

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

...
Legislative Assembly
21st June 1860

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 23rd June 1860

[As will be seen, the previous portion of this day's proceedings is summarised.]

The Speaker, after reading the prayer, took the chair at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock.

RETURN.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL laid on the table the return asked for by Mr. Macalister, in reference to the offences and causes.

The return was ordered to be printed.

VOLTAIC BATTERY.

Mr. BUCKLEY asked the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, if the Government of this colony has had any correspondence with the government of New South Wales, relative to a voltaic battery, long ago charged to this colony in the general account, and from which we have hitherto derived no benefit.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that correspondence had taken place in reference to the battery, but that the estimated expense was found to be such as to render the experiment of purchasing it inadvisable. Queensland having reaped no advantage from the battery, the Government would of course resist any attempts of the Sydney Government to charge the colony for it.

POLICE FORCE.

Mr. FORBES moved—That the Select Committee, appointed on Wednesday, to enquire into the efficiency, management, and general working of the Police and Native Police Forces throughout the colony, have power to call for persons and papers, and to sit during any adjournment.

The motion was carried.

ESTUARY OF THE BURDEKIN.

Mr. BUCKLEY moved that Mr. Raff and himself be the bearers of the resolution upon this subject to the Legislative Council.

Carried.

SUPPLY.

At the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the house resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

The COLONIAL TREASURER proposed the sum of £10,500 for the purpose of employing a steam dredge in the harbour of Queensland. The hon. member took that opportunity of making a statement with reference to the special appropriations, which he had omitted to make on the

previous evening, and in doing so he explained the necessity for each sum proposed.

The motion was supported by Messrs. BUCKLEY, BLAKENEY, GORE, LILLEY, and the COLONIAL SECRETARY, and opposed by Messrs. BROUGHTON, FITZSIMMONS, FERRETT, WATTS, TAYLOR and MOFFATT, chiefly on the ground that the vote would favor Brisbane at the expense of other ports.

The motion was carried on a division of 15 to 6.

The COLONIAL TREASURER then proposed the sum of £10,000 for the purpose of carrying an electric telegraph to the frontier near Warwick. The motion was supported by Messrs. GORE, FORBES, BLAKENEY, JORDAN, RAFF and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, and opposed by Messrs. MOFFATT, TAYLOR, and WATTS.

The Committee divided, with the following result:—

Ayes, 17.		Noes, 4.	
The Attorney-General		Mr. Watts	
Colonial Treasurer		" Taylor	
Mr. Richards		" Moffatt	
" Raff		" Haly	
" Lilley			
" Buckley			
" Ferrett			
" O'Sullivan			
" Blakeney			
" Thorn			
" Broughton			
" Jordan			
" Fitzsimmons			
" Edmondstone			
" Forbes			
The Colonial Secretary	} Tellers.		
Mr. St. G. Gore	}		

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the sum of £10,000 be granted towards the erection of a new Government House.

Mr. FORBES moved that the sum be reduced by £5000, which he conceived would be quite sufficient, taking all the circumstances into consideration, for the purpose contemplated.

Mr WATTS seconded the amendment.

Mr. BROUGHTON objected to the motion altogether, on the ground that it would be folly to expend money in the erection of vice-regal premises when they did not know whether Brisbane or one of the northern ports was to be the seat of government. It appeared to be the policy of certain hon. members to build the nest in Brisbane, in the hope that the birds might be attracted to it, irrespective of all natural and pecuniary considerations. Under any circumstances he contended it was premature to grant so large a sum of money, until the capital had been finally determined on.

Mr. WATTS was quite of opinion that £5000 would be sufficient for the service proposed—at all events until the question of the capital had been determined. If the Clarence were annexed to Queensland, most probably Brisbane would be the capital, but not otherwise.

Mr. BLAKENEY thought the question as to the capital had been raised very unnecessarily. There could be no doubt that Brisbane was at present the capital, and as such they ought to deal with it. Whatever arrangements might be made in future were entirely beyond their consideration at present. All they had to consider then was as to the amount necessary to construct a building, suitable for the residence of her Majesty's representative, and when he considered that there was one private dwelling within the precincts of the town, which cost upwards of £5,000 he did not

think the sum proposed was at all excessive.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS observed that the remarks of the last speaker who was connected with the hon. profession of the law, evidently showed that he was better qualified to deal with capital offences than with the capital of the colony. (Laughter). He (Mr. F.) thought it would be quite time enough to consider the expediency of erecting a Government House after they had passed through the first year of their inauguration as an independent colony. He for one promised the Government that if at the end of 1860 the colony could afford the funds, he would be most willing to vote for the proposition now submitted to them. With regard to the seat of Government, he had no doubt that the fine harbour of Port Curtis or Kepple Bay would eventually determine the question, and thus lead to the removal of the capital from Brisbane.

