

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
28th August 1860**
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Moreton Bay Courier 30th August 1860

The Speaker took the chair at 25 minutes past three o'clock and read prayers.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY the Grammar Schools Bill as amended by the Assembly after it had been considered by the Council was ordered to be carried to that chamber with the customary message.

LIEN ON WOOL BILL.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL the Lien on Wool Bill, as similarly amended by the Assembly, was ordered to be carried with a message to the Legislative Council.

LIBEL BILL.

On the motion of Mr. BLAKENEY, the Libel Bill received from the Legislative Council, was read a first time, and ordered to be printed and read a second time on Tuesday next.

EXPRESS MAIL TO IPSWICH.

Mr. BROUGHTON moved, pursuant to notice, That this house will on Wednesday next resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider of an address to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause an additional sum of £100 to be placed on the estimates for the year 1861 for the express mail service between Brisbane and Ipswich. He thought that the claims of the second city in the colony, with regard to its mail service should meet with better consideration from the government than they had hitherto received. Before separation the mail for Ipswich was sorted in Sydney and forwarded by the first opportunity immediately after its arrival in Brisbane. Now, however, both letters and papers had to be sorted here and while the letters only were forwarded by the express mail, the delivery of the newspapers both from Sydney and England was delayed for sometimes a whole day and a half. A single pack-horse was now employed in conveying the express mail, and he (Mr. Broughton) thought that arrangements which would not cost much, but which would confer a great boon on the people of Ipswich, might be made for employing an additional pack-horse for the conveyance of newspapers.

Mr. FORBES seconded the motion.

At the request of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the hon. mover withdrew his resolution, as the Government contemplated a change in the postal arrangements with reference to the Ipswich mail. When the alteration had been made the house would be in a better position to judge of the expediency or necessity of the proposed vote.

IMMIGRATION.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER the consideration of the report of the Select Committee on Immigration was postponed till Thursday, as the documents had not yet issued from the press.

ALIENATION OF THE CROWN LANDS BILL.

In moving the second reading of this bill the COLONIAL SECRETARY said, in speaking to the question before the house, he would content himself with referring to those main principles which were the subject of general discussion throughout the colony, and which were embodied in the bill. Those principles were, the maintenance of the upset price of £1 per acre ; the remission in land of the passage money of immigrants arriving in this colony from the United Kingdom or from Germany ; the granting of a bonus for the encouragement of the cultivation of cotton ; and the reservation of blocks of agricultural land to be opened up for free selection at a fixed price of one pound per acre. Many clauses of the bill were adopted after considering the systems at present in force in the neighbouring colonies, and the reforms that had been proposed in their different legislatures. The government did not take credit for embodying any original ideas in the measure, but trusted that the house would agree with them in considering that what was good in other systems had been continued, and what was objectionable expunged. The object of any land bill must be the settlement of the country, and therefore the question of immigration must be considered as intimately connected with the question of immigration ; and in order to induce people to leave England and come and settle here, the land system of the colony must be based on liberal principles, and made as attractive as possible. He was opposed to the reduction of the upset price of land from £1 per acre, and could see no force in the arguments that had been adduced in favor of the reduction by gentlemen who advocated a change in the present system. If we looked to the other colonies we should find that the exodus of gold-seekers from England to Victoria was migratory and fluctuating, and the government attempted to bring in a bill that would settle the population, but were unsuccessful in the attempt. There the upset price was not so much objected to as the difficulties in the way of acquiring the land, and all that was desired was the passing of such a measure as would provide for the settlement of the country, and the checking of the fluctuating disposition of the people. The people of that colony had suffered severely from repeated ministerial crises, and now looked to Queensland for the settlement of the long vexed land question, and as a place where they might find employment for their capital, and homesteads for their families, on easy and equitable terms. Again, the Victorian Government did not consider it necessary to expend money in the introduction of immigrants, because they came in hundreds of thousands from the mother country, attracted by the discoveries of gold, and those persons who were brought to the country at the expense of other colonies found their way to Victoria influenced by the superior attractions that colony was supposed to present. Feeling that such was the case, and that they gained but little by expending money on immigration, New South Wales and South Australia had in a great measure discontinued sending money to England for the importation of labour. Queensland, however, was differently situated, and must continue to expend money on immigration ; but in such a manner as that the colony would reap all the benefit of the expenditure, and with a view to keep the people in the colony, and promote its permanent settlement when they arrived here. If the people in England could not pay for their passage out, of course, without assistance from the colony, they could not come here at all ; and if they could pay to emigrate they would go to Canada or the other colonies rather than come here. They had great objections to perform a long voyage, with a view to obtain agricultural land even of superior quality when they could obtain it much nearer home, and at less cost in reaching it. It was argued that if we lowered the price of our agricultural land to what it was sold for in Canada or the Cape, we should be able to compete successfully with those colonies in inducing people to come and settle in our territory. He (Mr. Herbert) denied the validity of the assertion. If we did nothing but reduce the price of our land to 5s. per acre, we still would not be able to compete with Canada, whose climate was preferred by Englishmen as more akin in character to their own, which was closer at hand, and could be reached in shorter time, and at less cost. One class in this colony advocated the reduction of the upset price of land with a view to the promotion of agricultural pursuits and of the settlement of the country. Another class took the same view, but with a different object, and that object was to create a landed aristocracy in the colony, with vast domains and large bodies of tenants ; while a third party wanted a reduction in order to make a great profit by speculating in landed property. Agricultural land, however, in the neighbourhood of

