we withdrew in time from spending money in luxuries when the whole colony was thirsting for water? (Hear, hear.) If ten times the amount proposed to be spent was spent in trying to get water throughout this colony, and even if the water were not found, he would say they had done perfectly right. (Hear, Hear). The Hon. Mr. Crozier had said that we should have three or four millions that we would not know what to do with, but if this were loan money for useful and reproductive works then there would be no difficulty in finding a way to spend it. The Hon Mr. Crozier had also referred to the good harvest we were going to have ; but if he were behind the scenes, as some of them were, he would know that every penny from that good harvest was engaged. There would be no difficulty about spending that money. (Hear, hear.) Then the Hon. Mr. Hay gave a very qualified approval to the scheme—it might do good. He did not think that hon. gentleman was very hearty in the matter. While an Exhibition might do good by tending to the advancement of science and art in this community, in the present state of the colony he did not think they would be justified in spending anything like the amount of money it was contemplated to spend. It had been said that the Destitute Asylum would have to be removed from its present position. It would have to be done sooner or later, but there was no immediate hurry. If this Exhibition had not been mooted there would have been no great hurry to demolish buildings which had cost £30,000, a large portion of which had been built during the last four or five years and were eminently suited for the purpose. If the erection of the Exhibition were proceeded with nearly all these buildings would have to be

removed, withperhaps the exception of enough to serve as a town depot.

The Hon. H. SCOTT would also support the amendment. The Hon. Mr. Hay had said if abandoned this idea of an Exhibition now it would be an indication of feebleness. (Hear hear *)* He was sorry to find that that hon. gentleman, who usually took such a clear and comprehensive view of things brought before him, showed just a little sign of feebleness in giving way to the idea that this Exhibition would be a good thing. If he had stuck to his views as first expressed he thought it would have been better for him—(Hear, hear)—and for the colony also. A good many members of the Council were inclined to give way a great deal too much and it would be better if when they formed convictions in their own minds that they should keep to them and not mind whether or not they were popular. It was all very well to say that because Bills were passed by another branch of the Legislature that they should pass them also, and not be obstructive - but if they proceeded on that principle it would be better to abolish the Legislative Council at once. If they were convinced that this Exhibition would be a good thing for the colony then they should support it, but he was sure that a large majority of the members of the Council were not so convinced and under such circumstances they should vote against it, and, if necessary, be obstructive. The Hon. Mr. Hay had said that the Exhibition would direct attention to this colony. A lot of Austrian, Italian, Swiss, and other very estimable gentlemen would bring a large quantity of useless rubbish here ; but we did not want the attendance of people who would only sell us peculiar-shaped glasses or cups and saucers of unusual pattern, or other articles imagined by some persons to be ornaments when they were nothing of the sort. We wanted people to come here who would help to increase the productiveness of the colony. He was quite aware that there was a certain amount of good to be derived from the Exhibition of fine arts and such things, and that these displays should be encouraged ; but how many of the pictures shown at the Melbourne and Sydney Exhibitions were better than daubs? The number of paintings and other works of art which would tend to increase the love for art was very small indeed. Then there was no doubt that an immense amount of money would leave the colony in exchange for unproductive and useless articles of luxury. If we wanted to draw attention to this colony we ought to draw attention to its products. The Lord Mayor of London had recently done more for the colony in this way than twenty Exhibitions by sending wagons loaded with wool, copper, and wheat through the streets of London. He had in effect by this procedure told the working classes that they should go to the colonies where these products were obtained. We would do far more good in the direction of drawing attention to the colony by dispersing information about it in Europe, or by an Exhibition in London, than by attracting a few people from London. Very few persons came from London to attend the Melbourne Exhibition when they had the advantage of seeing- Sydney at the same time. We were in an isolated position, and if soo few people came to an Exhibition held in Melbourne, a much larger city than Adelaide, how many could we expect to come here? A great deal had also been about the number of people who went from the other colonies to the Melbourne Exhibition; but he believed that there were not so many people from the other colonies as some people think in Adelaide. The population of Victoria was three times as great as that of this colony, and if Victoria lost something like £300,000 it must have been from the non- attendance of a large proportion of its own population. He had been unable to get the exact figures of the attendance at the Melbourne Exhibition ; but he was sure in his own mind that not more than a third of the number would attend the Adelaide Exhibition. Then a great deal had been said about the benefit that Melbourne had derived from the Exhibition, but the Exhibition should have been intended for a benefit to the whole colony in the same way that our Exhibition in Adelaide should be a benefit for the whole of South Australia. In the long run he was disposed to think that the trading community of Melbourne did not gain anything from the Exhibition, and the advantage to the people of Adelaide from this point of view would be equally problematical. Then the question arose, would the people who would come from the country districts be likely to be benefited by seeing the various kinds of machinery exhibited ? He was disposed to think they would, but there was hardly any useful machinery for this colony that was not to be seen either in work or in the various implement yards. Competition in this line of business was so keen that manufacturers lost no time in sending out all new inventions or adoptions that would be likely to find a market in the colonies ; and besides this, nearly all the hardware merchants had agents in England or America, who sent them every month specifications of everything new that was likely to be useful. Besides these reasons for not passing the Bill he would like to call attention to the fact that this Exhibition was not only disapproved of by our farmers who had paid for their land, and who expected to have to pay a heavy tax imposed on them if this costly expenditure on articles of luxury was proceeded with, but by those who had not only not paid for their land and did not intend to pay for it, but had made the Government introduce a Bill giving the land to them. Even these persons were beginning to see that the land which they had got, and which was worth three or four times the amount they now valued it at, would have to pay a tax if this Exhibition were proceeded with, and they strongly protested against it. And they were right that some attention should be paid to them now, although he never took any notice of them when they got abusive.

