

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

...  
**Legislative Assembly**  
**9<sup>th</sup> May 1861**  
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Moreton Bay Courier 11<sup>th</sup> May 1861

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The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter-past three, and read prayers.

**ROAD FROM BRISBANE TO BURNETT.**

Mr. EDMONDSTONE asked the Colonial Secretary—"What has been done, or what the government intend to do, towards improving the north road from Brisbane to the Burnett, for which a sum of money has been voted; and, whether it would not be advisable that, after the present contracts expire, the mails should be sent that road, the other route having been stopped several times lately by flood?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied that there were two road parties now at work on this road, one of which had been employed for one month and the other for the last two months. Their operations had been much retarded by the recent wet weather. In answer to the second part of the question, he might state that the necessity of the mail passing over the Brisbane River would be obviated when a road, in course of formation through the scrub, which would pass over the bridge at Lockyer's Creek, should be completed.

**QUESTION AND PRIVILEGE.**

The COLONIAL SECRETARY rose to a point of privilege. He had yesterday assented to a motion of the hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. Macalister) begging that his Excellency would be pleased to cause to be laid on the table the form of commission issued to the gentlemen of the Upper House. He since had reason to believe that in moving and assenting to that motion, both himself and the hon. member were infringing upon the privileges of the other house. It was laid down in May that motions for papers, &c. must be made in the house to which the papers refer. This being the rule, the best course would be for him to request the government leader in the other house to make a motion for the document asked for, and no doubt that house would assent to the motion.

The SPEAKER, without deciding positively at present upon the merits of the case before the house, would read the rule laid down by May, and referred to by the Colonial Secretary. (The Speaker here read the rule referred to.)

Mr. MACALISTER thought that the objection of the Colonial Secretary would possess some validity had the papers for which he moved referred merely to the business of the Upper House, but such was not case, as they referred to the Constitution of the Upper House. The rule quoted was inapplicable. They would be guilty of an infringement of the duty of that house (the Assembly) as representatives of the people if they did not maintain all their rights and privileges. He would be the last to attempt to interfere with any privilege belonging to other house.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that as probably the other house were aware of the proceedings of this house they might state in their own chamber their opinion upon this point. He only desired to clear the government, should it eventually be decided that the course adopted by the hon. member for Ipswich was a breach of privilege.

Mr. MACALISTER had no desire to interfere with the other house's privileges. He had given notice of the motion under the full conviction that that house was entitled to ask for any

information concerning the Constitution of the Upper House.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The house having resolved into a committee of Ways and Means for raising the supply granted to her Majesty,