towns, was of limited extent, and consequently of enhanced value, therefore there was no necessity, in order to promote the settlement of the country, to lower the price to 5s. per acre. Again, there was nothing to warrant us in supposing that a landed gentry would be formed here by the mere reduction of the upset price. Persons would be inclined to speculate with a view to make money, and would leave the colony when they had made their fortunes. As for the third class of persons to whom he had referred as desiring a reduction in the upset price of land, he (the Col. Secretary) thought their view would not meet with favor in that house or form the country. The people generally had an abhorrence of this class of mere land jobbers, and their views ought not to be countenanced in that house. In New Zealand the land system was considered satisfactory when the upset price was maintained at £1 per acre. The gold discoveries in the other colonies, however, took away the people, and, in consequence, Sir George Grey reduced the price, when speculators stepped in and purchased large tracts of country, hoping to gain a considerable profit by re-selling to small capitalists. New Zealand did not owe her present agricultural position to the lowness of the price of land, but to the granting of land orders in lieu of passage money to persons immigrating to the colony from England ; and he (the Colonial Secretary) thought this excellent feature in the New Zealand system should be adopted in Queensland. In Tasmania a cheap land system prevailed, but no benefit accrued to the country in consequence, as the gold fields in the other colonies presented inducements to the people which they had hitherto been incapable of resisting. By lowering the price of land in Queensland, those who had purchased land up to this time would find their property depreciated in value, and themselves placed at considerable disadvantage. Under the present bill, the immigrant arriving in the colony from Europe would, if he paid for 40 acres, obtain a pre-emptive right over additional blocks after occupying his farm for two or three years. If he paid for his passage, he would have a remission in the price of land to the extent of his passage money ; and if he obtained that advantage with the additional right of pre-emption, he might well afford to pay one pound per acre for his land. The question of the price of land had been discussed by a committee of the House of Commons on colonisation, of which the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Mr. Molesworth, and other gentlemen of large experience were members. These gentlemen, instead of being in favour of a reduction in the price of land, were in favour of an increase. The opinion of such gentlemen was worthy of consideration, and he hoped it would be duly weighed by the house. It had been objected to clauses 10 and 11 that the agricultural reserves were not clearly defined by the bill ; but the people had their protection, even under these clauses ; for if they wanted land they would have it, and the government would be compelled to grant it to them. (Cheers.) The power proposed to be granted to the Governor was apparently optional in its exercise, but was in reality compulsory when the pressure from without was duly considered. It would be observed that the bill proposed to extend the advantages to be derived under it, as far as immigrants were concerned, to Germans as well as English ; and he (the Colonial Secretary) considered that the advantages might be beneficially extended to all Europeans, as the colony would derive large benefit from their immigration and settlement in the territory. It was proposed to allow a remission in the land to immigrants to the extent of £15 for each statute adult, for his passage money to the colony, and to compel him to remain two years in the country before he could avail himself of the advantages accruing under the bill. Although the passage out might cost more, he thought, taking the cost of survey into consideration, and the many other advantages that would accrue to the immigrants, that the remission proposed would be amply sufficient to meet all the wants of the case. It was provided not only that the immigrant paying his own passage should have a remission of his purchase money in land, but that those gentlemen who imported labor at their own charges should be allowed an equivalent in land for the cost of passage out of the laborers. With regard to the public meeting that had taken place on a recent occasion, he would say that that meeting, although representing the opinions of those who attended at the meeting, did not represent the opinions of the colony generally, and was not to be considered as representing the opinions of even the majority of the people of Brisbane. On the part of the government he would object to any postponement of the present bill on account of that meeting, as he was prepared to have the question settled at once. It was of the utmost importance that this important question should be immediately settled ; and he (the Colonial Secretary) was prepared to finish the

discussion at once. If the upset price were not to be maintained the land sales would come to a dead lock, as no person would speculate in land at the rate of £1 per acre who thought that the upset price would be lowered to 5s. per acre. Again, if provision were not immediately made for the introduction of a large body of emigrants, the colony would suffer from the scarcity of labour, and we should occupy a rearward instead of a forward position amongst the colonies. It had been said by the press that if this bill were not carried the ministry would resign. He did not know on what authority the press made this statement. He could only say that if the bill were rejected, the government would come down to the house in a fair and open manner and state explicitly what course they intended to pursue. The government had not yet considered the question, and therefore they could have arrived at no definite conclusion as to what course they would pursue if the bill were rejected. If the government felt that they had lost the confidence of the house they would come down fairly and frankly and state that they could no longer hold office, and would request the house to relieve them of their responsibility. The hon. member concluded with moving the second reading of the bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded the motion.

Mr. MACALISTER having paid some attention to the arguments of the Colonial Secretary, could not feel himself bound to attach much value to them, as they were of little weight in themselves. That hon. gentleman had stated that to lower the price of land would not conduce to the settlement of the country, and he had instanced the fact in support of his argument that the Victorian government had given over importing immigrants at the public expense. This fact went against instead of in favour of the argument, for if, with an upset price of £1 per acre it was found unnecessary to labour, or to offer a free passage to emigrants from England, surely much less would such a cause be necessary if the land were reduced in price to five shillings an acre. In Queensland the settlement of the land question was everything, and upon it depended the future prosperity of the country. When it was remembered how liberally the house had dealt with the squatters, and what ample provision had been made for their benefit, he thought they should deal in the same liberal spirit with the agriculturists, and endeavour to frame the present bill, so as to advance as much as possible another great and important interest. He would like to see such a measure framed as would enable the government to say to the people of England here is land in abundance offered on liberal terms, come and occupy it. He had been unable to perceive in the present bill any such recommendation to the people of England. It certainly provided for the importation at the expense of the colony of old military and naval officers whose services would be of little use to the country. He would like to know why the advantages proposed to be confined to those gentlemen had not been extended to the gallant Queensland volunteers and to the equally invincible constabulary force of the colony. With regard to the clause which had been inserted with a view to promote the growth of cotton, he found that every inducement was held out to the large speculator and but little encouragement as usual was offered to the poor man, whose existence was systematically ignored by the bill. The reservation of agricultural areas would tend to prevent rather than promote the settlement of the country ; for who would take up country at a pound an acre on the terms proposed in the bill, that could purchase land at auction on more advantageous terms. The bill proposed to place too much power in the hands of the Executive in granting it authority to proclaim what lands shall be reserved from the operation of the auction system. It was not calculated to promote immigration, and consequently it was not calculated to promote the settlement of the country. In the present condition of affairs it was an insult to the common sense of the house to propose such a miserable measure, and he therefore moved as an amendment on the original motion that the bill be read again that day six months.

Mr. JORDAN seconded the amendment.

