

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

...
Legislative Assembly
17th May 1861
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 18th May 1861

THE SPEAKER took the chair at ten minutes past ten o'clock.

BRIDGE OVER THE BREMER.

In answer to Mr. FORBES, the COLONIAL SECRETARY stated that £3000, voted that year for the erection of a bridge over the Bremer, at Ipswich, was now available. The Government, learning from the report of competent persons that a much larger sum would be required to erect a good permanent structure, above high-water mark, had not deemed it advisable to commence the expenditure of this amount. It would be seen by the Estimates of 1862, that £7,000 was put down for the erection of a bridge at the place indicated. This sum of £7,000 was inclusive of the £3,000 voted last session.

LIGHT SHIP IN THE BAY.

Mr. WATTS, pursuant to notice, asked the Colonial Treasurer—

If the Harbour authorities have advised that the present locality of the "Rose" light ship is the best for assisting mariners in navigating the worst and most dangerous part of the Bay, and if not, if it is the intention of the government to satisfy themselves upon this point ?

The COLONIAL TREASURER replied that the light-ship "Rose" had been placed in its present position in accordance with the recommendation of the Departmental Committee of last session, which took evidence upon the matter. The Pilot Board had also made recommendations to the same effect.

LAW OF FALSE PRETENCES BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the second reading of this bill was, in the absence of the Attorney-General, postponed until Tuesday next.

QUEEN'S PLATE.

Mr. MOFFATT, pursuant to notice, moved—

"That this house will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider an Address to the Governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to cause the sum of £105 to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1861, to provide a Queen's Plate to be run for at the ensuing Metropolitan Race, Ipswich, under the management of the North Australian Jockey Club."

He was glad to perceive that by the Estimates for 1862, the government had recognised the expediency of granting for that year a similar sum for the same object as that for which he now asked this amount for the present year. He thought it advisable that this sum should be placed on the supplementary estimates for 1861. There would be a large number of persons collected together at the ensuing races, and something should be done to encourage those races. He might state that the government had expressed themselves favorable to this motion but did not feel justified in granting the sum without the permission of the house.

Mr. B. CRIBB objected to this motion on principle. He did not think the money of the people should be spent in this way. He knew, however, that the house would pass the vote, and he should not therefore press his objections to a division.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY thought that this was a very good expenditure of a small sum of money. (Hear, hear.) They were called upon to expend a good deal for the improvement of roads, and he thought they might spend something for the improvement of the breed of weight-carrying horses.

Mr. FERRETT thought that he would not be doing his duty to his country on this occasion without making a few remarks. (Laughter.) He looked upon this as a species of class legislation. (No, no.) The Colonial Secretary had told them this motion was to benefit horses. (The COLONIAL SECRETARY—"No. I said the riders of horses.")—(Laughter.) Many persons in the community did not ride horses at all. (Hear, hear.) This money had to come out of the general revenue, to which all contributed. A large number of people were directly opposed to horse-racing, on conscientious grounds. They considered it a species of gambling. He did not think that house was supposed to encourage gambling. Some years ago New South Wales did devote a sum to this purpose, but now they saw the error of their ways. (Laughter.) He hoped that the house would not be so foolish as to establish the precedent of voting such a sum, as they would subsequently at some future period have to strike it out as other colonies had done.

Mr MACALISTER was delighted to find his friend the hon. member for Maranoa appearing in quite a new character, and that principles of sound morality had at length found in that house so able a defender and advocate. (Laughter.) It had been stated that, by acceding to this motion, the house would encourage gambling. Now he had often heard it set forth that it was wrong to do evil in order that good might come of it, but he had never heard that it was forbidden to do good because evil might subsequently arise from it. (Hear, hear.) Horse-racing, in itself, was clearly not gambling. He quite concurred in the remarks of the Colonial Secretary as to the advisability of in this way giving some slight encouragement to improve the breed of horses, more especially in an eminently pastoral country like our own. If parties would gamble at horse-races, that was their own fault. One suggestion he begged to offer. The North Australian races were already advertised, and if this sum of money were voted on this occasion, it would be as well to devote it to a district cup. (Hear, hear.)