The COLONIAL TREASURER took the opportunity of making a brief financial statement. He would premise that the government had no desire or intention to pass the estimates through that house with any undue haste, as one hon. member had hinted. The reason for bringing them forward at this early period of the session was that, before the estimates were fairly before the house, it was necessary that certain forms should be gone through. When those preliminary forms were complied with, the house could go on with the discussion of the estimates whenever they thought fit. There was no desire to hurry any of the votes with the exception perhaps of some items in the supplementary estimates, which it was desirable for the house to vote at once. He was gratified to be able to announce that all those anticipations with regard to the healthy state of the revenue, which last year he had expressed, had been more than realised, notwithstanding the continued, he almost might say increasing, commercial depression existing in some of the other colonies, Queensland was steadily but rapidly progressing in population and resources. (Hear, hear.) It was true that, at the end of the past year, our returns show an excess of imports over exports, but those returns scarcely afforded a fair criterion upon which to estimate the actual trade of the colony, as a large quantity of produce from this colony during that time had never reached the coast, but had passed over the border to New South Wales. At the end of the year 1860, our imports were calculated to amount to £742,023, and our exports to £523,476. For the first quarter of the present year the relative returns of imports and exports were in a much more satisfactory condition, and as compared with returns for the same period of the previous year, also showed a steady advancement. For the quarter ending the 31st of March, 1860, the value of our imports was calculated at £157,183, and that of our exports at £155,193. For the quarter ending 31st March of the present year, our imports and exports were as follows:—Imports, £137,134, exports, £173,353, thus showing an increase of exports as compared with the same quarter of the previous year to the extent of £18,160. It should also be borne in mind that this return of the exports of last quarter does not include the cargo of the Maid of Judah, valued at £50,000. Another important and gratifying fact to which he would call their attention should also here be mentioned, as calculated to affect our imports and exports, and consequently our revenue, he alluded to the increase of population indicated by the returns he held in his hands. He found that for the year ending 31st December, 1860, the total number of arrivals was 3607 males and females; the departures during the same period amounted to 1329 souls; thus showing a net increase of arrivals over departures last year to the number of 2278 individuals. He would inform hon. members that in this return were included the immigrants per “Moutmorency.” During the first quarter of the current year the arrivals were 1030, and the departures 319; thus showing an excess of arrivals over departures of 711 individuals. It would be found, on looking at the supplementary estimates, that there was a balance of expenditure over revenue for the year 1859 of £2213 12s 11d. This was for moneys due from the New South Wales government to individuals in government service in this colony, which sums were paid by the government of this colony, on the understanding that it would be repaid to us by the government of New South Wales. He would mention two of these items. One was for the payment of a road party, and the matter was brought before the house by Mr. Broughton. The government of New South Wales having authorised the payment, the claim was liquidated by our government. Another item was for the quarterly payment of the police stationed in Queensland at the time of Separation. This sum also was paid with the understanding that the government of New South Wales, by whom the money was owed, would repay it to us. On looking at the estimates for the year 1860, it would be found that the revenue, as originally estimated, was £160,000, whilst the estimated expenditure was 149,319; but during the session, this original calculation of expenditure was burdened by supplementary estimates to the amount of several thousand pounds. The actual amount expended for that year was £161,000, whilst the actual revenue for the year was £178,589 8s. 5d. Of the amount of appropriations voted on account of the service of the year 1860, viz., £74,885, the actual amount of expenditure had been £65,175 12s. 7d., leaving an unexpended balance of

£9700 7 s. 5d., of which the sum of £8565 3s. 3d. reverted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and the sum of £1144 4s. 2d. was available for future appropriations. Of the sums voted on account of public works in 1860, viz., £25,265, the amount expended was but £9480 8s. 11d., leaving an unexpended balance available during 1861 of £15,784 11s. 1d. Part of this, however, viz., £2600, had been transferred to the loan account, and this brought the available balance down to £13,184 11s. 1d. It would be seen by the Supplementary Estimates for 1860 that the sum of £10,556 17s. 7d. was put down—this sum having been expended for various purposes in excess of the amount voted for those services. It was not to be supposed that for the first year of our existence we could in every case make exact calculations as to the expense of the various services. The greatest economy had always been observed, and in the Survey Office alone, during the past year, the sum of £2124. 11s. had been saved out of money voted. Coming to the year 1861, they found the estimated revenue was £182,200 whilst the estimated expenditure was £107,663, leaving a balance of estimated expenditure over revenue of £15,463. He told the house at that time that he should not deal with this as a deficit, and they would now perceive that he was right, as it had been more than met by the balance of the previous year, and the large amount over that estimated received for rents and assessment. There were, however, supplementary estimates for 1861 to the amount of £24,370 1s. 8d. The sum, however, might not all be actually expended for the services for which it had been required, and he was not yet prepared to treat as a deficit on that year's revenue. For the first quarter of the present year it would be seen by a return which had been published that our revenue was £20,641 7s., against £16,229 9s. 8d. for the same period last year, showing an increase upon the first quarter's revenue of this year of £13,381 17s. 4d. It had been said by those who would do well to study a question before they attempted to talk or write about it, that this return was not so flattering as it appeared, and was calculated to inspire feelings of uneasiness; and it had been asked how much of this revenue under the head Land Revenue (viz., £14,802 15s. 7d., as compared with £4137 3s. for the same quarter of the previous year) had been taken in land orders. He would state that only one land order had been yet taken up. As he had before remarked the sums received for licenses, rents, and assessments, had been much more than was anticipated. The revenue returns for April, the first month of the second quarter, also show a large increase as compared with the same returns of the previous year, and he felt justified in saying that the revenue was steadily increasing. With regard to supplementary estimates it was high time for him to point out to the house that a different course must be pursued for the future than that hitherto adopted with reference to demands of individual members for sums for public works in their several constituencies, after the estimates in chief had been laid on the table. Hitherto the government had endeavored to meet these demands, and the house had sanctioned them, but there was no money to enable them to go on in this way any longer. They must contrive to make both ends meet, and for the future the house must be more considerate, and the government not so passive in yielding to these applications. There was a motion of his friend the hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba at present on the paper. Now he had shown his hon. friend that they could not accede to his motion. He had no money. (Laughter). The motion apparently was for only £600 for a road at Drayton, but the resolution involved actually a much larger sum. If Drayton got £600 then Toowoomba would at once make out a claim for £1200, and Rockhampton which considered itself the future capital would ask for £2000, and Ipswich would at once demand £5000. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) It was time for the ministry to take a stand, as they had no more money to spare. Owing to the wretched neglect of public works which we experienced under New South Wales, there was some excuse for these demands, but he wished to put a stop to this continuous scramble. Whilst one town complains of its not getting enough, its next neighbour complains that that same town is getting too much. There was another thing in connection with the Estimates of 1860. There was £15,000 unexpended balance available for public works. This was a large sum, and at first sight appeared to justify the charge of dilatoriness in proceeding with the public works brought against the government in some quarters. But in the first place they must take into consideration the unexampled bad weather which had served to retard these operations, and secondly, the difficulty which was experienced in getting contracts. The Colonial Architect and others had been blamed, that with reference to some of these works they had not made the proper calculations, but the fact was contractors look upon the government, or perhaps he should say upon the public, as fair game, and usually send in tenders 50 per cent. in advance of what

