

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

...
Legislative Council
7th August 1860
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 9th August 1860

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

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS BILL.

On the motion of Captain O'CONNELL, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering this bill in detail.

Captain O'CONNELL, in moving the first clause, stated that as some objection had been raised to the condition which might enable a person, by subscribing £1000, to claim from the government a bonus of £2000 for the establishment of a grammar school in any particular district, with a view merely to private instruction, he proposed to insert a proviso rendering it necessary that school fees to the amount of £250 per annum be promised by responsible persons for the period of three years. This, he explained, was simply an adoption of a proviso contained in another part of the bill.

Sir CHARLES NICHOLSON was of opinion that the amendment would render the bill perfectly nugatory. Who, for instance, would guarantee school fees to the extent of £250 for a period of three years, without knowing who the master was to be, or how the school was to be conducted? With regard to the abuse supposed to result from the operation of the clause in its present form, he pointed out that the government had full power to approve or reject any offer that might be made for the establishment of grammar schools, and that, consequently, the amendment proposed would give no additional guarantee, whilst it would tend very materially to emasculate the bill.

Dr. FULLERTON was still of opinion that the clause in its present shape would open up an avenue to abuse by enabling rich persons, for their own private purposes, to establish grammar schools at the public expense. He thought the power of approval and rejection reposed in the government would entail too much trouble and a degree of responsibility altogether unnecessary. With a view to establishing the condition of population, as he suggested on a former occasion, he proposed to amend the clause by inserting the word "municipal" before "district," which he thought would give some guarantee of an adequate number of scholars. He maintained that no district was worthy of a grammar school which was not capable of supporting a municipality, and that the fact of its being a municipality was in itself an assurance of a sufficient population. Nothing could be more injurious to the progress of education than a large number of grammar schools inadequately supported. It would be better to have one good school than a dozen bad ones. (Hear, hear.)

Sir C. NICHOLSON and Mr. GALLOWAY agreed with the latter portion of the remarks of the hon. member who had just addressed the house.

Captain O'CONNELL explained that his proposition at £10 a year would only require a guarantee of 25 scholars, which he thought was by no means too large a number to warrant the disbursement proposed by the government. He contended further that no district was entitled to a

grammar school which could not furnish 25 scholars. He thought, moreover, that the amendment for confining the establishment of grammar schools to municipalities would have the effect of excluding the pastoral districts and thereby inflict a gross injustice on a large proportion of the community. Finding, however, that the sense of the house was against him, he would withdraw the amendment.

The amendment of Dr. Fullerton for the insertion of the word "municipal" before "district" was then put and passed.

On the motion of Captain O'CONNELL, the word "corresponding" was introduced into the same clause before the words "sum or sums," so as to compel the government to grant an amount in proportion to that subscribed.

The clause as amended was then passed.

Clause 2 was amended, on the motion of Dr. FULLERTON, in accordance with the amendment made in the 1st clause. The same clause was also verbally amended, on the motion of Mr. GALLOWAY, and passed.

Clause 3, granting an annual endowment of £500 a year, was passed without opposition.

On clause 4 being proposed, which authorises a deduction of ten per cent annually from the £500 provided in the former section, Dr. FULLERTON spoke in opposition to the same effect as on the occasion of the second reading, and concluded by moving that it be expunged.

Sir CHARLES NICHOLSON supported the clause, and expressed his opinion that it was one of the best parts of the bill.

After some discussion, the motion was put and negatived, and the clause carried.

The remaining sections, with some verbal alterations, were put and passed without opposition.

The house then resumed, and the adoption of the report was fixed as an order for the following day.

LIEN ON WOOL BILL.

On the motion of Captain O'CONNELL the report was adopted, and the third reading fixed for the following day.

ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS WITH NEW SOUTH WALES.

Captain O'CONNELL moved the second reading of this bill, and in doing so explained that it had been framed on the resolutions recently passed by both houses.

Mr. GALLOWAY was in favor of the measure, but at the same time he would like to have a copy of the New South Wales bill laid on the table of the house.

The motion was then put and passed, and the committal fixed for the next day.

The house adjourned at five minutes to six until half-past four o'clock the next day.