

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
17th June 1862**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 18th June 1862

THE SPEAKER took the chair at 25 minutes past three.

RETURNS.

The MINISTER for LANDS laid upon the table of the House certain returns, moved for by Mr. Moffatt some time since, having reference to the number of runs tendered for and forfeited under the provisions of the Tenders Regulation Act.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table returns of the expenditure upon the Volunteer force at Brisbane and Ipswich; and on the motion of Mr O'SULLIVAN, these returns were ordered to be printed.

ELECTORAL ACT.

Mr. WATTS presented a petition from certain electors at Toowoomba against the Electoral Bill. He stated that the petition had been forwarded to him for presentation.

The SPEAKER said that the petition was contrary to the Standing Orders, and could not be received, as a document was attached to it which should have been incorporated with the body of the petition. He also observed that portions of the petition were interlined.

COOLIE IMMIGRATION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table of the House the regulations which he had drafted last year, and sent to the Home and Indian Governments, having reference to Coolie immigration. These regulations were imperfect, and required very many corrections. Such as they were, however, he laid on the table for the information of hon. members.

Mr. LILLEY moved that they be printed, in order that the House and the country might be afforded the opportunity of becoming acquainted with them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the regulations were not corrected. They were merely what the Government last year considered to be correct regulations; it since appeared, however, that they required to be remodelled, and, by printing them in their present shape, the House would, to a certain extent, stultify itself. He must oppose the printing, unless further reasons were adduced.

Mr. LILLEY asserted that the only reasons adduced against the printing were reasons which would equally apply against the printing of every draft bill submitted to the House.

The SPEAKER pointed out that the hon. member must give notice of any motion for printing before such motion could be entertained.

Mr. LILLEY then gave notice of motion accordingly.

PETITION.

Mr. FERRETT presented a petition from a New South Wales squatter complaining of a grievance and a hardship inflicted on him under the present Crown Lands Regulations.

The SPEAKER: "Will the hon. member read the prayer of the petition?"

Mr. FERRETT, after setting forth the hardship, the petition concludes by "and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray." (Loud laughter.)

The Clerk then read the petition which was from Mr. Dangar, who stated that he had tendered for certain lands on the Warrego river, and his tender was submitted to the Government of New South Wales, and accepted under the regulations of 1st January, 1848. At the time of separation the tender was forwarded to the Queensland Government, and by the retrospective operation of certain laws passed by that Government considerable hardship and injustice had in this instance been inflicted upon him.

The SPEAKER said that, the petition was informal, and could not be received, having a schedule attached to it after the signature.

CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES.

Mr. WATTS, in moving the resolution of which he had given notice said, that the question involved in those resolutions would, no doubt, be argued in detail to-morrow, if the House agreed then to go into committee upon the resolutions. The question was one which had, ever since separation, given a considerable amount of trouble to the hon. members of that House, and caused some annoyance to the officers themselves. He wished the House to decide this matter now in an equitable, straight-forward, and honest way, and he thought that the course pursued with regard to these salaries in other countries was the correct one. In England the heads of departments all had their salaries permanently fixed. The senior and junior officers also received a fixed sum with a certain regular annual increase. If this matter had been settled last year by act, a great deal of heart burning would have been prevented. (Hear, hear.) It was true that an act had been brought in for this purpose last year, but he had opposed that act because it not only provided for pensions, but because an arbitrary clause was introduced at the instigation of the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Cribb) compelling Government officers to pay a certain annual sum out of their salaries towards this pension fund, no matter whether such officers had made provisions for age or sickness in some other way or not. If a bill was introduced however to merely fix the salaries, when our revenue and expenditure had been properly ascertained he would be inclined to support such a bill. Although one officer might have a little more work than another he thought it would be more judicious if they made the salaries of all the heads of departments equal. He contended that as a general rule it required as much talent to fill the post of head of one department as that of another. (Laughter from Mr. Lilley.) If the hon. member who laughed were made Attorney-General, and he (Mr. Watts) were made the head of some other department more connected with squatting, he maintained that his opinion and talent, although different in kind from that of the hon. member, would, in his department, be equally valuable to the country. He found that, at home, the head of the Audit Department got £1500, the Chairman of the Customs Board £2000, the Chairman of the Board of National Education £2000, and the Postmaster-General £2500. The Registrar-General in England received, he found, only £1200, in Ireland £800, and in Scotland less. Comparing the salaries of these officers with those previously quoted, he could not understand why the Registrar-General here was put down for £200 a year more than was received by the head of any other department. He wished that it to be understood that, in speaking on this matter, he did not refer to any individual who might now happen to fill an office, but to the office itself. He trusted that in this respect the other hon. member would follow his example. If any one had a complaint against a public officer, it was the duty of that person to bring a specific charge, and lay it before the Executive, and then, if the Executive refused to notice it, they would render themselves amenable to the House. (The hon. member here quoted certain statistics of the rate of salaries in Victoria.) In Great Britain the Secretaries of State had their salaries fixed. The salaries of the chief clerks ranged between five thousand and one thousand; after them came the senior clerks, with salaries of £600 a year, and annual increases until the *maximum*, £800, was attained. Then there were the junior clerks, with salaries of £300 and £350, and annual increases of £15, until a certain *maximum* was attained. Finally, there were the supernumerary clerks, with salaries of from £100 to £150. He trusted that the House would that day arrive at a satisfactory conclusion with regard to salaries, and adopt the precedent set them in this matter by other countries. The last resolution asserted the advisability of competitive