Mr. RAFF did not consider he would do his duty if he gave a silent vote on the all-important question before the house, and he would therefore proceed to give his reasons for supporting the amendment and for opposing the bill. Whatever might be the result of the debate, he had no doubt that those gentlemen who had introduced the bill were actuated by right motives, however much they might have erred in judgment. The legislature of the colony was but of recent

construction, and up to the present time the government had nothing but calms and sunshine. But after this pleasant state of things they might expect storms, and these storms had now arisen. There was great necessity for keeping up a strong and wholesome opposition to the government, as, in consequence of the quiet that had characterised their tenure of office, they had grown careless and inconsiderate, and steered the state ship out of smooth waters among rocks and breakers. The bill now under discussion he considered to be the worst that had ever been introduced, under responsible government, in these colonies. The government might suppose that they were securing for a party favourable to themselves a magnificent property in the state, but this system of enlightened selfishness would operate eventually against rather than in favour of the bill ; for it will inflict a grievous wrong on the public, and will consequently redound to the prejudice of those it professes to serve. The Colonial Secretary could not possibly imagine that the colonists of Victoria would see in this bill any improvement on existing arrangements. They would call it rather a bill to provide for corruption, as it left too much power in the hands of the Executive, and was apparently only intended to be made suitable to the provisions of another bill just laid on the table, which gave over the whole of the country now held under lease for five years to come, and for five years additional, the option of the Executive. That bill provided that a person should be selected by the government to fix the value of the runs, and on his valuation the rental was to be fixed. Now, if such a system were to be allowed, all the squatting members would be liable to be at the beck and call of the government, and they would be enabled, with their support, to carry whatever measures they pleased. As to the clause establishing agricultural reserves, the people would regard it as a sham, which it certainly was, for it only granted the power of the government to proclaim them, while it did not compel proclamation, or state what tracts of country were to be proclaimed. Now again, with regard to the intention to promote the growth of cotton, it was evident to all that the great difficulty hitherto in the way of embarking in such an undertaking, was the fact that the cultivation was new to the majority of the people ; and no one, therefore, would embark in it who would not be certain of receiving adequate remuneration for his outlay of capital. The cultivation of this article was attended with considerable expense, and no one could possibly be induced to engage in it on the miserable terms proposed by the bill. He (Mr. Raff) was of opinion that the premium should be paid, not to the farmer, but to the exporter of cotton, as, if it were not, no person for a long time to come would consider it worth his while, for the sake of the pitiable pittance provided for in the bill, to grow cotton on any large scale. It appeared to him that the facts adduced by the Colonial Secretary, with reference to the price of land in Canada, told against rather than in favor of his argument for the maintenance of a high price here. With all the great inducements which people had to emigrate to that colony, over and above what they had to come hither, the price of land should certainly be much lower here than there ; and he could only consider that the bill, in its present shape, instead of tending to promote the settlement of the country, would only doubly lock up the lands and absolutely prevent their occupation. The hon. member then proceeded to comment on the system of survey at present in operation, and characterised it as excessively expensive and grossly incorrect. He considered that it would be advisable to survey the whole country, and sell the good and bad land together, so as to secure the disposal and settlement of the whole of the country, and a less costly and more correct apportionment of allotments.

The COLONIAL TREASURER said, after attentively listening for a long time to the rambling, intemperate, illogical, and incoherent speech of the hon. member who had just resumed his seat, he was at a loss to perceive what arguments he had adduced in opposition to the bill. He had made a great many assertions not one of which he had substantiated by anything like reasoning or argument ; and he had made grave charges against the government which he was incapable of proving. It had been said that in order to compete with Canada the price of land should be reduced to five shillings an acre ; but if the lands in Queensland were given away for nothing and a bonus of five shillings an acre were granted to agriculturists to settle upon them, still we would not be able to enter into competition with Canada, which presented greater and more numerous attractions than could possibly be presented here. People would continue to emigrate to that colony, because, if the small expense of the passage out and its neighbourhood

to the mother country in spite of the character of Queensland for more genial climate and for less densely timbered country. As for New Zealand, no sane person would be disposed to dispute the assertion that under present circumstances immigrants would prefer 30- acres of land in Queensland to 40 there. Besides, from the evidence of Captain Frith before the select committee on immigration it would be perceived that although the inducements held out to the people in the mother country to emigrate to New Zealand were apparently very great and encouraging, yet they did not find their expectations by any means realised on their arrival in that colony. The land promised them was good, but what they got was bad, being inferior in soil, on thickly timbered ranges, in the neighbourhood of a savage population, and generally unproductive. The colony of South Australia had been settled under the auction system and the upset price of one pound per acre, and Queensland was not inferior to that colony either in its agricultural or pastoral resources, or in the character of its climate. If, then, the one pound per acre system had operated so beneficially there, it was not to be presumed, without good reason or evidence, that it would operate prejudicially here. Again, if land were sold at five shillings per acre the squatters would purchase the whole of their runs, and the evil which the people greatly deprecated would at once be created, by the establishment of a large class of wealthy landlords who would have the country entirely at their disposal. It was a paltry idea to reduce the price of land here for the sake of entering into successful competition with the other colonies. It was a miserable shopkeeper-style of doing business to advertise a great attraction, a great reduction, and to adopt the ticketing system in dealing with our waste lands. He did not consider, taking all things into account, one pound per acre was too much to charge for agricultural lands in Queensland. When it was remembered that property which was worth only £4000 in Sydney now realised £100,000, and that in Camden in New South Wales, where people believed the land to be worth nothing a few years ago, that land was now yielding an annual rental of from ten shillings to a pound per acre, hon. members should consider that the same increase in value would occur here, and that no man who really desired to farm would grudge one pound per acre for good agricultural lands. Besides, a large proportion of the entire revenue of the colony was derived from the sale of land, and the colony could not afford at once to part with that revenue. The hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Raff) forgot altogether to state what the real inducements are that are held out to persons in the mother country to immigrate to Queensland. He said that they would receive only thirty acres of land, but did not explain that they would have each in addition the privilege of exercising that very pre-emptive right over a considerable average which had been denied to the squatter. He (Mr. Mackenzie) denied that the government were seeking the support of squatting members of that house, and warned hon. members that, if this bill were rejected, it would be a long time before they saw a more liberal bill introduced.

