

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

...
Legislative Assembly
1st August 1860
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 2nd August 1860

The Speaker took the chair at half-past three o'clock, and opened the proceedings with prayer.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On the motion of Mr. LILLEY, leave of absence was granted for fourteen days to the hon. member for Warwick.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND DEBT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the "Adjustment of Accounts with New South Wales Bill" be read a second time, and in doing so, he did not think it necessary to trespass at any length on their time, seeing that the principles contained in the bill were precisely the same as those embodied in the resolutions recently sanctioned by the house. He would therefore merely draw their attention to the leading points embodied by the bill. The first clause empowered the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, to appoint, subject to the approval of the Legislature, a Commissioner or Commissioners, not exceeding three, to confer with a commissioner or commissioners appointed by New South Wales, with a view to the examination and determination of the amounts now pending between the two colonies. It would be seen from this that the government had a discretionary power as to the number of commissioners they should appoint, and he thought it was very likely that in the first instance the number proposed would not be more than two. The second clause empowered the Governor, in the event of one of the commissioners dying or being discharged during a parliamentary recess, to appoint another in his stead, and the third clause empowered The Governors of the two colonies to appoint an umpire, to whom all matters would be referred upon which the commissioners could not agree. This was a matter, however, which he left entirely in the hands of the house. The fourth clause, which was the most important of all, ran as follows—"The negotiations of the said commissioners shall be conducted upon the general basis set forth in a certain minute of the Executive Council of the said colony of New South Wales, dated 15th January, 1857, and in a certain bill introduced into the Legislative Assembly of that colony in pursuance of such minute, and enclosed in a certain despatch from the Governor-General to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, numbered 24, and dated the 7th of January, 1858." The hon. gentleman here quoted from the documents referred to in illustration of his argument. It had been attempted in New South Wales to make this colony generally liable for the debentures upon which the debt had been created, but he thought it would not be fair to make them liable for a larger proportion than the actual circumstances showed they were equitably bound to meet. This was the principle upon which the government intended to act, and if the bill were passed an explanation to that effect would accompany it to the New South Wales government. (Hear, hear.) The 5th clause empowered the government to issue, when necessary, further instructions to the Commissioners so long as those instructions were not inconsistent with the general basis of settlement. The 6th provided for the commissioners' expenses, and the 7th enabled those functionaries to employ an officer who would act as Secretary and accountant, and be thoroughly competent to draft reports and deal in all matters of figures. On the whole he thought they had a right to believe that this bill would be acceptable to the government and legislature of New South Wales, seeing that it was

framed on precisely the same basis as that suggested by them. But before entering upon any practical negotiation for the division of the debt it was the intention of the government to claim from New South Wales the remission of the £18,000 now standing to the credit of the Queensland Treasury. He presumed that when the bill passed it would be necessary to forward it to the other colony with a letter of explanation, inviting approval and requesting that the £18,000 might be handed over without delay. In the event of this request being refused it would be necessary to send the matter home for decision.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion.

Mr. RAFF agreed generally with the provisions of the bill, but thought it would be better to explain in a clause instead of a letter the precise intentions of the Legislature with regard to the settlement of accounts.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Messages were received from the Governor intimating his compliance with addresses agreed to by the house, praying that sum might be placed on the supplementary estimates for fencing in a reservoir at Eagle Farm, and £3000 for procuring a stand of firearms for the protection of Queensland.

QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES DEBT BILL.

The house then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole for the purpose of considering this bill in detail.

Clause 1, for the appointment of commissioner or commissioners to adjust accounts with similar commissioners appointed by New South Wales, was verbally amended on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY and passed.

Clause 2, enacting that Government may supply a vacancy occurring when Parliament is not in Session, was also carried.

Clause 3, enabling the government of the two colonies to appoint an umpire, was passed without amendment.

Clause 4, defining the basis of negotiation to be a minute of Executive Council of New South Wales, of January 15, 1857, and bill founded thereon, was amended on the motion of

Mr. RAFF, by the addition of the words save and except the provisions contained in clause 5.

The clause was then put and carried.

Clause 5 was also agreed to.

Clause 6, allowing the expenses of commissioners, was next proposed.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the rate per diem for commissioners whilst engaged in the performance of their duties, was fixed at £4. The clause as amended was then carried.