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The Hon. J. B. SPENCE would also support the amendment, because in six months’ time they would be in a better position to see whether it would be wise to have this Exhibition. He demurred to the sentiments of the Hon. Mr. Crozier and the Hon. Mr. Hay that it would be cowardice to back out now, because he thought it was better to be poor and prudent than rich and imprudent. The Hon. Mr. Crozier was emphatic in his statement that the Exhibition would cost only £80,000, because buildings to cost £130,000, and of a permanent character, were included in the estimated cost of the whole structure. This was only a specious attempt to get these buildings erected without having the money voted for such a purpose. The Hon. Mr. Crozier said that the Houses of Parliament should be stopped also if the Exhibition were stopped; but Parliament could not help itself— the contract for the Parliament Houses had been signed. Such, however, was not the state of things with regard to the Exhibition, and while there was a place for repentance we should seek it with tears. (Laughter.) It had been said that the Exhibition would bring a lot of people to see the country, but ninety-nine persons out of every 100 who would come here would come to sell and not to see, and if they did not sell their goods they would sell us. The Hon. Mr. Hogarth had talked a great deal about the wheat principle with the land, but unfortunately it required rain to bring the principle out. (Laughter.) If this Exhibition cost the Government £300,000, he was afraid it would cost the public £500,000 more, because those people who would come here to show their goods would try to sell them, and the unfortunate people would be seduced into buying goods they did not want. (Hon. members—“No.”) The late Exhibition got up by Messrs. Joubert and Twopeny, returned £10,000 to the promoters, and besides that, the people wasted their time and spent large sums of money. However, the country was waking up to what the expenditure of this large sum of money meant, and the letter which be received with the petition he had presented stated that if a little more time had been given twice as many signatures could have been obtained. If Parliament had not been discussing the question of taxation at the present time the country possibly would not have looked into this matter, but, inasmuch as the Government had insisted on further taxation, they had begun to count the cost.

