

**Record of the  
Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament**

...  
**Legislative Assembly  
13<sup>th</sup> June 1860**

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Moreton Bay Courier 14<sup>th</sup> June 1860

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The Speaker took the chair at a quarter past 3 o'clock.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE.**

The Speaker, acting in accordance with the powers vested in him, appointed a meeting of the Election Committee to take place on Thursday next, in Committee Room No.1. The members constituting this committee, viz: Messrs Buckley, Macalister, Jordan, Thorn, Coxen, Royds, and Gore, then took the necessary oaths.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.**

A Message was introduced from His Excellency the Governor, announcing that the bill for providing a suitable quorum for the Assembly had received the Royal assent.

**PETITION AGAINST THE RETURN OF DR. NELSON.**

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the petition presented against the return of William Lambie Nelson should be referred to the committee of elections and qualifications.

The motion, being seconded, was put and carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

The COLONIAL TREASURER laid on the table correspondence relating to the adjustment of the debt between New South Wales and Queensland, and moved that it, with other papers, should be ordered to be printed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

**DISTRICT COURTS.**

Mr. MACLISTER asked the Honorable the Attorney-General, "Whether the Government had any intention of taking action towards establishing District Courts in this colony."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated, in reply, that the Government, without expressing any opinion as to the existing system, had no intention of taking action towards the establishment of District Courts.

**MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF BRISBANE.**

Mr. BLAKENEY asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Whether it was the intention of the Government during the present Session to introduce a Bill giving the Mayor and Corporation of Brisbane more extended powers than they now possess; and if not whether they were prepared to amend Section 79 of the present Municipal Bill, to empower them to assess unoccupied land within the City, at the present estimated value thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that he imagined the hon. member's question must be based upon some misapprehension of the powers of the Municipal Council, who already had that of assessing unoccupied lands within the city, and had had acted upon it; their action had, moreover, been confirmed by the bench of magistrates. In the event of the Corporation moving

the Government to take into consideration the subject of their powers, the Government would feel bound to comply with the request.

### SURVEYOR-GENERAL.

Mr. BROUGHON asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary,—Whether when the present Surveyor-General accepted office, any agreement or stipulation was made by the present Government with him respecting his right and title to certain Tenders for unoccupied Crown Lands, and if so, the nature of such.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, in reply, that in the months of August and September, 1859, the present Surveyor-General had sent in tenders for as many as twenty-six runs, the land having been, he believed, first explored by that gentleman himself. The Surveyor-General now distinctly understood that he would not hereafter be allowed to tender, or in any way interest himself in the occupation of land. Whenever the tenders sent in by the Surveyor-General should come before the board, it was arranged that he should withdraw, and so exercise no influence in the settlement of the matter.

### POLITICAL AND LEGAL FUNCTIONS OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Mr. GORE asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary,—Whether the Government had any intention of separating the political functions of the Attorney-General from his legal duties.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that the matter had been under the consideration of the government, who were alive to the necessity of separating the political and legal functions of the only law officer of the Crown. He hoped before long to be able to make some statement to the house with regard to the arrangement which it might have seemed most desirable to them to make.

### IMPOUNDING ACT.

Mr. MOFFATT asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary,—Whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce any measure that session for reform of the present Impounding Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY did not know what particular provisions of the Impounding Act the hon. member wished to see altered, but the government had had under their consideration the subject of Town Commonages, which it was proposed to place under careful supervision, so that the interests of the occupiers of Crown lands might not be interfered with.

### CASE OF EDWARD JONES.

Mr. GORE presented a petition from Edward Jones, now in gaol on account of his inability to pay certain costs incurred in an action of libel brought against him. The hon. member was aware that the house could not take action in relation to that particular case, but hoped that bringing the subject before its notice might lead to a reform of the Act under which the petitioner was suffering. Petition received.

