

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

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**Prorogation of Parliament  
Legislative Council  
18<sup>th</sup> September 1860**

...  
Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Moreton Bay Courier 20<sup>th</sup> September 1860

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**PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.**

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

In pursuance of the power and authority vested in me as such Governor as aforesaid, I, Sir George Ferguson Bowen, do hereby proclaim that the Parliament of the said colony of Queensland is and stands hereby prorogued to Tuesday, the thirteenth day of November now next ensuing.

Given under my hand and seal, at Government House, Brisbane, this eighteenth day September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

(L.S.) G. F. BOWEN

By His Excellency's command,

R.G.W. HERBERT.

—'Gazette Extraordinary,' Sept. 18.

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**PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.**

(The following appeared in our Second Edition of Tuesday last.)

QUIETLY, and almost unostentatiously, the first Parliament of Queensland has been released from its labours, and its first session brought to a close. The ceremony of Tuesday morning was not provocative of any great amount of interest. A few people lined either side of the street opposite the Legislative Chambers, and a goodly number of carriages deposited at the entrance those who had procured tickets of admission. Altogether, however, the crowd was not so great as at the opening of the session, and strangers gathered in the street would be apt to suppose that the people of Brisbane were not a demonstrative race, the assemblage remaining perfectly passive spectators of the scene.

Previous to the arrival of His Excellency Lady Bowen alighted at the door of the Council chamber from the vice-regal carriage, accompanied by Bishop Tuffnell, and soon afterwards the cavalcade left Government House. The mounted police headed the procession, and a detachment of the mounted volunteer rifles, under the command of Lieut. Master, formed the escort immediately surrounding His Excellency's person. The foot police were also drawn up in front of the entrance, and presented arms upon the arrival of the cortege. His Excellency was accompanied by his aide-de-camp, and was received at the door of the Council Chamber by the President (Captain O'Connell.)

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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**

The Chamber was crowded with visitors long before the business commenced. The ladies predominated, and numbered not fewer than sixty, their gay and varied dresses,

pleasant smiles, and large attendance, formed a very imposing and interesting feature in the general spectacle.

Lady Bowen, who was introduced by the President, occupied her usual chair on the left, and was accompanied by Bishop Tuffnell. The attendance altogether comprised nearly all our leading merchants and tradesmen, and a considerable number of clergymen.

The President took the chair at twenty-five minutes to 12, and opened the proceedings with the usual form of prayer.

The members in attendance, besides the President, were Mr. Galloway, Mr. Harris, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Compigne, Mr. Laidley, Mr. Massie, and Dr. Fullerton.

### ASSENT TO BILLS.

Messages were received from his Excellency the Governor, announcing that he had, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, given his assent to the following Bills:- The Occupation of Land by Tender Bill; the Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Bill; the Occupied Crown Lands Leasing Bill; a Bill to provide for the Alienation of Crown Lands; a Bill for the Prevention of Scab in Sheep; and the Exportation of Gunpowder and Warlike Stores Regulation Bill.

At five minutes past 12 o'clock his Excellency the Governor arrived, and having taken his seat in the vice-regal chair, requested hon. members to be seated.

The Usher of the Black Rod, under the direction of the President, then proceeded to summon the attendance of the Legislative Assembly.

In a few minutes after the honorable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly attended in obedience to the summons.

### CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS.

The SPEAKER then delivered the following address:—

“May it please your Excellency,

“We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, offer to your Excellency our respectful congratulation upon the close of the Session.

“The legislation of the first session of the first Parliament of Queensland will be ever memorable for its importance, including, among the twenty bills which have been passed, measures for the settlement—so far as this colony is concerned,- of those questions relating to the sale and occupation of the waste lands of the Crown, which have so long occupied the attention of the legislatures of the other Australian colonies; also, measures no less important, providing for Primary Education and the establishment of Grammar Schools.

“As regards the grants generally, the Assembly have been actuated by a desire to keep them within such limits as would be consistent with the efficiency of the public service.

“And I may add, if much labour and anxious deliberation, with a full consciousness of the magnitude of the concerns with which we are dealing, are favourable presage of what may reasonably be expected as the results of our measures, we shall indeed be sufficiently rewarded for all our exertions, and shall have the satisfaction of feeling that we have discharged faithfully to our constituents the duties to which our attention was specially directed in the speech which your Excellency was pleased to address to us at the opening of the Session.

“I have now the honour to hand to your Excellency for the royal assent the Appropriation Act for the year 1860-61.”

His Excellency, in the name and on behalf of her Majesty, then appended his signature.

