

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

...
Legislative Assembly
4th July 1860

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 5th July 1860

The Speaker took the chair at twenty minutes past three o'clock, and read prayers.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. WATTS asked the Colonial Secretary, pursuant to notice (1.) If it is the intention of the Government to alter the present route of the main Western Road, so as to avoid the townships that have sprung up on the now existing line. (2.) If so, at what place do the Government intend that road should cross the main range.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply, stated that the Government would require to have the report of the Surveyor General before any steps could be taken in the matter. It was probable that a slight divergence from the present route might be recommended, but he assured the house that in the formation of any new road the claims of Drayton and Toowoomba would meet with due consideration by the Government.

REFRESHMENT ROOM.

Mr. TAYLOR begged to ask the Colonial Secretary, without previous notice, whether it was contemplated by the Government to make any arrangements for the establishment of a refreshment room for the convenience of members of the Assembly.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that Government desired to study the convenience of hon. members as much as possible, but they had not yet been furnished with the report of the Colonial Architect on the subject. That had been written for, however, with a view to meet the requirements indicated by the question of the hon. member.

APPORTIONMENT OF INTER-COLONIAL DEBT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Attorney-General and himself were appointed to convey to the Legislative Council a message requesting the concurrence of that chamber in the resolutions that had been adopted by the Assembly relative to the appointment of commissioners to adjust the debt of Queensland and New South Wales.

PETITION OF THE REV. DR. LANG.

Mr. LILLEY moved, pursuant to notice, that the petition of the Rev. Dr. Lang, presented by him and read by the Clerk yesterday, be printed. He believed that no opposition would be offered to the motion, excepting on the ground of economy. He yielded to no man in endeavoring to carry out economical principles in the management of the public business, and had strong objections against the printing of irrelevant and useless papers; but when he considered the claims of the reverend petitioner, and the great services he had rendered to Queensland, he thought that no honorable member would offer any opposition to the printing of this document.

The motion being seconded, the COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that the Government would offer no opposition to the motion of the honorable member for Fortitude Valley, and cordially wished that the select committee, for the appointment of which he had given notice, should have

every opportunity of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as to the statements made in the petition. The question was then put, and a division having been called for, the motion was carried by a majority of three, the members voting as follows :—

Ayes, 12.

Noes, 9.

Mr Jordan
“ Coxen
“ Forbes
“ Herbert
“ Pring
“ McKenzie
“ Buckley
“ Edmondstone
“ Raff
“ Fitzsimmons
“ McAlister
“ Lilley

Mr Blakeney
“ O’Sullivan
“ Thorn
“ Gore
“ Royds
“ Watts
“ Ferrett
“ Haly
“ Taylor

STANDING ORDERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved—“That this house will, to morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider of an address to his Excellency the Governor, transmitting a copy of the report of the Standing Orders Committee, recommending the appointment of a Clerk-assistant at the table of this house, and the erection of quarters, within the precincts of the Legislative buildings, for the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and praying that his Excellency will be pleased to take the necessary steps for giving effect to the recommendations of that report.” The honorable mover having explained the necessity that existed for the appointment of a clerk assistant to reside on the premises, the motion was seconded and carried without opposition.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Mr. WATTS moved—“That an address be presented to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this house, copies of all correspondence between the Government and Mr. Halloran, C.C.L, and Police Magistrate, of Wide Bay; also all correspondence that may have taken place between the Government or any other person referring to Mr Halloran.” He was personally unacquainted with the gentleman named in his resolution and therefore could not be accused of being actuated by mere personal motives in bringing forward his motion. It was notorious, however, that for a long time past the public press had systematically abused Mr. Halloran; and as he was in office, occupying a high position under government, he considered that for his own sake as well as for the honor of the country, the charges that had been preferred against him should be thoroughly investigated, in order that, if innocent, he might be openly and honorably acquitted. He asked for a production of the correspondence that had taken place between the Government and Mr. Halloran, in order that he might have an opportunity of judging of the position of Mr. Halloran with respect to the charges that had been brought against him. He did not wish to put the country to unnecessary expense and had therefore only moved that the correspondence be laid on the table for perusal by honorable members instead of asking the house to agree to the printing of the documents. From the papers themselves he would be enabled to judge whether or not it would be necessary to take further steps in the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY would not oppose the motion, but readily assented to the resolution for the production of the correspondence. Much ill-feeling had been occasioned by the disputes which had arisen between Mr. Halloran and various parties in the districts over which he presided, and he (Mr. Herbert) was therefore glad that an independent member of the house had