they would think of submitting for the performance of private works. For the performance of certain works estimated at £150, a tender was sent in recently for £990. (Laughter.) Of course the tender was rejected, and now a tender had been accepted for the same work at the amount estimated. The government have thus to reject these exorbitant tenders until some are sent in approximating to the amount voted for the work. In looking at the estimates for the ensuing year, he must inform hon. members that they had once been returned to the printer in consequence of the omission of a leaf, and now they had been a second time received from the office and found to be deficient in another leaf; for this he was in no way responsible. There was also a mistake in the item of a lock-up at Mount Abundance. The sum in the estimates as £1000, whilst the sum in his manuscript, and consequently the correct sum, was £500. The first item in the ways and means was the Customs; and in spite of the recent unfavorable state of the weather, which operated against getting supplies into the interior, a great increase during the last quarter was observable over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The amount of revenue collected at Moreton Bay for the quarter ending 31st March, 1861, was £13591 7s. 5d., being in excess of the revenue collected during the quarter ending 31st March, 1860, by £1479 6s. 5d. The Customs revenue collected in Queensland for the first quarter of the present year, was £16,942 15s. 7d. It might safely be predicted that the Customs revenue for 1861 would not be much in deficiency of the amount estimated, viz., £80,000. As regarded the present tariff, he had come to the decision that he could not alter it for the better. It had been carefully drawn up some time ago, and it would be unwise to interfere with it now. In some quarters the advisability of abolishing the tea and sugar duties had been hinted. He would simply remark that we could not afford to part with one-fifth of our revenue. The revenue derived from those duties was easy of collection, and they are not sufficiently high to give encouragement to smuggling. In New South Wales and Victoria, a foolish outcry had been attempted against these duties as being burdens upon the "poor man." In the former colony they had attempted to abolish the duty on his tea, but then the loss of revenue was to be compensated by the additional duty upon his rum, and for so equivocal a boon the poor man would not certainly thank them. The poor man did not feel the tax so much as his friends represented, as a large amount of these commodities were given in rations by employers. Moreover, the marketable price of these two articles varied so much, and the duty was so very light, that if it were abolished to-morrow, he believed that the retail dealer would be the only person that profited by the abolition, whilst the most of consumers would not derive the least benefit from it. The next item—land revenue—included proceeds of land sales £60,000, rents of land and license fees, £82,000, and assessment of £30,000. The assessment was calculated at the same amount as last year. The estimated increase for rents and license fees, was anticipated on account of the opening up of the Kennedy district, and but a small increase upon last year in the item of land sales had been put down. It was difficult to define the land sale revenue, as it was impossible to say how far the issue of land orders, or the grants of land to companies under certain conditions might affect this branch of revenue. With regard to the assessment, it would be remembered that the Assessment Act was alluded to last session, and it was determined that it would be best to leave it as it was. As the various leases fell in, all the lands would gradually come under the operation of the new Act, and rent would take the place of assessment. The receipts from the electric telegraph had been put down at £2500, and it was anticipated that they would come to this at the very least. The scab assessment would be collected in July next. The concluding and largest items on the ways and means was that of £115,300, proposed to be raised by loan. He thought it high time that we now commenced to raise money for some very necessary but expensive works by loan. He would now make a few remarks upon the items of expenditure. The salaries had all been left as before, pending the introduction of a Civil Service Bill which his hon. colleague at the head of the government would shortly bring forward, and which would put the question of salaries on a settled basis, preventing the continual demands for an increase of salary on the one hand and complaints of extravagance on the other. In all probability the government would have to bring in a supplementary estimate. He might say with regard to loans that on principle he was opposed to plunging the country into debt. He thought, however, we might be justified in going into debt to the extent of one year's income. It was argued that it was right that posterity should be made to pay a share of the expense of works of which they derived the chief benefit, but we must beware that posterity, as in New South Wales, does not have hereafter to bear all the burden of our senseless expenditure. There, posterity was

