

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
25th July 1861**
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 26th July 1861

The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter past three.

IMPERIAL ACT WITH REFERENCE TO QUEENSLAND.

Mr. MACALISTER begged to withdraw the question standing in his name, having had an opportunity of seeing and perusing the bill to which that question referred.

APPROPRIATION ACT.

On the motion of the COLONIAL TREASURER, the Appropriation Bill for 1861-62, was read a second time.

The House then went into committee upon this bill, all the clauses of which were passed without amendment. The measure was then reported without amendments to the house, and the third reading was set down as an order of the day for Tuesday next.

NATIVE POLICE COMMITTEE.

Mr. MACALISTER, in rising to renew the debate upon this report, for the adjournment of which he had moved yesterday, said that, although he could not award the report very high praise as a literary production, yet, looking at it with reference to the voluminous evidence with which it was accompanied— looking at it also with reference to the important subject of which it treated— it was certainly a production deserving the anxious attention of every hon. member of that house. It appeared to him that an immense amount of irrelevant evidence had been introduced in the course of the examinations. It seemed also as though several members of the committee had indulged themselves in the amusement of endeavouring to extract from each witness examined evidence to support their own peculiar views upon some particular crotchet. One hon. member had evidently, from his line of examination, taken it into his head that fearful and unnatural practices were followed by the blacks at their borees or gatherings. He (Mr. M.) had not discovered that this assumption was borne out by the evidence. Another hon. member had amused himself by examining witnesses as to the authorship of letters which had appeared in the public papers of the day. He had not discovered, however, that that hon. member had been successful in extracting information which the witnesses were certainly not called upon to divulge. Looking at the whole of the 160 pages of evidence, he thought that if they were divided by ten the real amount of evidence of any value to the house would be arrived at. There could be no doubt that the best means of affording security for the lives and property of the settlers was a question of vital importance. He admitted that as long as they attempted to introduce population into the colony, and offered encouragement to persons from the neighbouring colonies to come here and settle with their flocks and herds, it was the duty of the government to provide a force which should be a guarantee for the security of property and the safety of persons connected with it. In looking over the evidence, which he had not had time to so closely examine as he could have wished, he had endeavoured to separate the testimony of practical persons, men who had been many years in the colony, and were well acquainted with the manners and habits of the aborigines, from the evidence of another character. He found in the course of the evidence, opinions put forth by gentlemen, for whose ideas on most subjects he had the highest respect, but who had in this matter given way to a maudlin sentimentality, and uttered opinions upon

subjects of which they knew nothing; men who had never been in a contest with the blacks, and therefore had had no opportunity of affording a good opinion upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) It appeared to him that the persons best qualified to offer testimony were not only squatters, but also those men who had been for 20 or 25 years in the colony, for a considerable period of which time they had resided amongst blacks. For instance, there was the man Davis, from whose testimony they could discover the kind of individuals they had to deal with. The honorable member here proceeded to quote the following portion of the evidence of Davis:—

Have you noticed that any of these blacks are cannibals?—The whole of them are.

Without doubt?—I believe so, but I should not like to say that they are cannibals all over the interior. As far as I have been—and I think I have been six or seven hundred miles to the north—they are all cannibals.

You must often have seen them eating the blacks?—I have seen them eat hundreds of them?

On what occasion do they generally eat them—do they eat their comrades after a battle?—Yes, any young men or middle-aged men—men up to forty—all the men fit for fighting are eaten; they are skinned first, and roasted; their skin and bones are kept for a remembrance.

The skin and bones of those that are killed?—Yes.

I am to presume that they eat their comrades from choice, and not from starvation?—It is not starvation—not at all; they just eat them from fancy for the food; they are very fond of human flesh; the bodies are very fat—children of two years old are quite fat, and they are very fond of the fat.

Have you ever observed anything like religious ceremonies among them?—No, none.

Of course you have seen many of their meetings—corroborees and borees?—Yes; I know everything connected with them.

What do they do at these borees?—The borees have always something to do with women.

Are the blacks not mischievously inclined when they meet at these borees—do they not hatch mischief against the whites?—They do so, undoubtedly.

What is the largest number you have ever seen attend a boree?—I have seen about ten tribes—muster of about a thousand.

Do you think it would be advisable to put a stop to these borees?—I think it could not be done.

Do you think it would be advisable, if it could be done?—I think it would cause a great deal of damage to be done among the white men.

From this evidence, and also that of other individuals, it appeared that the people we had to deal with are cannibals, and were guilty also of all those other savage vices usually accompanying cannibalism. This was evident from the testimony of Mr. Compigne—

I think you stated that since the detachment of native police had been stationed there, the blacks had been less troublesome?—Oh, far less troublesome; previous to that time I could not send a married shepherd to any station except the head station, as the women would be ravished by the blacks.

Were there any cases of rape?—Yes. I have but one married couple now; they are stationed within three miles of the head station, and when their time is expired I shall have no married shepherds, except at the head station.

Have you known any cases of rape on your own stations?—Yes.

More than one?—Yes.

Distinctly traceable to the blacks?—Yes.

Were they prosecuted for the offence?—No. Upon one occasion, some years ago, I came into town and reported a case to Mr. Brown, the police magistrate, and he said he could not send out any police, for they had gone out after blacks who had committed a similar offence in this

place.

Were none of the blacks prosecuted?—No.

From this evidence, and he believed some evidence given by Mr. Lowe, page 8, it would appear that these men, independently of their cannibalism, were frequently guilty of the offence of rape. Mr. Lowe also proved that they were guilty of the crime of murder. So that we had to deal with a race of cannibals employing themselves in the commission of murder, rape and cattle stealing. In order to show the futility of attempting to educate such a race of beings, he would again quote from the evidence of Davis:—

Do you think, after having been so many years among the blacks, that anything could be done in civilising them, or putting them to school?—That has been tried; it was tried when I first came into the colony, twenty years ago. There have been missions in all directions, and orphan schools, and they have tried all means with them, but I understood the missionaries never could manage them; they are a lazy race, and not inclined for doing any good. They are all very well to ride a horse and so on, and go with bullock drays, but, for agricultural purposes, they are no good.

With this evidence as to the character of these individuals there appeared to him an impossibility of doing any thing to teach them. No member would dispute for a moment the fact that the government were entitled to put such a force upon the frontier as would prevent as much as possible the commission of murder, rape, and other outrages upon the white settler. With regard to the question what kind of force was best adapted for this duty, a greater difference of opinion existed. Some were in favour of a white force, some advocated a white force for particular portions of the colony, and the employment of blacks in the scrubs alone, whilst others were in favour of the native police as at present constituted. He observed that one of the advocates for a white force was Mr. Brown, a gentleman of great experience in the colony, but even he recommended the employment of a black force in some portions of the country. The majority of witnesses however in opposition to Mr. Brown agreed that nothing less than the native police force would be of any value. The evidence went to show that where immense scrubs existed, no white man dared enter them. This portion of the evidence was somewhat unsatisfactory. It was shown that the blacks could penetrate the scrubs and that no white man could do so; but it had not been shown that the native police themselves could do any good against the blacks in scrub country. They knew that in the scrub there was always fighting, shooting, and killing, but no prisoners were ever taken. In the whole course of his experience he could not remember a single case of the native police capturing a man in the scrub and imprisoning him. (Hear, hear.) It appeared to him then, that when the native police entered the scrub the fight must be a fight of extermination, and if that were the object in view, the black police were the proper men. (Hear, hear.) You could not take these men in a scrub; there was nothing to show that any had ever been taken. After an impartial consideration of the evidence, he was inclined to believe that the black police were the only force which could be employed against the aborigines with success. (Hear, hear.) He agreed with the report so far as it set forth that the black police were superior to a white force; but he thought that the committee had failed to show that, since the constitution of the force under its present commandant, it had been an efficient one. The greater portion of the evidence taken to prove the superiority of the black police to the white police had reference to the force some twenty years ago. (Cries of "No, no.") He maintained that, with the exception of the native police officers themselves, the evidence of the whole of the witnesses alluded to the force some twenty years ago. There was the story of the Naomi river slaughter, and the judicial murder of white men in Sydney, again brought up. Indeed, the evidence of the native police themselves showed that the force had not been in an efficient condition for at least the last eighteen months. There was one portion of the report which he thought displayed partiality. The report said:—

