

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

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**Legislative Assembly  
12<sup>th</sup> July 1860**  
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Moreton Bay Courier 14<sup>th</sup> July 1860

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The Speaker took the chair at 20 minutes past 3 o'clock, and opened the proceedings with the usual prayer.

**DEPARTMENTAL REFORM.**

The COLONIAL TREASURER, in the absence of the chairman, brought up a progress report from the Select Committee on Government Departments, together with certain evidence given before the committee by the Surveyor-General. Ordered to be printed.

**EXPIRATION OF LEASES IN 1860.**

Mr. COXEN asked the Colonial Secretary, "Whether as many of the leases for the occupation of land in the intermediate district expired on the first of January, 1860, it is the intention of the Government to bring in a bill during the present session to provide for the same."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that it was the intention of the government to introduce a measure very shortly which would contain a provision to meet the case referred to by the hon. member.

**MILITARY FOR QUEENSLAND.**

Mr. TAYLOR said that as the hon. the Colonial Secretary was always very willing to answer questions, he would now beg to put one to him without notice. A few minutes before coming into the house he happened to observe the following advertisement in a Sydney newspaper:—

"Commissariat Contract for Brisbane, Queensland.—Sealed tenders in duplicate will be received at the Commissariat Office, 46, Phillip-street, until Tuesday, the 17th instant, at noon, for the supply of a detachment of troops at Brisbane, Queensland, with the undermentioned articles, viz.:—Fresh meat, per lb.; bread, first quality, per lb.; candles, mould, per lb.; firewood, per 100 lbs.; water, per 100 gallons. The contract to commence from the date of the arrival of the troops at Brisbane, and to terminate on the 31st March, 1861, the conditions of which, and all further particulars, can be ascertained from the undersigned. GEORGE J. WRENTMORE, D.A.C.G. Sydney, 3rd July, 1860." What he wanted to know was whether this advertisement had been inserted by the authority of the Queensland government, and if so whether any portion of the money necessary to carry out the object was to be taken from the Queensland treasury.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that he was in no way cognizant of the advertisement. He might state, however, that there was a small colonial allowance provided for the troops by an enactment which was still in force. The management of these matters devolved almost exclusively on the Commissary-General, whose name he noticed was attached to the advertisement.

**PAPERS.**

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table, in compliance with addresses of the house, certain correspondence relative to Commissioners Halloran and Boyle.

## LIEN ON WOOL BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that this bill be read a second time, and in doing so he felt it necessary to explain the reasons by which he had been actuated in its preparation. When undertaking to introduce a measure for the continuance of the old lien on wool act he found that there were several New South Wales acts still in existence, all of which bore more or less on the subject, but in such a confused and fragmentary shape as to render their general meaning extremely unsatisfactory. After giving the matter full consideration, he came to the conclusion that the better course would be to consolidate these acts, and thus instead of having several, have only one, which should provide for every contingency connected with the subject. To the public generally a single measure, which they could study at their own firesides, would be found peculiarly advantageous. It would very much simplify their labour in arriving at a correct legal understanding with regard to their various business transactions under the provisions of the act, and would obviate an immense amount of difficulty in searching through Callaghan's Acts, which, even to himself, had been a matter of extreme perplexity. The learned gentleman here explained in detail the various acts consolidated in the proposed bill, showing that in consequence of some of them having been partially repealed it remained a question as to whether certain provisions were or were not at present in force. By the passing of the new measure all this doubt and difficulty would be got rid of, whilst, from the alterations introduced into it, he was in hopes that the legislation altogether would be a great improvement on the old. One of the alterations referred to bore upon the mode of searching the records in the Registrar-General's office with a view to ascertaining existing encumbrances on property. By the present mode any one, by paying a shilling, could go and search every record in the office, and thus, besides obtaining the particular information required, might, if he thought proper, gratify his curiosity with regard to every other registered mortgage. Now, as this was obviously unfair to persons generally who might have encumbrances on their properties, he proposed that under this bill there should be a separate record kept, and that instead of the party interested being allowed to search, the Registrar-General or his deputy, upon application, should be compelled to furnish any proper information that might be sought for in regard to a particular mortgage. Any one seeking such information could have no other legitimate object in view than to ascertain whether any previous advance had been made on a security proposed to be mortgaged to him, and to this extent he would receive every facility under the provisions of the bill then before the house. (Hear, hear.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion.