burdened with a debt of several millions for a few miles of badly constructed railway. The constant demand and great necessity for public works in this colony, render it necessary that we should go into debt to execute them. On looking at the schedule they would find the first item was for the steam dredge, to bring which into operation, with all its appliances, and work it for one year, would cost, it was estimated, an additional £12,600. The estimated cost of working it for that time was £5000. At the expiration of that time it was contemplated to form a Harbor Trust and endow it with land, and the dredge would then be worked by them. He at first had no great faith in a steam dredge for the removal of impediments in our river, but since he had personally seen what had been effected at the Hunter by means of a steam dredge, his erroneous ideas had been dispelled. The dredge there had been no failure, but a great success. The money spent on this dredge would be an investment productive to the whole colony, and if the increase anticipated by its operation were but realised, the government would be at once bound to provide another for clearing the other harbors of the colony to the northward, as good harbours were as needful to the prosperity of a colony as good roads. The next item was £7000 for the completion of Government House. It was a pity the original plan could not be placed before the house at the time the first vote was asked for but now that the structure had been commenced he thought the house would agree with him in thinking that it was better that it should be thoroughly finished. He thought the cost of the structure altogether had not been excessive. Many private houses in Sydney had been built upon a much more expensive plan, and he hoped the day was not far distant when in Queensland we should have private houses whose erection had cost their owners a good deal more than that of government house. Most of the government houses in the other colonies were far more expensively constructed than our own. Another item (£3000) was for a post office, Brisbane. It was intended to partially defray the cost of the erection of a new building by parting with the block of land on which the present post office stands which was very valuable and procuring a new and less expensive site. Another item was that of £7000 for a wall round the gaol at Brisbane. The fence at present round the gaol was useless as far as security were concerned, and it was also partially destroyed by the white ant. It was no economy to refuse to vote for the erection of this wall as the insecurity of the goal at present necessitated the employment of an additional number of turnkeys, wardens, &c. Under the heading bridges, would be found £2200 for a bridge over the Condamine. He had thought it better to relieve the estimates of this item and transfer it to the loan account. For a bridge between North and South Brisbane the sum of £15,000 was set down. This estimate was, he believed, in excess of the sum actually required. The bridge would be merely a pontoon bridge, and it must be remembered that the existence of a bridge would materially enhance the value of crown lands at South Brisbane. It was contemplated to levy a toll upon the passengers passing over it of the same amount as the present passage by the ferry boat. It would offer no obstructions to navigation, as it could be opened and ships of two or three hundred tonnes could pass through and go on to Ipswich if desired. (Laughter and ironical cheers). Gentlemen might laugh, but he had lived to see more unlikely events than that take place. For a bridge over the Bremer at Ipswich the sum of £7000 was set down. This would also increase the value of land on the north side of that river, more especially as it was proposed to carry this projected tramway over on that side. For immigration purposes £22,000 was set down. It was high time to make further provision for this purpose than now exists. He explained with regret that the commissioners at home possessed no money to charter ships to send us out immigrants, as although money had been regularly remitted from this colony, yet New South Wales refused to let us have the use of the £12000 laying to our credit with the emigration commissioners. This had retarded to a certain extent the efforts of the government in bringing out their assisted emigrants. The government had done all they could with the means at their disposal, but those means were, as yet, quite insufficient. For the continuation of the electric telegraph to the borders of New South Wales and the northern parts of the colony, the sum of £28,000 was set down. The amount of last years special appropriations originally intended to be provided for by a loan, to be paid off in three years it was now intended to add to the present loan, and this made up the whole account. He proposed to borrow the money on debentures at 5 per cent, terminable in 15 years, and he intended to provide for the paying off this loan by a sinking fund, provided for by five per cent on the amount of the loan for each year. This is a course which had been adopted in South Australia. He believed it acted as a useful check to the inclinations of financiers to run too rapidly into debt, or to continually make use of loans in