Mr. GORE was of opinion that those hon. members who thought £5,000 sufficient to build a vice-regal residence must have been accustomed to derive their ideas entirely from slab-huts. (Laughter). It appeared to him that the obligation of the colony to erect a Government House having been admitted, the only question for them to decide was the amount of expenditure, and this having been ascertained by the Colonial Architect and other competent authorities, he was at a loss to perceive upon what principle they could vote for the amendment.

Mr. JORDAN stigmatised the idea as ridiculous that the erection of a government house in Brisbane even at the expense of £10,000 would be sufficient to decide the question, as to whether the capital should be here or elsewhere. If the capital were removed the house could be sold, and thus no one portion of the colony would gain an advantage over the other. Any one who had been so fortunate as to visit his Excellency's residence must have noticed how very deficient it was of the ordinary accommodation provided for visitors.

Mr. BROUGHTON did not mean to say that £10,000 would be more than sufficient for the erection of a suitable government residence, but what he apprehended as objectionable was that the granting of this sum would lead to other demands tending to make Brisbane the capital of the colony. He quite agreed that the house when erected could be sold, but hon. members who took this view of refunding the money did not seem to take into consideration the inevitable depreciation of property which must result from a removal of the capital.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY observed that, whatever change might be made with regard to the situation of the capital, Brisbane would still be the outlet of a rich and flourishing country, which would make it independent of all such assistance as that derived from the mere circumstance of having the seat of government. (Hear, hear).

The amendment was then put and negatived, the members voting for it being Messrs. Thorn and Forbes. The division was—ayes 19, noes 2.

The Committee then divided on the original motion, which was carried on the following division:—

Ayes, 14.		Noes, 7.	
The Col. Secretary		Mr. Ferrett	
The Attorney-General		" Forbes	
The Col. Treasurer		" Watts	
Mr. Gore		" Moffatt	
" Buckley		" Taylor	
" Blakeney		" Thorn	} Tellers.
" O'Sullivan		" Broughton	}
" Richards			
" Edmondstone			
" Haly			
" Fitzsimmons			
" Lilley			
" Raff	} Tellers		
" Jordan	}		

The COL. TREASURER then moved the sum of £3000 be granted for fitting up and furnishing the Legislative Chambers, which was carried without discussion.

The COL. TREASURER next moved the sum of £14,000, being the balance required for the completion of the gaol.

Mr. WATT, in speaking to this motion, had no desire to oppose the Government in the carrying out of any arrangement entered into by the New South Wales Government previous to the advent of separation, but he was extremely sorry that ever such a den as the new gaol should have been commenced. No doubt the contractor had done his duty, and the building altogether had a very fine appearance, but it contained no arrangement for classification, and in this respect was deficient of the greatest attributes which such an institution was supposed to possess. The debtor and the common felon were allowed to be heard together without distinction.

The motion was put and passed, and the house having resumed, the Chairman reported progress, and the committee obtained leave to sit again to-morrow (Friday.)

WAYS AND MEANS.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the resumption of the Committee of Ways and Means was deferred until the next day.

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved, That this house will, on Friday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider of an address to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1860, a sum of one thousand pounds (1000) for the foundation of a Parliamentary Library, and also a sum of three hundred pounds (300) towards keeping up the same during the present year.

Carried

PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHT.

Mr. GORE moved, That there be laid upon the table of this house, a return of all applications to purchase land on so-called pre-emptive right, within the district of Darling Downs, since the proclamation of the colony of Queensland, showing, as nearly as may be, the positions of the lands applied for, and the decisions, if any, arrived at by the Executive in each case. It was not his intention to trouble the house with any remarks on the present occasion, as he should have an opportunity of doing so when the whole subject came properly before the house. He would say, however, that all purchases under the pre-emptive right should be published in the 'Government Gazette,' if not in the local newspapers.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. WATTS reminded the hon. member that purchases under the pre-emptive right had always been published both in the 'Government Gazette' and in the local newspapers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY entirely concurred in the motion as he believed it would tend to throw additional light upon the subject. At the same time he was bound to say that the hon. member for Toowoomba was right in stating that purchases under the pre-emptive right were always published in the 'Government Gazette.' Probably the hon. member (Mr. Gore) referred to applications for purchases, if so he was right.

The motion was then put and passed, and the house adjourned until 10 o'clock the next day.