Mr. MACALISTER remarked that the hon. and learned gentleman had omitted to state that the Lien on Wool Act was originally refused the Royal Assent in consequence of its being repugnant to the law of England, and that it was this circumstance alone which led to its continuance hitherto as a merely temporary measure. Now, however, they had a constitution which gave them full powers of local legislation, and as the Lien on Wool Act had always worked well, he was very glad to find that it was intended to make it permanent in a new and improved form.

Mr. LILLEY expressed his entire approval of the alteration in the law with regard to searching records in the Registrar-General's office. He thought it was too bad that any person by the mere payment of a shilling should have the privilege of gratifying an idle curiosity in examining every mortgage upon property.

The motion was then put and passed, and the Bill read a second time.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the bill in detail.

The several clauses were passed without amendment, excepting the 5th and 9th. The former was verbally amended on the motion of Mr. LILLEY, so as to restrict the process of searching records to the Registrar, or his Deputy, and the latter was omitted altogether for the purpose of substituting a new clause proposed by Mr. BUCKLEY. The object of the new clause is to facilitate with the written consent of the parties interested, second mortgages in those cases

where previous mortgages may not have been satisfied.

The house then resumed, and the bill was reported with amendments. The report having been adopted the third reading was fixed for Tuesday next.

## REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES brought up the usual formal report of the resolutions adopted in committee of supply, which, in point of fact, are a mere recapitulation of the items already passed. They were read at length by the Clerk of the house, whereupon

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the report be adopted.

The motion having been seconded,

Mr. FERRETT moved that the resolutions be re-committed, with a view to the re-consideration of No. 50, having reference to the money voted for commissioners and troopers in the northern districts. He thought that both the number of troopers and the amount granted as salaries were too large, more especially as the native police in the outlying districts were now found to answer all the purpose of regular troopers. Upon enquiry he found that in the districts which he had the honour to represent, the troopers were mostly employed in the capacity of orderlies to the commissioners, or in doing gardening or groom service for them. According to existing arrangements, each commissioner was allowed three orderlies, although in former times, when the blacks were far more dangerous, and when there were no native police, they were only allowed two each. His object in asking for a re-committal was to effect a very considerable reduction in the amount granted.

Mr. WATTS seconded the amendment.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS opposed the amendment. He knew that at Port Curtis the commissioners were frequently compelled to be out in the bush both night and day for months together, and under such circumstances he did not think that three orderlies were at all too many for one commissioner.

Mr. HALY was inclined to think that the salaries were rather too high, but at the same time he did not think the troopers too numerous.

Mr. WATTS supported the amendment for the reasons assigned by the mover, and took occasion to animadvert on the practice of the Commissioners "showing off" with their orderlies in the towns. This, in fact, appeared to be one of the principal uses to which the troopers were applied.

Mr. TAYLOR also supported the amendment, and characterised the expenditure for this service as most extravagant and disgraceful. He believed the money already voted for the government of this small colony of 20,000 people amounted to £120,000. How much more would be voted it was impossible to say, but he would say this much—if the ministry would only give him a few men he would undertake to govern the 20,000 people in this colony for one fiftieth part of the money. (Laughter.)

After some explanation from the COLONIAL SECRETARY, in which he promised to consider the matter in framing the estimates for 1861 in the hope of making some retrenchment, the amendment was put and negatived on the following division:—

Noes, 12.

Ayes, 11.

Colonial Secretary  
Attorney-General  
Mr. Royds  
Colonial Treasurer  
Mr. Buckley  
" Broughton  
" Fitzsimmons

Mr. Taylor  
" Edmondstone  
" Ferret  
" Coxen  
" Forbes  
" Thorn  
" Macalister

“ Richards  
“ Haly  
“ Jordan  
“ Gore  
“ Blakeney

“ Moffatt  
“ Watts  
“ Lilley                } Tellers  
“ O'Sullivan         }

The original motion was then put, and passed on a similar division.

### APPOINTMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEES.

A message from the Legislative Council was received and read, intimating that the following members had been appointed to the Joint Committees as under:—Library Committee—The President, J. J. Galloway, and M. O'Connell, Esquires. Refreshment Rooms Committee—The President, J. F. McDougall, and Mr M. C. O'Connell, Esquires. Parliamentary Buildings Committee—the same members. The message concluded by inviting the Assembly to appoint a corresponding number of members to act on the said Joint Committees.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the following Members were then appointed, namely—The Honorable the Speaker, Mr. Pring, and Mr. Jordan to the Library Committee; The Honorable the Speaker, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Royds, to the Refreshment Rooms Committee, and Parliament Buildings Committee.

### DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS BILL.

A Message from the Legislative Council was received and read, announcing the assent of that body to the above-mentioned Bill.

### SUPPLY.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the order of the day for the resumption of the Committee of Supply was postponed until Thursday next.

### GEORGE ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE.

Mr. BROUGHTON moved that the petition of this gentleman, presented by him on the previous day, be printed. In making this motion, he had not the slightest fear that it would be refused, as he could not imagine that any hon. member would desire to do an act of injustice. In the year 1859, the petitioner organised a party, and at very great personal risk, as well as pecuniary expense, succeeded in discovering the mouth of the Burdekin River, and also in exploring its upper and lower valleys, to which he opened up a practicable route. As a recompense for his labours, he anticipated securing by tender certain blocks of the new country, but, unfortunately for him, he was disappointed, owing to the recent arrangements entered into by the government. Thus the expedition, whilst it must prove highly profitable to the colony, had involved the petitioner in very serious losses. Here the hon. member read the petition, and proceeded to comment generally upon it, particularly instancing the fact that Mr. Dalrymple had, in the course of the expedition, been twice attacked by the blacks, that for six or seven days he was closely pursued, and could only rest for an hour or so at sundown on each day, and that during the greater part of the day both him and his companions had to live upon less than half rations.

Mr. BUCKLEY seconded the motion.

Mr. GORE opposed the printing of the petition on the same ground that he had opposed the printing of Dr. Lang's. He did not see why any private individual should write a kind of pamphlet for the purpose of setting forth his grievances, and ask the house to print it at the expense of the country. He had no desire to enter into the merits of the petition. There could be no doubt that Mr. Dalrymple had suffered a great deal, and that his labours were very meritorious. But at the same time it must be admitted that he had incurred those hardships principally for the purpose of benefiting himself, in the acquisition of large blocks of land, and that in pursuance of

the monstrous tendering system, which had been so unanimously condemned by the house the other night.

Mr. BLAKENEY expressed a similar opinion, and did not think the merits of the petition would be in any way affected by the refusal to print it.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS supported the motion, as he maintained that the petitioner had rendered a valuable service to the colony in exploring the mouth and upper valley of the Burdekin.

Messrs. WATTS and TAYLOR opposed the motion, for reasons similar to those already advanced.

Mr. MACALISTER had voted for the printing of Dr. Lang's petition because it contained a charge involving a breach of faith on the part of the government, but in this case the only matters set forth had reference entirely to the private interests of an individual. He should therefore vote against the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought the compliment which the house had paid Mr. Dalrymple in receiving his petition ought to be considered quite sufficient without putting the country to the expense of printing it. So far as the merits of the case were concerned he might remark that the government had repeatedly endeavoured to elicit from this gentleman some information as to the nature of his discoveries but to no purpose, although he had frequently promised to supply it.

Mr. BROUGHTON after a few words in reply withdrew the motion.

#### BRISBANE AND BREMER RIVERS.

The report of the committee upon this subject was presented by the chairman, and on the motion of Mr. FORBES, was adopted.

There being no business on the paper for the next day, the house adjourned at 20 minutes to 6, until 3 o'clock on Tuesday next.