examinations. These examinations were, no doubt, a farce when they were undertaken by the Government or by a few friends of the candidate, but, if the same system as was pursued in the mother-country were followed, it would prove a boon and a service. The situations would then be filled up, not by patronage, but according to the merit of the candidates. He begged to move the following resolutions:—"That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolutions:—That this House, being of opinion that the present mode of preparing the Estimates for the officers of the Civil Service, by allowing the heads of the different departments to try and raise their own salary, and that of those under them, is very inconvenient, and has from time to time given a great deal of trouble, and caused unnecessary perplexity amongst the members of this House, resolves—(1.) That all salaries of the officers of the Civil Service should be now fixed, not only to prevent that perplexity amongst the members of this House, but also that ill-feeling which must exist amongst the officers themselves by one officer being placed over the other in pay, although the duty of the officer may not require more time or talent. (2.) The Ministers of the Crown to receive £1000 each. (3.) That the heads of all departments having about the same duty to perform shall have an equal salary, such as Collector of Customs, Auditor-General, Surveyor-General, Manager of the Electric Telegraph, Engineer of Roads, Colonial Architect; that these salaries shall be fixed at £600 a year. (5.) The Under Colonial Secretary, Under Secretary to the Treasury, Clerks of the Council and Assembly, shall remain fixed at the same sums as that on the Estimates of last year. (6.) The salaries of all other officers shall be fixed by the Estimates passed this year. (7.) That there shall be no alteration in the sums each officer is to receive until the end of the year 1864; that at that period the sums now on the Estimates shall be considered to be the minimum, and that each officer shall then receive an annual increase, varying according to rank, for four years, to a maximum to be fixed by a bill to take effect the first of January, 1865. (8.) That all officers to be appointed after this date shall undergo an examination to prove his fitness to the office he is wishing to obtain."

Mr. FERRETT seconded the motion.

Mr. LILLEY considered that a proposition to bring salaries down to one level, without making any distinction with regard to the talent required for different offices was not based on reason or justice. Whether they required a man of peculiar talent, or whether they required a man simply capable of sorting letters, they were called upon to give the one salary. The talent required for different public situations was different in character and different in value. They might require a man to fill the post of Astronomer-General, and upon this officer might greatly depend the safety of many important interests, such as shipping and agriculture, yet they might not be able to procure a man with talent for such a post under a much larger sum than any mentioned in the resolutions. The logic of the resolutions was bad and the grammar much worse. (The hon. member here read the resolution No. 8, and commented upon the bad grammar contained in it.) This resolution if carried would put the Government in a great difficulty. There were some expectants who came to this colony ready to take anything under Government, no matter what. Suppose one of these men went to the Colonial Secretary, and said that he wanted a billet, he did not care what, in what was that hon. gentleman to examine him? Nondescripts of this class had come to him (Mr. L.) on more than one occasion, to ask him to use his influence with the Government to get them a billet. The post of Police Magistrate appeared to be that chiefly in demand. (Laughter.) The only qualification of some of the aspirants to this office were that they had been policemen. (Laughter.) The resolution was stated to be framed in order to relieve them from "unnecessary perplexity" with regard to these salaries. (Laughter.) In all circumstances of life hon. members must expect to meet with some perplexity. All questions which came before that House involved a certain amount of perplexity. But hon. members did not desire to be released of perplexity in this summary way. No doubt if they passed a bill to give the Governor and Executive power to frame regulations for the good government of the colony they would be relieving themselves of a great deal of perplexity, but would be scarcely doing their duty to their constituents. The resolutions, in fact, asserted the advisability of the House giving up all control over the salaries of civil servants, and all power of voting these salaries. No matter what amount of talent might be necessary, or what amount of work to be done, they were asked to assert that £600, neither more nor less, should be given to the head of every department. How could this House, by passing these resolutions, bind the House of next session to give only £600 to the

head of a department. They could not bind any future Treasurer not to come down to the House and ask for a larger sum? The resolutions also asserted that they were framed with a view to stop gentlemen from raising their own salaries. He could not, however, see how the resolutions would effect this object, neither was he aware that by the present mode of making up the Estimates, Government officers were in the habit of raising their own salaries. Moreover, this colony at present was a pastoral colony, to-morrow it might be a gold colony, and talent and labor of all descriptions might rise in value and fetch a higher price. It would then be found that either these resolutions would have to be disregarded, or else the Government service would be deserted. The seventh resolution would also be an unjust one to assent to, as it would "fix" some unfortunate clerk, perhaps at present toiling on at £200 a year, at that salary for the next three years. It would say to such a man, "No matter how deserving you are, here you must stop." He (Mr. L.) had this year voted against the proposed increases to salaries, as he thought they were premature; but he was prepared to deal as liberally as anyone with the deserving public servant. He should oppose the resolutions.

The COLONIAL TREASURER agreed to a great extent with the principle sought to be affirmed by the resolutions, although in many of the details he differed from the hon. mover. He had frequently expressed his opinion that it was an objectionable practice to have to bring each salary every year before the House. He did not know where this practice came from,—certainly not from the English House of Commons. The Government would be prepared shortly to bring forward a plan with regard to these salaries, which would be a simplification and amendment of the hon. member's motion. The hon. member's resolution mentioned the end of '64 as the period when a bill might be brought forward dealing with the matter, but why could not the matter be settled at once, as it would have been last session, by that bill which the hon. member assisted to throw out, had the measure passed. The hon. member had mentioned the rateable increase in the salaries of the clerks at home. He (the Colonial Treasurer) might state that the increases which appeared in this year's estimates were made on the same principle. The sixth resolution would have the effect of opening up the whole question in two and a half years' time. It would be better to decide the matter at once. The previous speaker said that any future House would not be bound by the resolutions; but the same argument might be used against any action taken by the House in the matter. The resolutions would at least be useful as an expression of opinion on the part of the House, and a guide to Ministers. Whenever these salaries were discussed a great amount of heart-burning was sure to arise, and it was wrong that every public officer should each year be gibbeted before that House. He considered that with regard to competitive examinations there was a great deal of humbug. The best examination was for the candidate to serve a probationary period in the office before his appointment was finally confirmed. In these examinations he knew of an instance of a young man who could write a good hand, and was well crammed for the occasion, beating his competitor, who had to take a situation in a merchant's office. Yet, the one who thus got the Government situation was not half so good a servant as the unsuccessful candidate. One was idle and lazy, and the other was the reverse.