With respect to the affray at Mr. Mortimer's, it appears that the detachment of police stationed at Maryborough was most improperly handed over by the officer in charge, Lieutenant Murray, to Second Lieutenant Morrisset, a young officer newly appointed, unacquainted with his duties, and also with the troopers placed under his control. It also appears by the evidence that the natives had been committing depredations in that neighbourhood for some time previous, and that the assistance of the police had been demanded. It is likewise shown by Mr. Morrisset's

report that they attacked the police in the first instance. After a careful consideration of the evidence in this case, your committee recommend that Lieutenant Murray should be removed from the force, both on this account, and his general unfitness for his duties.

There was no evidence to show that the young officer in question was "unacquainted with his duties." The evidence, indeed, entirely disproved this allegation. The testimony of Captain Morrissett showed that the young officer in question was not unacquainted with his duties. Lieutenant Murray was also proved to be an efficient officer, and on the occasion above referred to, his conduct was approved of by his superior in command. The fact of it was, however, that the committee thought somebody must be sacrificed, and therefore Lieut. Murray—an efficient officer, against whom the only fault found was that he was fond of a glass of grog occasionally—was pitched upon as the victim. (Hear, hear.) But with regard to the efficiency of the corps, even Captain Morrissett himself admitted that the force was not in so efficient a condition as it should be. In answer to one question put by the chairman to that officer, as to when he had last visited one of his principal stations, he replied that he had not been near it for twelve months. Could it be supposed that efficiency could exist under such circumstances? It was curious that, after eliciting such an answer, none of the committee asked Captain Morrissett whether he had visited any of their stations during the last twelve months. Referring to the evidence of another witness (Mr. Babbett), who, from his manner of giving evidence, was evidently a witness of truth, he found that gentlemen making statements with reference to the conduct of Lieutenant Powell which certainly should have been noticed in the report. From his evidence it would appear that Gulliver, no doubt a thorough scoundrel, who deserved hanging, was shot in cold blood. The evidence was so conclusive, that that officer ought to have been included in the recommendation for dismissal. Another portion of the evidence proved that over the last twelve months the native police had not been supplied with ammunition. The evidence of Lieutenant Carr, with reference to this point, was given in a manly, independent, and straightforward manner. (Hear, hear.) How could efficiency be expected when the stations were left for eighteen months unvisited, and the troops left for twelve months unsupplied with ammunition? Another fault, not done to the force themselves, but to others, was that they had not for a length of time received any clothing. Thus, they were sent to battle with muskets without ammunition, and as naked as when they came into the force. Another portion of the evidence demonstrated that it would be advisable to separate the black prisoners from the white in prison, but no such recommendation had been made in the report. The testimony of one of the witnesses, Mr. Macdonnell, secretary of police department, proved his utter inefficiency as an officer, and certainly his conduct—to which was mainly to be attributed the iniquitous delay in furnishing the white police with clothing and ammunition, —ought to be taken notice of by the executive. (The hon. member here quoted the evidence of Mr. Macdonnell up to the 43rd question.) He had quoted enough to prove that that officer had not done his duty. Under all the circumstances he (Mr. Macalister) felt bound to vote for this report, although he thought it had omitted many recommendations, and did not go to the full extent to which it should. He trusted that the executive, however, would not only carry out the report, but also many suggestions contained in the evidence on which the report was founded.

Mr FERRETT said that after the able manner in which the question had been gone into by hon. members who had already spoken, it was not necessary that he should go through the evidence. The report did certainly not go quite so far as he would wish, and in that respect he entirely agreed with the last speaker. Before proceeding further he would observe that he was not able to attend the committee so often as he could have wished. By looking over the evidence he found that he was not present when evidence of some importance was taken, more especially that of the Commandant, Lieut. Bligh, and Mr. Macdonnell. Had he been present, he felt that he should have more pleasure in going into the evidence, and have had more opportunity of carrying out his wishes. He need not tell the house that the drawing up of reports of committees rested with the chairman, who placed it before the committee, who had the power of proposing amendments. The truth, certainly, might thus be arrived at, but not in such a way as to meet the views of the whole committee. While he thought that perhaps it might not be expedient to meet the views of every member, yet it might be possible to frame the report so as to include the views of each. One paragraph stated—"In acquiring information on the subject of the working of the native police, your committee, by selecting persons from all classes, have endeavored to

avoid making the evidence merely the expression of the views of any section of the community, favorable or otherwise, to the abstract question of the employment of an aboriginal protective force." He did not doubt but that was to some extent their view, and was carried out by them; but he was sorry to say that so far as his views went, they did not do so, as there were persons who wished to be examined before the committee, but were never called. For this the committee had some excuse, in consequence of their time being so short, that had these persons been called the report could not have been brought up this session. Among these was the hon. member Mr. Coxen, whose opinion he was glad to have from his own lips last evening. He quite agreed with that portion which stated "that any change in the organization of the force, by the substitution of white troopers for natives, would destroy its efficiency," his opinion being that the mingling the two classes would lead to more bloodshed. The next paragraph stated "that since its establishment and reconstruction under its present commandant, the destruction of property and loss of life on either side has considerably diminished." He entirely agreed with that, and felt assured that since the reorganisation of the force under the late commandant it had much improved in efficiency, such murders as those on the Dawson, and Macintyre, and other outrages, not being heard of. He was not there to defend Mr. Morrisset, who he must say had, since his being appointed Inspector General, become all but useless; but had he been left in the same position as he was when separation took place, would have still proved himself to be quite as efficient as the renowned Lieutenant Walker, if not more so. He also agreed with the following, "That any attempt to disband the force suddenly, would, as on a previous occasion, lead to disastrous results," as he was sure that were the present force disbanded, the natives would take advantage of the circumstance, and attack the occupants of outside stations, if not completely drive them off the ground. The evidence of Mr. Morrisset and some of the witnesses, plainly showed that any want of discipline that has existed in the force, or any excesses that are attributable to the troopers, have arisen mainly from the inefficiency, the indiscretion, and the intemperance of some of the officers. The report went on to say "that no advantages would accrue to the colony by a reconstruction of the corps in the way that has been proposed by some of the witnesses;" and it was fully borne out by the evidence that the disbanding the present force, and substituting in its place white troopers, would prove more expensive and less efficient. It was of the highest importance to secure the highest efficiency in the force, and in none of the government departments did that efficiency depend more upon the officers. Another recommendation was that the native police should not be stationed within the vicinity of any town. He believed that these people should not be allowed even to enter the towns, except when urgently required to do so. While he agreed with the recommendation that the troopers should in all cases be recruited at a distance from the districts in which they are likely to be employed, he would take occasion to remark that recruiting for the force was often carried out to the detriment of the settlers. In his own neighbourhood many stations were entirely managed by black boys who, having been brought up on them from children, knew the haunts of the cattle, and those boys he has often known to be taken off by police officers by force. He thought that the government should take particular notice of this fact, and it tended much to the prevention of the settlement of the country. The plan of making monthly returns was customary formerly, and was originally adopted by Mr. Walker. If it had not been continued, it certainly should have been. The next point was that the removal of efficient officers from the districts they have been accustomed to serve in was to be deprecated. He entirely concurred in this, as officers who had been for some time in a place were not only likely to know all the haunts of the blacks, but also the good characters from the bad, which was a matter of great importance. Indeed, it frequently took a long time to know these people, as from their wandering habits, many belonging to a district were away from it for twelve months, attending bunya-bunyas, borees or corroborees, &c., thus the officer might not know the greatest murderers and villains. The hon. member, after reading the following:—"Your committee, although aware how difficult it may be in cases where depredations are committed by the blacks to make them amenable to British law, cannot countenance the indiscriminate slaughter which appears on more than one occasion to have taken place. Lieutenant Wheeler appears to have acted with indiscretion on his late visit to the Logan and Fassifern. Your committee recommend that he should be reprimanded, and removed to another district; were it not that in other respects he is a most valuable and zealous officer, they would feel it their duty to recommend his dismissal—observed that he objected to the use of the words "indiscriminate slaughter." He was