### GOVERNOR'S SALARY.

Mr. ST. GEORGE GORE, by consent of the house, amended the motion standing in his name, and moved that the house should to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into consideration the following resolutions:—“(1.) That, whereas the salary provided by the Order in Council of the sixth of June, 1859, for the Governor of this Colony was incommensurate with the duties and responsibilities of his high office, it was the opinion of that House that such salary should be augmented by a permanent annual appropriation of not less than fifteen hundred pounds (£1,500). (2.) That the foregoing resolution should be embodied in an Address to His Excellency the Governor with a request that he would be pleased to direct the necessary steps to be taken with a view to give effect to the same, by the presentation of a Bill to that House embodying a proposition for an annual permanent appropriation of the sum therein specified.” In offering a few remarks upon the subject of his resolutions, the hon. member dwelt particularly upon two questions, which were, first, whether the present salary received by the Governor was a

sufficient one, and second, whether the colony could afford to increase it. In relation to the first point, he drew attention to the necessity of having, in a Governor, a gentleman of standing and talents, contending that no one answering to this description would take an office, the necessary expenses of which exceeded its emoluments. The vice-regal hospitality, from the exercise of which so much good resulted, and which was always expected from a Governor, could not be kept up on the salary, of which his Excellency was in receipt. The ball on the Queen's Birthday which had been of such general benefit, by the expenditure it entailed, could not have cost less than £250, i.e., 10 per cent of his Excellency's Salary, a disbursement to which a much larger salary would be inadequate. A gentleman in the Governor's position, with so many matters of the utmost importance to attend to, should not have his attention distracted by matters of detail connected with personal expenditure. He should be able to look his butcher and baker boldly in the face. He thought the Governor should be able to lay by the whole of his private fortune, especially when it was considered that there would be no retiring pension in his case. At present his position was worse than that of a labouring man, who worked only for his rations. He did not think they could expect any man occupying the Governor's position to consent to grow poorer every day. As regarded the second question, whether the colony was able to afford an increase of salary, he believed their estimated revenue amounted to about £160,000, and he saw that £23,000 was immediately to be spent upon public works. No public work, he thought, was of greater importance than that of raising the Governor's salary, and placing him in such a position as his office required. He trusted that the House would be of unanimous opinion that the increase he proposed was not too large. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LILLEY had no objection to the proposed committee, but would, in committee, oppose any increase to the Governor's salary.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION.

Mr. MOFFATT begged to withdraw the motion standing in his name with a view to its being incorporated in a motion of the hon. member for West Moreton (Mr. Broughton) on the same subject.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Blakeney, put and carried.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF MOTION.

Mr. JORDAN would, by consent of the house, postpone his motion till that which stood 7th on the paper had been discussed.

#### RETURN OF TENDERS FOR RUNS, &c.

Mr. BROUGHTON would, by consent of the house, amend his motion by the insertion of the words "Port Curtis" after Leichhardt in the second line, the withdrawal of the third resolution, and the addition at the end of the resolutions of the motion standing in the name of the hon. member for the Western Downs. The hon. member then moved,—“That there should be laid upon the table of that House a return showing (1) The number of Tenders for Runs in the Squatting Districts of Leichhardt, Port Curtis, and Maranoa received during the last four years at the Crown Lands Office, and attached thereto a return of the names of each Tenderer, and the number of Runs tendered for by each Tenderer. (2) The number of Tenders reported upon, and the names of the persons in whose favour they have been reported. (3.) The time that has elapsed between the receipt of, and report upon, each tender, and a return of the number of runs the tenders for which have been made in one names, and the leases for which have been made in another. (4.) How many of these runs are already wholly or partly stocked: how many have changed hands as unstocked runs; and how many have been forfeited. (5) The number of Tenders for Runs in the Colony of Queensland, now lying in the Crown Lands Office unreported on; particularising the Squatting Districts in which such runs are situate, the dates of the tenders, and names of the Tenderers.” It was, he understood, the intention of the Government to deal with the Land Question before long, and as the system of tendering was intimately connected with that question, he thought that they should not proceed to legislate upon the latter until they were in possession of certain facts in connection with the former. He had therefore moved for returns which would supply the requisite information.

Mr. FERRETT seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that no objection would be made on the part of the government to furnishing the information asked for; on the contrary, they were of opinion that it might prove of great service to them in their operations.

The motion was then put and carried.