Mr. R. CRIBB considered these resolutions as an attempt to enact the provisions of the Civil Service Bill by a side wind. The mover (Mr. Watts) admitted that the only objection he had to that bill was on account of the clause introduced by which the Government officers were compelled to contribute to a superannuation fund. He (Mr. C.) considered that that was the best part of the bill. He contended that some provision should be made for old servants of the Government, who were no longer able to discharge their duties, and that by the clause in the bill alluded to this provision was made in the most effectual way. The precedents from other countries cited by the mover in favor of the resolutions reminded him of the story of the frog in the fable who endeavoured to swell himself to the size of the ox. The practice of supervising every estimate, alluded to by the Colonial Treasurer, did, he contended, come from the House of Commons, where the power was still maintained, although, owing to the magnitude of the estimates, it was not standing orders closely exercised. With reference to the remarks concerning the smallness of the salary of the Registrar-General at home, as compared with the salaries of other heads of departments, he would remind the hon. member that here, owing to the existence of our Real Property Act, the duties of the Registrar were comparatively heavier than those of the same officer elsewhere.

Mr. WARRY expressed a hope that when the hon. member again got up to speak he would refrain from mentioning the word "side wind," and that the hon. mover of the resolutions, when next he addressed the House, would desist from talking about the mother country. (Laughter.) This matter was filled up with folly, as were many other matters which came before that House. The idea of examination of the candidates for their offices was ridiculous. Suppose they wanted a Vaccinator-General. Who was to examine him? The Ministers? If they had not sufficient confidence in the Ministers to entrust them with the task of selecting the best candidate for a Government situation, the sooner they turned them out the better. It was absurd to try to fix the salaries. As stated by Mr. Lilley, they might require an Astronomer Royal, and might find a man who, instead of accepting £600 a year, would be cheap at £6000. He intended to vote against the resolutions.

Mr. JONES was sorry that the resolutions had been so hardly dealt with, as he was sure that the hon. member had brought them forward with the best possible intentions. It was desirable that arrangements should be made to fix these salaries as far as possible, so as to avoid the recurrence of invidious discussions in that House upon the merits of the gentlemen holding the various situations. The principle of fixing these salaries was recognised in the case of the four gentlemen at the head of the Government, and he did not see why the principle could not be by degrees extended to their subordinates. To the Government officers themselves the fact of one head of a department receiving more than another was subject of great unpleasantness, as those gentlemen were apt to consider that those who received higher salaries, did so, not on account of greater abilities or talent, but on account of possessing influence of a different kind with the Government. He should support the resolutions.

Mr. FORBES disagreed with the resolutions both as regarded principle and detail. He considered that they infringed upon one of the most valuable privileges of the House—viz.—that of voting away money for the public service. If this power were taken away it was no use for the House to sit there and go through the form of considering the Estimates. If they allowed their rights to be blown away in this manner by a side-wind (laughter) they deserved to lose their rights and privileges. He considered that resolutions of this sweeping character, affecting their privileges, were derogatory to the House. The resolutions were merely the Civil Service Bill over again. He believed that they had been introduced merely to try the feeling of the House as to whether that bill could be again introduced with any chance of success this session.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN considered that the resolutions were simply harmless. There was, he contended, no analogy between the salaries of ministers and those of subordinates, as represented by the hon. member for Warwick. Ministers were liable to be removed by a vote of the House at a day's notice, and holders of offices of this nature should have a greater salary than persons who held their offices permanently. He did not believe that these resolutions were in any way intended as precursors of the Civil Service Bill of last session. He agreed with the hon. member for Fortitude Valley that you could not place men having talents of a different kind on the same level. A man might be very good as the head of his own department, but that department might not require talent of so valuable or scarce a nature as some other department required. To institute a comparison to convey his meaning, he might state that a pig, in its way, was a valuable animal, and so was a horse valuable in its way, but there was a difference in the value of the two animals, although each of its kind was valuable. He considered that it was not fair, nor in good taste, for the hon. member (Mr. Lilley) to pick holes in the wording of the resolutions. The mover (Mr. Watts) had perhaps, like himself, not closely studied the construction of sentences, but it was no business of a smart lawyer to pick holes, in this manner, in any man's jacket. It was a strange idea of the Colonial Treasurer, that in competitive examinations the worst man gained the situation. This could not be the case if the examinations were properly conducted. In the case of the recent examinations for Police Magistrates, however, these examinations were a mere mockery. It was absurd to tell people in private letters to read up such and such clauses, and such and such chapters of books, such being the parts on which they would be examined.

Mr. TAYLOR expressed his regret that the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Cribb) indulged so freely in the habit of imputing motives. On the present occasion the hon. member alleged that these resolutions were brought forward by a side wind for certain purposes. It was