The Hon. R. A. TARLTON doubted if the Council were justified in passing this Bill in the present condition of the country; and besides this, the Hon. Mr. Hay had indicated that he thought it was extremely questionable in his judgment whether the railway communication which he regarded as the *sine qua non* on which he voted for the Bill would be opened in time. Looking at the requirements of the colony he regarded such an expenditure as foolish and wasteful. He held in his hand plans of a far more important undertaking—the conservation of water in this colony—a subject than which no greater could occupy the attention of Parliament, and with regard to which, with the exception of the speech of the Commissioner of Public Works, little or nothing had been done. He had such a thorough conviction of the requirements of the colony in this respect that he was prepared to endorse the Hon. Mr. Salom’s extreme statement that if the Government spent three millions of money in attempting to conserve water, but failed, they would be justified in their expenditure if it was an honest effort— (Hear, hear)—because it was almost impossible to exaggerate the importance of the object they had in view to the best interests of the colony. So far as he could see the expenditure of this money in an Exhibition building would be of very little benefit to South Australia, and a community which spent money on luxuries it could not afford was in a very little better position than the foolish man who lived beyond his income for the sake of appearances. If they looked at the requirements of the colony at the present time they would see that an enormous sum of money was necessary to carry out needed public works. He knew of no country in the world where the natural facilities for the success and prosperity of the early colonists were so great. They had a gulf running hundreds of miles towards the centre of the continent, the coast lands had a reliable rainfall with plains ready for the plough, and without labour equal to the choicest cultivated fields of Europe. But back from the coast some hundreds of miles he knew of no country which required the expenditure of so much money or so much prudence to develop its resources. (Hear, hear.) If we wanted to develop this great country we must expend immense sums of money on it, and under such circumstances this Exhibition building would be a waste of money. (Hear, hear.) The best suggestion was to send the Hon. Mr. Hogarth to England as a specimen South Australian after forty-four years in the colony. He was a grand-looking young old man—(laughter)— and he believed he would do the whole thing for a couple of thousand pounds. (Laughter.)

The Hon.D. MURRAY would vote for the second reading of the Bill, which was in accordance with his previous expressions of opinion as to the benefits which would result to the colony from the holding of this Exhibition. He thought a very much smaller sum of money would suffice than had been mentioned ; at any rate he did not believe that such an expenditure would be necessary to conserve the best interests of the colony. He would do his utmost in the future, as in the past, to reduce the expenditure as far as possible. He did not think, although our colony was small, that it was too small for an Exhibition. It would make us known to the world, and we wanted people to come here and occupy our large tracts of country. He believed the visitors to the Melbourne and Sydney Exhibitions, who combined profit with pleasure, were just the right sort of people we wanted to see the colony and become acquainted with us. (Hear, hear.) The Hon. Mr. Tarlton had spoken of the necessity for expending money in water conservation, and referred to the apathy shown by the people of the colony in that respect; but he considered nothing was better calculated to do away with that apathy, and make the people look at their own vast resources, than the establishment of an Exhibition in our midst. He knew that in Victoria there was a series of very depressing years before the Exhibition took place—trade was bad, and there were many signs of poverty and decadence—but since the Exhibition that colony had progressed greatly. (The Hon. W.C.

Buik—“Hear, hear.”) If the Exhibition was conducted as he would like to see it he felt sure it would conduce to the progress of this colony. The expenditure was certainly large, but he hoped it would be reduced to not much over £150,000, and if they considered that one shower falling at the right season would put ten times that amount in the coffers of the colony it did not appear so very much. (Hear, hear.) The Hon. Mr. Scott had spoken of foreigners coming here with jewellery and other knicknacks as something that would have a detrimental effect on the colony. To talk of people being induced to buy these things against their will was absurd, and when people could afford it there was nothing he liked better than to see them laying their money out on articles that would add beauty and enjoyment to their homes. (Hear, hear.) After all, these formed but a small part of the Exhibition. There would be an extensive show of machinery, and the collection of our own products would enlighten strangers as to our resources, and would help to introduce money here. This Bill did not settle the question, as a money Bill would have to be brought in, and he hoped and believed the Government would then lay before them the exact amount required for the Exhibition. It would then be time enough for hon. members to object, which could not well be done now, when they did not really know what expenditure was re­quired.