### RETURN RELATIVE TO THE SUPREME COURT.

Mr. MACALISTER moved that an address should be presented to the Governor, praying that His Excellency would be pleased to cause to be laid on the Table of that House the following returns—(1.) A return showing the number of offences tried before the Supreme Court of this colony during the twelve months immediately preceding that date, including those tried on Circuit—the number of convictions—the nature of the offence in each case—and the amount of punishment awarded, (2) A return showing the number of Civil Causes tried in the said Supreme Court during the above period, including those tried on Circuit—the verdict in each case—and when such verdict had been for the plaintiff, the amount of such verdict—such return to show the number of such causes tried by His Honor the Judge without a jury and those tried by a jury. (3.) A detailed Return of the expenses incurred by the Crown in the trial of offences before the Circuit Courts of the colony.

The hon. member remarked upon the very curt reply which he had received from the Attorney- General to the question he had asked in reference to the establishment of District Courts, and deprecated the treatment of the subject as one of secondary importance. There was nothing which more nearly affected the welfare of the colony than the proper administration of justice; he was, therefore, rejoiced to hear the Attorney-General recently state his intention of bringing in a bill for the amelioration of the system of conveyancing. The establishment of District Courts was one of such importance that, previously to Separation, he had urged upon the government of New South Wales the necessity of extending the boon of District Courts to Moreton Bay, and the only circumstance which had prevented their obtaining this boon was the assertion on the part of the then Moreton Bay Judge that he would be able to hold Circuit Courts and so do away with the necessity of the former. He believed that the first and second returns he had moved for would prove that no cases, either criminal or civil had been tried, which could not have been adjudicated in District Courts. The hon. member then adverted to the large sum, £11,000 set down in the Estimates for expenses connected with the administration of justice, which he said would be sufficient for the establishment of eight District Courts, and dwelt upon the evils arising from centralisation, concluding with the remark that it was their duty to see that their judicial establishments were suited to the requirements of the colony.

Mr. LILLEY seconded the motion, observing that he was cognisant of cases of great hardship due to their being no local Courts of Appeal to which the decisions of magistrates could be referred.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL intimated the willingness of the Government to furnish the information which had been asked for. The remarks made by the hon. member for Ipswich referred chiefly to the answer he (the Attorney-General) had made to a question put by that hon. member and to which he had, it appeared, taken exception. The hon. member wished for District Courts, but appeared to forget the provisions of the District Courts Act which met with all the requirements of the colony. Before separation there had been courts in existence having a jurisdiction similar to that of Small Debts' Courts, and which provided ample means for the recovery of small debts. The hon. member then dwelt at some length upon the way in which the hands of the present Government had been fettered by the Chief Justice's proclamation of Circuit Courts, without taking the advice of any one. The act had been entirely that of the Chief Justice, and the Government had experienced considerable inconvenience from finding themselves committed to a system for which they were not in any way responsible.

Mr. MACALISTER said in reply to the Attorney-Genera's assertion that the Supreme Court was sufficient for the requirements of the colony, that the enormous expense incurred by litigation in that court prevented its being available for cases which might be satisfactorily disposed of in District Courts. Holding circuit in certain districts only of the colony could not compensate for the

establishment of District Courts, wherever they were required.

The motion was then put and carried.

### COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. RAFF, having obtained leave to amend the motion standing in his name, then moved, (1.) That a Committee should be appointed to enquire into, and report on, the working of the different departments of the Government, in order to enable that House to judge as to their proper organisation, and with a view to supplying information which would be necessary in voting the supplies: with power to call for papers and persons, and to sit during adjournment of the house. (2) That the committee consist of the following members:—Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Macalister, Mr. Beckley, Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Lilley, and the mover. In admitting the motion, he was actuated by no factious motive, but was desirous of assisting rather than obstructing the government. His motion did not imply any suspicion of rottenness in their infant state of Denmark; and he trusted that the house would see just cause for the appointment of the committee he had moved for. An idea prevailed in most communities that the public service, although designed for the public benefit, is, or ought to be, made subservient to the benefit of a few of a certain class, and Government servants were regarded as occupying, to Cabinet Ministers, the relation of jackalls to lions. (Laughter.) They were aware that all Governments, notwithstanding the possession of a great amount of public virtue and prudence, were occasionally deceived and imposed upon, and too often men in the public offices were looked upon, with reason, as unfitted to fill stations requiring any considerable amount of energy, while able and industrious men, without stimulant or reward, sank to the level of drones. Knowing all this, and that it was the duty of the house to see that no part of the public money was thrown away, he trusted that hon. members would, by consenting to his motion, affirm that it was of the utmost concern in the commencement of their career to see that they supported no useless public servants, and that every useful public servant was properly paid, and according to his worth, and the ability demanded by his particular service. With these remarks, he would leave the motion to the house, confident that it would meet with the cordial approval of hon. members, and the concurrence of the Government.