very discreditable for that hon. member to find fault in this way. He (Mr. T.) saw the necessity for some bill or resolutions of this kind, more especially since this matter last time came before the House. He had always understood the Colonial Treasurer to state that in the matter of these salaries the Government were subject to a great pressure from without, but he (Mr. T.) had since been told by persons whose names were down for an increase of salary that they had never asked for, nor desired, such increase. But in spite of this their names had been put down on the estimates for an increase. Had the Civil Service Bill of last session been passed in an economical spirit, and with just views, it would have been assented to by the House, but the salaries embodied in that bill were so preposterous that no man with a grain of sense could vote for it. The Colonial Treasurer had said that Government officers were "gibbeted" every year before that House. He (Mr. T.) was not aware of any gibbeting. He was not aware that those gentlemen had been treated in an unkind manner by any member of that House. He certainly had heard some gross mis-statements made by ministers when the salaries of these officers were brought before the House. It had been stated by one of the ministers that a certain officer could earn three times as much as he received from the Government, if he were out of the Government service. This looked like a mis-statement. He (Mr. T.) knew what he should do under such circumstances if he could earn three times as much out of the Government service. He would soon bid it adieu. He was sorry to find that the head of one Government office had been picked out for a higher salary than the head of any other office. He alluded to the Registrar-General's department. It did not sound well for the Prime Minister to make this exception to the general rule, and to come down to the House and say that he hoped this officer's high qualities would be taken into consideration and that the House would accede to his request that the salary of this officer should be raised. The member for North Brisbane (Mr. Cribb) evidently thought this gentleman a wonderfully clever man, but he (Mr. T.) considered it bad taste to select one head of a department in this manner for an increase of salary. He would go with the hon. member for Drayton and Toowoomba in placing one head of a department on an equality with another. He believed that the head of the Telegraph department was occupied all day by his duties, and the talent required by the head of this department in that particular line was as great and as valuable as that required by the Registrar-General in his department. The same remark applied to the Collector of Customs. It was no argument that a large revenue was collected in the one department, and a small revenue in the other. The department in which the smaller revenue was collected entailed an equal amount of labor, and was equally valuable and necessary to the country. He (Mr. T.) admitted that he had no "perplexity" about these salaries. He had marked out for himself a straight course, and that course he would pursue, in spite of the powers or smiles of any man or any set of men. He was aware that the Colonial Secretary had told him and others that they only voted against these increases for the sake of popularity. He (Mr. T.) wished to know in what way they gained popularity by this course. He had never attained popularity by such a proceeding. No doubt the Colonial Secretary would get up and deny having said anything of the sort. He (Mr. T.) was prepared to maintain that in this colony, from the ministers down to the bell-man, the civil servants were paid better in proportion to our revenue and population than in any other country in the world. Though we were a prosperous colony that was no reason why we should spend our surplus prosperity in giving excessive salaries. Take the chief clerk of a government department, and compare his position with that of a bank clerk, or a clerk in a mercantile house. Compare, also, the work each had to do. The one was paid nothing like as much as the other, and yet had to do double or treble the work. He could name an establishment not many yards from that House where, evening after evening, a light might have been seen burning till eleven and twelve at night. The clerk there got £300 a year. Had he been a Government clerk he would have received extra pay for this extra work; as it was he got no extra pay. He (Mr. T.) would vote for the resolutions, which had been brought forward in an honest straightforward manner.

Mr. FERRETT saw great diversity of opinion in that House at different times. On one occasion the salaries were to be fixed, and on another occasion not to be fixed. On some occasions the House allowed their privileges to be invaded with impunity, and his (Mr. Ferrett's) voice was the only one raised against such invasion. (Ironical cheers.) He had voted against the Civil Service Bill because he considered it interfered with the privilege of that House of voting each year the salaries of Government officers. He thought, however, that as a guide to Ministers the House should fix some stated sum for certain departments. He should vote for the

resolutions, and he did not believe that they had been brought in by any side wind, as stated by one hon. member.

Mr. WATTS having very briefly replied, the motion was put to the House, and carried on the following division:—

Ayes, 11.		Noes, 9.	
Mr. Herbert		Mr. Forbes	
Mackenzie		Warry	
Macalister		Richards	
Watts		Royds	
Jones		Edmondstone	
Haly		Fleming	
Taylor		McLean	
Coxen		R. Cribb	} Tellers.
O'Sullivan		Lilley	}
Blakeney	} Tellers.		
Ferrett	}		

(The remainder of our report is necessarily curtailed.)

SALE OF CROWN LANDS.

Mr. LILLEY moved for a return of the lands actually surveyed for sale by action during the years 1860 and 1861, classifying the descriptions of lots, and specifying the charges made. After a short discussion, the motion was put and passed.

MORETON BAY TRAMWAY.

Mr. R. CRIBB brought forward his resolution referring to the Moreton Bay Tramway Company. The resolution was eventually withdrawn by the mover. The motion was supported by Messrs. CRIBB and O'SULLIVAN and opposed by the MINISTER for LANDS, and Messrs, WATTS, TAYLOR, JONES, LILLEY, FERRETT, HALY, and COXEN. Mr. R. CRIBB, in reply, said that he believed the discussion which had taken place would produce the effect he desired, and he would therefore withdraw his motion.

JURY BILL.

With the consent of the House, Mr. BLAKENEY postponed the second reading of the Jury Bill until to-morrow (this day).

DISEASES IN CATTLE ACT SUSPENSION BILL.

Mr. BLAKENEY said that, in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Moffatt, he (Mr. B.) had been requested to move that the second reading of the above bill should be postponed till Thursday next.

The motion was put and carried.

COMMON LAW PROCEDURE BILL.

On the motion of Mr. BLAKENEY, this bill was read a third time, and passed.

MILITIA BILL.

On the order of the day being called for the committal of the above bill, Mr. LILLEY moved that it be discharged from the paper, urging as his reason for doing so that the public feeling of the colony was evidently against the bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY and Messrs. BLAKENEY, O'SULLIVAN, JONES, CRIBB, WATTS, WARRY, RAFF, FERRETT, and TAYLOR spoke to the motion. All the hon. members were agreed as to the desirability of the withdrawal of the bill.

The motion was then put and carried.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES BILL.

On the motion of Mr. LILLEY, the committal of the above bill was postponed until to-morrow (this day).

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, this bill was read a third time, and passed.

COOLIE LABOR BILL.

The consideration in committee of this bill was postponed on the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, until to-morrow (this day).

PASTORAL OCCUPATION BILL.

The MINISTER for LANDS and WORKS moved the third reading of the Pastoral Occupation Bill.

Mr. COXEN moved, as an amendment, that the third reading be postponed until next day, when the bill could be re-committed, for the purpose of making certain alterations in clause 11.

The amendment was supported by Messrs. JONES, O'SULLIVAN, and FERRETT, and was opposed by the MINISTER for LANDS, and Messrs. TAYLOR, HALY, WATTS, and McLEAN. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn on the MINISTER for LANDS promising that the Government would endeavour to effect the necessary alteration during the passage of the bill through the Upper House.

The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter past ten until three o'clock to-morrow (this day).

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

...
**Legislative Assembly
17th June 1862**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 19th June 1862

(The following portions of our report were necessarily omitted yesterday.)

SURVEY OF LANDS.

Mr. LILLEY, pursuant to notice, moved, "That there be laid upon the table of this House a return showing the number of acres of land actually surveyed for sale by public auction during the years 1860 and 1861 respectively, distinguishing between town, suburban, and country lands, and specifying the names of the surveyors and the charges paid by Government for each survey."