The Hon. W. SANDOVER said he could sometimes be very persistent in his opposition, but on this occasion, when both Houses had fairly affirmed that we should have an Exhibition, he felt, in spite of his sympathy with the views of other hon. members, that they must acknowledge the power of a majority. A number of preliminary meetings of the various committees connected with the Exhibition had taken place, and the work had been begun with the understanding that Parliament would furnish them with the necessary funds to carry it out . The majority had given their decision on this question, and to recede from that decision now would be damaging to the best interests of the colony. No doubt the benefits to be derived from the Exhibition would not compensate for the very great outlay, but it would not all be lost; and it was just as well we should have something to wake us up. We should doubtless have a lot of useless knicknacks shown, but there would also be a great deal of new machinery which would educate our young engineers in the latest improvements. He was sorry he could not support the Hon. Mr. Baker; but he thought it was now too late for opposition—(Hear, hear)—which should have been more energetic when the question was first brought forward. He thought we should occupy a very ridiculous position if we now drew back, and therefore he would support the Government.

The Hon. J. PEARCE would not feel justified in adopting the course which the last speaker said he intended to pursue, for this reason—that an unsuccessful protest was sometimes of as much value as a successful opposition. He was sorry the hon. member had not taken the same position as formerly, for even if he was not on the side of the majority, he would help to read the Commission a wholesome lesson by reminding them that an extravagant, lavish, and unlimited expenditure of this character might have very injurious results to South Australia. He had not been opposed to an Exhibition, but he was led to vote against it that day, because he felt that the wishes expressed by the Hon. Mr. Murray could not be fulfilled. The hon. member expressed a wish that the Government would, on a future occasion, bring down a Bill limiting the expenditure and showing the exact cost. If the present Bill did that, he would very likely support it, but instead of that the Bill went to the monstrous length of relegating the powers of Parliament to irresponsible individuals, and giving them authority to expend unlimited sums. (Hon. Mr. Tarlton—“ Hear, hear.”) Clause 5 authorized the Commissioners “to do all things necessary for providing, altering, and maintaining proper buildings and other accommodation for the said Exhibition, and for securing the most effective display of all articles used for the same : provided that general plans and an estimate of the cost of the proposed building be first approved by the Governor and laid before Parliament.” That was all the control there was over the Commissioners, so that as soon as this Bill was passed Parliament had no further power in the matter. (No.) So far as his Parliamentary experience went such a clause had never been inserted in a Bill before, and his opinion was that it was a very imprudent and unwise thing for Parliament to allow fifty or 100 irresponsible gentlemen to go into the most lavish expenditure which their tastes might direct in order to make this a success worthy of a great nation. Hon. members must know that even if they brought in a Bill to expend a given amount, that amount could be exceeded and would have to be provided for afterwards, so that if once they passed this Bill they had committed themselves to an unlimited expenditure of which they could not foresee the issue. He was sure the Hon. Mr. Crozier was all at sea in the remarks he had made-—(Hon Crozier—“ No”)—and he thought he could convince the House, if not the hon. member, that he was wrong. The hon. member said the total expenditure would be about £82,000. There was one little item still in dispute—an item which was the last straw to break the camel’s back, and which had secured his vote for the Hon. Mr. Baker’s amendment. At a recent meeting of the Exhibition Com missioners the Architect-in-Clief informed them that the proposed dome would cost about £35 000 That was such a damper for the Committee that they postponed the decision on the dome. (Hear hear.) He had read the newspaper report of the meeting, and saw that it was only a master-stroke of policy on the part of those who favoured the dome to postpone its consideration, because the feeling of the Commission was evidently against them. ( The Hon. Mr. Buik—“It was not postponed.”) They postponed the question—(The Hon Mr. Buik—“No;” and the Hon. Mr. Tarlton- “Hear, hear”)—till next sitting in order to learn from the architect whether it could not be done in a cheaper way, and they arrived at the conclusion that the Exhibition would not be a tiptop concern unless it had a £35,000 dome on it and so it was going to be built. Now, he asked the Hon. Mr. Crozier how he made out the cost to be only £82,000 when the dome alone was £35,000. (Hon. Mr. Crozier-'-”I deducted the remainder.”) Well, what would the hon. member be prepared to give for the dome after the Exhibition was finished ? (Loud laughter ; and the Hon. Mr. Hay—“ What would St. Peter’s look without its dome?’) He thought the views expressed by the Hon. Mr. Tarlton were those which hon. members should keep before them. How could any honest well-wisher of the colony like to spend £300,000 on an Exhibition and £35,000 on a dome when the water conservation question was still to be considered ? He asked the Commissioner of Public Works why he had placed the Water Conservation Bill down for Thursday, the day the Governor was expected to come down and prorogue the other House, if not theirs. Had he the slightest hope of carrying that Bill or the Education Bill or the Roads Bill ? and if so, why did he place those three Bills on the Notice-paper for to-morrow and ask the House to accede to this extravagant expenditure that day ? He was decidedly of opinion that the whole Exhibition would cost the taxpayers of South Australia dearer than the surrender clauses of last year’s and this year’s Land Bill put together. (The Hon. Mr. Baker—“ Hear, hear.”) This was a crucial state of the question, for if they passed the Bill now the Exhibition would go on without any control, while if they rejected it the Government must at least begin on new lines. (Hear, hear.) His own opinion was that the Hon. Mr. Baker should have worded his amendment so as to make the Bill apply to the year 1936, as by that time we might be in a proper position to hold an Exhibition with credit in Adelaide.