Clause 7, providing that commissioners may recommend a secretary was proposed in an amended form, the word expenses to be "inserted" and the rate to be fixed £50 per month.

Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. O'SULLIVAN were disposed to think that a clerk might be selected from the Colonial Secretary's office quite competent to perform the functions for which it was now proposed to make a new appointment.

The clause, however, was eventually passed in the amended form suggested.

Clause 8, enacting that commissioners may remove secretary for misconduct, and appoint a temporary successor, was passed without opposition, as was also the last clause containing the title.

The House then resumed, and the report having been adopted, the third reading was fixed for Friday next.

COLLECTION OF ELECTORAL LISTS ABOLITION BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that this bill be read a second time, and in doing so, he explained that the present system of annual collection by paid servants was extremely expensive, besides being fraught with numerous errors in the shape of omission. He was aware, for instance, that many old and well-known residents in every way qualified had been omitted from the present lists. On the other hand, he felt persuaded that if people knew it was exclusively their duty to forward their names for enrolment, it would be the means of ensuring far greater accuracy in the registration, as well as save the country a very large amount of unnecessary expenditure. The expense, for instance, of collecting the last electoral lists amounted to £690. The trouble of procuring enrolment under this act would be very trifling, and he maintained that those persons who did not choose to avail themselves of the privilege were unworthy of having the franchise accorded to them.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded the motion.

Mr. BLAKENEY entirely concurred in the observations of the Colonial Secretary. The present system was not only very expensive and very inaccurate, but it also opened the door to corruption and fraud of every description. He knew that many old residents were omitted during the collection of the last electoral lists, although they must have been well known to the collectors. Although fully concurring in the object of the bill, he was desirous to see it amended in committee by the insertion of clauses from other acts, which would render referential legislation unnecessary, and consequently make the act complete in itself.

Mr. TAYLOR also approved of the bill, and stated that in some of the country districts the collectors had been guilty of corruption in the omission of names.

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES thought the slovenly manner in which the lists were made up under the present system and furnished to the returning officers was of itself a sufficient reason for the introduction of this bill. He hoped, however, to see some amendment made in the second clause.

Mr. WATTS was in favor of the bill with some modifications, which he hoped to see made in committee. He instanced the omission of his own name as showing the neglect of collectors.

Mr. FERRETT supported the bill for reasons similar to those advanced by other members. At the same time he thought some provision should be made in the bill to prevent persons in the remote districts being excluded from the lists in consequence of having been obstructed by flood or other insurmountable accident from sending in their claims on a particular day.

Mr. BROUGHTON expressed himself generally in favor of the bill, but thought it might be improved on in committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the bill under consideration was intended simply to abolish the system of collecting the electoral lists at present in operation, and if the house determined on adopting the suggestions of the hon. member for West Moreton the present bill had better be rejected or withdrawn, as in that case they would have to alter the Electoral Law Amendment Act, with which the present bill did not propose to interfere. The roll as it stood would be revised as at present, once every year, by the different benches of magistrates throughout the colony. Claimants would be heard in support of their claims to have their names inserted on the roll, and objections would be duly heard and considered. It was with the roll as it stood that the present bill proposed to deal, but in a new manner, as suggested in the clauses, but if it were the wish of the house to establish a better method of collecting the names on the roll it would be advisable to bring in a new bill for that purpose. The objections that had been argued by hon. members did not refer to the bill before the house at all but to the Electoral Law Amendment Act ; and if those objections were to be taken into consideration and acted upon, the act, and not the present bill, would have to be amended to meet the views of hon. members.

The question for the second reading having been put by the Speaker, it was carried without opposition, and the bill was accordingly read a second time and passed, and on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY ordered to be considered in committee on Friday next.

POSTPONEMENT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the order of the day for the consideration of the Primary Education Bill was postponed till the next order had been disposed of.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the bill be read a third time.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL having seconded the motion, the question was put and passed, and the bill having been read a third time accordingly, it was ordered to be carried to the Legislative Council, with a message requesting the concurrence of that house in the measure.

PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL.