The MINISTER for LANDS explained that there would be some difficulty in complying exactly with the terms of the motion. In the Government service here, two classes of surveyors were employed, viz., the regular surveyors, paid an annual salary, and the licensed surveyors paid by the job. Sometimes the work performed by the licensed surveyors had to be gone over again by the Government surveyors. Thus the cost of each survey could not well be exactly ascertained under existing arrangements. Again the survey of lands for farms, &c., was frequently undertaken by the same surveyor, simultaneously with the survey of roads and town reserves. It was impossible under these circumstances to furnish a return of each survey. The Government, however, as far as lay in their power, would furnish the returns asked for.

After some remarks from Mr. TAYLOR in favor of the motion,

Mr O'SULLIVAN expressed his opinion that if, as stated by the Minister for Lands, the work of licensed surveyors had to be done over again by the salaried surveyors, the public money was needlessly wasted by such an arrangement.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY explained that the work of the licensed surveyors was checked off in the Survey Office, and that it was only occasionally necessary for the salaried surveyors to go on the ground, and see if the surveys made by the licensed surveyors were correct. Such a proceeding was the exception, and not the rule, as the hon. member appeared to imagine.

The motion for the returns moved for was then put and passed.

MORETON BAY TRAMWAY.

Mr. R. CRIBB, pursuant to notice, moved—"That it would be inexpedient for the Government to entertain any proposition from the promoters of the Moreton Bay Tramroad Company, having for its object the paying of any sum of money to the present proprietors for past expenditure." He had brought forward this resolution in consequence of an answer given to a question put by one hon. member the other day which tended to show that an attempt was likely to be made on the part of the Tramway Company to induce the Government to take up their scheme, and re-imburse them for the expenses already incurred. He believed that if the Company failed to carry out their object,—and they had not yet begun any works,—they should abandon it without asking the Government to pay any expenses. The Government had no right to re-imburse the Company for the money squandered in preliminary expenses. Nothing which the Company had done could be of any great value to the Government, as, if the Government took up the scheme, all the work already done would have to be gone over again. He might state that he

knew nothing of any negotiations, save the rumours with which other hon. members were acquainted.

Mr O'SULLIVAN seconded the resolution.

Mr. WATTS opposed the motion. He considered it to be of very great advantage to the country that the Government should take up a scheme of this kind, if the original promoters were unable to carry it out. It was the most important work the colony could undertake, and if the Company were unable to carry out the scheme, it would be a gross injustice to the country for the Government not to aid and assist such a scheme. It would be the duty of the Government, in the event of any proposition being made, to pay a fair share for the amount of work performed, which really would be of benefit to the country. Moreover, he considered that if the House passed this motion, they would be infringing the powers of the Executive. He was not prepared to say that the Company had done no good. They had made a number of useful plans, and those plans, it must be assumed, were correct, unless the contrary were proved. If the Government made use of the Company's survey, surely they were bound to pay the Company for the cost of that survey. The Company had laid down the best route to Cunningham's Gap, and made other valuable surveys. This was a question deeply affecting the interests of the country. The interior at present had no adequate means of transit. Even if they had to run into debt for it, it would be desirable to procure some adequate means of transit. As their children would chiefly gain the benefit of it, it was but right that their children should pay a portion of the expense. If the Company had power to alienate their lands, they could issue land scrip, and raise a sufficiency of money in this colony to go on with the work. When the matter came before the House in another shape, he had a scheme which he intended to lay before hon. members with regard to this matter. We were having our bars and harbours cleared, and ships would soon be pouring into this colony. When these ships came we should require something to fill them, and the only way to increase our exports would be by opening up the interior by better means of communication than at present existed. Unless some scheme of this kind were carried out all the produce would go to the Northern Ports, and Brisbane would be disregarded.

Mr. JONES said that the hon. member for North Brisbane was very sharp, and no doubt in this instance thought he had smelt a rat. He had merely proved to the House, however, that a hole existed where a rat might possibly hereafter go and die, and offend the hon. member's delicate nerves. (Laughter.) When a proposition was actually made by the Company, and submitted to the House, then it would be time to discuss this matter.

The MINISTER for LANDS could not well conceive what induced the hon. member (Mr. Cribb) to submit such a resolution, concerning which, at present, there was not one iota of information on the table of the House. He seemed to be labouring under the impression that the Government and the Tramroad Company had entered into some plan to rob the country. He (the Minister for Lands) at first thought that the hon. member had been to the Clerk of Parliament, in whose custody the plans were deposited, and having scanned them with eagle-eye had discovered some flaws in them. The hon. member seemed so positively to have made up his mind that the Company had nothing worth buying. If the Government entered into any arrangement with the Tramroad Company it would be one merely to enable the Government to carry out the scheme of the Company, and any such proposition, it would be the duty of the Government to lay before the House before assenting to it, in order that it might obtain the ratification of hon. members. As it was a fact that there was no proposition of the Company before the Government at present the Government were not in a position to say anything about the matter. Looking at the immense territory to the west of the main range, which would be fully occupied with population and stock, it was evident that unless provision were made for the conveyance of the produce to this port most of it would be carried to the Northern Ports for shipment. Whatever proposition the Company might make it would have to be one which the Government could take advantage of, and which would be advantageous to the country.