Mr. GORE, as the representative of a large country constituency, considered that he would fail in this duty if he did not give expression to his opinions on the question before the house. The people generally were not in favor of a reduction in the price of land. Before his constituents on the hustings he had openly expressed himself in favor of the upset price of one pound per acre, and that expression of opinion had never been called in question, and its validity had never been denied by his constituents. All that the people desired was to obtain the land at a fixed price in order to gratify that longing that existed in the heart of every Englishman to possess himself of a homestead, and to be the proprietor of a certain property in land. Lately, while he was on a visit to Warwick, he was asked by a gentleman on the road if there was any likelihood of a reduction in the price of land, and never having heard of any agitation to effect such a reduction he replied confidently that there was none. The cry that had been raised for reduction was of recent origin and was not participated in by the people in the country districts, and however much he might respect the opinions of individuals he would be careful in considering without good authority whether the opinions advanced by a few were the opinions of the whole country. If he were of opinion that the principles advocated by hon. members opposite would operate beneficially for the country, or would promote its settlement, he would have no hesitation in agreeing to them ; but as he had heard no sufficient reasons adduced in favor of the views of the opposition he would continue to uphold the present upset price at a pound per acre. The hon. member for North

Brisbane, instead of advancing arguments in favor of his views, spoke largely of corruption, and spoke with no shadow of reason. He would like to know what persons could be more advantageously entrusted with the powers proposed to be conferred by the bill than the ministers of the crown, who were collectively and individually directly responsible to the house and to the country. If those gentlemen failed in their duty, or abused their powers, they would be ejected from office by a vote of the legislature. And if they were guilty of corruption, they could be impeached and punished for their offence. the hon. member for North Brisbane was also incorrect when he stated that the lands could be surveyed at sixpence per acre. In large blocks for the large speculator they might be inexpensively surveyed, but for the small capitalist in small farms it was absolutely impossible, in a country like this, that they could be accurately surveyed at so low a rate. The hon. member was also severe on the government for the premium they had proposed for the growth of cotton. If the house agreed to the principle of the premium that was enough at the present moment to agree upon. The mere details could be considered and altered, if it were thought necessary, in committee, and yet the main features of the bill would suffer no mutilation or amendment. He thought, however, it would be found a difficult thing for that hon. member if his suggestion were adopted, to calculate the fraction of the proposed premium that would fall to the share of each of his cotton growing customers. The hon. member concluded with stating that he did not doubt that the house would affirm the principles of the bill, and that he would oppose the amendment of the hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. Macalister.)

Mr. JORDAN said that in any bill brought before the house for the alienation of Crown lands, the price fixed for the disposal of the land must be the most important feature of the measure. He should offer no apology for expressing his own views on this point, believing it to be one of vital importance. We needed not to be reminded that at the end of every year the population of Britain, after deducting the thousands who emigrated to other countries, was more by 150,000 than at the beginning of the year ; that there was not a proportionate increase of employment ; that fresh work could not be found for as many pair of hands as there were fresh mouths to feed ; that, in a word, England was over-populated, and this with its attendant evils of hunger, misery, and demoralisation, had grown into a frightful disease, requiring prompt attention and strong remedies. We knew that the earnest attention of some of our greatest statesmen had latterly been directed to this question. Many remedies had been suggested, but that which had been regarded as the one great remedy was colonisation. (Cheers.) The hon. member read some extracts from a speech of Sir Charles Buller, delivered in the House of Commons pertinent to the question. He proceeded to say that, immediately connected with this question of emigration to the colonies was the question of the price of land in the colonies. A theory of emigration which had been popular at home—the Wakefield theory—was a system for assisting the very poorest to emigrate, by means of funds provided by the sale of land in the colonies disposed of at a high price. The machinery of this system had been organised some years since, and the upset price of colonial lands fixed at £1 per acre by Act of Parliament. Since then the Imperial Government had acted more wisely and given the disposal of the lands into the hands of the colonial legislature. The feeling in favor of 20s. as the uniform upset price of colonial lands still, however, obtained among capitalists at home, and they were strongly of opinion that price ought to be kept up. They reasoned thus,—we must relieve this burden, “heated populations are always at the mercy of accidents—in the body politics a scratch may prove fatal when the blood is diseased ;” we must relieve this plethora of population ; our surplus capital, too, wants employment ; we will assist the poorest to emigrate—those who would be a burden at home ; they will supply labor, and thus enable us profitably to invest our capital in the colonies. They have two objects in view,—to keep small capitalists at home, and to supply the large English capitalist with cheap labor in the colonies. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member here proceeded at considerable length, shewing by sound argument that the true policy of the colonies was exactly the opposite of that propounded by these Wakefield theorists—adducing the history of American colonization in proof of the advantage derived by encouraging the immigration of small capitalists, who might possess from £20 to £500 on their arrival. The speaker dwelt upon the advantage which had resulted to England, as shown by her exports of thirty millions annually to America ; he believed that during

the next fifty years, with liberal land regulations in the Australian colonies, England might yet realise all the benefit that would have resulted had the immense stream of emigration that had set westward, gone to colonise the British possessions. It was quite true that we wanted labour and capital, but there was a mode of procuring both somewhat different to the plan proposed by these Wakefield theorists—he meant the encouragement of small capitalists to immigrate and people our land. Those gentlemen in England did not want to part with this valuable class of honest, industrious, thrifty people ; they had no wish that they should go and better their condition in the colonies ; their policy was to keep the poor man poor, and to make Australia rich in the sense in which England is rich—where luxury and starvation, beggary and affluence, countless wealth and utter destitution were seen walking side by side at every step. (Cheers.) They did not wish to see these colonies become what America had become, where there was a general diffusion of moderate means. (Applause.) He asserted that this was what we ought to wish to realise—that it was best for all countries that there should be a general diffusion of moderate means. To prevent the arrival on these shores of small capitalists English schemers had invented the plan of a high price for colonial lands. If we wanted to get these small capitalists we had only to adopt the old policy—a low price. The lowest possible price at which they could be sold would be the greatest possible inducement to labor with capital, and would produce in the least possible time the greatest amount of true prosperity in this colony. (Applause.) Agriculture carried on by small landed proprietors had ever proved the truest means of independence, wealth, and prosperity in every country and in every age. In the best days of old Rome, agriculture flourished in Italy, carried on by the small proprietors of the soil. Agriculture, as carried on by the English yeomen of other days, was the model for all new countries. Three or four hundred thousand people in England every year must go somewhere ; with proper inducements they would rather come here than go to America, but they left their own land to become landholders. There was an intense desire amongst the class spoken of to possess land. Tell them to come to Queensland and work till they had saved money enough to buy a farm at £1 an acre, they would reply, “No, we are going to America, where they sell it at 5s.” It was an absurdity to suppose that poor people of this sort wanting to emigrate would be willing to travel 12,000 miles further to give us twenty shillings for our lands when they could purchase the same commodity in a nearer market for five. (Applause.) Wakefield theorists had preached their doctrine of dear land in Canada, but the Canadians had answered them well. “The world has to be peopled ; a wise providence designs that the lands should be used, tilled, turned into flax and cotton and wheat ; we decline your interference ; we will make war upon the wilderness—we wish to see it turned into a fruitful field—the desert smiling with beauty, covered over with corn-fields, and inhabited by an industrious, thriving, and happy people.” (Applause.) The honorable member then described the prosperous condition of Canada under their present cheap land system, and proceeded to say that he had received letters from the Colonial Secretary in Auckland, and from Mr. Lusk, the emigration agent there, which, with other documents of recent date, abundantly proved that the reduction of the price of agricultural land had attracted a large population from England,—21,000 having arrived in 1859—and had proved, on the whole, very successful. The honorable member proved, by quoting evidence given before the select committees, that this country was fitted for agriculture, and also by an account of his own observation and conversations with many farmers of in this locality. There could not be the least doubt as to the intention of the measure now before the house. The government had adopted the Wakefield theory and determined to make this a country of rich capitalists and poor laborers, (cries of “no, no,” from the government benches) or they imagined to encourage the farmer would be to ruin the squatter. Either of these motives was an absurdity. (Applause.) A cheap land bill was all that was wanted to make this a great colony. There would be an immense influx of small capitalists, an immense increase of the revenue, hundreds of thousands would live here in comfort and plenty, instead of starving at home and dying in a workhouse. Manchester would be supplied with cotton ; slavery, now seated on a cotton bale, might be overturned and destroyed ; England would be enriched ; civilisation and Christianity advanced ; and the world would be benefitted;—and all the result of a five- shilling land bill in Queensland. All this, at least, might be realised, and as the experiment of selling land at 5s. an acre would cost us nothing—for it was positively ascertained that the cost of survey