Mr. LILLEY seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER without wishing to oppose the motion begged to suggest the propriety of either withdrawing or amending it, so that it might have reference only to the year 1861. Great inconvenience would arise from postponing the estimates for the report of the committee, and, if that committee did its duty, so much of the current year would have expired before the completion of their labours, that it would be unnecessary to make any alterations for it.

Mr. BLAKENEY hoped that the hon. member would not consent to any alteration in his motion, and felt sure that he would have a large majority to support him if he moved it in its present form. The suggestions of the Colonial Treasurer would be met, by giving a vote of credit for a month, by which time the committee would have got through its labours. The offices were few, and he was sure from the names of the gentlemen he had heard proposed as members of the committee, that before the expiration of a month they would have got through the several departments, and have presented their report. They would have in the report a valuable guide in voting the estimates of 1861, and in the meantime the Government might get a vote of credit for current expenditure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY did not intend to offer any opposition to the motion, which he believed had been brought forward with a conscientious desire to advance the public interests; still he thought he might offer a few remarks upon it, with regard to the effect that the enquiry might exercise upon the responsibility of the Government. If, as he was ready to believe, they were to be left responsible for the conduct of public business, and the enquiry was asked for only with a view to obtaining information which might guide Ministers in framing their Estimates for the future, there could be no objection to it. It was desirable that the Estimates for the current year should be passed as speedily as possible. There were certain works which had not yet been commenced, and with regard to which the Government would like to know the opinion of the house. If the committee commenced their sittings at an early day, he hoped they would not have long to wait for their report. He thought that good results might be expected from the inquiries of

the committee, and trusted that reasons would be seen for placing civil servants on a firm and permanent basis. In other colonies they were subjected annually to most annoying inquiries. Public servants should be secured their penurious livelihood during good conduct; they lead a hard, regular life, and they should at least feel certain of retaining their positions. The report, he hoped, affirm something with regard to the continuance of civil servants in their offices, and to their being no longer subjected to yearly enquiries of a vexatious character.

Mr. RAFF had determined, before leaving the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Blakeney), not to amend his motion, because he thought that the appointment of the committee would not interfere with the passing of the estimates for 1860, if not objectionable. There might be some items objected to in the absence of a report from the committee, but it was for the house in committee of supply to say whether they would wait for that report or not. He was glad to find that his views coincided with the hon. Colonial Secretary's. He must express a similar wish to that of the hon. member, namely, that the labors of the committee would be found beneficial to the public and also to the Government.

The motion was then put and carried without division.