order to avoid the necessity of taxes when in difficulties. He regretted the question of the debt with New South Wales was as in an unsatisfactory condition as ever. When he was in Sydney the government had promised to introduce a bill in order to get at a settlement of the matter, but had not done so yet, and he feared would not do so now this session. This was a very loose way of doing business. He thought we should eventually be compelled formally to repudiate all alleged liabilities for debts contracted for public works in the territory of New South Wales, or else as once make an appeal to the Imperial Parliament. He now would move that £300 be granted out of the revenue to make good the supply voted by the house for his Excellency's travelling expenses on a tour of inspection.

Mr. RAFF addressed the committee at some length. He thought it highly desirable that before the country went into debt they should understand their exact position. Hon. members would compare the ways and means of 1861 with those of 1862 and judge for themselves whether the Treasurer's anticipations were warranted. With reference to the debt of New South Wales, he deprecated any action which might be construed into repudiation, and thought the best plan for the house to adopt would be to appeal to the Imperial parliament.

Mr. R. CRIBB was an advocate for direct taxation, and proceeded to combat the arguments of the Colonial Treasurer that the abolition of the tea and sugar duty would only have the effect of putting money into the pocket of the retail dealer without benefitting the community at large. The competition of trade was too keen for this to be the result of a repeal of the duties. With regard to debentures, he would sooner that the country knew actually how much money they borrowed and paid in fair interest for that money, than that they should be selling £100 debentures in the market at 94 to 96, and flatter themselves then that they were borrowing money at 5 per cent interest.

Mr. BLAKENEY supported the view of the Colonial Treasurer as to the advisability built of borrowing money by debentures instead of from the banks, as the debentures of this colony would, no doubt, sell better than those of any other. He considered that the amount proposed for the Brisbane post office would prove reproductive from the sale of the land on which the present one was situated. With reference to the bridge over the Brisbane, not only would the tolls realise £1000 or £1200 a year, but the enhanced value which would be given to the 400 allotments of land in Brisbane yet unsold, would give a large increase to the revenue. He was doubtful whether the expenditure of £22,000 for telegraphs to the northward was expedient. With reference to the debt paid on account of New South Wales upon separation, he thought that if that colony would not settle the claim, the home government would interfere in such a way that the matter would be properly adjusted. If no notice were taken of the application of this colony, he would recommend memorialising the home government.

Mr. WATTS had carefully looked over the estimates, and found that out of the sum to be raised by loan, £49,000 was set down for Brisbane alone. The main roads throughout the colony, many of which were at present impassable, should be attended to before the large sums were expended on electric telegraphs, Government House, and such works. As to the bridge over the Brisbane, he thought that for the present a steam punt would be preferable. Twelve months ago a large sum was voted for the erection of a bridge over the Lockyer, but as yet nothing had been done. The Colonial Secretary had spoken of the efficiency of the Surveyor of Roads, but he knew him only as efficient in making expensive plans. Some time since the government of New South Wales forwarded a sum of money to the resident here for a bridge over the Lockyer, and the surveyor had, by refusing to send a plan, on the ground that the sum was not sufficient, caused the money to be returned to New South Wales.

