

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

...  
**Legislative Council**  
**8<sup>th</sup> August 1861**  
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Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Courier 9<sup>th</sup> August 1861

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The PRESIDENT took the chair at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock, and opened the proceedings with prayer.

**SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, BARONET, M.L.C.**

Mr. FITZ moved—

1. That this house having learned with regret that the Hon. Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., purposes shortly leaving the colony, intending to take his departure for Europe, begs to record its sense of the valuable assistance he has rendered, not only in the initiation of responsible government, but in first presiding over the deliberations of this house, and thus affording to it and the colony generally, the benefit of his great experience in legislative matters. 2. That the substance of the foregoing resolution be conveyed to the Honorable Sir Charles Nicholson, Bart., by letter, from the President.

In moving these resolutions he expressed his regret that the matter had not been undertaken by some hon. member whose eloquence would have enabled him to do justice to the individual to whom the resolutions referred. He had no doubt that the hon. baronet, being a member of the house, and therefore occupying a political position, must, like all other public men, have his political opponents; but he contended that even those political opponents must admit that there was much to admire in the hon. baronet's character. For instance, with regard to educational matters; where, he would like to ask, could they point to a single public man in any of the Australian colonies who had exerted himself to the same extent as the hon. gentleman had done? He felt persuaded that the exertions made by the hon. gentleman in this cause alone would be sufficient to hand down his name to posterity with honor and veneration. As a charitable man, he knew Sir Charles' purse was always open, and he could remember many cases of respectable people who had been reduced in circumstances wherein Sir Charles had not only given advice gratis, but called upon them personally and given relief. It had been asked what had Sir Charles done for this colony that they should step out of their way to pay him this mark of respect? In answer to this he might venture to say that the hon. baronet had done a great deal for the colony. Did he not give up his luxurious house in Sydney, and leave a large circle of friends and acquaintances, many of whom were men of the highest attainments, and consequently men whose society it was a treat to enjoy,—for the purpose of assisting in the initiation of responsible government in this colony? This, of itself, was a great sacrifice for any gentleman of Sir Charles Nicholson's acquirements and position to make. But, in addition to this, in coming here he not only gave up his time, and endured a great amount of discomfort by being at private lodgings, and mixing in company comparatively strange to him, but he assisted them by presiding over their deliberations, and giving them the benefit of all his past experience in legislative matters. And he would beg to ask, where was there another gentleman in the colony at the time, with the same amount of experience, whose social position would entitle him to occupy so high a post as that of President of the Legislative Council? He might mention, moreover, that during the time the hon. gentleman occupied the chair which their worthy President now filled with so much dignity and credit, he never pocketed one shilling of the emolument attaching to the office. On the contrary, he gave every farthing of his salary to the religious and charitable institutions of the colony, one portion having been devoted to Brisbane, another to Gladstone, and a third to Rockhampton.

Dr FULLERTON seconded the motion, and thought the prestige of having responsible government initiated by the assistance of the only baronet in Australia, ought to be regarded as a mark of distinction to be highly prized by the colony at large.

The motion was then put and passed unanimously.

### **BRISBANE BRIDGE BILL.**

Mr. FITZ, in the absence of Dr. Hobbs, moved that this bill be read a third time, which was carried.

The bill was therefore passed, and ordered to be transmitted to the Assembly.

### **QUEENSLAND STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S BILL.**

On the motion of Mr. FITZ this bill was read a first time, and its second reading fixed as an order for the following day.

### **TRAMWAY BILL.**

The PRESIDENT reported that he had received a message from the Legislative Assembly transmitting this bill.

On the motion of Mr. FITZ the bill was read a first time, and the second reading fixed for the next day.

Mr. FITZ explained that as the bill was a very lengthy one, and that possibly no hon. member taking charge of it might be in a position at the moment to give the explanation required, it would perhaps be desirable that the promoters of the bill should be allowed to give the necessary information at the bar of the house either on the second reading or whilst the measure was being considered in committee. He concluded by proposing a resolution to this effect, which was carried.

### **BRISBANE BRIDGE BILL.**

The PRESIDENT reported that he had received a message from the Legislative Assembly intimating that the amendments of the Council had been assented to.

The house adjourned at 4 o'clock until the next day at 11 o'clock.