In moving the second reading of this bill, the COLONIAL SECRETARY said it was of the utmost importance to provide suitable means of education for the whole population of the territory, and he did not think—notwithstanding the many important measures that had been introduced into that house—any one was more deserving of attention than the present. He would not trouble hon. members with any dry statistics as to the extent of the population throughout the colony for which education ought to be provided, or as to the numbers who should be at school receiving instruction at the present moment, but who, unfortunately, were without the means of obtaining the necessary education. Ignorance was as great an evil here as in the mother country, although it was not so generally prevalent, and he believed that it prevailed less in Queensland than in any one of the neighboring colonies. Still it existed, notwithstanding the general intelligence of the population, and it became the bounden duty of the legislature to stay its progress, and provide proper means for counteracting its influence. It was their duty to furnish the means of acquiring a good education on such easy conditions, that there would be no excuse in the case of parents who were disposed to neglect to provide their children with suitable instruction to enable them to make their way in the world in after life. The means at present at the disposal of the government were altogether insufficient, and even since separation many demands had been made upon them for grants in aid of national schools throughout the country. But these demands had been resisted by the executive, because they desired to establish a new system, and to provide in a manner more satisfactory than the one that had hitherto prevailed for educational establishments throughout the colony. The number of public schools at present was only 13, of which 3 only were on the national system, the rest being what were known as denominational schools, belonging to religious bodies. It was a difficult point to determine whether any religious instruction should be permitted in the public schools, or what kind of teaching of this sort should be given. Opinions on this point were many and conflicting. Some held that the government schools should be purely secular ; others again that the general outlines of christianity should be taught, while sectarian dogmas and points of difference should be avoided ; while a third class held a middle course, and advocated that secular education alone should be afforded by the government teachers, but that religious instruction during certain hours should be given by ministers of religion to the scholars under their respective charges. Under the national system at present in operation in New South Wales the children could receive secular instruction only, or such religious education as their parents might request at the hands of clergymen, for whom separate rooms were provided for the purpose within the walls of different schools. He thought such a system would be the best for this colony, and that no religious body could have reason to find fault with it ; as the government would be able to extend its support to the 13 denominational schools now in existence, requiring, however, that for the state assistance afforded, state control to a certain extent should be permitted. The denominational schools in Sydney were far more numerous than those under the other system, but they were not so efficient as they would be, if they were under the direct supervision of the Board of Education. The denominational board had not equal powers with the national, and could not exercise any control over the management of the schools under its care, as it had never been incorporated by Act of Parliament. Hence while the national schools in the sister colony were in a high state of efficiency, and were ably conducted under the supervision of the national board, the denominational schools did not give satisfaction to the people, as the board appointed to

superintend them had no power to control them. This evil could be easily obviated here by placing both the national and the denominational schools under one board, with full powers over both. In New Zealand such a course had been pursued with the happiest results, and he felt confident it would succeed admirably here. In that colony, however, there was a bad principle at work, which tended very much to nullify the action of the board. Each denominational school was permitted to have a special inspector appointed by the trustees, and consequently there was no proper inspection of the schools at all. He thought this evil could be conveniently met by the appointment of government inspectors, and he did not see why, if government support were granted, government supervision also should not be demanded as a right. The Privy Council system in force in England was purely denominational in its character, but had been found to work prejudicially for the interests of education as it allowed small schools to compete with one another in such a manner that no proper instruction could be supplied by any one of them in many localities. In a small town, for instance, where one good school would be sufficient for the wants of the place, each denomination had an educational establishment of its own, and by taking advantage of the government grant, managed to live, and to prevent the establishment of a good public school on a broad basis and conducted on liberal principles. It would be a difficult matter to secure efficient teachers to manage the schools ; but steps could be taken to procure them ; and he did not think the house would disagree with him in recommending that, as had been done in New Zealand, good teachers should be selected at home and sent out at the cost of the government to supply the wants of the colony. It would be necessary, also, as proposed by the bill to establish a good Normal School, where pupils could be taught to teach, and where they would be examined not only as to their general knowledge, but as to their special qualifications for fulfilling the duties of teachers. The pupils in this school, having become acquainted with the most approved modes of teaching, would be appointed first assistant teachers, and afterwards promoted according to their merits. The public could have no better guarantee for the fitness of teachers to discharge their important duties than their residence for a time in a training school, where their moral and mental characters would be under supervision, and whence they could only be promoted after passing an examination as to their qualifications. The 6th clause provided that the laws and bye laws of the respective schools to be established under this bill shall be made by the trustees of the different schools, and submitted to the government for approval. He thought it better to permit such a course than for the house to pass a stringent measure detailing all the minute particulars for the management of the schools. Clause 7 demanded particular attention, as it provided that all the denominational schools at present in existence be admitted to a participation in the benefits conferred by the bill. It was proposed that secular instruction should be afforded during five hours of five days in each week, and that on the Saturday the scholars should be permitted to receive religious instruction from their respective clergymen. Then again the bill provided that the fullest information should be obtained by the country as to the working and management of the public schools. Not only were all laws and bye-laws to be laid on the table of the Assembly, but particular accounts of the receipts and expenditure of each of the schools. He trusted the house would affirm the main principle of the bill, and he would be glad to adopt any suggestions that might be offered, to effect improvement in the details in committee.