not satisfied, from the evidence, that any had taken place; and although Lieut. Wheeler might have acted with indiscretion, he believed that questions were put to him that were not justifiable. If committees had power to ask such questions as could be put by no other tribunal in the world, he thought it high time that their privileges in that respect should be curtailed. Had all the other witnesses told the whole truth, perhaps the affair would have borne a very different aspect. Lieut. Wheeler told them that he was not furnished with instructions. What did the commandant say? "He believed he was; if not, it was an oversight." Under all the circumstances, he did not consider that Lieut. Wheeler had acted with such indiscretion as to be branded as a murderer. From what he knew, if Mr. Wheeler had not fired upon the blacks, they would certainly have placed it out of his power ever to do so again. One portion of the report recommended that Mr. Wheeler should be reprimanded and sent to another district, notwithstanding that the previous paragraph stated that the removal of efficient officers was to be deprecated. His opinion was that it would be better to dismiss him than pass such a reprimand. If a charge of murder could be made against him, why was it not brought forward at the time, and by persons on the spot. It was no fault of the house or of the government that this was not done, but was of the authorities on the spot. It appeared very questionable to him whether Mr. Wheeler was not blameable for not taking such measures as the law afforded against those who brought such charges against him. He would proceed to the following portion in the affair at the Messrs. Mortimers:—

With respect to the affray at Mr. Mortimer's, it appears that the detachment of police stationed at Maryborough was most improperly handed over by the officer in charge, Lieutenant Murray, to Second Lieutenant Morrissett, a young officer newly appointed, unacquainted with his duties, and also with the troopers placed under his control. It also appears by the evidence that the natives had been committing depredations in that neighborhood for some time previous, and that the assistance of the police had been demanded. It is likewise shown by Mr. Morrissett's report that they attacked the police in the first instance. After a careful consideration of the evidence in this case, your committee recommend that Lieutenant Murray should be removed from the force, both on this account, and his general unfitness for his duties.

Before coming to the conclusion that Lieutenant Murray should be dismissed for his conduct on this occasion, the committee should have inquired how far that gentleman was to blame in this particular matter. He (Mr. Ferrett) believed him one of the most efficient officers in the service. His intemperance might operate against him; if so, he should be dismissed on that account, and not for the charge on the evidence adduced. Lieutenant Bligh was a good officer, who, he believed, would never make an attack upon the blacks unless well warranted in so doing. With regard to many of the reports respecting Fanny Briggs, he had no doubt that they were well founded, but he greatly questioned the statement of Mr. Babbit respecting the blackfellow Gulliver, as he heard he was still alive. A great deal had been said of attempting to christianise the blacks, and attempts had been made to do so; but in no one case had he seen any christianised. He had also known of children being taken away, and educated for three or four years, but they always returned afterwards to their tribes. Although the native alluded to by Mr. Coxen more nearly approached civilisation than any other, he knew that he took to the bush for a considerable time. (No, no, from Mr. Coxen.) He hardly knew what to think of Mr. Zillman's Missionary Cotton Company. It might give a good opportunity of experimentalising again, but it was his opinion that it was only to give a pretty billet to Mr. Zillman, and if the house or government intended to patronise the gentleman, he supposed that was the best way. On the whole, he would recommend the adoption of the report, and take it for what it was worth, although, with Mr. Macalister, he believed it did not go far enough. He would now reply to a few remarks. One particular thing to which he would call attention was the statement of Mr. Coxen, who no doubt believed that what he said was true. Advantage, however, having been taken of the statement by others, he (Mr. Ferrett) felt bound to say that he was in error in stating that Mr. Mayne kept the blacks in order on the Namoi River. He was at this time that the most atrocious murders were committed on the Macintyre River, as were also the attacks on the Beboo, Larnach's, and the Sovereign stations. During this period he had frequently to travel to the district from New England, and never could do so without being armed to the teeth. As in some way or another the name of Captain Dumaesq had been mixed up with Mr. Marks affair, he felt it his duty to exonerate his name from being mixed up with the attacks on the blacks.

Mr. COXEN here stated that in his speech the name of Captain Dumaesq was not alluded to by him; it was a mistake of the reporter.

Mr. FERRETT continued: A great deal had been said in that house as to the poisoning of the blacks, but he could find no evidence to prove that they had been. As the matter had been so prominently brought forward, he would appeal to the evidence, in which he found no other proof beyond verbal statements. It was most improbable that Mr. John Kerr Wilson, who was residing on the station for some time, should have only have heard of the poisonings he alluded to while on his way to Sydney in the steamer. He (Mr. Ferrett) was not sure that there was any evidence to show that a single blackfellow had ever been seen poisoned. He was in no way anxious that the blacks should be destroyed from off the face of the country, yet he must admit the necessity of force to punish them in the way they deserved for the outrages committed by them. As for punishing them in the ordinary way that British subjects were punished, it was all nonsense. It was impossible, in the first place, to catch them. He thought that in many instances they could be punished otherwise than by shooting them down. He certainly did not agree with that; but in case they were not shot, he argued that they could not, or would not, understand that they had done wrong. He certainly expected to have heard yesterday from the hon. member Dr. Challinor something different when he saw the pile of papers he produced, and the way he concluded rather astonished him. His comparisons were very far fetched. What the crimes alluded to with reference to the blacks had to do with the innocent children who suffered in the Tower of London he could not see, nor could he understand his amalgamation of blacks, cattle, and foxes. The crowning part of his speech was his defence of cannibalism, and how a worthy gentleman like him could come to that astonished him. He certainly did not look like a cannibal (laughter), at least not to him. His line of argument also with regard to proving the statement of blacks consistent with truth was rather ingenious, and a new style which he should never forget. According to Dr. Challinor's own words he had never yet been fifty miles from Ipswich and yet he stated that all the blacks who were concerned in the Fraser murder were exterminated. He might be correct, but it was not more than six months since he himself saw two or three of the blacks who were concerned in that murder, and who had been heard to say so. He did not know why that gentleman should take so much trouble to impugn the evidence of Lieut. Wheeler, or have taken so much trouble in comparing the evidence of constable Carson with Mr. Hardie's. He had not brought anything forward to warrant his doing so, and if there were good grounds for such charges why did he not bring him under the law. Had the committee seen grounds for commenting on the conduct of that gentleman, no doubt they would have done so. With reference to the statement that the affair at the Messrs. Mortimer's was not fully gone into, he must say that evidence was taken fully, and every particle that could be obtained was got from Mr. Mortimer. He would not go into the duty of the state to preach the gospel to the aborigines. He certainly did not agree with state aid to religion, but if he believed that the preaching of the gospel would be of any use to these people, he should be prepared to support it—but he did not believe so. With regard to the remarks of Mr. Macalister as to the force having been efficient twenty years ago, he must inform him that the force was not in existence at that time, for it had not been established more than twelve years. In conclusion, he must say that his opinion was that the inefficiency of the present force was chiefly attributable to the neglect of duty by the late commandant the last six months. Mr. Macdonnell had also been very negligent, and he thought his neglect should be particularly noticed by the house.