taken action in the matter and called for an investigation. The course now proposed was the only one which could put an effectual stop to the accusations and criticisms respecting Mr. Halloran's conduct that had appeared in the Press of the country; and he hoped the production of the correspondence would be the means of setting honorable members right as to whether Mr. Halloran or his accusers were in the right. It was to be remembered, however, that the complaints that had been raised against Mr. Halloran were of old standing and had been enquired into by the Government of New South Wales previous to separation.

The question having been put, was passed without opposition.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the report of the Library Committee, laid upon the table on the 19th June last, be now adopted by this house. He said that the report of the committee could not be acted upon until it was received and adopted by the house, notwithstanding the fact that a resolution in favor of the object recommended in the report, had been affirmed by the house. He therefore moved the formal adoption of the report, in order that no doubt might exist on the matter.

The motion having been seconded, was put and carried.

WATER-WORKS AT GLADSTONE.

On the motion of Mr. FITZSIMMONS, the Speaker left the chair, and the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the resolutions agreed to on the previous day, with reference to the repair of the water-works at Gladstone. The honorable member having briefly recapitulated the arguments he had already advanced in favor of his motion, the question was put and passed, and the chairman having reported progress, the resolution was adopted by the house.

HOSPITAL AT ROCKHAMPTON.

On the motion of Mr. FITZSIMMONS, the Speaker again left the chair, and the house having resolved itself into committee, the resolution with reference to the placing upon the supplementary estimates for 1860 the sum of £200, in aid of the Hospital at Rockhampton, was agreed to by the committee.

The Chairman having reported progress, the resolution was adopted by the house.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH NEW SOUTH WALES.

On the motion of Mr. JORDAN, the Speaker left the chair and the house resolved itself into committee for the consideration of the resolutions that had been moved on the previous day with reference to postal communication with New South Wales. In introducing his motion, the honorable member stated that as the principle involved in his resolution had been affirmed by the house yesterday, he did not consider it necessary to enter upon a lengthy explanation of his subject, but would reserve whatever remarks he might desire to make till after objections had been raised against his motion.

Mr. RAFF said it made very little difference to the people of Queensland what postal arrangements were made by the New South Wales Government, as the two colonies were totally independent of each other as regarded this matter. He concluded by moving, as an amendment on the original motion that the words "by communication with New South Wales" be omitted, as he did not think any advantage would be gained by entering into a correspondence with the other colony on the subject.

Mr. WATTS thought it would be very nice to revert to the old system, but he did not think it practicable to do so without legislative enactment, as the postal arrangements between this colony and New South Wales had been fixed by Act of Parliament.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that existing arrangements could not be altered by resolutions merely, but would have to be amended by bill. He referred to the Postage Act of New

South Wales, which determined the question, but said that communication with the government of the other colony might result in a reduction of the rates by mutual agreement.

Mr. JORDAN thought that, although a bill might be considered necessary, a correspondence with the New South Wales government would facilitate the passing of an act to effect the objects stated in his resolution.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said it would be of no advantage to us if the New South Wales government reduced their rates of postage from 6d to 2d, nor would it benefit New South Wales if we lowered our rates by 4d. The post-office cost the country £12,000 per annum, and the revenue derived from it was only £4000. And as we would be required to give up about £500 per annum if we acted upon the principles laid down in the resolution, it was to be considered whether or not it was advisable, for the sake of those persons who were particularly interested in the postal communication with New South Wales, to part with this sum. He did not think it prudent at so early a date after separation to reduce the existing rate, and thought the question had better be postponed till the colony had been longer established.

Mr. RAFF thought we might reduce our own rates of postage without reference to New South Wales. We would appear foolish in asking that colony to legislate for us, and while we looked after our own affairs, we could well afford to allow the people of New South Wales to look after theirs.