### THE SPEECH.

The Governor then read the following speech, which was listened to with universal interest and attention:

“HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,—

“The advanced state of the public business, and the satisfactory conclusion to which you have carried no small amount of legislation, enable me to release you for a time from your attendance on Parliament, and to close the present session.

“During the recess, various measures of importance, to which your attention has, in

some cases, been already directed, will be matured by my Government; and will be submitted for your consideration when you assemble again. As at present advised, I consider that the public convenience will be best provided for by my opening of the next session of Parliament towards the close of the month of April in the ensuing year.

"It is a matter of deep satisfaction to myself and of congratulation to you, that so much useful legislation should have been completed during your first session. Questions difficult of settlement, and materially affecting the future prosperity of this colony, have been approached and examined by you in a spirit of patient industry, and of persevering enquiry, and I entertain a confident hope that from legislation of such a character—based on no abstract theories, but on practical experience, and neither impaired by haste nor influenced by favour, nor impeded by faction,- the results to be developed will prove both valuable and permanent.

"Looking at the solemn and most interesting duty in which we have been engaged, that namely, of inaugurating this new and flourishing colony, and of preparing it to assume that high position among the other provinces of the British Empire to which it has already attained; looking also to those cordial relations, the existence of which between myself and the Members of both Houses it is alike my pride and my happiness to acknowledge,- I have deemed it natural and proper that my first addresses to the first Parliament of Queensland should not bear a merely formal character. Further, as the speeches of Governors are laid before the Imperial Parliament, and are thus destined to authoritative circulation in the mother-country, it cannot but be desirable that my addresses should contain, to a certain extent, an official and authentic summary of the general condition and prospects of this colony—and more especially of such recent legislation as may have at once enhanced its advantages, and extended those advantages more freely to our fellow-country men at home.

"With these views, I will now pass briefly in review the principal Acts which have received your sanction during the present session, and to which I have signified the Royal Assent of the Queen.

"The chief Public Bills which have already become law, may be divided into the following classes:—

"First in order stand those measures which were immediately necessary upon your meeting for the effective adaptation of the Constitution of New South Wales to the altered circumstances of this colony. In addition to the Act whereby the number of members required to be present for the dispatch of business is defined, and to the Act which limits the number of salaried officials capable of being elected to the Legislative Assembly, an important amendment has been made in the law under which voters are registered, ensuring greater accuracy in the Electoral Lists, and obviating a considerable expenditure of public money.

"The all-important interests of religion and education have received a full share of your careful consideration. The much vexed question of grants in aid of public worship has been set at rest, in accordance with the feelings of a large proportion of our population. Primary education has been provided for upon the general principles of that comprehensive system, which experience has proved to be peculiarly adapted to meet the requirements of our colonial communities; at the same time, education of a more advanced order will shortly, under the provisions of the Grammar Schools Act, be placed within easy reach of the inhabitants of all the more populous districts.

"The necessary provision has been made for the collection of the census in this colony, on the same day of the ensuing year with that on which it will be taken in the United Kingdom, and in many other portions of the Empire. The accurate statistical information which will thus be rendered available, will prove of eminent interest and utility in your future labours.

"In taking the requisite steps for a settlement of the outstanding accounts between Queensland and New South Wales, your legislation has been based upon principles which can hardly fail to recommend themselves to the concurrence of the sister colony, for they are identical with the principles originally adopted by the executive, and sanctioned by the Parliament of New South Wales itself, and which have further received the approval of the Imperial Government. I am justified, therefore, in entertaining a well-founded hope that no long time will elapse before this, the last remaining difficulty of Separation shall be amicably adjusted, and the two great neighbouring colonies whose interests are so inseparably united, shall regard each other only with feelings of friendly emulation.

"Your adoption of an Act to regulate the exportation of warlike stores, proposed by my Government, with a view to the lamentable outbreak in New Zealand, affords me an

opportunity of bearing my testimony to the sympathy existing here, as throughout Australia, with the troubles of our fellow-countrymen in the aforesaid colony. Queensland has hastened to offer an effective proof of that sympathy, by cheerfully contributing towards the augmentation of the forces at the seat of war that proportion of Her Majesty's troops which had been allotted for the defence of this colony.

"The patriotic spirit with which the Volunteer movement has been supported by all classes of our community is a further and most valuable testimony to the undoubted loyalty of this portion of the Queen's dominions; and to the determination of our people, as they participate in the glory and prosperity, so also not to shrink from their share in the trials of the mother country.

"I have now come to those measures regulating the Occupation and Alienation of the Crown Lands, on which you have bestowed so large a portion of your time and attention, with the full knowledge that the progress of Queensland will mainly depend upon the judicious discharge of the high trust involved in the control and administration of our vast territories.