Mr. BLAKENEY would not have trespassed upon the attention of the house if he had not been appointed a member of that committee, which had been the source of so much animadversion out of doors. As far as he was concerned, he had endeavoured to do his duty fairly, honestly, and impartially upon that committee. All the other members of that committee possessed this advantage over him, viz., that they were squatters and men of great experience among the natives. He had, however, endeavoured to arrive at a proper conclusion from the evidence presented. It was conceded on all hands that some force was necessary for the protection of people who took up new country. When they came, however, to consider the question of the best kind of force to be employed there, he found some who were in favor of a white force; but these gentlemen, when pressed upon the point, confessed that a white force would be useless in scrub land. It was evident that a black force then was the only one that could

be employed with advantage. The next question then was, is that force efficient or not? He was free to admit that in some respects the present force was not efficient. He agreed with some remarks of the hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. Macalister), but he disagreed with others, especially those with reference to the wretched aborigines, whom he had accused of most heinous crimes. No doubt some of them were guilty of murder, cannibalism, and rape, but it was equally true that these offences were often committed in retribution of wanton cruelty inflicted in the first instance by the white population. (Hear, hear.) They had the evidence of Mr. Haly, and he (Mr. B) wished there were many more like him who would follow his example, as then less would be heard of murders committed by the aboriginal population. He could not condemn these wretched creatures in the wholesale manner some hon. members had done. Neither on the other hand could he sympathise with the mawkish sentimentality of some of the self-styled protectors of the aborigines, who had expressed opinions upon christianising the blacks, although he thought much could be done towards reclaiming them from their savage habits. No doubt there must be some degree of coercion used, and we should maintain a strong and determined front against them. Nothing tended more to pacify the country than the innate dread, which possessed the blacks of the native police, who tracked them like blood-hounds whenever they committed aggressions. A strong proof of this was contained in the evidence of Mr. Mortimer, who said that when Lieut. Bligh, a most efficient officer, of whom the blacks had a wholesome dread, left Maryborough district, the news spread like wildfire amongst these people, who at once commenced all sorts of depredations on the runs. Similar evidence with regard to the Sandgate blacks was given by Mr. Compigne, who said that the removal of the police at present from that district would be dangerous. He would draw attention to observations of the hon. member for West Moreton (Dr. Challinor) with reference to the disappearance of the Dawson blacks, and the habitual and indiscriminate slaughter committed by the native police. He was sorry that the hon. member had echoed false and groundless charges against the line of questioning adopted by the committee, charges and misrepresentations which had appeared in the columns of a local newspaper. The sole object of the committee was to elicit truth. In answer to the observations alluded to, he would quote the evidence of Lieutenant Carr, which, as had been truly observed, was given in a most straightforward and independent manner:—

Did Mr. Frazer state the number that attacked his place?—Yes.

Was it a pretty large mob?—Yes, a large mob; I can't remember what was the number.

I believe they are now mostly extinct?—Well, the Dawson tribe is considerably thinned, and I think the worst lot of them have disappeared. There is one man we have warrants for, and who gives us any amount of trouble at the present time.

Do you allow your men to fire on the blacks indiscriminately?—Never.

Do you ever fire on them, unless you are tracking them after the offence of murder, or attempt to commit murder?—Never.

When you track them after cattle stealing, what is your practice?—I must correct myself in answer to the former question, about firing indiscriminately. There are cases in which, in dense scrub, the blacks get out of sight close to the camp, and in attacking a camp we often have not the means to direct a pursuit, and have been obliged to fire upon them.

Has it been when out after blacks, who had committed, or attempted to commit murder, that you fired?—Of course.

Men against whom you had warrants?—Yes; I have tracked men from the scenes of murder, as in the case of Baulie.

Another hon. member (Mr. Macalister) had expressed surprise that only one officer of the native police had been singled out as a victim by the committee. He (Mr. B.) was absent when the report was drawn up, but he could tell that house that the hon. member for Maranoa, who had complained that the report was too meagre, was one who voted that one of the most vital portions of the report should be expunged. A clause in the report was proposed recommending that "all those officers shown to be addicted to intemperance be at once removed from the force." This was an honest clause, but the hon. member for Maranoa voted against it, and now complained of the report. Because some of the officers equally culpable with Murray had friends on the

committee, they were allowed to go free, and poor Murray was made the victim. (Hear, hear.) The hon member for Drayton and Toowoomba (Mr. Watts) who had already spoken on this debate, and could not therefore speak again, had requested him (Mr. B.) to state that he was not present when this portion of the report was expunged. Again, it had been complained that the committee had not examined Mr. Coxen ; but the hon member for Maranoa, who made the complaint, might have suggested that Mr. Coxen be called, and the committee would have been but too happy to comply. The hon. member for Maranoa had also made some complaint that the native police took away black boys from his station to enlist them in their force. He hoped that they had confined themselves to the boys, and had not taken any black gins from the hon. member. (Laughter.) The hon. member also said he did not understand what was meant by indiscriminate slaughter. He (Mr. B.) thought the term was easily explained. (The hon. member here quoted at length from the evidence of Lieut. Wheeler, with regard to the Fassifern affair.) For what offence were these people thus shot down? Because they had been "troublesome" about the stations and had speared some cattle? On grounds like these was such slaughter justifiable? He (Mr. B.) thought that it decidedly was not. He was of opinion that the report let off Lieutenant Wheeler most leniently, for he considered the slaughter committed on this occasion deserved the name of indiscriminate slaughter. He believed that the efficiency of the corps depended a great deal upon its commander, and he trusted that the gentleman who at present filled that post would act with firmness and decision, and be backed up by the government. It would be his business to see that every officer did his duty, and to discharge any officer, whoseever he might be, found inefficient and unfit for his post. The reports sent in by the officers in charge of the troops ought to be much more full and detailed than they were at present. In the affray which occurred on the Messrs. Mortimer's station, the report sent in by the officer in command was most meagre. He (Mr. B.) trusted that however much the committee might have been found fault with — however much their efforts might have been sneered at, and their motives challenged—their labours would not prove in vain, but would at least have the effect of directing the attention of the authorities to a better organisation of the force, and of impressing the officers of the force with a deeper sense of the responsibility of those duties with the performance of which they had been entrusted.

