

At the Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney.

7th DECEMBER, 1883.

(Ninth Day.)

Present :—

- Fiji :* HIS EXCELLENCY SIR G. WILLIAM DES VŒUX, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Fiji and H.B.M.'s Acting High
Commissioner for the Western Pacific.
- New South Wales :* THE HONORABLE ALEXANDER STUART, M.P., Premier and
Colonial Secretary.
THE HONORABLE GEORGE RICHARD DIBBS, M.P., Colonial
Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY, Q.C., M.L.C.,
Attorney-General.
- New Zealand :* THE HONORABLE MAJOR HARRY ALBERT ATKINSON, M.P.,
Premier and Colonial Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE FREDERICK WHITAKER, M.L.C.,
late Premier and Attorney-General.
- Queensland :* THE HONORABLE SAMUEL WALKER GRIFFITH, Q.C., M.P.,
Premier and Colonial Secretary.
THE HONORABLE JAMES FRANCIS GARRICK, Q.C., M.L.C.,
Postmaster-General.
- South Australia :* THE HONORABLE JOHN COX BRAY, M.P., Premier and
Chief Secretary.
THE HONORABLE J. W. DOWNER, Q.C., M.P., Attorney-
General.
- Tasmania :* THE HONORABLE WILLIAM ROBERT GIBLIN, M.P., Premier
and Attorney-General.
THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS J. BROWN, M.P., Minister of
Lands and Works.
- Victoria :* THE HONORABLE JAMES SERVICE, M.P., Premier and
Colonial Treasurer.
THE HONORABLE GRAHAM BERRY, M.P., Chief Secretary.
THE HONORABLE GEORGE BRISCOE KERFERD, M.P.,
Attorney-General.
- Western Australia :* THE HONORABLE MALCOLM FRASER, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

The minutes having been read, the Convention proceeded with the further consideration of the "Bill to constitute a Federal Council of Australasia," as amended in Committee, and further amended the same.

Mr. WHITAKER gave notice of the following motion :—

That in the opinion of this Convention the several Colonies of Australasia, in order to meet an imminent danger, should without delay pass a uniform Law to prevent the landing on their shores of persons from penal settlements in the Pacific, who have been convicted of crimes.

The motions of Messrs. Dibbs and Bray were then considered ; and, after discussion, Mr. Griffith proposed the following Resolution, which was agreed to :—

That this Convention, recognizing that the time has not yet arrived at which a complete Federal Union of the Australasian Colonies can be attained, but considering that there are many matters of general interest with respect to which united action would be advantageous, adopts the accompanying draft Bill for the Constitution of a Federal Council, as defining the matters upon which in its opinion such united action is both desirable and practicable at the present time, and as embodying the provisions best adapted to secure that object, so far as it is now capable of attainment.