Mr R. CRIBB disapproved of horse-racing entirely, but knew that it would be of no good for him to divide the house on the present occasion. He was aware that it was usual at home, and in the other colonies, to vote money for a similar purpose to this. It had been stated that by voting this sum they would support improvements in the breed of horses, but this might be effected in a more legitimate manner than that now proposed. They might offer prizes for the best breed; and he would vote £10,000 to improve the breed in a legitimate way. There was great gambling connected with the turf; and by encouraging races, they offered a premium on gambling and crime.

Mr. LILLEY wished to know whether the hon. member for North Brisbane, after the speech he had just delivered, did not intend to vote against this motion. (Laughter.) He (Mr. L.) should support the motion, as, being an Englishman, he liked to encourage the old manly English sports. (Hear, hear.) He believed that these races should be kept up, as they did tend materially to encourage the breeders of horses. Undoubtedly gambling did take place at horse-races, as remarked by the last speaker, but he (Mr. L.) had seen sins committed even in church. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GORE pointed out that in England analagous sums were usually voted in order to encourage a peculiar style of race, and promote the breed of what were termed "weight carriers," or horses capable of carrying heavy weights. It was highly necessary that the breed of this class of animal should be encouraged, although his hon. friend the member for Maranoa being himself a light weight did not perceive perhaps the necessity. (Hear, hear.)

REFRESHMENT ROOM.

Mr. MACALISTER moved—

"That this house will, on Tuesday first, 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 to be placed on the Estimates for the year 1861, the sum of £500 to meet the expenses of the Refreshment Room."

He explained that the motion would be merely carrying out the recommendations of the committee.

Mr R. CRIBB seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

MAIN ROAD THROUGH GAYNDAH.

Mr. HALY moved—

"That this house will, on Tuesday 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 to be placed upon the Supplementary Estimates for 1861, a sum not exceeding £500, for Repairs to the Main Road through Gayndah."

He had opposed on a previous occasion the motion of his hon. friend the member for Drayton and Toowoomba on the ground of economy. As the house, however, affirmed the principle then that when a main road passed through a town it should be repaired at the public expense, he had brought forward the present motion. This sum would place the road in thorough repair, and he would not come down to the house a second time as his hon. friend the member for Drayton and Toowoomba had done. Gayndah was composed of Gayndah and Gayndah proper, and between the two was a ridge which required cutting down. There were other repairs to the road highly requisite, and which, if effected, would greatly facilitate traffic.

Mr. LILLEY thought that the house the other evening had merely affirmed the principle that if two or three persons put up their humpies by the side of a main road, they should be called upon to keep that road in repair. He believed Gayndah possessed a sufficient population to be formed into a municipality. (No, from the Colonial Treasurer.)

Mr. MOFFATT opposed the motion on the ground that the road referred to was not in such a condition as to justify this expenditure at present. He thought that after having opposed a motion of a similar character the other evening, his hon. friend (Mr. Haly) was guilty of inconsistency in bringing forward the present resolution.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN also opposed the motion, as he believed it to be brought forward as a retaliation for the motion of the hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba, the other evening.

The COLONIAL TREASURER explained that the inhabitants of Gayndah were extremely anxious to form themselves into a municipality as soon as there were a sufficient number of inhabitants to meet the requirements of the act. This sum was asked for some time back, and refused by the government on the score of economy. Now, however, matters were a different aspect. The hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba said, that he merely wanted his fair share. He had now got his fair share of those taxes or that loan, which he (The Colonial Treasurer) would have to come down and ask the house to assent to. He now wanted a fair share for Gayndah, which was the principal outlet of a large district. The improvements were highly requisite, and would greatly benefit the inhabitants of that district. As the house had the other evening assented to a somewhat novel principle, it was now his duty to see that justice was done to his constituency.

Mr. FORBES opposed the motion, as, if adopted, it would lead to a general scramble on the part of every hon. member on behalf of his constituency.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY opposed the motion on the same grounds as those advanced by the previous speaker. They were initiating a new line of procedure. The constituencies reposed faith in their members, and did not require them to come down and scramble after the public funds in this irregular manner. He suggested that any motions of a similar character to this should be postponed until after the estimates in chief were passed. All the items set down in those estimates might not be assented to, and, if so, there would then be a balance to meet such motions as the present, and the house would have some guide in voting such sums of money. He had excited the anger of his hon. friend the Colonial Treasurer by voting as he had done on a previous occasion for a similar motion to this, and had also got into the bad graces of the hon. member for Maranoa for opposing a similar motion. (Laughter.) Nevertheless, he must oppose the present motion.