Mr O'SULLIVAN considered that the immense territory to the west, so eloquently spoken of by the hon. member, would not be opened up any sooner than it otherwise would be by the construction of a tramroad. The hon. member formerly used to agree with him (Mr. O'S.) on this question, but that hon. member appeared now to have changed his views. He was as interested

in the question of conveyance in the interior as any honorable member, but he did not believe in tramroads. They were antediluvian. He would be prepared to support any good scheme for railroads. After the tramroad was constructed, it would cost a great deal to keep the road in proper order. He was totally opposed to the Government giving any assistance to this wild speculative Company. It could scarcely be called a Company. Some travelling adventurers, who lived by their wits, came here and started it. They were new brooms, and swept clean, and some people, being naturally fond of novelty, took up with them. They had got a lot of gulls and fools together, and formed the Company. They were enabled by this means to live very well for a certain period, until the affair began to break down. What did they care? They had nothing themselves to lose. After a good many calls for money, the people began to smell a rat, and it proved not only a smell, but a reality, and a hole was discovered where not only a rat could be hidden, but a coach and four driven through. What could the Government get by any dealings with the Company? Their plant was nothing, and they had nothing to dispose of but a bad debt. He believed they required some faster conveyance than drays. Still, the traffic over the main range could be done, however, by drays in three months of the year. The Government had been, he believed, in active correspondence with the Company, and appeared determined to go in and buy this bad debt. It was very generally said outside that the hon. member opposite dare not refuse any proposition made by the Company. ("No, no," from Mr. Herbert.) The Government were afraid to refuse to accept the terms. If the hon. member at the head of the Government thought this statement untrue, he (Mr. O'S.) was prepared to prove his allegations before a select committee of that House.

Mr. TAYLOR was surprised to find the two town members Mr. Cribb and Mr. O'Sullivan supporting this motion. The hon. member (Mr. Cribb) would not have opposed a proposition to grant £50,000 for a bridge across the Brisbane, or a grant of £20,000 to improve the road in front of his own beautiful villa. But any proposition to benefit the interior was, of course, quite a different matter. He (Mr. T.) denied *in toto* Mr. O'Sullivan's statement that the traffic over the main range could be done by drays in three months of the year. They required at least fifteen months to do it. One season's clip of wool could not be carried down by them in three months. He (Mr. T.) had not heard that the Government intended to treat with the Company. The latter had power to contract for works until the 10th August next, and they might by that time be able to get the money required. If one individual in that Company had not taken a leading part in the matter the work could not have been half so far advanced as it was at present. The plans of that individual showed what a great saving had been effected by him. These plans and surveys showed an amazing amount of ability, and he (Mr. T.) wished that we had a little more of such ability in the country. If the Government were inclined to buy anything from the Company, they would first have to get the consent of the House. He (Mr. T.) would advise the Government, if any proposition were made to them, to buy whatever was valuable, and to buy nothing more. He imagined that the survey which had been made was very valuable, and it had been done at a small cost. It would have been much more expensive had it been done under Government. A survey had been made to Dalby, and a permanent survey, he believed, as far as the range. It was a matter of deep interest that the country should have improved means of communication. Were a tramroad in existence, the Warwick district could supply the whole of Queensland with grain. We should soon, too, be expecting other products. He for one, were a good means of conveyance in existence, would willingly give 10,000 acres of his run to any one who would fence it off and cultivate cotton.

Mr. LILLEY said that if the motion before the House were to be passed, the Government would be placed in a position that neither they or any other Government would like to hold. To tell the Government that any possible future course of action was inexpedient would be the means of placing them in such a position that they would be unable to carry on the operations of Government. The hon. member for North Brisbane had evidently assumed the humble position of standing engineer all sufficient for the wants of the colony, when he had virtually pronounced the plans and other property of the Tramway Company to be useless. He (Mr. Lilley) in company with another gentleman had waited upon the Surveyor-General with the plans which had been made out for the company, and the Surveyor-General had pronounced those plans to be sufficiently skilful; yet the hon. member for North Brisbane wished to prevent the Government from

entertaining for one moment any proposition which might be made to the Company with reference to the purchasing of those plans. He (Mr. Lilley) did not wish to disparage the judgment of the hon. member, but still he could not help thinking him rather presumptuous as regarded the question at issue. That hon. member was very fond of making the assertion that he was a free-trader; now he (Mr. L.) was as great a free-trader in everything else but ignorance as was the hon. gentleman; but he hoped that he never would see the day when every man in Queensland acted as his own doctor and his own lawyer, in accordance with a wish which he believed had been expressed by the hon. member. He could not see what possible objection could be made, if the Company had anything valuable to sell, why the Government should not be the purchaser. The motion before the House amounted almost to a vote of want of confidence in the Government; no Government could stand such an amount of dictation as was indicated by the motion. The hon. mover of the resolution had assumed that everything that had been done by the Company was wrong; yet, he (Mr. L.) would remind the hon. member that every proceeding of the Company had been approved of by a committee of that House, after a very searching investigation had been made into them; and he must say that the hon. member at the head of the Government had especially been very hard upon the Company, and there was not a line of the plan over which he had not seen the slender fingers of the Hon. Minister for Lands and Works travelling. The hon. member for Ipswich (Mr. O'Sullivan) had enlarged pretty fully upon the fact of people living by their wits. He (Mr. L.) could not help thinking that the hon. member must, in the course of his life, have often found occasion to exercise his wits—his very presence in that House was sufficient proof that he had done so. That hon. gentleman had also designated a tramway as being quite antediluvian. Now, he (Mr. L.) could not then remember having ever read or heard of tramways being in use before the time of the flood; in fact, he did not believe that they were used at that time. The hon. gentleman also was, perhaps, not aware that in France the system of expensive railroads was being departed from, and the cheaper system of tramroads was being resorted to throughout the length and breadth of the land. He (Mr. L.) would take that opportunity of bearing honorable testimony to the character of a man who had been much maligned—a man whom he believed it to be quite ridiculous for the hon. member for North Brisbane to take to task as far, at all events, as engineering skill was concerned. The Company had been styled a wild and speculating company; if so, that House, which had endorsed the actions of the Company, must be considered a wild and speculating House, also. He would conclude by asserting that William Coote—there could be no doubt but that was the individual at whom all the malignant shafts had been aimed—was certainly not a less skilful man than the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. R. Cribb.)

Mr. JONES moved that the debate be adjourned until to-morrow (this day.)

Mr. O'SULLIVAN, in seconding the motion, denied at some length, and in a somewhat personal manner, the remarks of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley.

Mr. LILLEY could not see sufficient reason for adjourning the debate.

Mr. TAYLOR opposed the adjournment, and warned the Government that they had only three clear weeks left for getting through the business of the session, and after that time it would be exceedingly difficult for them to obtain a quorum.