Mr. HALY looked upon the evidence as containing a great deal of hearsay. He would mention an instance to prove this. Some years ago he received a letter from Captain Wickham, requesting him to institute an inquiry into a charge of two blacks, whose names were given as having been murdered by Mr. Sneyd; he did so, and it was proved that the two men had been seen on the station ; the whole of the evidence acquitting Mr. Sneyd without a stain on his character. It was said, if they allow the blacks to kill cattle, they would kill white people. He believed that, and carried out the principle that he must be their master. Mr. Haly, after mentioning instances of the truth of this view, said that he supposed that by carrying out his theory, he would have been hung long ago; yet he had no doubt that many honorable members would have followed his example in this particular. He would proceed to the poisoning cases, and would mention the account he had heard of the way in which arsenic came to be called Mr. Mackenzie. A blackfellow informed him that a shepherd having dipped one of his sheep in a strong solution of arsenic, the sheep was stolen by some of the blacks, who, after eating it, died from the effects of the poison. He had no doubt that many of the stories of poisoning the blacks originated in hearsay evidence. With respect to the Dawson blacks, he had every reason to believe that Mrs. Fraser was innocent of the charges against her she being one of the kindest women on the Dawson, and one whom he had himself seen bringing up her family in as respectable a manner as any member of that house. Shortly after that murder was committed, a station was taken up on the Dawson, and a number of cattle surrounded by the blacks and slaughtered. Knowing the danger of allowing this, he mentioned the matter to the superintendent and others, and at same time cautioned them that if they allowed such things the blacks would master them, and commit murder. His predictions proved true, and all expressed their astonishment that he should have prophesied such a thing. This was at the time that the force was disbanded, and at no other time were the blacks so dangerous. His late brother was offered the commandship of the force, but at his recommendation declined to accept it. He never believed then that the force could become so efficient as it had done under Mr. Morrissett, than whom he believed they would never get a better officer. In his evidence before the committee, he had spoken of the blacks concerned in the Dawson murders, who had been on his station. One of

his blacks told him that among them was the fellow who held Mrs. Fraser by the hair of her head, and that they intended to attack me by night. Would anyone tell him that anything under the sun could keep him back under those circumstances from committing, what was called, an indiscriminate slaughter? No, not all the volunteers in Brisbane. For months afterwards he never slept but with a dagger under his pillow; what did they think it was for? In case anything should happen to himself, it was for his wife, to kill her children first, and herself afterwards, rather than fall into the hands of such wretches. If they wanted to do anything with the blacks in the cultivation of cotton, they must commence by coercing them, without which, missionaries could do no good with them. They must have doctors as well as missionaries; for, as these fellows have no idea about their souls, they would think it preposterous to say that you cared for their souls unless you did so for their bodies. If they wished to keep them together on the plantation, and at the same time allow them to go abroad, they must have police to follow them and bring them back at night. He most strenuously supported the report.

Mr. MOFFATT said he was one of the committee appointed to examine into the question. He was aware at the time they were appointed that there would be great difficulty in bringing up a report that would be generally satisfactory, and that an opinion prevailed out of doors that any report they would make was not likely to give satisfaction; but notwithstanding that he believed that the committee went to work in a proper manner, judging from the way the report had been received by the house. He believed there was no subject out of doors at this moment that excited so much attention as the one before them, or that had given rise to so much unsatisfactory comment, for what reason he did not know, unless that a portion of the press thought that the native police force was for the benefit of a particular class—the squatters. He deemed that this was a question that affected the welfare and progress of the colony at large. The prosperity of the colony required that protection should be afforded to its pioneers. At the present moment a large number of persons were coming here to occupy land up the country, to be followed by their flocks and herds, and it was all important that confidence should be established by the protection of a police efficiently organised. That was the object of the report, to reject which would be a serious blow to the prosperity of the colony. He would not go into the question of the report, as it appeared certain that it would be adopted, but would make a few remarks with reference to the opposition of some hon. members. It would have been perfectly useless for the committee to have taken evidence of persons who had not resided in the interior, and who had not risked their lives and property there. A portion of the press thought they should have taken the evidence of some residents of Brisbane; he was of a contrary opinion. He believed that the native police force was efficient; but he also believed they had committed some indiscretions which might have been avoided; but from his knowledge of the aborigines, he said it was impossible that officers could always exercise discretion in dealing with them. When the troopers had to go into the scrub to disperse the blacks, the officers, who could not follow them, could only give strict instructions; and it was only black troopers who could carry them out. He spoke from 18 years experience. Before the establishment of the native police force the blacks were very troublesome; outrages were committed without number, and the settlers were obliged to protect themselves—blacks were shot down generally, and a system of extermination was pursued. That was certainly lamentable. But since the establishment of the native police force, he had found that not only was indiscriminate slaughter prevented, but the settlement of the colony was greatly advanced. Before that no man dared go into the interior beyond the settled country without an armed force, but since the establishment of the force parties were going out almost daily looking for new country. He thought that the hon. member for West Moreton (Dr. Challinor) had taken an erroneous view of the matter. That gentleman admitted his ignorance of the blacks, and that he had not been a day's ride from the metropolis, and that his observations were based on reports. He gave him every credit for good and humane intentions, but, as had been said, the schemes he put forward were perfectly utopian. He (Dr. C.) had enumerated various crimes the commission of which, by the blacks, he thought did not warrant the same punishment as in similar cases was awarded to whites; and although they were cannibals and murderers, he would still deal with them mercifully. The hon. member ignored the evidence of several most respectable witnesses, and yet set forth his belief in a black gin. On the one side he had a general faith in all the statements—on the other, strong doubts. In the Fassifern affair, there was one outrage particularly known to have been committed—a rape on the daughter of a shepherd. He (Mr. M.) had no hesitation in saying

that that was a crime the blacks practised more than any other—it appeared, the more they were civilised the more rapes they committed. In the face of the statements relative to that crime, the hon. gentleman would not believe it. And yet, without any such foundation, he had accused a gentleman of being accessory to a murder, and of perjury—language which was most unjustifiable. He regretted that slaughter did take place, but he was not prepared to say it was unavoidable. The officers had instructions to disperse the blacks, and they must use such means as were necessary. In this case the blacks assaulted the officers and troopers, and they had no alternative but to do as they did; and although a gin was shot, he believed it was not, under the circumstances, a matter that should be visited on the officer with censure. He was well known as a most efficient officer, and they could not readily replace him. With reference to the establishment or not of a white police force instead of the native police force, he believed it would be altogether useless, and would not give confidence to the settlers in the slightest degree. Nor did he believe a mixture of white and native troopers would be so good as the present; it was only by having a force that could pursue the blacks that tranquillity could be maintained in the north. He was happy to say the report of last session was sustained in the report before them. Last year it was recommended that the officers should be nominated by the commandant; a matter he considered very important, because the efficiency of the corps depended in a great degree on the officers, about whose fitness none could know better than the commandant. He said that it was very necessary that an approved system should be adopted in granting supplies and ammunition to the force, and mentioned that unnecessary and injurious delays had occurred—in one instance some troopers had been without ammunition several months. The evidence of the commandant had shown that a particular officer had been in a state totally unfit to do his duty for two years. The commandant ought to have suspended him two years ago, and deserved strong censure for retaining him during that time. The report recommended that the officer should be dismissed, and hinted at several other officers. Had the government enquired more fully into the matter last session, there would have been no necessity for those recommendations. There was one matter that had not been alluded to—the expediency of seeking from the Imperial Government some assistance towards the maintenance of the police force of this country. It was well known that other colonies received large sums annually from the Imperial Parliament for the protection of property, and the enforcement of Imperial law in the colonies. If in any case such a subsidy was granted, this colony had peculiar claims to aid it in protecting order and civilization, and maintaining progress. He believed that the report if carried out would give confidence to settlers who intended to take up country, as well as to those who had risked their capital in it, and were it adopted, he believed it would be the last report on the subject for some time to come.