### OPENING THE HOUSE WITH PRAYER.

Mr. JORDAN regarded the subject of his motion as one of the greatest importance, and he consequently approached it with considerable diffidence. It was not until after considerable conversation privately with other hon. members in which he urged upon them the expediency of taking the matter up that he consented to do so himself, and he hoped, therefore, they would hear indulgently any remarks he had to make. He only was afraid the great importance of the subject would suffer from the weakness of the advocate. Still, as he understood there was likely to be some opposition, he would trouble the house with a few brief remarks. In doing so it was not his intention to refer to the practices of pagans many hundred years ago, or to deal in matters smacking strongly of the Conventicle, or to select his illustrations from the school of Stiggins and Chadband. He would merely refer to those noble examples of history, many of which were upheld and revered at the present day. The resolutions which he now moved were as follow:—“(1) That this House, feeling the need of Divine counsel to guide its deliberations, and as a public acknowledgment of God, resolves to open its proceedings with Prayer. (2) That the form of Prayer contained in the Prayer Book of the Church of England, entitled a “Prayer for the High Court of Parliament,” with some slight alterations, be the form adopted—the Prayer to be read by the Honorable the Speaker upon his taking the Chair, or in the Speaker's absence by the Chairman of Committees, or the Clerk of the Assembly, before commencing the ordinary business of the day—the expressions in the Prayer “Thy Church” and “thy whole Church,” being understood to include all denominations of Christians.” It was impossible for them as a Legislative Assembly to contemplate the many and important duties devolving on them without feeling intensely the great necessity there was for Divine assistance to guide them in their deliberations. For his own part, he never felt more deeply his humiliation as an individual that when he reflected upon the many great and diverse questions, with which as a member of the house he was called upon to deal. He could not think of the 80,000 inhabitants in this colony, whose interests their legislative wisdom might either benefit or injury, without feeling the vast responsibility that devolved on them, and the necessity of their appealing to Almighty God for assistance to direct their Counsels. If prayer was necessary under the ordinary circumstances of life—and he imagined few would deny the fact—surely it was equally necessary to direct them in the preparation of those measures which were intended to mould the character of an infant colony like this. In support of his arguments he cited the fact that nearly all the great nations of the world, whose progress had been characterised by the blessings of civilisation, had scarcely ever failed in their great public assemblies to acknowledge the Supreme Being and to invoke his assistance when undertaking duties of an important nature. He particularly adverted to our father land, where the practice of opening the proceedings of Parliament by an appeal to that Being “by whom kings reign and princess decree justice,” had been always scrupulously observed. Indeed, this was thought by great men of other countries to be one of the noblest features in our national history, and as a proof of this he quoted a saying of the great French statesman Guizot, who, in relating his visit to England, stated that he witnessed two things which struck him as forcibly grand. The

first was the opening of the Parliament with daily prayer, and the other was the inscription on the Exchange, namely, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." With regard to the ceremony of reading the prayer, he thought it ought not, as in England, to be performed by a regularly appointed chaplain, as that circumstance might lead to sectarian difference in determining the denomination from whence such a functionary should be selected. Such being the case, it appeared to him that the duty of reading the prayer could be best performed by the Speaker, or, in his absence, the Chairman of Committees. He did not see what objection could be urged to such a course, and certainly they had every guarantee that the duty would be performed in a becoming manner so long as the speakership was occupied by the present gentlemen. (Hear, hear.)

[The hon. member here read the form of prayer proposed, which, so far as it goes, is nearly the same as that adopted by the house.]

This, he contended, involved such a general acknowledgment of the Almighty as any hon. member might conscientiously subscribe to, and he was sure there was not one hon. member who, on taking his seat in that Assembly for the first time, did not painfully feel his deficiencies and his dependence upon the Divine wisdom for guidance. Such a feeling was quite compatible with the most assured manner and the greatest individual talent. In dealing with this matter, he hoped they would follow the example of England, and America, rather than that of the older Australian colonies, whose frequent ministerial changes had led to the greatest possible confusion and embarrassment, and from which he was tempted to exclaim "Good Lord deliver us." By adopting the course he now proposed, they might possibly avert the evils to which he alluded, whilst he had no doubt they would find the benefit of it in their deliberations generally.

Mr. BUCKLEY seconded the motion.

