

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

...  
**Legislative Assembly**  
**10<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 ten minutes past ten.

**CIVIL SERVICE BILL.**

The COLONIAL SECRETARY having obtained leave to introduce a bill to regulate the Civil Service of Queensland, read the preamble explaining its objects, and stated that in its framing he had availed himself freely of the Victorian bill dealing with the same matter.

The bill was read a first time, and its second reading was set down as an order of the day for Tuesday week next.

**UNREPORTED TENDERS.**

Mr. HALY moved that there be laid upon the table of the house a return showing the amount paid into the Treasury on tenders which have not been reported on. The return moved for and recently obtained by the hon. member (Mr. Moffatt) was calculated to mislead the public. In that return there were 1700 tenders on which it was said no rent had been paid. Each of these would contain, at least, 25 square miles, and the area of the whole would represent 42,500 square miles of country, which they were supposed to represent as yet untenanted and unpaid for. He contended that the districts of the Burnett, Wide Bay, and Port Curtis were now entirely stocked, and had been so for some time; therefore the remaining districts of the Maranoa and Leichhardt would have to furnish the above area. The Maranoa district itself contained an area of about 18,000 square miles, and the Leichhardt about 39,600 square miles, making a total of 57,600 square miles. From this must be deducted the country in these two districts which was at this moment in the occupation of the settler, or which is paid for by him, and this be computed at three-fifths of the whole, or 34,560 square miles. There must also be deducted the unavailable country which included mountainous broken country, country devoid of water, &c. He (Mr. Haly) computed this at one-eighth of the whole, or, 7200 square miles, and adding this to the tenanted country previously mentioned, they had 41,760 square miles to deduct. This sum taken from the presumed area of Maranoa and Leichhardt left a balance of 15,840 square miles (12,633 tenders of 25 miles each). Hence it was clear, making every possible allowance for country which might be supposed to be in existence, that only one third of tenders could possibly be valid. He believed that 400 tenders would be found to be all actually representing land in existence.

Mr. GORE seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER thought his hon. colleague had misled the house by his statement. Of the amount paid into the Treasury he imagined but little would have to be refunded, as they were nearly all bona fide tenders. He believed with the mover that a quarter of the tenders originally sent in were nowhere, but he argued that nearly all upon which rent had been paid were bona fide tenders. It had been stated by the hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. Macalister) in a speech at Ipswich that £60,000 had been paid into the Treasury upon tenders unreported on. This was a fallacy for which he (the Colonial Secretary) was not responsible. The extreme amount paid would be but half of that.

Mr. FITZSIMMONS was of opinion that the local Commissioner should report upon these runs at once.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that the whole of the runs referred to were unreported on. It was understood under the Tenders' Act that the tenderer should pay his rent in advance for one year, and subsequently his run would be reported upon. The government did not pledge themselves for the existence of the runs tendered for, but it was not likely that people would knowingly pay rent for land which had no existence except in their own imagination. Until the runs were tendered for and rent paid, the government did not take upon themselves to send an officer to make a statement with regard to the existence of the run or boundaries. The payment of the rent was a sort of guarantee of the bona fide nature of the tender.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN understood from the Treasurer that the two thousand runs forfeited were believed to be only imaginary tracts of land. (The Col. Treasurer: "Yes.") Such a state of things he thought calculated to mislead the country.

Mr. FERRETT agreed with the statements of the mover of the motion. He also severely blamed the government for being backward in sending commissioners to report on the runs.

After some further remarks from Dr. Challinor, the Colonial Secretary, and the mover, the motion was put and passed.

### IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

Mr. COXEN moved—"That an address be presented to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause to be laid on the table of this house a return showing the number of immigrants applied for under the present regulation, showing those applied for by nomination and by guarantee separately." He thought it desirable that the public should be enlightened as to how the clauses to the Land Act and the Immigration Regulations were working.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY regretted that the returns were not larger. He believed the system was not yet understood. The pastoral tenants of the crown never had such an opportunity for getting cheap labour as under the guarantee system.

Mr. FORBES thought arrangements should be made to offer private companies inducements to take up land, and import labor under the Land Act. The clauses requiring occupation and cultivation within certain periods should in these cases be relaxed, and those periods extended.

Mr. RAFF accused the government of tardiness in framing the immigration regulations, and subsequently of want of energy in making them known. The ignorance of which the Colonial Secretary complained was the fault of the government. They should have sent round circulars enclosing forms of guarantee to the different employers of labor.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN asked if a child under four years of age under the new regulations came out free. Some doubt existed upon that point. He thought the parents of such a child should not be made to pay its passage, but at the same time no land order or share of a land order should be given to it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY in answer to the Hon. member, conceived that the regulations intended that such a child should be treated as the hon. member recommended. In reply to the strictures of the hon. member for North Brisbane, that hon. member must have been misinformed, as the government had adopted precisely the course which he blamed them for not having adopted.

After a few remarks from Dr. CHALLINOR and Mr. CRIBB,

MR. HALY said, that so far as the squatters in his neighbourhood were concerned, he much regretted they had not availed themselves of the advantages of the system now in force.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL did not intend to discuss the question upon that occasion, the government intended shortly to put before that house certain papers which would afford an opportunity to hon. members of giving such suggestions as they might think useful.

Mr. FERRETT was at a loss to understand the system of guarantee. The Emigration Agent was sent home, and, notwithstanding that great praise was bestowed on the government for selecting such a man as Mr Jordan, he (Mr. Ferrett) was far from satisfied that that gentleman was qualified by experience for the duties he had undertaken. He should be very sorry to see

companies allowed to purchase land in agricultural reserves without some limitation or restriction.

The COLONIAL TREASURER thought that Mr. Ferrett was labouring under the idea that only those persons sent out by Mr Jordan could come here under the present regulations, whereas any person could do so by complying with the necessary requirements.

Mr. BLAKENEY did not see why parties should be obliged to pay six months before hand in the case of private immigration, when if they got out their friends or laborers by the government agent, payment would not be required until their arrival.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY rose to a point of order. The objections made, and questions asked by various members were very embarrassing to the government, inasmuch as they were then debarred giving explanations that would remove all objections raised.

The SPEAKER much regretted to observe that certain members had fallen into great irregularity lately, by putting questions in their speeches, and he also found the practice increasing of rising to explain upon many points when by the rules it was out of order to do so. He begged to remind honorable members that explanations were only allowed in cases where they had been misquoted or misunderstood.

After a few remarks from Mr. COXEN, in which he stated that it was not his intention in bringing forward his motion to have provoked discussion,

The SPEAKER put the question, which was carried in the affirmative.

### **BRISBANE POLICE.**

The house then went into committee upon Mr. Blakeney's motion for additional policemen for Brisbane, and the same having been reported to the house as a resolution of the committee, it was agreed that the report should be received on Wednesday.

### **ADJOURNMENT.**

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in moving the adjournment of the house, would take that opportunity of stating that the subject of immigration would shortly be gone fully into.

The house then adjourned till Wednesday next, at 3 o'clock, instead of Tuesday, the English mail having to be prepared for on that day.