Mr. JORDAN, considering the feeling of jealousy that existed towards us in the older colony, thought that it might tend in a measure to dissipate this feeling if a correspondence was entered into with a view to the mutual advantage of both colonies, which he thought would be obtained by adopting a lower rate for postal communication. It has been found in England that the lower the rate to which postage was reduced the larger the revenue that was derived from it.

Mr. GORE did not consider it desirable to reduce the revenue at present in the mode proposed in the resolutions. He did not consider the present rate at all exorbitant.

Mr. BLAKENEY, while admitting the advantages both to the public and to the revenue from the adoption of a cheap system of postage, felt inclined to support the amendment of his honorable colleague (Mr. Raff) in preference to the original motion, as he did not expect that New South Wales would be ready to forego the jealous feelings she already manifested towards this colony, and enter into friendly arrangements with us.

Mr. FORBES would support the motion, as he thought the cheapest rates would be better for the revenue. But admitting that they lost £400 per annum by a reduction of the rates, it was to be considered that a low scale of postage would tend to increase the circulation of information respecting the colony amongst that humble class of persons whose immigration it was the interest of the Government to encourage.

After a few remarks from Mr. RAFF, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. GORE, the motion was put with the following result, the amendment having been previously withdrawn.

Ayes, 6.

Noes, 14.

Mr Edmondstone
" Buckley
" O'Sullivan
" Blakeney
" Jordan } Tellers.
" Forbes }

Mr Fitzsimmons
" Haly
" Thorn
" Coxen
" Ferrett
" Royds
" Watts
" Herbert
" Lilley
" Gore
" Pring
" McKenzie

“ Raff } Tellers.
“ Taylor }

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Chairman reported to the Speaker that no resolution had been agreed to by the Committee.

OCCUPATION OF CROWN LANDS.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, seconded by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, leave was granted to bring in a bill to provide for the occupation of Crown Lands; after which the Bill was introduced, read a first time, ordered to be printed, and read a second time on the eleventh of July.

SUPPLY.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Speaker left the chair, and the house resolved itself into a committee of supply.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed that the sum of £600 be granted as the salary of the Inspector General of Police.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. FORBES, as chairman of the committee appointed to enquire into the management of the police department, read the progress report of the committee, recommending that £550 be granted for this year as salary for this officer—being £500 as the salary of the commandant of native police, and £50 as salary already advanced to him as Inspector General.

Mr. RAFF, with all deference to the resolution of the select committee, considered that they should have regarded this gentleman as Inspector General of Police and not as commandant at all. He would vote against the motion, as he considered the office unnecessary.

Mr. LILLEY considered the appointment illegal, as the Government had no power to make it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL believed that although there was no legal enactment authorising the Government to appoint an Inspector General of Police, the appointment was not illegal, as the Governor had the same right to appoint to that office, as he had to appoint a Chief Constable. The Inspector-General had been distinctly told that he was not to interfere in any matters that he was not legally entitled to meddle with, and he had confined himself accordingly to duties which no act forbade him to perform.

Mr. LILLEY thought the Inspector-General had interfered illegally in public concerns, and had materially impaired the efficiency of the service. He would like to know what the duties of this gentleman were. An Inspector-General of 60 police was like a Bombastes Furioso with his army. He would vote against the motion, as he not only deemed the office unnecessary, but he considered that the officer had illegally exceeded his powers, and that, too, with the sanction of the Governor himself.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought the committee should deal with the item as recommended by the committee, and vote the sum as salary for the commandant of native police. It would be for after consideration whether or not the office of Inspector-General was necessary. In making the appointment, the government had acted for the best, and they had every reason to feel satisfied with the services rendered by the officer they had appointed.

Mr. TAYLOR objected to the government attempting to get out of their difficulty in the pleasant manner suggested by the Colonial Secretary. The house had nothing to do at present with the commandant of native police. The question before them was, whether £600 should be granted as salary for an Inspector-General. He did not know what necessity there existed for such an officer. He was not to be caught by tinsel or gold lace, and was glad to find that the honorable member for Fortitude Valley had at length awakened to a sense of his duty, with reference to the

extravagant manner in which the public money was voted. (Hear, hear, from Mr. Lilley.)