Mr. LILLEY felt some difficulty in approaching any subject calculated to affect the religious feelings of individuals. But as he felt bound to vote against the motion, he deemed it to be his duty to state his reasons for so doing. The hon. mover had referred to America as an example worthy of imitation, but if he meant that we should realise here the course of conduct adopted by the legislature in that country, he (Mr. Lilley) hoped it would never be acted upon by the Queensland Parliament. Of all the nations in the world America had most distinguished itself for the disgraceful character of the scenes enacted within the walls of its legislature. He believed there was nothing to equal some of those scenes in the whole range of history, if he excepted one instance in the Roman senate. He maintained, therefore, that the hon. member was most unfortunate in his illustrations if he meant to prove thereby the advantages to be derived from upon the proceedings of the Legislature with public prayer. Nothing, indeed, could tell more against his argument than the case cited. In making these remarks he had no desire to impugn the motives of the hon. mover, which he believed were perfectly pure and disinterested. He objected to the motion, however, from a conscientious conviction that it was wrong in principle. In the first place, he contended that it was contrary to scripture, which enjoined upon them the duty of praying in secret, and not in accordance with a mere public form, as the Pharisees did. These were the words of the living Redeemer himself, and he believed that reason and common sense ought to teach them their applicability. For his own part, he could not possibly be present whilst the mere form of reading a prayer was being gone through. He believed it would degenerate into nothing but a form, and as such he despised it. The prayer, from frequent repetition, would be read by mere rote, just as a lawyer would read a deed, or the clerk his commission. He also objected to it on the ground that it might give rise to denominational difficulties. Under the liberal constitution which they now enjoyed, they might very shortly have a Jew or even a despised Chinaman returned to the Assembly, and if so, he should like to know how they could reasonably as such persons to join in the concluding portion of the prayer wherein the words "Jesus Christ" occurred. And yet it was by no means impossible that in the course of time a considerable proportion of the Legislature might be composed of such persons. Why should they under such circumstances set themselves up as a small knot of saints. He further objected to the prayer, because they might not always have a sovereign on the throne, whose virtues were such as to invoke their religious aspirations for the continuance of his or her reign, as the case might be. Supposing for instance they had a second George the 4th—a notorious debauchee, how could

they conscientiously pray for such a sovereign. He objected to the motion, moreover, because, as a body of Christians they ought to make their acknowledgements to Christ alone, whereas he found by the first resolution they were required to address their prayers to God, which he contended was the doctrine of a Deist. (Oh, oh).

Mr. BLAKENEY rebutted the arguments of the last speaker. He regretted exceedingly that their should have been any opposition on a matter of such solemn importance as this, and he regretted still further that there should have been any attempt on the part of an honorable member to scoff at the religious feeling of others. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. LILLEY disclaimed any such intention.

Mr. BLAKENEY resumed. He did not think the hon. member really meant what his words implied. His arguments, however, were singularly inapplicable. So far from Scripture forbidding prayer in public, he could, if it were necessary, point out numerous portions wherein the duty was uniformly and distinctly enforced. He hoped that whatever might be thought of the hon. members opinions on this subject, the house would all but unanimously agree to the form of prayer, so beautifully and so eloquently submitted to their consideration by the hon. member for North Brisbane. In seeking an example for the course proposed, they need not go any further than the British House of Commons. As for the term "God" he imagined every Christian would have not difficulty in adopting it, notwithstanding the objection raised by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, who he hoped to see alone should the motion be pressed to a division.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN did not think he would have been called upon to take any part in this discussion, and for the simple reason that he thought the absurdity of the motion would have caused it to fall to the ground for want of a seconder. The affair altogether was so silly and childish as to be scarcely worth discussion. Why should the Speaker, or as it would seem now the clerk of the House, be compelled from day to day to go through the mere form of reading a Church of England prayer before proceeding to business. He for one would certainly not listen to it. He regarded the principle involved as subversive of his right to liberty of conscience. Under their present constitution he claimed to himself the privilege of praying whenever and wherever he thought proper. Then with regard to the intrinsic merits of the prayer, he desired to say a word or two. He was no schoolmaster himself, but he could perceive in the working a deficiency of grammatical rules. (laughter). For instance, what was meant by the phrase "our Father which art," &c. (Renewed laughter). In his school-boy days he was always taught to believe that the relative, "which" applied to things inanimate or neuter, and how it could be now twisted, so as to apply to the Supreme Being he was at a loss to understand. (Laughter).