MESSAGE FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

At this stage of the proceedings a message was brought from the Legislative Council, by Messrs. Roberts and Galloway accompanying the bill for the Discontinuance of State-aid to Religion passed without amendment. The message was received and read.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE.

Mr. RAFF said, with reference to the Primary Education Bill, that he highly approved of its leading principles, and that with a few slight alterations in some of the clauses, which he suggested with a view to the establishment of a system of education purely national and without any religious element, the measure would be an excellent one. If the amendments he indicated were agreed to in committee, the national system would be fairly established, and he believed that system was more in accordance with the views of the majority of the house than the denominational.

Mr. BUCKLEY said the question under discussion was of the greatest importance, and should be approached with considerable caution. Looking at the bill and remarking some of its defects, he thought it would be better to refer it to a select committee than to affirm its principles in its present shape. He considered that if the national system, as proposed by the bill, were established here, it would work mischievously instead of well, as it had been found to do in New South Wales. With all the superior advantages the national schools enjoyed over the denominational in that colony they were found on the testimony of the commissioners, who had been appointed to enquire into the working of both to be defective, and much more unsatisfactory in their results. More money was voted for the national system than for the denominational, yet the means of instruction afforded by the one and the amount of good that was realised were greater in the denominational schools than in the national. He thought it would be sufficient for the state to appoint a board of competent examiners to inquire into the qualifications of candidates for the office of teachers in the schools, and to license those gentlemen who had given sufficient evidence of their competency to teach, wherever they could induce parents, by going from house to house, to send their children in sufficient numbers to schools. In New South Wales no minister of religion would visit the national schools under the regulations in force then. They objected to do so altogether, and therefore the children received no religious instruction in those schools. He considered secular instruction with religious the most dangerous that could be afforded by the state, and expressed his belief that the Chartist riots in Birmingham and Manchester, which had caused in former years so much disturbance in the mother country, were caused by the secular night schools in those cities.

Mr. WATTS said that in order to make the bill acceptable to the public, it was necessary that it should be purely secular in its character, and he could not agree with what had been urged by the hon. member for East Moreton, in depreciation of the national system. They had abolished state-aid to religion, and now some hon. members wished to retrace their steps, and establish the denominational system of education. He considered if state aid were objectionable to all, it was much more so if granted to the schools than to the churches ; and he would only support a purely national system, while he would not consent to revert to the denominational, which gave so much dissatisfaction to the public, and created so much discord and dissension. He objected to many of the details of the bill, but would support its second reading, as he considered all the defects could be easily remedied in committee, without interfering with the general principles of the measure.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The SPEAKER having announced and read a message from the Legislative Council accompanying the Census Bill, and requesting the concurrence of the Assembly in certain amendments that had been made in it, the COLONIAL SECRETARY moved that the amendments be considered in committee on Friday next, and the question having been put and passed, the

DEBATE RESUMED.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN felt the importance of the bill before the house and regretted his inability to do that justice to the question which he desired to do. He was always under the impression that education, properly so called, included religious instruction, and could not be regarded as complete without it. There was no time like the season of youth, when the mind was yet unformed and susceptible for inculcating religious instruction. In mature age a man could not acquire religious instruction, and those who, in riper years, professed to have received religious impressions and become reformed were more hypocritical than sincere. He would therefore support no measure that proposed to exclude religious instruction from the schools, and hoped the house would adopt the suggestion of the honorable member for East Moreton, and refer the bill to a select committee. Religion was to be regarded as a science that could not be acquired after a certain age ; it must be instilled into the mind of a child in infancy, and grow with his growth. It could not be expected that any man could become religious who was not so in his youth ; for the strict rules of religion were repugnant to our corrupt nature, and habit only could make us entertain them favorably or at all. Religion could not be put on like a coat or pair of gloves, as some seemed to suppose. The hon. member for East Moreton had spoken of the

working of the two systems in force in New South Wales, and shewed that the Denominational worked better than the National. He could add a few statistical particulars in support of the statements of the hon. member. In 1858 the number of scholars in the denominational schools was 14,489, in the national 4752 ; while the government grants to the former amounted to only £14,666, and to the latter £20,020. The amount expended on buildings for the denominational schools was only £74 ; while for the national it amounted to £10,430. This proves that the government of New South Wales threw every possible obstacle in the way of the working of the denominational system, and favoured and fostered the national, which, after all, has proved a complete failure.