might be reduced to 6d. an acre—the trial ought to be made. This was a splendid opportunity put into the hands of the government of this new colony, with its 640 millions of acres of land—an opportunity of opening the door for an immense stream of emigration from the mother country, to relieve her present burdens, and in after years to pour a tide of countless wealth into her bosom,—an opportunity of creating a nation in the south, to rival and surpass what the bone and the muscle, the intellect and the heart, of England had already created in the west,—and, as it had been eloquently said, of diffusing over a newly created world the laws of Alfred, the language of Shakespeare, and the religion of Him who came to establish his peaceful religion in every nation and in every land. (Applause.) Would any ministry refuse to make the trial ; the country called them—the hundreds of thousands who were half staving in England, and wanted to live here, and turn this waste land into food, called them—every consideration of sound policy and of true humanity called upon them to make the trial. (Loud cheers.) The government had had no factious opposition from any member of the house. Any government acting on sound principles of freedom and progress, either spontaneously or otherwise, should have his support ; but should they ignore the right of millions of our sons and daughters of toil in England to a piece of the Queen's land in this colony, where they might live in plenty ; should they determine to maintain the prohibitory price of 20s., or, in other words, should they say we will do all in our power to prevent the introduction of a large number of small capitalists into this colony, and will thus prevent its becoming a great agricultural country,—then, however such a government might be constituted, it should have his most hearty opposition. He seconded the amendment that this bill be read this day six months, because he believed to plan such a measure would be utterly ruinous to the interests of our young colony ; and that all our brightest hopes would yet be realized by the passing of a bill fixing the price of land at 5s. per acre.

Mr. BROUGHTON rose with much diffidence at that stage of the debate, because he knew there were members coming after him who could deal with the subject in a much more talented way. He objected to the bill on many points, particularly those parts of it which related to free selection, pre-emptive right, deferred payments, and unlimited power in the hands of the government, but he was opposed to making the reduction in the upset price of land, as advocated by other hon. members. In the course of his canvass previous to his election, he held several conversations with men engaged in farming pursuits, and he found that there was no objection amongst those men to the price of land, they believing that if it were reduced to 5s. the government would be obliged to impose a tax upon the land sold in order to supply the deficiency in revenue that would be caused. They were small farmers, they just obtained sufficient for a livelihood, and they were afraid that, if a bad season came, they would be unable to pay that tax, and hence they thought the land had better remain at its present price. The hon. member then proceeded to comment upon some of the arguments adduced by the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Jordan) in favour of a scheme of cheap land, and went on to declare his conviction that the colony was steadily progressing, and that such a reduction as that recommended would bring the whole country into a state of confusion. He did not see the use of rushing a whole agricultural population into the colony, nor could he see that an analogy could be instituted between this colony and America. There the country was entirely suited to agriculture, and the labor market was close at hand, while our position was very different. Much had been said about cotton-growing, but he had good authority for believing that the kind of cotton which could be best grown here was a kind for which the demand was very limited—the Sea Island cotton, and he thought that the pursuit would be impracticable unless they could succeed in growing the commoner kinds, for which the demand was inexhaustible. He did not think, therefore, that we should try to induce people to come here and commence growing a product for which there was no market. The honorable member concluded by declaiming against the principle of deferred payments which he contended to be embodied in the bill, although the ministry affirmed otherwise, and by declaring his intention of voting against the amendment, as he believed the bill could be materially improved in committee.

Mr. BUCKLEY said that as this was undoubtedly the most important measure of the session, and one upon which a considerable difference of opinion prevailed, he thought it would

