

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

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**Legislative Assembly  
Opening of Parliament  
21<sup>st</sup> April 1863**

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Extracted from the third party account as published in the  
Courier 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1863

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The fifth session of the Queensland Parliament was formally opened by his Excellency Sir G. F. Bowen at noon yesterday.

Shortly before his Excellency's arrival at the Legislative Council Chamber, a detachment of the 12th, with the Volunteer Artillery Corps, preceded by the Volunteer Band, had formed in two-deep before the entrance to the Council Chamber.

At twelve o'clock precisely his Excellency, escorted by a body of troopers, arrived. The band struck up "God Save the Queen,"—"regulars" and Volunteer Artillery presented arms—and, between the flash of steel and the crash of music, the troop horses became so restive as to create some slight confusion among his Excellency's escort. After order had been restored, his Excellency alighted from his carriage, and entered the Legislative Council Chamber.

The Council Chamber was thronged by spectators, including a large proportion of fashionably dressed ladies, who were accommodated with seats within the bar.

Lady Bowen was present, and occupied a chair on the left hand of the throne.

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The house assembled pursuant to the proclamation of his Excellency the Governor, bearing date 8th November, 1862, and in the terms whereof hon. members were required to give their attendance "for the despatch of business." Shortly before noon the SPEAKER, taking his stand at the upper end of the table, read prayers in the usual form.

The following members were present:—The Colonial Secretary, Secretary for Lands and Works, Mr. Edmondstone, Mr. Richards, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Blakeney, Mr. B. Cribb, Mr. Haly, Mr. Gore Jones, Mr. Coxen, Mr. Lilley, Mr. R. Cribb, Mr. McLean, Mr. Royds, Mr. Warry, Mr. O'Sullivan, Mr. Raff, and Dr. Challinor. (In attendance, within the precincts of the chamber, were the hon. T. De Lacy Moffatt, Mr. J. P. Bell, and Mr. Groom, newly-elected members, who not having been sworn in could not take their seats.)

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.**

The SERGEANT-AT-ARMS announced the Usher of the Black Rod.

The SPEAKER thereupon took the chair, but rose again and remained standing.

The USHER OF THE BLACK ROD having been conducted with due obeisance to the bar of the house, delivered the following message:—Mr. Speaker, I am desired to inform you that it is his Excellency the Governor's pleasure that this honorable house do attend his Excellency immediately in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The SPEAKER accompanied by every honorable member present, then proceeded to the Council Chamber to hear the Governor's speech.

After the lapse of a quarter of an hour, and the House being re-assembled,

The SPEAKER said: With the consent of the House, I shall now leave the chair and shall resume it at a quarter past three o'clock.

The House then separated.

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**AFTERNOON SITTING.**

The SPEAKER took the chair at a quarter past three o'clock.

**RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTIONS.**

The SPEAKER reported to the house that during the recess the following members had resigned their seats in this house, viz.:— John Watts, Esq., member for the electorate of Drayton and Toowoomba; Joseph Fleming, Esq., one of the members for the electorate of West Moreton; that upon the receipt of each resignation a new writ was issued, and that such writ had been duly returned, with certificates respectively endorsed thereon, of the election of the following gentlemen:—William Henry Groom, Esq., as a member for Drayton and Toowoomba; Joshua P. Bell, Esq., as a member for West Moreton. He also reported that the seat of Thomas De Lacy Moffatt, Esq., one of the members for the electorate of Western Downs, became vacant by

reason of the acceptance, by that hon. member, of the office of Colonial Treasurer; that a new writ was thereupon issued, and that such writ was duly returned, with a certificate endorsed thereon, of the re-election of the same hon. member.

### NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. BELL was introduced to the House by Mr. B. Cribb and Mr. Forbes.

Mr. GROOM was introduced by Mr. Edmondstone and Mr. Lilley.

The Hon. Mr. MOFFATT was introduced by the Colonial Secretary and the Secretary for Lands and Works.

And the new members having taken the oath and subscribed the roll, took their seats in the chamber.

### COMMITTEE OF ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS.

The SPEAKER, pursuant to the requirement of the Electoral Act, laid on the table his warrant appointing the following hon. members the Committee of Elections and Qualifications:—Messrs. Coxen, Lilley, Raff, Royds, Challinor, Mackenzie, and MacLean.