Mr. BLAKENEY had had no small experience in the working of national schools, because the system was originated in his native country, and few had more favourable opportunities of judging of its fruits than himself. That system, now of world-wide celebrity, had supplanted the denominational schools, which tended more than anything else to degrade the country and split the people up into insignificant factions. The Roman Catholic children he had seen deprived of the means of obtaining any education under the denominational system, except where a few wealthy members of that body combined and established schools of their own ; and he knew of one instance in particular, and it was not an exceptional one where Roman Catholic children were deliberately excluded from a school, and refused participation in its benefits, by the miserably sectarian policy that was pursued by its local patrons. The national system, which had been proposed by two eminent divines—viz., Archbishop Whateley, of the Episcopal church, and Archbishop Murray, of the Roman Catholic—had wrought a wonderful change in Ireland, and greatly improved the condition of the people. The Privy Council system had proved a miserable failure in England, and he hoped it would not be established here in any shape ; neither did he think it necessary that they should follow the example set them in Sydney, and mix up the national with the denominational system.

Mr. JORDAN said that all agreed as to the vast importance of the measure under discussion, and that if a good educational system were established, the foundation of true national greatness and prosperity would be laid at the same time. It was essential to the success of the bill that the system it proposed to inaugurate be popular, and that while it be universal in its adaptation to the wants of the country, it should have no semblance of compulsion. If it be not made universal the great experiment of free institutions and responsible government in this colony as in others will be a great failure. The national system had been called “godless,” but there was nothing in the national system to prevent ministers of religion from affording religious instruction to the scholars under their respective charges at convenient hours and in proper places. He cordially supported the bill, which was worthy in every respect of the framers of the Grammar Schools Bill, which bore testimony to their learning and abilities. He was sorry, however, that the Colonial Secretary had expressed himself slightly of classical education, and he was surprised that a gentleman who had given to the house such proofs of his acquaintance with classics, and of the benefits that were to be derived from them, should have spoken as he did regarding them. It had been objected that the bill allowed too much power to the board of education, but he considered the objection groundless. The bill fixed the system under which the board was to act. That system was well defined and well understood, and whatever rules or regulations the board might think proper to make, they would have to conform to the system and would not be sanctioned if they were opposed to it. It had been said that ministers will not go to the national schools, but they refused for the simple reason that the denominational system was in force, and each clergyman desired to destroy the national system in order that he might convert his school into a mere proselytising establishment. But if they established one universal system, and founded schools open to all on fair and equitable principles, the denominational schools would be swamped forthwith, and it was the interest of the public that they should go down as speedily as possible. Some figures had been given which might be correct in themselves, but which evidently conveyed a wrong impression. The denominational schools in New South Wales cost only £14,666 and educated 14,429 children, while the national schools educated only 4752 children and cost about £20,000, and it was concluded that therefore education under the one system cost the country about four times as much as under the other. But it had been forgotten that the £20,000 included the cost of the erection of schools, was an

item which was not reckoned in the case of the denominational establishments, and therefore it was unfair to say that in the one case education was four times cheaper than in the other. None but the purely national and unsectarian system could receive the support of the voluntaries who conscientiously opposed grants in aid of religion : and he hoped, therefore, that the suggestions that had been thrown out by the hon. member for north Brisbane (Mr. Raff), would meet the approval of the house and be carried in committee. The denominational system fostered bigotry or sectarianism, which it is the peculiar glory of its rival to break down and destroy, and he trusted no system countenancing either bigotry or sectarianism would receive the sanction of the house. While he conscientiously held to his own views, and believed his own peculiar creed to be the best in the world, he had the profoundest respect for the conscientious opinions of those who were opposed to him. He desired nothing more for his own creed than complete freedom ; and that freedom he willingly accorded to others.