be highly injudicious to press it forward at the present time. It appeared to him very desirable that they should avail themselves of much more mature consideration before they determined on a land system designed to be permanent, and to meet all the requirements of the case. (Hear, hear.) With the great pressure of business which had occupied the attention of the government and of the house up to the present time, he did not see how it was at all probable that a really good measure embracing a subject of such vast importance and difficulty could be prepared and passed in the hurried manner proposed. He would therefore suggest to the government the propriety of withdrawing the bill for the present, of course on the understanding that his hon. friend the member for Ipswich would consent to withdraw his amendment. By this means time would be afforded for a public expression of opinion throughout the whole colony, which had not been the case hitherto. In taking this course they would neither endorse the principles of the bill nor those put forward by the hon. members. He must say, however, that he agreed with those who thought the clause deficient which provided for agricultural reserves. It would have been far better if the localities had been stated, and the mode of reservation more particularly defined. At the same time he did not agree with the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Jordan) that the general upset price of land should be 5s. an acre. He thought this was a question which required much further consideration than some hon. members seemed disposed to give it. For really good land, all things considered, he believed that the price of 20s. an acre was by no means too much, and he believed, moreover, that this was the opinion of those whom he had the honor to represent. At all events, it was only reasonable that the country constituencies should have the same opportunity of considering the matter, and if necessary, expressing their opinions thereon, that had been afforded to the people of Brisbane. Many hon. members in speaking to the question had based their arguments for a low upset price on the ground that it would attract population; and in proof of this had instanced the experience of Canada and New Zealand. It should be borne in mind, however, that the latter colony, although the same distance from the old country, possessed land of far greater fertility than we did, and as a proof of this he said that more income was raised from 10 square miles in New Zealand, than from 100 square miles in this colony. As for the system of survey proposed, he believed that it would be quite impossible to carry it out at the rate of 6d. per acre, owing mainly to the thickness of the timber and other natural difficulties, and still less did he think the land could be staked out at the price suggested. With regard to immigration, he thought no land bill could be considered complete which did not contain a clause for encouraging it. But then it must not be forgotten that there were two kinds of immigration necessary, the one consisting of those who paid their passages out and received land in return, and the other consisting of laborers who would have to be brought out at the expense of the colony. The former was rendered necessary for the future permanent settlement of the country, and the other was rendered necessary to supply the ordinary growing wants of the labour market. The hon. member then pointed out that the agricultural interest could never attain any importance in the interior until really efficient and permanent communication had been opened up, and until that had been accomplished he was afraid agriculture would not pay. If it could be shown that by selling the land cheap we could save something like £50,000 or £60,000 a year on breadstuffs, he admitted that would be the best of all arguments, but he believed it would be impossible to prove that any such result was likely to follow.

Mr. WATTS had listened attentively to the speech of the hon. member (Mr. Jordan), which he admitted would do credit to any assembly in the world, not even excepting the House of Commons, but he had failed to detect in it any argument affecting the leading principles of the bill. He agreed, however, that the clause with reference to agricultural reserves was objectionable, on the ground that it did not define the position of the country in which these reserves were to be made. In alluding to the late meeting, the hon. member expressed his surprise that one of the speakers should have advocated a reduction of the price to 5s. an acre, seeing that the same gentleman, when opposed to him in the late election, had advocated the maintenance of the one pound an acre price. For his own part he firmly believed that even if they were to give the land away, it would not have the effect of introducing labour or facilitating the settlement of an agricultural population. Before they could hope to see such a population in this colony they must

have, as in America, a population to consume the produce. He had himself a farm at Warrill Creek which he tried to cultivate at a profit for three years, and failed, although the land and the position were all that could be desired. The hon. member then instanced the high price of land in some of the islands of New Zealand, and urged the necessity of paying for the passages of immigrants at the public expense, if they desired to see the colony rapidly populated. In this respect he thought the bill as it stood was calculated to facilitate the accomplishment of the object. At the same time he thought there were several important amendments which might be judiciously introduced into the bill in committee. With regard to the survey office, he was of opinion that so soon as the machinery had been brought into thorough working order, there would be abundance of land open for selection and sale. He was at a loss to understand upon what principle the hon. member (Mr. Raff) asserted that the colony was at a stand-still in consequence of the price of land not having been reduced to 5s. per acre. It was a well known fact that the colony had progressed, and was still progressing very rapidly under the present system, and that good lands if now put into the market would realise £1 per acre. Adverting to that portion of the bill having reference to cotton-growing he was disposed to go even much further than the Colonial Secretary, as he believed this would eventually become one of the most important interests in the colony. He would go to the extent of giving a handsome bonus to persons who would cultivate cotton on a large scale, and thus effectually prove the practicability of the pursuit in Queensland. As for the disposal of the premium, he thought the hon. member (Mr. Raff), had an idea of self when he suggested the propriety of giving it to the exporter instead of to the individual who grew the cotton. In conclusion, he expressed an opinion that the bill would do more than anything that had ever yet occurred to facilitate the settlement of the colony.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN observed that when he was before his constituents he pledged himself to sustain the price of £1 per acre, but as the bill now stood he felt bound to vote against the second reading. In his country, when people had a collision they generally resorted to what was called a "jewel," and looking at the state of parties with regard to this question, he thought he might safely designate the bill as a jewel also. (Laughter.) He was particularly averse to the provision for introducing government pensioners. They were not wanted to defend us, and certainly they would not do much to facilitate the settlement of the country. In reference to the price of land he was disposed to change his opinion whenever he found it to be contrary to the wishes of his constituents. (Laughter.) Notwithstanding what the hon. member for Toowoomba had told them, he knew for a fact that agriculture did pay in this colony, and that numbers of persons were making fortunes by it. As for the remarks of the hon. member (Mr. Broughton) it was difficult to gather from them whether he was opposed to the bill or not, but, after all, the opinions of the hon. member were of no great consequence, whichever way he voted. (Laughter.) The speaker next adverted to America, shewing that under the system there, land which did not one year fetch the upset price was put up the next year at a lower price, and so on every year until it was sold, even although it should not fetch more than 6d. per acre. He would like to see some such provision introduced into this bill, as it appeared to him to be the only effectual way of arriving at the value of certain lands. He concluded by remarking how singular it was that the hon. member for Warwick (Mr. St. George Gore) should accuse the hon. member for Brisbane (Mr. Raff) of being the apostle of the low price in land. This was the first time he had seen saints and apostles fighting. (Laughter.)

Mr. TAYLOR would support the bill mainly on the ground that the sooner this question was settled in some way or another the better it would be for the country. If those gentlemen who advocated 5s. an acre were so certain of victory, why, he would ask, did they desire to put the matter off? Why not let the bill go into committee where all objectionable clauses could be modified or eradicated altogether? (Hear, hear.) From the combination of parties he believed there was a deep-laid plot to upset the bill in committee; but however much they might reduce the price of land, he was persuaded that it would not, even although backed by all the eloquence of that house, induce the industrious agriculturists to emigrate hither merely with the view of acquiring land. There was one clause in the bill to which he particularly objected, and that was the one which left it in the hands of the government to determine where the agricultural reserves