Mr. LILLEY said that during the whole debate he had rather been in the position of one who was being instructed. Although he should not oppose the report, he did not adopt all its suggestions, nor did he consider all its conclusions were justified by the evidence. In some cases the recommendations were directly contrary to the evidence. He therefore hoped the government would not blindly follow the report, but would carefully consider the evidence. In the previous report, in the first paragraph, they said they believed the native police force was then in an efficient state; in the same report, in the last paragraph, they hoped that the force would be rendered efficient, and particularly mentioned the saddles and firearms as requiring attention. Then in the subsequent report, it was said any change in the force would destroy its efficiency, and yet further on some of the officers were described as ineffective, indiscreet, and intemperate, and the commandant was condemned by the report. How were they to reconcile that with the previous statements as to the efficiency of the force. There could be no doubt the committee felt it was a delicate subject to deal with, and spoke without wishing to give personal offence, but he must say the report was not satisfactory, and he hoped the government would consider whether it was altogether justified. A great deal had been said about morbid sentiment. He did not think it a morbid sentiment to deplore that the lives of the human beings should have been taken. He thought the main intention of the force had been lost sight of. What was the force organised for? It had been taken for granted throughout the discussion that it was simply for the protection of the whites. That was no doubt the primary object; its greatest object was that the blacks should not stand in the way of civilisation. But he apprehended that this force was designed also to prevent outrages on either side. (Hear, hear.) Then it became most important that they should have officers who were discreet, temperate, and efficient, because they might be said to stand in some

degree in a judicial capacity between the settlers and the blacks. Intemperate and indiscreet officers should be got rid of. At the same time, if blacks committed crimes punish them severely. Above all, they must not stand in the way of civilisation. At one time he was in favor of a mixed force—whites and blacks—for affording the best protection in the frontier, but he was now prepared to admit that a black force with good officers was the best. Therefore he said they must maintain that force in a state of efficiency. He had wished the report had gone into a most important matter. Throughout the world where white men came as colonists, the dark race when so disturbed rapidly declined, and if any means could be devised for offering some explanation in the matter, it would have been well worth the consideration of the committee. The colony was not alone interested; throughout the world where the white man set his foot the dark man gradually passed away, and it was for them to say could they stay that decline, or alleviate it as the shadow lengthened over the dark race. He thought they ought to be careful that they did not err so that they became guilty parties in driving the aborigines from the face of the earth.

[Messrs. Raff, O'Sullivan, Pring, and R. Cribb spoke in continuation of the debate, after which the question was put, and Dr. Challinor was found to be the only dissident.—Leave was given to Mr. Blakeney to introduce a bill to enable the Corporation of Brisbane to construct a bridge across the river.—Mr. Watts introduced his motion affirming the necessity of creating a fourth responsible minister, in order that the government might be properly represented in the Upper House. The motion was supported by the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Blakeney, and opposed by Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. R. Cribb, Mr. Raff, Mr. Lilley, and Dr. Challinor; and when a division was called for, it was found that, as several members had left the house, there were only two against the motion namely— Messrs. Challinor and Ferrett, and the motion was declared to be carried accordingly.—After the receipt of several messages from the Legislative Council, the house, on the motion of Mr. Ferrett, rescinded its former vote with regard to the bridge over the Condamine.—A bill was introduced by Mr. Lilley to incorporate the Queensland Steam Navigation Company, and the house adjourned till this (Friday) morning.]

The portion of our report included within brackets has been necessarily curtailed, but we shall give a more extended report in our issue of to-morrow.

The Assembly adjourned at 10 o'clock, till 10 o'clock this (Friday) morning.

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

...
Legislative Assembly
25th July 1861
...

Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 27th July 1861

[The following portion of our report of Thursday's proceedings were omitted from our issue of yesterday.]

NATIVE POLICE FORCE.

[CONTINUATION OF DEBATE.]

Mr. RAFF would vote for the report, but must express his dissent from many of its recommendations; and at the same time state that there were one or two important omissions. He had approached the matter with unbiassed feelings, and believed it to be as important to the black man as the white race. They must first consider their duty before their interest. They all admitted that perfect protection was required. He believed it was a most extraordinary assumption on the part of an hon. gentleman, to say the blacks had as much right to steal cattle as the aristocracy of England had to kill foxes. He thought if the hon. gentleman had found his cattle with the tongues cut off and brands cut off, he would soon have renounced his theory; but that the Aborigines had inalienable rights of which they could not be justly deprived, he believed, but he did not admit their right to the soil. He thought it absurd to say they had any such right, but they possessed the rights of humanity, including the right of protection from injury. They were certainly a degraded race, but the house could not deny the fact that they were brothers—members of the human family; and he said it was presumptuous to affirm they were incapable of improvement. He could not help coming to the conclusion that on several occasions unnecessary violence had been used towards the blacks. That good had resulted from the native police force must be admitted, but it had been obtained too often at the expense of humanity and justice. He would be sorry to blame any particular officer,—the report threw the blame on one officer, and some hon. members had spoken in extenuation of him. They might be right, but he was more inclined to blame the system. The committee might, as had been said, have put questions with particular views, but he would not for a moment say they had acted from any other motive than duty, although the chairman constantly asked for information as to the scrub, and the hon. member for Maranoa often wanted information about iron collars. The report recommended that the native police should be kept from the neighbourhood of towns, but he had hoped after the evidence given of the intemperate habits of the blacks frequenting the towns, that they would have been kept out of them altogether. The conduct of the blacks in the town was often most disgraceful, and was not only offensive to the inhabitants, but destructive to the lives of the natives themselves. He had also hoped to see in the report some recommendation as to dealing with the blacks somewhat different to dispersing them in the scrub. That dispersing he could not understand. When in the scrub they must be invisible, and he could not understand dispersing them, unless the interpretation were that dispersement meant shooting. He thought the hon. member for the Burnett (Mr. Haly) had a very correct idea as to the way the blacks should be treated. That gentleman spoke of their instinct; but he said they possessed reason as well as instinct. With reference to the proposal to employ the blacks on cotton farms, he must say he could not see that there was any prospect of the success of the scheme being self-paying, or of its having any beneficial effect on the blacks. An honorable member had said as civilisation approached, the natives certainly died off; and he (Mr. R) thought that by the establishment of such a company as that they would assist to clear them off. If the blacks wished to be employed,