Mr. JONES, with the leave of the House, withdrew the motion for the adjournment.

Mr. FERRETT would not, in the course of the few remarks he was about to make, attribute any motive to the hon. member who had introduced the motion, and he (Mr. F.) thought the debate would have a very beneficial effect. He could not, however, support the motion. The hon. member for North Brisbane was supposed to be fond of separation, and it appeared that he was doing all he could to separate the towns from the interior and the far North. He (Mr. F.) could inform that hon. member that unless some steps were taken by which the interior and the far North would be brought nearer to the capital, that separation would be demanded by those places. It had been clearly proved that the system of tramways would be sufficient to effect that purpose for some time to come, and it was very evident that the present circumstances of the colony would not justify them in going the length of forming a railway. Were they to do so, they would involve the country to an extent which would not be got over in their lives. As to the ability of the Manager of the Company, he did not think there was much doubt, as he had seen and

heard the plans which had been made, tested and pronounced to be of great value by skilful men, and it was ridiculous to suppose that those plans were to be handed over without payment. If the surveys were of no use, of course they would not have to be paid for, but if they were of use they must be paid for. This was, in his opinion, an indirect way of endeavoring to pass a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and he should oppose it.

Mr. HALY would oppose the motion. He was decidedly in favor of establishing a system of tramways, but not for the reasons advanced by some hon. members, that the benefits of the operation of that system should be exclusively confined to Brisbane and Ipswich.

Mr. COXEN said, judging from the speeches of hon. members, it appeared that an idea was current that the Tramway Company had failed. He considered that he was about as well acquainted with the affairs of that Company as most people, and he could inform hon. members that there was now a staff of men employed in carrying on the operations of the Company. He thought that when the Company had failed would be time enough to legislate as to what should be done with its property.

Mr. R. CRIBB, in reply, said that the motion he had introduced appeared to have provoked the ire of certain hon. members to a considerable extent. The motion had, in his opinion, been imperatively called for, in consequence of an answer made by the hon. the Minister for Lands and Works to a certain question which had been put to him by an hon. member, concerning the Tramway Company. That answer was calculated in an eminent degree to keep hon. members as much in the dark as possible with reference to the matter, hence his reason for having brought forward the motion at present before the House. He was never averse to tramways, and had expressed himself to that effect, and he would have been perfectly willing to have granted any temporary assistance which might have been asked for by the Company; but he was averse to the Government being called upon to pay the debts and otherwise take upon themselves the responsibilities which might have been incurred by heedless speculators. As to his motion involving a vote of want of confidence in the Government, he could assure hon. members that he had quite as much confidence in the present Government as any other hon. member, and would be very sorry to see that Government displaced. He believed that the discussion that had taken place would have all the effect he wished for, and he would, therefore, withdraw the motion.

MILITIA BILL.

Mr. LILLEY said that he rose to move that the order of the day for the consideration in committee of the Militia Bill be discharged. He had no doubt but that hon. members were aware that his reason for doing so was in consequence of the expression of public opinion on the matter. At the same time that he did so, however, he must inform hon. members that he did not surrender a single inch of the ground which he had taken up. The bill had undoubtedly been misunderstood and misrepresented outside the House, and the public had entirely lost sight of the fact that, whether steps were taken by the colonists to defend the colony or not, Great Britain would not bear the burthen of that defence. He confessed to feeling very strongly on the matter, especially when he remembered that Queensland was the only British colony that had refused to contribute something towards its own defence. Of course he could not attempt to reason with those men who argued that there was no necessity for one at all. War, sometimes, could not be helped, and it should be remembered that if war were to take place they had everything to lose—their homes, land, honor, and everything else which they held dear; and how should they tell Great Britain when called upon to defend themselves that they were not manly enough to do so. It had been said that they had not an enemy at their gates; perhaps not, but then they had been told by a state minister (and of course that state minister was not bound to maintain his reason for telling them so) that at any time they might have an enemy at their gates. He would repeat that, in moving the discharge of the bill from the paper, he did so with a feeling of regret, and from a desire to yield to the public voice. In his opinion it was not a question of a Militia Bill, but a question of colonial defence, and as to what mode of defence would be best. It had been acknowledged that the volunteers were nothing but a solemn farce, and he therefore thought that a Militia Bill was the most desirable form of military discipline that could be adopted. It had been said that he had been subjected to a bribe. But he could assure hon. members that he was free from any such dishonour, and he would call upon the hon. member at the head of the

Government in the most solemn way to declare whether he (Mr. L.) had ever been in treaty with the Government for a situation of any description. There could be no doubt but that the bill contained severe clauses, and he maintained that it was necessary that those clauses should exist. It had also been asserted that the bill contained a lie upon its very face; all he could say to that accusation was that the bill was an embodiment of two South Australian bills, and was in fact almost word for word with one of them. In that colony, if a man was not enrolled among the volunteers he must be enrolled in the militia, and he (Mr. L.) would ask hon. members if there was anything unreasonable in calling upon a man to assist in defending the colony. People were in the habit of saying that there was nothing to fear. But he would draw attention to New Caledonia and the other military colonies in the Pacific, and, in his opinion, it was very necessary that Queensland should be prepared to resist a possible aggression from those military colonies. Of course it was not supposed for a moment that a sufficient force could be organised that would be capable of resisting an army, but it was little enough to expect that there should be force enough in existence to prevent the place being ransacked by the boats of a privateer. He did hold that the bill had been misconstrued, and that a deal of odium quite undeserved had been heaped upon his head. However, he could state with pride that his honor was unsullied and untarnished; and he could hurl back with contempt their accusations upon the heads of his coarse and ignorant accusers.