should be. He thought this was a power altogether too large to be entrusted to any ministry, and was inclined to think that a boundary should be fixed a certain distance from the coast line. In saying this he did not desire to cast any slur on the present ministry. If those gentlemen were turned out he did not know where they would get another ministry so good or so honest. With regard to the character of the bill, he did not think the recent expression of public opinion in Brisbane was to be taken as any index of the general opinion of the country. In fact he believed that the Brisbane opinion was pretty nearly confined to the "Courier" office, which, although having some able persons connected with it, was not to be taken as the exponent of public opinion throughout the whole colony. It had been said by the same journal that the ministry, if beaten on this bill, would resign, and thus an immense sensation had been created throughout the country lest we should lose the valuable services of the gentlemen now in office. (Laughter.) There was one good, however, which the discussion of this bill would produce. It would teach the hon. member (Mr. Raff) the value of a strong opposition, which he did not seem to appreciate when he allowed the most extravagant votes to pass in committee without the slightest expression of dissent. It seemed to him that the hon. member had got some Yankee notions into his head ; and he did not wonder at it, when he remembered having seen that day a Yankee flag flying over his house. (Renewed laughter.) Another hon. member (Mr. Jordan) also appeared to be touched in the same way ; and in his address he had not only favored us with his pamphlet over again, but he had also favored us with lots of quotations from other pamphlets. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman was for only bringing out the men of small means, thus leaving the starving population of the mother country to remain where they were unassisted and uncared for. That appeared to him to be scarcely Christian on the part of the hon. gentleman. (Laughter.) He (Mr. T.) would say, let us have the starving population by all means, and if the people of small means did not choose to come in the ordinary way let them stop at home. (Hear, hear.) Looking at the way in which the town members had acted in reference to this bill he was inclined to think the screw had been put upon them most fearfully. (Laughter.) They dared not vote for any other price than 5s. an acre. (Laughter.) The hon. member (Mr. Jordan) had alluded to some gentleman who had more money than wit and lost all he possessed by a certain speculation in land. He (Mr. T.) presumed that the hon. gentleman alluded to the Colonial Treasurer. (Laughter.) [Mr JORDAN: I did not.] The hon. member had also alluded to the success of agricultural pursuits at a place called the Bald Hills, but he informed them at the same time that the farmers could only buy one thing at a time. That did not appear to be a very favorable indication of their success. With regard to the bill he was decidedly opposed to its being withdrawn, whatever its fate might be, and as for the expression of public opinion he placed very little confidence in it. They all knew how easily testimonials were got up. Mr. Cowper once said he could at any time get as many signatures as he liked at the rate of 2s. 6d. a hundred. The only proper way of testing public opinion was by a dissolution of the house, (hear, hear,) and depend upon it if a dissolution did take place there were several honorable members who would not find their way into the house again. (Laughter.) To show the expensive nature of agricultural pursuits he stated that the other day he wanted to get 100 acres cleared, &c., and could not get any one to do the work for £10 an acre.

Mr. HALY supported the bill. He was of opinion that so far from the reduction of the price to 5s. an acre being an advantage to the man of small means it would have the effect of throwing all the most valuable lands of the colony into the hands of speculators. He hoped, however, that the bill would be withdrawn in order to give time for further consideration.

Mr. FORBES was generally in favor of the bill, but he thought the lands proposed to be reserved for agricultural purposes should be more accurately defined. He did not think the power of selecting these reserves was such as should be invested in any government. He also objected to the maintenance of the present high price of land. When people could get land for one-fourth the amount in America and elsewhere, it was not likely they would come here to purchase land. Under all the circumstances he thought it would be wiser to adopt the suggestion for withdrawing the bill.

Mr. COXEN contended that this bill would be pre-eminently advantageous to the small capitalist, of whom they had heard so much. Each family, averaging, say four, who paid their

passage to the colony, would be entitled, free of competition, to 60 acres of land, and if they remained in the colony for two years longer, they would be entitled to as much more. This he thought was as favourable an arrangement as could possibly be desired for small capitalists. In reference to reserves, he thought a strip along the coast should at once be determined on, and he was also of opinion that some improvement might be made in the provision for promoting the growth of cotton.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said it was useless to deny that the price of Crown lands was the real question at issue in this debate, and however much it might be shirked now, there could be no doubt it would have to be decided before long, as it was sure to be brought up again and again. He thought, moreover, that any future discussion was not likely to throw any additional light on the subject, as it was one that had been discussed over and over again in Victoria, New South Wales, and the other colonies generally. He had always been of opinion that the price should not be less than £1 per acre, and in the late election he addressed the electors to that effect. He had not since heard any argument advanced of a character to change his opinion nor did he see how the price could now be altered without changing the whole character of the bill, which the government were not prepared to assent to. In fact the reduction of the price to 5s. would require the introduction of a very different kind of bill altogether. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member (Mr. Raff) had made a long speech in opposition, but he signally failed to adduce any argument in support of his views. The question was not whether the price should be 5s. or £1, but which involved the better system of the two. He maintained that population was what the colony required, and that this bill offered every facility for the accomplishment of that object. The reason why Canada succeeded in attracting population was not so much on account of the low price of land, as on account of the numerous pamphlets she was in the habit of sending home, and the fact of the distance being much shorter, the expense of transit less, and the immigrants having many relations and friends long since resident in the colony. By the bill now under consideration he contended that similar advantages could be realised inasmuch as every person who paid his passage to the colony would be entitled to receive—not for 5s. or £1 per acre but for nothing at all—an equivalent to his passage money in land. This was even a more favorable arrangement for immigrants than that in operation in Canada, and it would, moreover, restrict the immigration to a class of persons who were most likely to occupy our lands, and otherwise facilitate the settlement of the country. Some thought we should import the starving and squalid population of the old country, but he would ask of what use would people be here who were neither able to pay their own passages nor buy land when they arrived. The bill also pointed out a method for importing labour which would be available for existing as well as future interests. The pastoral pursuit would never become extinct, because there was abundance of land in the colony fit for no other purpose. After glancing at the principle of deferred payments, and the pre-emptive right, the hon. and learned gentleman proceeded to point out that the importation of a pauper population would contribute nothing to the revenue, and that on the other hand land could be of value to any one which was not worth 20s. an acre. In order to show that it was saleable at this price, he quoted statistics, from which it appeared that in one year as much as 169,214 acres were sold at an average of £1 9s 4d. per acre. With regard to survey, he was not prepared to say that with the office in proper working order we might not be enabled to survey land in sufficient quantities at a much less cost than the present. But then it must be borne in mind that even under the system of employing licensed surveyors by contract it was necessary to have some regular means of checking the work done, and this would of course entail extra expense. He contended therefore that if the price of land were reduced to five shillings an acre the money available for surveys would not, even under the most economical system, be sufficient to cover the cost. He believed, moreover, that if the price were reduced to 5s. an acre it would give the large speculator an opportunity of buying up land to the great disadvantage of the man of small means. Then again he contended that having hitherto sold the land at one pound per acre it would be an act of cruelty to existing purchasers to sell it to others for one-fourth, as it would have the effect of materially reducing the value of securities. In legislating for the future they should not forget the interests of the present population.