### PAPERS.

The COLONIAL-SECRETARY laid on the table the following papers, and moved that they be printed:—1. Additional royal instructions to the Governor of Queensland. 2. Despatch relative to addresses of condolence with her Majesty the Queen. 3. Correspondence respecting the western boundary of Queensland. 4. Correspondence respecting the supposed disqualification of Messrs. Fleming and Sandeman. 5. Correspondence respecting the Anglo-Australian and China telegraph. 6. Third annual report of registration of births, deaths, and marriages. 7. Statistical register of Queensland for the year 1861.

The SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS laid on the table a report on the Brisbane Botanic Gardens for the years 1861 and 1862, and moved that it be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

### THE SCAB BILL.

The COLONIAL TREASURER presented a bill, intituled "A Bill to further provide against the introduction of Scab or other Diseases in Sheep," and moved that it be read a first time.

Question put and passed. The second reading of the bill was ordered for next (this) day.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

The COLONIAL-SECRETARY stated for the information of the House, that next day he would make a ministerial statement. (Hear, hear).

### THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER reported that he, with hon. members of the house, had attended upon the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, to hear his Excellency's opening speech to the parliament; and that for greater accuracy he had obtained a copy of the speech, which he would read to the house. (The speech was accordingly read, *verbatim et literatim* as above given.)

### THE ADDRESS.

Mr. BELL rose and moved "That a select committee be appointed to prepare an address to reply to his Excellency the Governor's speech on opening the annual session of the first parliament of Queensland; such committee to consist of Mr. Herbert, Mr. Macalister, Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Jones, Dr. Challinor, and the mover and seconder."

Mr. M'LEAN seconded the motion.

Question put and passed.

The committee thereupon retired, and after a brief interval, returned to the Chambers, when

Mr. BELL said: I beg, Mr. Speaker, to state that I have brought with me the address as it has been prepared by the committee, and I beg to hand it to the clerk to be read to the house.

The CLERK of the ASSEMBLY then read the address as follows:—

To his Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Queensland and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

May it please your Excellency:—

We, her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, in Parliament assembled, desire to express to your Excellency our affection and loyalty to the person and government of our most gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the speech with which you have been pleased to open the present session.

We reciprocate the satisfaction with which your Excellency adverts to the continued prosperity of the colony, and trust that our labors now about to commence may tend to its further development.

In declining, on behalf of the Queensland, such further extension of its territory as would be incompatible with the present resources of the colony, your Excellency's government has anticipated the feelings and wishes of this Assembly. It will nevertheless be our desire to provide for the progressive establishment of those settlements within our present boundary which the advance of occupation may demand, and among which the new station near Cape York is of the first importance.

We concur in the opinion expressed by your Excellency's government, in common with those of the other Australian colonies, that the transportation of convicts to Queensland, or to any portion of Australia, would be an evil which we should be bound to resist to the utmost of our power.

The various legislative enactments which will be brought under our consideration shall receive our best attention; and it will be our duty to make adequate provision for the extension of telegraphs and for the improvement of our communications with the interior, believing that these works are urgently required to maintain the present rapid progress of settlement. As on a previous occasion, we shall be prepared to authorise a loan for such works of that kind as are immediately needed, and will be of no less benefit to those who come after us than to the present generation.

The terms in which your Excellency has recorded the progress achieved by this colony during the past two years, show very striking results. We trust that, under Providence, we may be successful in our attempts to establish upon a firm and secure basis the prosperity which the colony has hitherto enjoyed.

Mr. BELL said: Mr. Speaker, in rising to address this house for the first time, I cannot avoid asking for that indulgence which the diffidence I feel obliges me to do, and which has been uniformly the habit of members of this house to extend to members in my position; and, Sir, the great boon to me of that indulgence serves to show me that there is no rule, however seemingly unimportant, or a mere formal matter of etiquette, adopted by this house, that has not usefulness for its basis. Sir, it is my duty to move, and to propose the adoption by this house, of the address that has been read in reply to his Excellency the Governor's speech, this morning. And, in doing so, I have the satisfaction of being free from any embarrassment, owing to hon. members forming the government of the day having placed this address—this motion—in my hands without requiring, or exacting, or wishing to influence a single vote of mine in consequence of this motion. (Hear, hear.) I have the advantage of moving the address, which, if I have read it correctly, will not be rejected by hon. members of this house for want of usefulness, wisdom, and liberality. I may here say that the disabilities under which I conceive documents of this kind are read, even by hon. members of this house, are very many; and, for myself, I may say that the independent position in which I entered this house—and by that I do not wish it to be inferred that I desire to

