

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

...
Legislative Council
10th July 1860

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 12th July 1860

The President took the chair at half-past four o'clock, and as usual, opened the proceedings with prayer.

LAND HELD BY THE BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Mr. ROBERTS moved,—“ That an Address be presented to his Excellency the Governor praying for a return of all lands in the various districts of Queensland, held by the Board of National Education under the 11th Vic., No. 48, and 16th Vic. No. 16.

Captain O'CONNELL having intimated that no objection would be made on the part of the government to the returns asked for, the motion was put and passed.

EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Captain O'CONNELL moved for 14 days extension of leave of absence to Mr. Bates Fitz. The motion was put and passed.

SETTLEMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

On the motion of Captain O'CONNELL the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the Legislative Assembly's message relative to the appointment of commissioners for the settlement of the Queensland and New South Wales debt. The message having been read,

Captain O'CONNELL moved that the house should express its concurrence with it. The hon. member having referred to the correspondence which had taken place on this subject, said that he thought they might feel a pride in the creditable desire of their own government to bring the matter to a termination. He then commented upon the undignified conduct of the government of New South Wales in withholding the sum evidently due to this colony for its annual expenditure. It was a great hardship to the colony that it had not been furnished with the supplies which had been collected by the New South Wales government from its (the colony's) revenue. The payment of this sum had been solicited by the Governor in a letter dated 24th of December last, pointing out that it was due for rents, assessments, license fees, &c., collected within the colony, and also for unexpended votes of the Sydney legislature. On the 14th of May last it was recorded in the minutes of a meeting of the Executive Council in Sydney that the government was unwilling to bring this subject before the legislature, as likely to impede the passing of the Appropriation Act. The amount was a little in excess of £18,000. In addition to this there was the general debt, for the settlement of which the Legislative Assembly had agreed to appoint commissioners to meet those of New South Wales—their negotiations to be conducted on the terms set forth in the Sydney legislature on the 15th January, 1857. The debt amounted to nearly three million, which had been partly contracted for local purposes, such as municipal and public works, &c. An attempt, which must be resisted, had been made to debit the colony with sums strictly chargeable to New South Wales alone. The bill of the 7th of January, 1857, to which he had alluded had been drawn up before any questions with regard to separation had arisen, and seemed on the whole to be based on justice. By concurring in the motion before the house they

would express their approval of the arrangement then proposed.

MESSAGES.

The house having resumed, messages Nos. 5 and 6 were received from the Governor, respectively signifying his Excellency's approval of the standing orders of the Council, which had been submitted to him, and his assent, on behalf of her Majesty, to the Repeal of Duty on Gold Bill.

SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Committee having resumed, Mr. BALFOUR strongly deprecated their being saddled with anything in the shape of a national debt, secured on the lands of the colony. When the public had taken debentures they had done so with their eyes open, not on the security of the lands of the Moreton Bay district, but on the security of public morality. Neither in England, France, Austria, nor any other countries were debts contracted on the security of Government Domains, but on the faith put in the several Governments. He thought the best plan that could be adopted would be to instruct their commissioners to apply for the ultimatum of those appointed by the Sydney government, and then refer the settlement of the debt to the Imperial Parliament.

Sir CHARLES NICHOLSON agreed with the last speaker that it was preposterous to give public security on the waste lands of the colony, and observed that that notion had been an after-thought of the Sydney government. With reference to compelling that government to come to an immediate conclusion, it would be impossible, till an act had been passed appointing commissioners, to enter into any communication with it on the subject. He did not think any of the inhabitants of New South Wales could take exception to the liberal and candid way in which the government of this colony was prepared to meet their own.

In reply to some observations of Mr. GALLOWAY,

Mr. BALFOUR said that he was prepared to advocate the payment of their share of the debt to its furthest extent. He thought the basis proposed by Sir W. Denison was an excellent one.

The motion was then passed, and subsequently on the house resuming the message was directed to be returned by the Clerk to the Legislative Assembly as agreed to.

PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL.

Captain O'CONNELL moved the second reading of this Bill, and proceeded to describe its provisions. The motion was opposed by Dr. Fullerton, supported by Sir Charles Nicholson and Messrs. Balfour and Galloway, and subsequently agreed to without division. Its committal was then made an order of the day for Wednesday. A somewhat lengthy debate took place on this question, to which we could not do justice in to-day's issue for want of space. We shall endeavour to publish a report of the debate in our next.

DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS' BILL.

On the motion of Captain O'CONNELL the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider this Bill. The several clauses were agreed to, and so reported, on resumption of the house. The third reading was then made an order of the day for Wednesday.

The house then adjourned, on the motion of Captain O'CONNELL, at ten minutes past seven till half-past four o'clock on Wednesday.