Mr. BUCKLEY reminded the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, that in America there were two branches of the Legislatures. In the Congress there could be no doubt that scenes had occasionally happened such as those alluded to; but when they looked at the senate, they beheld an institution which, for the regularity and wisdom of its proceedings, challenged the admiration of the world. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member, therefore, was not correct in the character he gave to the American Legislature. With regard to the argument that public prayer in cases of this kind was contrary to Scripture, he merely remarked that if the hon. member were only a little more acquainted with the Old and the New Testament, he would not have ventured to make the assertion he did. What was the ceremony of opening Solomon's Temple but all offering up of prayer—(hear, hear)—and yet there were many similar examples to be found in Scripture. He regretted that the hon. member had expressed himself as despising the attempt to have their proceedings opened with prayer. Such a remark was only calculated to give unnecessary offence. As to the objection taken to the use of the word "God," he believed every Church of England man but the hon. member would admit, that God was a part of the Trinity, or rather an embodiment, and therefore such a term as every Christian ought to recognise. The hon. member for Ipswich had favoured the house with a few remarks which were scarcely worth answering. He had told them that he was no schoolmaster, and certainly his observations tended to carry out the truth of his assertion. (Laughter.) He (Mr. B.) believed that no person of literary taste could read the composition of the book from which this prayer had been taken, without being struck with admiration at its excellence, both in a literary and a religious sense. (Hear, hear.) Adverting to the experience of the House of Commons, he could state for a fact that a very large proportion of its

members considered it a most important duty to be present at the opening service.

Mr. JORDAN replied, and, in doing so, briefly answered the objections advanced against his motion.

The House then divided, with the following result:—

Ayes, 20.

Noes, 2.

The Col. Secretary	Mr O'Sullivan
Mr. Blakeney	" Lilley
The Col. Treasurer	
The Attorney-General	
Mr. Macalister	
" Watts	
" Royds	
" Richards	
" Jordan	
" Haly	
" Fitzsimmons	
" Ferrett	
" Edmondstone	
" Broughton	
" Buckley	
" Thorn	
" Coxen	
" Moffatt	
" Raff	} Tellers.
" Blakeney	}

## THE POLICE FORCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL observing that an hon. member had a motion on the paper for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into this subject, withdrew the one standing in his name for the day, in order that the information thus obtained might be made use of in framing a bill.

## EXPORT DUTY BILL.

The COL. SECRETARY moved that this bill be read a second time, and in doing so explained its provisions in detail. It had been prepared by the government in consequence of memorials received from the inhabitants of several towns trading with the diggings on the other side of the border. The memorialists represented that the retention of this duty tended to restrict their trade with the localities alluded to, and was the cause of serious injustice to the diggers themselves, inasmuch as it subjected them to a cost supplementary to the export duty. It must be borne in mind, moreover, that as they did not produce any gold themselves, they were not morally justified in levying the tax. He further reminded the house that as the Legislatures of the other colonies had already promised to repeal the duty, it was probable the principle of the bill then before the house would be generally recognized.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion, which was carried and the committal of the Bill fixed for to-morrow (this day).

## VOTE OF CREDIT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—"That an authority be granted to the Government to defray the current expenses of the various departments and services of the colony during the present year, according to the current rates as set forth in the Estimates."

The COLONIAL TREASURER briefly explained his reasons for bringing the resolution forward, the chief being that owing to separation no provision for the supplies had been made by any previous legislature.

Mr. BUCKLEY opposed the motion on the ground that to a certain extent it ignored their

rights and privileges with regard to the expenditure of the public money. He concluded by moving an amendment to the effect that the words "according to the rates of salaries in existence at the time of Separation excepting such salaries as may have been fixed since which should be subject to such alteration as the house might think proper," be inserted in the resolution.

Mr. HERBERT said he had no objection to the amendment, provided it would not do injustice to a very small class of officers in the civil service, namely, those who had received some slight increases since the period of Separation.

After some discussion, in which Mr. Lilley and Mr. Gore took part, the amendment was altered so as to meet the views of the Colonial Secretary, and passed without a division.

The House then resumed, and the adoption of the committee's report was fixed as an order of the day for to-morrow (this day.)

### DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the second reading of this bill, explaining that; according to the Constitution Act, ten paid officials of the Government were eligible for seats in the House, and the object was simply to reduce the number to half.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion, which was agreed to, and the committal of the bill fixed for Friday next.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the adjournment of the house, said he would make a statement to-morrow, explanatory of the measures which the Government intended to introduce during the present session.

The house adjourned at twenty-five minutes past six, until three o'clock, to-morrow (this day).