Mr. GORE should oppose this motion, but if it were acceded to, he should feel bound to come down to the house to ask for a sum for the repairs of the road through Warwick. He was opposed on principle to this irregular method of obtaining grants of the public money.

Mr. RAFF was glad to see that some hon. members had repented of the vote given on a previous evening, in reference to a matter analogous to the one now before the house. He did not think with the hon. member for Ipswich that this motion had been introduced with a view to retaliation, but at the same time he thought it showed the defectiveness of the system on which it was proposed to act in reference to the expenditure of the public money. He was disposed, however, to grant a reduction of £600 in the estimate granted the other night in order to meet the requirements of the motion now before the house, although as he said before the principal was decidedly bad.

Mr. FERRETT supported the motion, and alluded particularly to the difficulties of the road some portions of which were so bad as to obstruct all traffic even in the most moderate seasons. The drays with wool were often delayed for weeks and months together, and as a matter of course the producers were correspondingly deprived of the amount of profits which they were entitled to expect. He wondered whether the government would forego taking the rents of the squatters in proportion to the

time the squatters were compelled by the impassable state of the roads to stay out of their profits on the sale of the wool. (Hear, hear.) Taking this point of view he was at a loss to understand upon what ground any hon. member could oppose the motion.

Mr. MACALISTER contended that there was a decided exception in favour of the grant allowed to the Ipswich line (oh! oh!) on the ground that it formed one of the great arteries leading into the interior. But as regarded motions of this kind he could see no necessity for supporting them, unless from information of a most undeniable character, and it appeared to him that any support they might grant on the present motion would only give encouragement to similar motions, and thus lend to a system of retaliation in the shape of similar motions, a threat of which had already been offered to the house. At all events he could see no reason for acceding to the motion without information, and in order to show that the district had received its full share of the public money the hon. member quoted largely from the Estimates of the last session as assented to by the Assembly, showing among other things, that an electorate having a minister of the Crown to represent it cannot complain as to the paucity of money devoted to its improvement.

Mr. B. CRIBB remarked, in answer to the hon. member (Mr. Raff), that he for one had not repented of the support or the vote he had given the other night on the question particularly alluded to, but with regard to the matter now before the house he thought that a sufficient case had not been made out to warrant his vote in its favour, and therefore he should vote against the motion.

Mr. WATTS defended his motion with regard to the sum of money granted for the repair of the main road passing through Drayton, and pointed out with reference to the expenditure of the public money during the last session that the only money devoted to the repair of the roads on the other side of the dividing range was £200. With regard to the present vote, he had no particular feeling either one way or the other, but he was disposed to support it, on condition that a portion of the sum already on the estimates was granted thereto.

Mr. LILLEY explained that the discussion which had taken place showed the necessity of the government introducing some measure compelling all towns of the necessary population to form themselves into municipalities.

Mr. HALY briefly replied, after which the motion was put, and negatived on the following division:—

Ayes, 3.		Noes, 15.	
Mr. Haly		Colonial Secretary	
Ferrett	} Tellers.	Mr. Royds	
Col. Treasurer		Macalister	
		Lilley	
		O'Sullivan	
		Raff	
		Edmondstone	
		Fleming	
		Forbes	
		Moffatt	
		Watts	
		B. Cribb	
		Warry	
		Blakeney	} Tellers
		Gore	

MAIN ROAD THROUGH DALBY.

The SPEAKER pointed out the next motion (in the name of Mr. Coxen) having reference to repairs of the above road, had been placed on the paper of to-day by mistake.

MARRIAGE BILL.

Mr. LILLEY remarked that as some intelligence had arrived by the last mail which might aid

those members in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion on the bill, he would ask leave to postpone the second reading for a fortnight. A paragraph had been published to the effect, that the House of Lords had decided adversely to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and that consequently, all marriages of the kind celebrated in the colonies would be held invalid in England. In the mean time he expected to receive through the Jurist, correct information on the subject.

The postponement was accordingly acceded to; and the house adjourned at twelve minutes past eleven o'clock until three o'clock on Tuesday next.