Mr. MACALISTER rose to a point of order. He thought that on the delivery of the financial statement only principles were to be considered not the details which the hon member would have an opportunity of speaking on when they came before the house.

Mr. WATTS proceeded: In this early stage of the colony, he did not see the necessity of constructing a line of telegraph to the north. It would be better to arrange with the other colonies, and to carry the line right through the colony to Java, and then he would support a loan.

Mr. FORBES descanted upon the expense of our government in proportion to our population. He thought it would prove a ruinous policy to borrow on debentures, as other colonies

to their cost had found it.

Mr. RAFF, in reply to remarks of Mr. Watts, had voted against the grant of £3000 for a bridge over the Bremer last year on principle, and should, this year, on principle, vote against the grant for a bridge over the Brisbane or any other river.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN thought the reasons given for the delay in spending sums voted for public works throughout the colony last year most unsatisfactory.

Mr. B. Cribb would oppose the loan if it were possible to do without it.

After some further unimportant discussion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER replied. In answer to one remark he would repeat the actual amount of expenditure for 1860 was £161,503 5s. 3d., and the actual revenue £178,589 8s. 3d. If Mr. Forbes could allow him any plan by which the cost of government would be cheapened he would adopt it. It was observed as a rule to grant sums of money for repairing the main streets of towns, to those towns where municipalities were in existence. He was sure our debentures would fetch us high a price in this market as New South Wales. As to repudiating our just debts, the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Raff) must have misunderstood him, as he never advocated such a course. He merely thought that we should take some steps to let the world know that we were not so deeply in debt as the New South Wales government attempted to represent, else the value of our debentures in the market might be impaired. The people of New South Wales wished to make out that we owe them a million of money or more. (Laughter.)

The resolution was then put and passed, and the Chairman having left the chair and reported progress the house resumed.

#### ADDITIONS TO BRISBANE POLICE.

Mr. BLAKENEY moved his resolution for a grant of £235 for four additional policemen for Brisbane. He pointed out the numerical inadequacy of our present police protection, more especially considering the importations of light-fingered gentry from the neighbouring colonies which every steamer is liable to bring.

Mr. RICHARDS seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY supported the motion.

Mr. FERRETT should oppose the vote, and press his opposition to a division.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN thought the government inconsistent in asserting first that they had no money, and then immediately after ask the house for that grant. As the Colonial Treasurer truly remarked in his speech upon our finances, if these grants were given to one town others would ask for them. If this were passed Ipswich would come and ask for more policemen.

After some further debate, in the course of which Mr. RAFF and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL spoke in support of the motion, and Dr. CHALLINOR and Mr. MOFFATT against it, it was put and passed on a division, by 15 to 7, the minority being Messrs Forbes, Watts, O'Sullivan, Ferrett, Fleming, B. Cribb and Challinor.

#### FASSIFERN ENQUIRY.

Mr. FERRETT, pursuant to notice, moved for a select committee to enquire into the whole proceedings of the coroner of Ipswich, in connection with the death of blacks at Fassifern; the committee to consist of Messrs. Raff, Blakeney, Warry, O'Sullivan, Moffatt, and the mover. He made the motion to supply what he conceived to be an omission in the motion passed the other day for a committee to enquire into the organisation of the native police. After what had appeared in the public journals about this Fassifern affair, he thought this committee should be appointed to ascertain the whole circumstances of the case.

MR. FITZSIMMONS thought the members of the committee should be appointed by ballot.

Mr. LILLEY, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, and the COLONIAL SECRETARY each contended that the appointment of the committee would be a mere assumption by the house of the functions of the executive. They had no particular objection to the motion, but thought it quite

unnecessary.

Dr. Challinor did not regret having written the letter to the Attorney-General, but did regret having published it in the newspapers, if he were thereby guilty of any breach of official etiquette. Had this motion passed, and a report been brought up, he should have asked to be heard in explanation of his conduct at the bar of the House. He had as yet had no opportunity of defending himself, as he did not think it would be becoming in his present position in the matter to resort to the columns of the press.

Mr. FERRETT here announced his intention of withdrawing the motion.

The house adjourned at half-past 6 till next day at 10 o'clock.