The PRESIDENT—In that case the title of the Bill would have to be amended. (Laughter.;

The Hon. J. PEARCE hoped that by the date he mentioned we should have three millions of population and many more millions of wealth. He would point out to the Hon. Mr. Sandover, in reference to what he had said, that this was not necessarily the final struggle even if the Hon. Mr. Baker’s amendment was carried. The hon. member had allowed his good nature to override his sound judgment that the Exhibition was a mistake. He appealed to the Hon. Mr. Sandover to alter his mind again and vote for the amendment, remembering that he would only postpone the consideration of the question for six months. (The Hon. Mr. Tarlton—“ Hear, hear.”) In the meantime there would be a general election, and this question could be made a test one with the constituencies. He would vote for the amendment.

The Hon. A. B. MURRAY moved that the House now divide.

Carried.

The amendment was put and declared carried.

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) called for a division Ayes, 10—Hons. W. C. Buik, A. Campbell, *if,* Crozier, J. Dunn, A. Hay, T. Hogarth, A B. Murray. D. Murray, W. Sandover, and the Commissioner 01 Public Works (teller).

Noes, 10—Hons. G. W. Cotton, W. D. Glyde, J. earce, J. Pickering, J. Rankine, M. Salom, H. Scott, J. B. Spence, R. A. Tarlton, and R. C. Baker (teller).

The PRESIDENT—The votes being equal, I give my casting-vote for the Ayes.

The motion for the second reading was then put and declared negatived.

The COMMISSIONER of PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. G. Ramsay) called for a division

AYES, 10—Hons. W. C. Buik, A. Campbell, J. Crozier, J. Dunn, A. Hay, T. Hogarth, A. B. Murray, D. Murray, W. Sandover, and the Commis­sioner of Public Works (teller).

Noes, 10—Hons. G. W. Cotton, W. D. Glyde, J. Pearce, J. Pickering, J. Rankine, M. Salom, H. Scott, J. B. Spence, R. A. Tarlton, and R. C. Baker (teller;.

The PRESIDENT—The votes being equal, I give my casting-vote for the Ayes.

The Bill was then read a second time.