it was well known they could get employment at the farms and stations, and would be well fed and clothed. To carry out the scheme the honorable member would coerce the blacks. He held they had no right to coerce them. If a black boy enlisted in the native police, he did so with a knowledge of the obligations he undertook, and he would, if necessary, be coerced, but to compel blacks to work would be an injustice. He believes, all they could do with the blacks was, when they got suitable men, to send them out to instruct them; but he did not believe in any such scheme as recommended by the report.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN thought that there must be something wrong in the report, after the numerous long speeches that had been made to back it up. He could detect nothing whatever in the whole of the Colonial Treasurer's speech but one idea, and that was that white troopers could not follow blacks into the bush; but there was nothing in the evidence to show that a black trooper ever captured a native in the scrub. Lieutenant Wheeler's method had been to take the blacks before they got into the scrub, but afterwards he could do nothing with them. The whole country was not composed of scrub, and he thought if the blacks kept in the scrub, they could do very little damage. He considered that many witnesses were examined who ought not to have been examined, inasmuch as they were connected with the native police. The only officer who should have given evidence was the commandant. He believed that the evidence of Mr. Sneyd, Mr. Brown, and Col. O'Connell, fully bore out the idea that the native police force could be well replaced. Mr. Sneyd's plan was that the force should be of white men with two blacks for trackers. That plan had answered well in New South Wales. He thought that the report should have said something about the effects of grog on the blacks; grog was almost as destructive to them as the bullets of the native police. But that was no reason for shooting them indiscriminately. He believed that soldiers would make a very efficient substitute for the force, and that with black trackers they would follow blacks anywhere. From his own knowledge, he would be as sure of their effectiveness as of his existence. He thought there was another reason besides scrub why white men were not employed, and that he could find it in the answer of Lieutenant Wheeler, "that he never took white people with him." They did not believe in white people; they knew that where blacks alone gave evidence it was of no use, and they could do as they liked, and no notice taken of them. He believed that Mr. Griffin actually boasted to Capt. Coley that he had poisoned above seventy blacks! The hon. member for Warwick thought the nought (0) ought to be left out as nothing. (Laughter.) He proceeded to argue that that hon. gentleman had shown a great deal of prejudice in dealing with the question. It was, he said, a fallacious assertion on the part of that hon. gentleman to assert that the blacks were British subjects. The hon. gentleman said if the blacks had been slaughtered, there was a precedent for it, and he quoted from Macaulay relative to Pope Sixtus V. Now, either his memory was bad, or Macaulay was wrong, for it was the Duke of Compagna who poisoned the robbers, and not the Pope. So said Ranke, in his history of the Popes (vol. 1.) He took the opportunity of entering a protest to making Mr. Murray a sacrifice to the dragon of public opinion. It was perfectly clear that other officers were as bad as he; officers who committed murders were worse. Certainly, a drunkard had no right to be in the force, but he objected to singling out one, where several were at fault.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, although he did not altogether object to the report, he agreed with the hon. member that in some respects the report did not go far enough. One of the objects of the committee was to report on the condition of the Aborigines with a view to their amelioration. He was unable to discover such an account of evidence as might have been brought forward. It was well known that some classes of the Aborigines inhabited the interior within a few miles of the towns where the native police never saw them; and he found no evidence about them, but he did find a great mass of evidence taken as to the outsiders. He believed it perfectly impossible to ameliorate them, but he thought some evidence might have been taken to ameliorate the condition of the blacks near the towns. He did not think they could keep blacks three days at steady work, and he therefore could not see how blacks brought together to cultivate cotton could be kept. But he did think blacks might be kept away from towns, because much of their bad practices arose from their evil associations and intercourse with white men. It was well known that blacks were never in towns on a Sunday, which day he supposed they reserved for pleasure and hunting. He thought some efficient means might be devised as to how those blacks could be kept away from towns altogether. He agreed with the report, that the native police was at present in an

efficient state. The recommendation that the outside settlers should be protected was carried out; and he thought that the recommendation that the officers should be a particular class had been carried out. Whilst the report did not go so far as it might, it seemed that parts of it were not acceptable to some hon. members; but he thought much good had been done by the report, which would be very useful to the government. A great deal had been said about the Logan and Fassifern affairs. He did not think that Lieutenant Wheeler was guilty of an indiscriminate slaughter, he agreed with Mr. Raff, that it was the fault of the system, and not the man. But he thought he was guilty of an indiscretion. It was useless to call the native police troopers a civil force; they did not go out with little stumps of sticks like town police, but with carbines and balls. These were not given them to play at soldiering, but to disperse the blacks, and to show them that they were given for something. Therefore he should call the native police force a semi-military force. Turning to the written instructions given to all the officers, they found the following extraordinary order,

10. It is the duty of the officers at all times and opportunities to disperse any large assemblage of blacks; such meetings, if not prevented, invariably lead to depredations or murder; and nothing but the mistaken kindness of the officers in command inspired the blacks with sufficient confidence to commit the late fearful outrages on the Dawson River. The officers will therefore see the necessity of teaching the aborigines that no outrage or depredation shall be committed with impunity—but on the contrary, retributive justice shall speedily follow the commission of crime; nevertheless the officers will be careful in receiving reports against the blacks, as it frequently happens that mistakes are made as to the identity of the aggressors. In case of any collision with the aborigines a report is to be forwarded to the Commandant without delay.

In Lieutenant Wheeler's case he had certain information that crimes had been committed, and that the blacks who were the perpetrators had spears. He received his information from Jemmy Murphy, who told him quite sufficient to justify him in apprehending them. He found the blacks as he himself stated, camped at the edge of scrub, and he said only two were killed. It was dark, and a gin was killed, undoubtedly by mistake. It was assumed that the killed man had belonged to a different tribe to those who committed the depredations, but the fact was the tribes were very much mixed. But when troops were attacked it was hard to say who would be shot. Therefore, although Lieutenant Wheeler did kill the blacks in the way described, he (Mr. Pring) could not say at the present moment that he was either guilty of murder or of manslaughter. Lieutenant Wheeler appeared to have been a scapegoat in the matter; the commandant said he had been guilty of indiscretion, although he acted on the precise order issued by the commandant. He defied any man to say that Lieutenant Wheeler had not done his duty, and therefore he could not in his conscience accuse him of acting indiscreetly. In the first place, a coroner's inquest ought to have been held on the bodies at Fassifern. He went with Dr. Lucas and saw the bodies, and found that no coroner's inquest had been held. Dr. Challinor called upon him on the subject, and asked for a commission (not for an inquest) to be granted him to investigate the matter, which he refused. Dr. Challinor saw the bodies with Dr. Lucas, and yet did not hold an inquest. He (Dr. C.) then sent a letter to him, that no magistrate of the colony should have sent. In that letter he charged a gentleman, Mr. Hardie, with having been accessory to a murder, and with perjury, without giving any evidence to support it. When he put forth those statements, why not have sent the depositions that would justify them, and then the government would have been in a position to prosecute. Had there been evidence to justify, he (Mr. P.) would have prosecuted, even had it been his brother. If Dr. Challinor had distinct evidence, why did he not produce it? He said this because the parties referred to had been followed up in a way he did not approve of. Last night the hon. gentleman said that Lieutenant Wheeler should have been had up for murder or manslaughter. He asked was that hon. gentleman the judge in the matter? If Lieutenant Wheeler was guilty of murder, and a magistrate concealed the fact, he ought to be struck off the list. But he asked the house whether the privilege of debate was to be extended to attacks of this kind on people out of doors? Why should they be dragged into charges to which they had no opportunity of replying. He thought such a course most unwarrantable. The statements made were not true, and he most solemnly asserted it. At the time he received the letter referred to, he sent a reply stating that the evidence that had been taken did not warrant any charge against Lieutenant Wheeler, but he left it open to the hon. member to obtain further evidence if he could. Dr. Challinor published his letter and a portion of his (Mr. Pring's) reply, but withheld the following paragraph:—

"I shall forward the depositions which I have received from you to the Col. Secretary, in order that such steps may be taken as to the government shall deem fit, to call upon Lieut. Wheeler for an account of his proceedings on the day referred to in the depositions, namely—on the 24th December last."

That part was smuggled out. Last night he made up his mind that he would show who was the most philanthropic man in the matter—the man who made charges of murder without foundation, and then failed to take the trouble to investigate them, or the man who did his duty. When philanthropy arrived at so great an extent, it became a nuisance. With reference to this matter Mr. and Mrs Hardie were dragged about in a most unwarrantable manner; their servants were closely questioned, and they were put to great inconvenience, and the lady was told she was not to be heard. In a speech, which, it appeared, had taken ten days to prepare, the hon. member had thought proper to accuse him of being influenced in the matter, and had said because the Governor and himself had stopped at Mr. Hardie's house at Fassifern, therefore he would not take action in the matter. He threw the insinuation to the dogs,

Dr. CHALLINOR rose to explain, but

The SPEAKER ruled him out of order.

Mr. R. CRIBB thought the hon. member might obtain the leave of the house.

The SPEAKER said the practice had been carried too far, and it was high time a stop was put to it.

Mr. R. CRIBB thought, with the exception of cannibalism, all the crimes laid to the charge of the natives were prevalent in civilised society, and therefore he did not see how they affected the question. He believed the native police force was the best they could employ for the purpose, so long as they were properly officered. He would support the adoption of the report, although he did not concur in all the suggestions.

