

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

...
Legislative Council
2nd August 1860
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 4th August 1860

The President took the chair at half-past 4 o'clock, and opened the proceedings with prayer.

LIEN ON WOOL BILL.

Captain O'CONNELL moved the re-committal of this bill, with the view of amending one or two of its clauses.

After some discussion, in which Captain O'Connell, Mr. Balfour, and Sir Charles Nicholson took part, the 10th clause was amended by adding the words, "Provided that all such transfers by endorsement shall be registered within thirty days after the date thereof, in the office of such registrar."

The clause, as amended, was then put and passed, and the house resumed.

The adoption of the report was fixed as an order of the day for Tuesday next.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS BILL.

Captain O'CONNELL moved that this bill be read a second time, and, in doing so, said it was merely a sequel to the Primary Education Bill passed by that house, and was designed to give to those who might desire it a higher education than could be afforded by the Primary Schools. It was a matter of the greatest importance that a system of this kind should be established on a broad and permanent foundation, and therefore it was not difficult to perceive that the creation of primary schools; such as were contemplated under the other bill, would be found extremely useful in carrying out the great objects now proposed to be accomplished. The hon. and gallant member then proceeded to describe in detail the various clauses of the bill much to the same effect as in the Assembly. He pointed out that according to the first the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, would, in the event of persons in any locality subscribing £1000 for the creation of a grammar school, be empowered to supplement the same by a sum not exceeding twice that amount, in the shape of a grant from the consolidated revenue. Thus £3000 would be available for the building of a grammar school and head master's residence in each district of the colony where the conditions stated had been complied with. The second clause provided for the appointment of trustees, which was to be the conjoint act of the government and the donors. Those trustees, who would have the management of the funds, would retire periodically, in order to allow of new blood being infused into the system, in the same way as had been provided for in the Primary Education Bill. The third clause provided an annual endowment of £500 from the public revenue, to be devoted to the payment of masters and the current expenses of the school. This provision he thought would be ample for the purposes contemplated, and as it had been agreed to in the Assembly, he imagined there would be no opposition to it in that house. The 4th section was a very important one, inasmuch as it empowered the government, so soon as school fees amount to £250 a year had been promised by responsible persons for a period of three years, to reserve from the grant of £500 a sum not exceeding ten per cent. for the establishment of scholarships, the annual value of which to be

determined by the Governor in Council at any British or Australian University. The 5th clause was also important. It provided for a permanent land endowment of the schools to an extent not exceeding £2000, the lands granted to be selected from the district in which the school was situate. The 7th section enacted that the profits of the land should be deducted from the annual grant of £500, and when equal in amount the annual grant should cease altogether. The 8th clause was perhaps the most important, in so far that it empowered the trustees to make regulations, upon which nearly the whole management and success of the schools would depend.

The motion having been seconded,

Dr. FULLERTON said he entirely concurred in the spirit and intentions of the bill, which, in his opinion, were highly laudable. Nothing was more likely to do good and elevate the intellectual and moral condition of the community than a bill of this kind. There were only two sections to which he took exception. By the first clause it was enacted as follows:—"If at any time hereafter and so often as a sum of not less than £1000 shall have been raised by donation or subscription in any district, for the purpose of establishing a public grammar school within such district, it shall in every such case, upon the written application of the donor or subscribers of the said sum, be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of his Executive Council, by warrant under his hand, to direct to be issued from time to time, out of the general revenue of the colony, and paid to trustees to be appointed as hereinafter provided, a sum or sums not exceeding in the whole twice the amount." Looking at this clause for a moment, it was not difficult to perceive that any rich gentleman by subscribing £1000 would become entitled to the £2000 and £500 a year promised by the government, and thus possess himself of a school for his own family exclusively. Hence the money intended for public would be devoted to provide education. It appeared to him that a provision of this kind might lead to the grossest abuses. It was in fact a species of class legislation to the detriment of the great masses of the community, and for the benefit of the rich, who least required it. He contended that in order to guard against the abuse referred to, some conditions as to sufficiency of population ought to be introduced. [It was here explained that as the money could only be granted with the approval of the Governor, and only expended by trustees, in the appointment of whom the governor had an equal share, there was scarcely any probability of such a misappropriation occurring]. He thought, however, that such an arrangement was objectionable on the ground that it would throw a very awkward onus on the government and the parties acting under them. The hon. gentleman also considered that the sum of £500 would not be sufficient to defray the salaries of teachers; each school at the least would require half-a-dozen masters, namely—one for classics, one for modern languages, one for mathematics, one for bookkeeping, one to teach writing and drawing, and one for English and geography. If they desired to make the school complete, they ought also to have a teacher of dancing; in fact, to make it thoroughly complete, they would require something like a dozen masters. The next provision to which he objected was that contained in the 4th section, which empowered the Governor, so soon as the school fees shall have amounted to £250, to reserve from the annual endowment of £500 ten per cent. for the establishment of scholarships. He had always doubted the expediency of scholarships such as were proposed, because he generally found that it was not the man of merit, but the pert impudent fellow who got the prize. But what he particularly objected to was that these scholarships should be created by deducting from the £500 set apart for the teachers' salaries, and the defrayal of the ordinary school expenses. The sum allowed for this purpose was already too little, and if ten per cent. were deducted from it annually in the manner proposed, he was afraid the salaries of the teachers would be reduced to so low a standard that gentlemen of competency would not be found to discharge the duties. Indeed he thought it would be an act of cruelty to reduce the salaries of the teachers to any lower standard than that which would necessarily result from the small endowment provided in the bill. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman said he entirely agreed with all the other parts of the bill.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the school fees would also be available for the remuneration of masters.

Mr. YALDWYN cordially agreed with nearly all the provisions of the bill. As for the objection raised that a rich gentleman might procure a school exclusively for his family by subscribing £1000 out of his own pocket and thus entitling himself to the £2000 of public money he did not think there was any probability of such a case happening so long as the government had the power of approval or rejection. He agreed, however, with the last speaker that it would be too bad to take ten per cent off the salaries of the teachers for the purpose of establishing scholarships.

Captain O'CONNELL briefly replied, after which the motion was put and passed without a division.

The committal of the bill was fixed by Tuesday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Captain O'CONNELL remarked that as it was the intention of the government in the other house to move an adjournment for 14 days from Tuesday next, and as it was now desirable that the bills now in progress should be received and disposed of by the Council during the interval in order that they might adjourn on the same day, he now proposed the suspension of the sessional and other orders bearing on the subject with a view to moving that the house adjourn until half-past 10 o'clock on Saturday morning.

The proposition was agreed to, and the house accordingly adjourned.