Mr. BLAKENEY seconded the motion.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY would not lose a moment in stating that the hon. member who had just sat down had defined correctly his position with regard to the Government. That hon. member had called upon him (the Colonial Secretary), and had informed him of his (Mr. L's) intention to introduce the Militia Bill. He (the Colonial Secretary) had then intimated to the hon. member that if no bill of the sort was introduced by a private member, it was the intention of the Government to introduce a bill themselves. If he thought that the House would support him he should oppose the withdrawal of the bill, and send it through committee. The meeting which had been held on the subject in Brisbane had had the bill misrepresented to them wilfully in a most false and unfair manner. There had been no other motive for the introduction of the bill than that the colony should be placed in such a position as to be able to defend itself when called upon; and he considered that the colony had been made to stand in its present disreputable position by the exertions of certain gentlemen of Brisbane who made it their business to attend meetings, and who were exceedingly fond of hearing themselves talk. In common with the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, he felt a deal of regret at the withdrawal of the bill, and if he thought that the House would have supported him, he should have pressed for its committal, when provision might have been made to render what were considered to be the severe clauses inoperative except in time of actual war.

Mr. BLAKENEY was very pleased to see that the bill was to be dismissed, and he thought that the arguments urged in its favor by the Colonial Secretary were exceedingly fallacious. It would be remembered that he had been the first member of the House who had pointed out the clauses of the bill which provided for compulsory enlistment. (Ironical cheers.) The dissatisfaction which had been expressed at the bill had not been confined to Brisbane alone, but had prevailed throughout the colony. Was it a disreputable proceeding for citizens to exercise their birthright by meeting, and petitioning Parliament against anything which they might consider objectionable? He himself had been present at the meeting referred to, and a more orderly or better conducted meeting he had never attended. An obnoxious bill which had been brought before the House last session, he had assisted to render nugatory—he referred to the Gagging Act, which was also a South Australian measure, and he hoped that they would have no more South Australian measures brought before the House.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN considered that the appeal which had been made by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley to the Colonial Secretary to have been of the most humiliating things which had taken place in that House. (No, no.) When the hon. member (Mr. Lilley) had mentioned the words coarseness and ignorance, he had turned round in the most pointed manner to him (Mr. O'S.) Now, he did not think that he exhibited more coarseness than most hon. members; as to his ignorance, that was his misfortune, not his fault. The bill was said to embody two most obnoxious

bills, and he must say with another hon. member that it carried a lie upon the face of it. It was a remarkable thing that when the hon. member for Fortitude Valley came into the House first, he was a strong advocate for Manhood Suffrage, but that hon. member had allowed the Electoral Bill to pass the other evening with a silent vote, while a few minutes since he had made an eloquent speech about nothing. He (Mr. O'S.) had no doubt but that the hon. member had parted with the bill with regret; but that hon. member was, in his (Mr. O'S's) opinion, a mere delegate from Fortitude Valley.

Mr. JONES had taken some part in opposing the second reading of the bill, and would, therefore, say a word or two now. The Colonial Secretary had spoken in no measured terms of the public meeting which had been held on the matter—he had used most unbecoming language in reference to that meeting. The dissatisfaction expressed towards the bill was not confined to Brisbane alone, and it was all very well for the hon. the Colonial Secretary to speak in discourteous terms of the public meeting, but he (Mr. Jones) hoped that the same course would be taken throughout the colony, whenever an opportunity occurred.

Mr. R. CRIBB believed that the motion would have been got over in five minutes, had the hon. member for Fortitude Valley not spoken so long.

Mr. WATTS was sorry that hon. members should demean themselves by attending public meetings, and misrepresenting other hon. members. However much he might differ in politics with other hon. members, he could never be guilty of going to a public meeting and misrepresenting that hon. member. Besides, if hon. members would address public meetings, the least thing they could do was to tell the truth.

Mr. WARRY said that any stranger coming into the House would imagine that they were all demented. Since four o'clock in the afternoon one continued strain of personal invective had been indulged in by hon. members.

Mr. RAFF considered it to be the duty of hon. members to listen to any opinions that might be expressed at public meetings, but he did not think that hon. members should speak at those meetings. He quite endorsed the conduct of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, and believed that that hon. member had sacrificed the interests of the country to its prejudices, a course which it was unfortunately necessary occasionally to adopt. He hoped that hon. members would never be deterred from expressing their conscientious opinions by popular clamour. In conclusion, he would express his regret that some provision had not been made for the defence of the colony.

Mr. FERRETT had voted against the second reading of the Militia Bill, at the same time he thought that some protective force should be established. Had that bill come into operation, he believed that it would have cost at least ten times as much as the same number of trained men could be obtained from England for.

Mr. TAYLOR had been much pleased with the explanation given by the hon. member for Fortitude Valley—it was in his opinion perfect. But after what had fallen from the hon. the Colonial Secretary, as to the views of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley, his opinion of that explanation was much modified. He had always entertained the highest opinion of the hon. member (Mr. Lilley), and when he heard that a difference had arisen between that hon. gentleman and his constituents, he felt it as much as though he had himself been concerned. He entertained a large amount of respect for public meetings but still he did not think that hon. members should be at the beck and call of their constituencies; if they were, he should look upon them as being mere delegates. He sincerely trusted that they would not lose the services of the hon. member for Fortitude Valley; that hon. Gentleman had steadily improved from being the ultra-radical that he was when he first entered the House. There could be no doubt about the Militia Bill being universally disliked, and he (Mr. T.) was sorry to say that people up the country had been rather suspicious as to the motives of the hon. member who had introduced the bill. He (Mr. T.) had endeavoured to disabuse their minds of these suspicions. They had said that the hon. the Attorney-General was to be appointed second judge. Mr. Lilley was to be made Attorney-General, and Mr. Blakeney Crown Prosecutor. He hoped such was not the case, as he should feel most decidedly compelled to oppose the salaries of those gentlemen. He thought that gentlemen who attended public meetings should study the subject of the meetings before they went, and agreed

most cordially with those hon. members who had deprecated the dastardly conduct of the hon. member for North Brisbane (Mr. Blakeney). That hon. gentleman, no doubt, thought that his constituency approved of such proceedings, but he (Mr. Taylor) could assure hon. members that William Charles Blakeney would never again be returned for North Brisbane.

The motion for the withdrawal of the bill was then put and carried.