After a few remarks from Mr. RAFF and Mr. LILLEY,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that the Inspector-General had rendered valuable service to the country in organizing the police force, and in training them in such a manner as to render the force highly efficient. They had a right to call the Chief Constable Inspector-General if they chose, and he did not see why the government should be found fault with for making an illegal appointment when they merely gave a new name to an officer already authorised.

Mr. WATTS considered the appointment of the Inspector-General a very injudicious one. As commandant of the Native Police this gentleman ought to be in the outlying districts, where the blacks were troublesome, instead of in Brisbane, where his services were not required.

After considerable further discussion the motion was withdrawn by the Colonial Secretary.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY the following items were passed :—

Clerk of 1st Clerk to Inspector General	...	...	...	...	£275
Metropolitan Police	...	...	...	...	2423
Ipswich Police	...	...	...	...	1807
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	120
Police Country Districts	...	...	...	...	5884

After the discussion that had taken place yesterday on the motion of the honorable member for Ipswich, the COLONIAL SECRETARY withdrew the sum of £3300 on the estimates for Police Magistrates and clerks of Petty Sessions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the sum of £6095 for contingencies, which was carried, the honorable gentleman having explained, in answer to a question put by Mr. Lilley, that the item included cost of clothing for the police, both white and native.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY next proposed £300 to meet contingencies in the judicial department of the police for the country districts.

The item was passed without discussion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the following items, which were passed without discussion :—

Salaries for Native Police	...	...	...	...	£5042
Contingencies for ditto	...	...	...	...	5174
Surveyor-General	...	...	...	...	600
Deputy Surveyor-General	...	...	...	...	780
1 District Surveyor	...	...	...	...	780
Surveyor of 1st Class	...	...	...	...	680
ditto ditto at £680 per annum		...	...	...	567
ditto ditto at £680 ditto		...	...	...	340
4 Surveyors of 2nd Class	...	...	...	...	1837

Mr. TAYLOR remarked, with regard to the last item, that honorable members would live to regret their extravagance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed for

Supernumerary Surveyor	...	...	...	...	£400
3 draftsmen	...	...	...	...	533

Mr. TAYLOR objected to the accommodation afforded in the Surveyor-General's office, and suggested that some improvement should be made in it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, having reminded the honorable member that he had voted

yesterday for the granting of £500 for the repair of this office, the items were put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the following items, which were put and passed :—

Clerk 1st class at the rate of £300	...	...	£250
2 clerks 2nd class at £200	...	... }	400
1 clerk at £100	...	... }
1 clerk (supernumerary)	...	...	100
Clerk and office keeper at Rockhampton	...	...	90
Office keeper, Brisbane	...	...	48
10 chain-men and 40 laborers	...	...	3057
Contingencies	...	...	3700
OCCUPATION OF LANDS :—			
2 Commissioners at £525	...	...	£1050
2 ditto at £450	...	...	900
12 troopers	...	...	2196

The last item was opposed by Mr. TAYLOR, but, a division having been called for, it was carried by a majority of 12 to 7.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the following item :—

4 office keepers at £40	£160
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and, in reply to Mr. Taylor, stated that the duties of the office keepers were to keep the offices. (Laughter.)

Mr. THORN, Mr. FERRETT, Mr. WATTS and other honorable members opposed the motion, which was carried on the following division :—

Ayes, 10.

Noes, 9.

Mr. Mackenzie	Mr. Watts
" Gore	" Taylor
" Blakeney	" Forbes
" Jordan	" Edmondstone
" Haly	" Ferrett
" Fitzsimmons	" Thorn
" Buckley	" O'Sullivan
" Royds	" Raff } Tellers.
" Herbert } Tellers.	" Lilley }
" Pring }	

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the following item—

Contingencies for the department	...	£300
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The motion having been opposed by Messrs. WATTS, TAYLOR, and others, it was ultimately withdrawn.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY proposed the following item, which was put and passed :—

Commissioners on Sales of Lands and for advertisements in local papers	...	£1100
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The item set down on the estimates for the salary of the Auditor General was withdrawn by

the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

The Chairman then left the chair, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

The house then adjourned at half-past 6 till 8 o'clock to-morrow (this day).