Mr. LILLEY had thought the government would have saved them the trouble of a discussion on this bill, seeing that it was nothing more nor less than a compilation of exploded ideas. He found, however, that they were to have a discussion, and a pretty long one too. The fact was, the present ministry had come into power before their time. They were untimely born, and came into the world without any ideas of their own. (Laughter.) In fact, they were political bastards. (Renewed laughter.) It was true they had a god-father, and he congratulated them on having such a worthy god-father as the hon. member for Warwick. (Laughter.) He contended that the ministry, in bringing this measure forward, ought to have laid their whole policy fully and distinctly before the house, in order that hon. members might know whether they were worth retaining in power or not. We had been threatened with a resignation—"no, no," from the Colonial Secretary—or a dissolution—(no, no)—in the event of this measure being rejected. He, for one, would be sorry to see those hon. gentlemen resign, considering how very skilfully they had managed to keep their places. (Laughter.) They were the best fellows in the world to trim, and shift, and alter their policy according to circumstances. The hon. the Colonial Secretary had told them the government held the land in trust for the people ; but was it just to the people to keep the land in their hands for ever ? As trustees, did they not think it would be wise to let out the land in such a way as to make it most productive. They were also told that by reducing the price of sale the value of property would be depreciated, but was it not a well known fact in all parts of the world that the more people purchased and settled on the land the greater the value became. Then with regard to the cost of survey he found, according to the Surveyor-General, that the land might be surveyed for something like three-pence per acre. They had been reminded that the maintenance of the existing high price was necessary as a matter of justice to the existing population. But he contended that the reduction of the price was the very best possible thing that could happen for the present population, inasmuch as it would relieve the towns by inducing people to go into the country for the purpose of settling. He admitted, however, that if the price were reduced the bill would have to be altered altogether, and therefore he thought the best way of dealing with it was to kick it out at once, even although the ministry should resign. (Hear.) He was afraid, however, that they would never get such a convenient ministry again, as the next might be one having some policy, and some ideas to enunciate. (Laughter.) With regard to the matter of immigration, the Attorney-General seemed to advocate a species of class legislation. He would confine the benefits of the bill to what he called "small capitalists" as if the man who came to the colony without a shirt was anything worse than the barrister who came to the colony without a brief. (Laughter.) It had also been urged as a reason for supporting the bill that the land of this colony was not fit for agriculture. If this was true, he asked, why did the government attempt to snare out the people of England by promising them agricultural farms. (Hear, hear.) He did not believe, however, that the allegation had any foundation in fact. It had been said on the other hand that the land would fetch £1, but he would ask was it at all likely that people would give £1 for land here which they could get elsewhere for five shillings. He was aware that land here had fetched as much as £5 and £10 per acre, but it was generally in those cases where the purchasers had been run up by the land jobbers. After adverting to the auction system, which he condemned, the hon. gentleman remarked that the estimated revenue from lands during the ensuing year was set down by the colonial Treasurer at £50,000, whilst the cost of the survey establishment was calculated at £30,000. Surely this extraordinary disproportion of expenditure to income was a striking evidence of the wretched working of the present system. He hoped if the ministry did go to the country, they would not get shoved in again by one or two remote sheep-walks ; if they desired to test public opinion, let them come to the Valley—(laughter)—or appeal to some other large constituency. The hon. member concluded by expressing an opinion in favor of direct taxation, including a land tax, as being much fairer and less expensive to collect, and as enabling the government to abolish Custom House dues altogether, by which means the ports of the colony would be rendered perfectly free.

Mr. MOFFATT supported the bill for reasons similar to those already advanced, although he believed that much might be improved in committee. He had heard no argument showing the necessity for a reduction of the price of land, nor did he believe that the majority of the public

were in favor of such reduction. Even at the late meeting which was got up expressly to oppose the bill the feeling upon this point appeared to be pretty nearly divided.

Mr. FERRETT also expressed himself in favor of the bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY briefly replied, expressing the determination of the government to press the motion to a division.

The amendment was then put and negatived, and the original motion was carried on the following division :—

Ayes, 13.		Noes, 11.	
Mr	Herbert	Mr	Edmondstone
"	Gore	"	Buckley
"	Moffatt	"	O'Sullivan
"	Forbes	"	Fleming
"	Haly	"	Raff
"	Coxen	"	Jordan
"	Watts	"	Richards
"	Taylor	"	Blakeney
"	Ferrett	"	Thorn
"	Royds	"	Lilley
"	Broughton	"	Macalister
"	Mackenzie	} Tellers	
"	Pring	}	

The committal of the bill was fixed as an order for that day week.

PRIMARY EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATION BILLS.

Messages were received from the Legislative Council returning the Primary Education and Appropriation Bills.

The house adjourned at 11 o'clock until 3 o'clock the next day.

[We regret that we have been compelled to curtail the debate to such an extent, but we have availed ourselves of all the disposable space in order to give it as fully as possible.—The report of yesterday's parliamentary proceedings we must allow to stand over till Saturday's issue, merely epitomising the business done in both houses.—In the Legislative Council the amendments of the Assembly in the Grammar Schools' Bill were agreed to—leave of absence was granted to Mr. McDougall for three months—the Gunpowder and Warlike Stores Export Regulation Bill was passed through committee,—and the Electoral Lists Collection Abolition Bill, the Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Bill, and the Tenders Regulation Bill were each read a third time and passed—In the Assembly, a petition was presented by Mr. Watts from James Canning Pearce—the report of the Select Committee on Government Departments was brought up by Mr. Raff—the consideration of Mr. Macalister's motion relative to the construction of Brisbane-street, Ipswich, was postponed, as was also the second reading of the Intestate Estates' Distribution Bill, and the House resumed the debate on the report of the Judicial Establishment Committee. Messrs. Blakeney, Gore, Herbert, Buckley, Broughton, and Haly supported it, and Messrs. Watts, O'Sullivan, Taylor, and Raff opposed. The last named member had not proceeded far in his speech before a scene ensued in which the hon. member for Fortitude Valley (Mr Lilley) was called to order and requested to withdraw from the House, while certain words he had uttered, and which had been taken down were discussed, and the proceedings were brought to an abrupt conclusion by the adjournment of the House till three o'clock this day.]