"Having in the first instance adopted such means as were legally and equitably available for the purpose of checking that speculative monopoly of pastoral lands, under which wide tracts of country were withheld from profitable occupation, you have thrown open to real settlement those extensive districts upon conditions, and with advantages, such as will not fail to secure a large and immediate accession to the capital and producing power of the colony.

"Again—That part of your legislation which is, perhaps, of paramount importance to the community at large, by whom the proprietorship and occupation of freehold properties upon favourable terms is so urgently demanded, will also be regarded with satisfaction by those who are interested in promoting a stream of emigration from England. The liberal grants of land to immigrants arriving here without cost to our Treasury; the facilities afforded to small capitalists of extending their operations, during the first and more arduous years of their enterprise, by leasing at a nominal rent the land adjacent to that which they may have purchased; the increased opportunities of settlement by a departure, on the agricultural reserves from the system of auction, whereby intending purchasers were often delayed or impeded in the attainment of their object; and the strong inducements offered for the cultivation of cotton, to which this soil and climate are so eminently adapted;—these combined advantages will, I doubt not, prove sufficiently attractive to draw to our shores that immigration which we so much need, as the best instrument for the development of the rich and varied resources of this favoured country.

"Moreover, by your extension to retired soldiers and seamen of good character, privileges in the acquisition of land similar to those allowed by the Queen's regulations to officers of her Majesty's army and navy, I am of opinion that a valuable addition will shortly be made to the population and strength of Queensland; while an honorable retreat will be provided among you for a class of men which deserves well of the empire.

"In other matters not comprised within legislative enactments, I have observed with much satisfaction your earnest desire to look beyond the pressing requirements of the moment, and to devote a due proportion of the means under your control to objects less immediately, although not less closely connected with the welfare of this colony.

"From the reports furnished by the various select committees which have been occupied upon special subjects, amount of practical information is to be collected which will prove not only of direct advantage to the Executive administration here, but which, when made known in England, will be studied with keen interest by the many persons to whom this portion of the Island-Continent of Australia is an object of anxious attention.

"Again, by enquiries tending to facilitate the future settlement of the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the intercourse of Australia with India and China, by equipping an expedition of discovery in the direction of that system of rivers and tableland which holds forth the promise of the profitable occupation, at no distant day, of our Northern Districts;—by procuring such scientific aid as may be available towards ascertaining the existence of the precious metals within our boundaries;—and by making provision for an adequate representation of this colony in the Industrial Exhibition of 1861;— you have made no scanty contribution to the rapidly growing prosperity of Queensland, while adding new conquests to the domains of Geography and Science.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—

"I thank you, in the name of the Queen, for the liberal supplies which you have granted to Her Majesty. It will be the duty of the Government to exercise a watchful supervision over their expenditure, and in so doing to study such economy as may be consistent with an effective fulfilment of your expressed intentions.

"The steady and rapid increase of the revenue is a matter of no slight congratulation. It is most gratifying to observe that the second quarter of this year has produced nearly treble the amount of the first quarter; and I have every reason to hope and believe that this financial progress will continue on an equally satisfactory scale.

"You have devoted about one-fourth of the estimated revenue to the construction of roads, bridges and public offices; to the extension of electric telegraphs and postal communication, to the improvement of our harbors, and to other works calculated to advance the material prosperity of our people. And it will not, I think, be forgotten in the future annals of this colony that the first Assembly of Queensland was equally careful of the moral and social as of the material wants of the community; that in its first session it voted ample sums for the formation and encouragement of hospitals, free libraries, botanical gardens, and schools of art; and that it appropriated for purposes of education alone, a sum larger in proportion to our present numbers, than is devoted to that object in Great Britain itself—larger, probably, than is devoted to it in any other country of the world.

"HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY—

"The result of your labours fully justifies the hopes expressed in a speech which I addressed to you at the commencement of this session. You have left little to be desired by the warmest friends of Queensland, except that future sessions may maintain the high character which you have already earned for this legislature. I recently laid before you a despatch from the Secretary of State, informing me that the conduct of the inhabitants of this colony on the occasion of the first establishment of their new government, was "highly satisfactory" to the Queen. I am confident that the happy initiation of Parliamentary Institutions among you will afford additional gratification to her Majesty. In my earnest hope that those institutions, now so successfully inaugurated here, may be productive of all those blessings which when rightly administered, they cannot fail to confer. This colony has now, so far as human influence extends, its destinies in its own hands. I humbly pray that, by the favour of the Supreme Ruler, its onward career may be characterised by the same spirit of loyalty, moderation, and enlightened patriotism with which it has commenced the exercise of its rights and the performance of its duties, as a separate and independent province of the British Empire.

His Excellency, on retiring from the house, was escorted in the same manner as when he arrived.