The question was put, and the SPEAKER declared the ayes had it.

Dr. CHALLINOR called for a division, but as he was the only member on the side of the noes, the division was not taken.

BRISBANE BRIDGE BILL.

Mr. BLAKENEY moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable the Municipal Council of Brisbane to build a bridge across the river Brisbane, and to empower the government to grant them certain lands in aid of the undertaking.

Leave was given, the bill was read a first time, ordered to be printed, and the second reading was set down for Wednesday next.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBLE MINISTER.

Mr. WATTS moved—(1.) That this house is of opinion that the creation of an office of Minister of Lands and Works is imperatively necessary, and that such an appointment be forthwith made. (2.) That this house will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider of an address to the governor, praying that his Excellency will be pleased to take the necessary steps for giving effect to the above resolution. It was not his desire at that late hour to trouble the house with many observations, more especially as he believed that most hon. members were agreed as to the main principle involved in the motion. The experience of every day went to show that the creation of an office for the management of lands and public works was absolutely necessary; and if they viewed the matter in point of economy, he contended that the creation of such an office would turn out to be far more profitable than many offices that had been created since the inauguration of responsible government. It was only the other day, for instance, that they created the office of librarian at a salary of £300 a year, and yet the whole value of the department over which the librarian was to preside did not amount pecuniarily to more than £1600. On the other hand, let them look at the large amount of money that had been voted under the head of lands and public works, for the distribution and appropriation of which there was at present really no responsible head. He contended that the appointment of a responsible minister to look after these matters exclusively would far more than repay the amount of his salary, by the

increased efficiency he would impart to the management and execution of public works. Hon. members would then be in a position to acquire information which ministers hitherto, owing to the multifarious and pressing character of their duties, had been unable fully to supply when called on. He could remember many occasions when questions were asked of the government with regard to public works, which they confessed themselves unable to answer. Then again, it was necessary that some such officer should be appointed in order to conduct the government business in another place. Let them go and see how business was conducted in that place. (Laughter.) They would find that the greatest difficulties were experienced from sheer want of information as to the nature of the measures submitted for consideration. Questions were frequently asked with regard to bills forwarded from that house, which no one present could answer, and hence the greatest confusion and difficulty arose. The consequence was, that measures passed by that house were constantly coming back with amendments, which were not warranted by the merits of the case, and which, perhaps, might have been avoided, had some responsible representative of the government been present to give the necessary information. (Laughter.) He maintained, therefore, that the absence of such an officer not only placed the government in a most inconvenient position, but subjected the house and the country to a greatest possible disadvantage. In conclusion, he would add that when he placed the motion on the paper he was not aware that a similar course was being adopted in another place. He believed, however, that the appointment of an officer such as he had indicated would more than repay the salary in six months.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY agreed that some such officer was necessary, not only as an assistant to the government, but as a manager of government business in the other house. Ever since the institution of responsible government in this colony, the business of the government in the other house had been conducted by private members, who gave their services voluntarily, and with the kindest and best possible intentions; but, owing to their not being intimately acquainted with the views of the ministry, the business has necessarily been transacted in a very imperfect manner, and, as a matter of course, many of the bills sent from that house had not been fairly dealt with. The hon. member here explained the difficulty that had recently arisen in the Legislative Council, owing to the sudden resignation of Dr. Hobbs, and argued therefrom, as well as from other circumstances, the imperative necessity for appointing a responsible minister to conduct the government business in that house. He admitted also that such an officer would render valuable assistance to the government, and expressed a belief that some of those hon. members who opposed the proposition when brought forward by the government would now vote in its favor. He hoped therefore that the motion now under discussion, as well as the resolutions sent down from the Legislative Council, which were most courteously worded, would receive a full and favourable consideration at the hands of the house.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN would not stultify himself by voting for the present motion. He had opposed the proposition when introduced by the government, and he would oppose it now, when introduced by a private member, whom he supposed acted for the occasion, as the mouth-piece of the government. He objected, moreover, to a private member introducing a matter of this kind in any form whatever, as he contended that such a duty specially devolved on the government. Then again he regarded the arguments advanced in favour of the motion as fallacious. One of these was, that the other house took exception to their measures, (No, no) and why, he should like to know, should not the other house take exception to their measures. What was that house created for, but to revise and amend the measures passed by this house. (Hear, hear.) He should certainly vote against the present motion, although if it were brought forward during the next session he might be disposed to consider it favorably.

Mr. BLAKENEY remarked that if this office was only to be created for the mere purpose of passing their bills through the other house, he should be inclined to oppose the motion, but as the office was intended to accomplish other and far more important objects, he should certainly vote for it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL observed that the government having once brought this matter forward and been defeated, could not have been expected to bring it forward again. He pledged his word of honor as a gentleman, moreover, that the government knew nothing

whatever of the hon. mover's intention to introduce the present motion. The learned gentleman then went on to argue the necessity of the appointment in much the same way as the Colonial Secretary had done.

Mr. R. CRIBB was astonished that this motion should have been brought forward after a similar one had been negatived only a few evenings ago. He objected to the creation of any new office of this kind, on the ground that it was not necessary, and that the public revenue was not in a position to afford it. According to his idea the only question for them to decide was whether or not one of the present ministers should go into the other house for the purpose of conducting the government business and if the ministry did not choose to adopt any arrangement of this kind he saw no reason why the Postmaster-General, who would be appointed in the course of a few days, should not be charged with this duty. (No, no, and laughter.) The small hours occupied by the other house would certainly not be a very great encroachment on his time.

Mr. RAFF saw no reason for altering the vote he had given on the same proposition when brought forward in the estimates for the simple reason that he did not believe there was any necessity for creating another officer. No doubt additional reasons had been advanced in favour of it, but he, for one, did not believe in those reasons. With regard to the management of the money voted for public works which had been assigned as a reason for the appointment of an officer, such as was proposed, he found that many of the large items had been already expended, and that with regard to the remainder to doubt the present supervision by the heads of departments.

Mr. LILLEY opposed the motion for reasons similar to those advanced by other hon. members, and suggested that if the other house were not sufficiently enlightened to carry on the business of the country without putting the country to the expense of employing a person to teach them, the sooner they were done away with altogether the better.

Dr. CHALLINOR also opposed the motion for the same reasons that induced him to oppose it on a former occasion.

Mr. WATTS having briefly replied, the motion was put and passed on the following division:—

Ayes, 14.	Noes, 2.	
Mr. Gore	Dr. Challinor	} Tellers.
Moffatt	Mr. Ferrett	}
Edmondstone		
Haly		
Blakeney		
Colonial Treasurer		
Attorney-General		
Colonial Secretary		
Mr. Coxen		
Fitzsimmons		
Richards		
Macalister		
Watts		} Tellers.
Royds		}

The Messrs. R. and B. Cribb, Raff, Lilley, and O'Sullivan left the house on the division being called, and returned immediately after it was taken.

MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The SPEAKER reported the reception of several messages from the Legislative Council.

BRIDGE OVER THE CONDAMINE.

Mr. FERRETT moved the following motion—"That the vote of this house on May 16th, 1861, on the subject of a bridge over the Condamine, be rescinded." He explained that when the matter was last before the house it was not properly understood, and he therefore now asked that the vote be rescinded.

QUEENSLAND STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

Mr. LILLEY moved for leave to introduce a bill to incorporate the proprietors of a certain Company called the Queensland Steam Navigation Company.

The motion having been passed, the bill was read a first time, and Mr. LILLEY gave notice that he would move the next day the reference of the bill to a select committee.

The house adjourned at five minutes to ten, until the next morning at ten o'clock.