Mr. TAYLOR said that he rose under great disadvantages after the eloquent speech of the hon. member who had just sat down ; and he hoped, therefore, the house would bear with him while he expressed in few words his opinions with regard to the present bill. He was surprised at the course that had been pursued by the hon. member for East Moreton (Mr. Buckley) with regard to this measure, and wondered why he, who lately professed himself so staunch a voluntary, should oppose the national, and advocate the establishment of the denominational system of education. That hon. gentleman had compared the workings of the two systems in Sydney ; and no doubt considered he had made out a good case. But let him look nearer home, and he would find that in Queensland, in the city of Brisbane, that denominational schools had been tried and failed, while those under the national system had admirably succeeded. The national school in Brisbane was a great triumph, and spoke well for the system. He had been called a great economist, but he assured the house that there was no member of it who would be prepared to sanction a larger expenditure in aid of national schools than himself. He considered that next to squattng the prosperity of the country depended on the establishment of schools. (A laugh.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, before the question was put, would remark that he had but little to say in addition to what had already fallen from hon. members in favor of the bill. He had no doubt of its being purely national in its principles, and he hoped it would meet with the approbation of both houses. It was true the board had a great responsibility placed upon it, but with the bill for its guidance, he thought full confidence might be placed in the gentlemen constituting it. The national system of education was the only one that could be properly carried out in a colony like this ; it would tend materially to unity of feeling among the various sects, the effects of which would be seen in the next generation more fully than now, and the state would then have the proud satisfaction of knowing that it had done its duty by providing for the education of the young, in the increased morality that he had no hesitation in saying would prevail. He believed that crime would be diminished, our gaols freed from criminals to a very great extent, and that moral tone be dominant without which no state could hope to flourish. He must not forget, however, that education would not be complete without the religious element, and the national system, without in any manner interfering with the peculiarities of any sect of religionists, provided for the highly important subject by giving facilities for religious instruction. He fully coincided with the sentiment that had fallen from the hon. member for Western Downs (Mr. Taylor), that parents should give religious instruction to their children at home, and would refer to a passage in an essay he had been reading which treated upon home education. It said, that, home gave the truest and deepest religious teaching. One moment's reflection would bring the force of this proposition home to the minds of all, and he trusted that one of the effects of the present bill would be to bring about that state of things when home education would be more imparted than now. From the simple, yet comprehensive form of prayer laid down in the national system, a great amount of religious instruction was conveyed, and the phraseology was such, that it was in no single point sectarian ; in fact, this bill, which was identical with the national system, provided for religious training without giving cause of complaint to any denomination. In reference to clause 7, referred to by Mr. Raff, he should have no objection whatever to its being remodelled, in such a way that there could be no doubt about the bill being thoroughly national in its principle. He would, however, explain that five days of the week were to be devoted to secular education, and that the Saturday was to be a holiday, or, if patrons like to make this a day for

imparting religious instruction by the various ministers, and the parents were agreeable, opportunity would be afforded for doing so. This was in his opinion the meaning of the clause, but he would offer no opposition to the view held by the hon. member, for with the zeal and efficiency displayed by the denominations around them in the Sunday School field of labour, he had no fear that religious instruction would not be carefully, and, he hoped, successfully imparted. After Mr. Jordan's speech, in which the question had been so ably treated, he would not take up more of the time of the house, but would conclude by expressing his intention of supporting the bill.

The question that the bill be read a second time was then put and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY then moved that the committal of the bill should stand an order of the day for Friday next, and the motion was put and passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The SPEAKER read a message from the Legislative Council to the effect that Sir C. Nicholson, Hon. A.W. Compigne, and Hon. J. Balfour had been appointed members of the committee in reference to the Exhibition of 1862.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in rising to move the adjournment of the house till to-morrow, would again mention the subject of a fortnight's adjournment. This was desirable, inasmuch as little could be done by the house until the committees then sitting had brought up their reports, and he had no doubt that three weeks after their meeting again the business of the present year would be completed.

Mr. BUCKLEY would caution the members of the committees that they had still to attend to their duties, and that the adjournment would be no holiday for them.

Mr. LILLEY would draw the attention of the Colonial Secretary to the fact that the house expected some further land bills to be introduced by him.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that he would be prepared to introduce two bills, one for the sale, and the other for the leasing, of lands.

The house then adjourned until to-morrow (this day) at 3 p.m.