talk with recklessness or great disregard of the two sides into which those hon. members here have been formed, but on the contrary, with a due appreciation of both; at the same time I must here state that, with that appreciation I have for each side of the house, I am bound at this moment to say that, for this (ministerial) side, I have a greater and fuller appreciation, as far as its politics and usefulness go, than I have for the other. I claim, consequently, sir, to have read, dispassionately, the address that has been prepared in reply to his Excellency's speech; and, if I have read it correctly, and if I understand fully the policy that has been brought down by the government, I may say that I believe, and I hope I shall not be singular in the opinion, that no hon. members in this house can well disregard it as one fraught with wisdom, and liberality, and usefulness to the country. Sir, I do not speak of this policy in this unqualified way because I am here the member proposing this address, but because I firmly feel convinced that the policy that is brought down by the government is a good one; and that whoever the members sitting on the ministerial benches might have happened to be, this policy is the only one that could have been brought down by the government of the day. Sir, admitting so much as I have said in favor of the policy of the government, it is a policy that goes sufficiently far: for myself, I may say that I that this policy seems to have the peculiar qualification of going sufficiently far without going too far. I am sure hon. members will not require to be reminded of the rapid legislation of former sessions of this house—(hear, hear)—and I am sure hon. members will not think it prudent, wise, or judicious, that the same rapid legislation hitherto performed in this parliament should continue to be the plan or the system adopted by this parliament. (Hear, hear.) And, Sir, so far as I can see, this is the policy, if properly digested, if properly passed into law by this parliament, that will be sufficient and be satisfactory to the country as well as to the legislature of the country. In referring to some of the clauses of the speech of his Excellency the Governor, I shall first address myself to the question of transportation. Sir, it appears to me that the question of transportation in the policy laid down in the speech of his Excellency, has been well and satisfactorily dealt with by the government of this country; not alone by that portion of it residing within this country since last session, but also by that portion which was—as it was dismembered for a short time (a laugh)—residing in England. (Laughter, and “hear, hear.”) Whether constitutional (ironical cheers) or not, is unnecessary for me to say here (hear); nor is it necessary that this question should be gone into on this occasion. (Hear, hear.) But this brings me to do that which I think may not be inopportune—that may not be opposed to the feelings and wishes of this house—in saying that, I am sure there is not a member present who is not of opinion with myself, that this house, that this country, may be congratulated upon the safe return to its shores, of the hon. member I have alluded to,—(the hon. member Mr. Herbert, the head of the Queensland Government—(Hear, hear), who is justly and wisely esteemed for his talents as for his private worth. (Cheers, and laughter.) For myself, I must express the pleasure I feel at his return to this colony, however much I may deplore his unconstitutional absence. (“Oh, oh!” laughter, and “hear, hear.”) Sir, having broached upon this subject, whether properly or not, in the course of this debate, I cannot help saying that the hon. member for whom I have the high estimation I have expressed, and I believe the hon. members of this house have the same feeling towards him—I cannot help saying that he appears to me very much to resemble in his position the prodigal son. (Laughter.) He has been away—left his home and his country—and he has returned. (Continued laughter.) But not like the prodigal son we have read of, he returns clad in an armour of services performed for his country, which, I am sure, whether constitutional or unconstitutional, were such services that he will be held harmless by this house; and I am sure that this house will think with me that whatever his irregularity was, the loss by his absence has been rendered back in full value by such services as he has performed. Sir, the subject of telegraphs and railways has, in his Excellency's speech, not been narrowly but broadly entered upon; and I think, sir, there is a fair hope of this House having brought down to it by the government measures sufficiently considered and sufficiently useful to meet those two great questions which must interest this session. And, sir, it is my opinion as it is with the government with reference to these telegraphs and railways, I believe that, as regards telegraphs, the further and the quicker we can extend them towards Port Denison from this part, the better; the quicker we carry the railway from here to Dalby the better. And, the quicker, after that, that we contract a public loan for these two performances, as well as for other useful purposes, including harbors and rivers, the better. And it then only remains, Sir, for us to see that we get properly qualified, scientific and practical men (hear, hear) to carry out those objects

(hear, hear), and to spend properly that money. (Hear, hear.) I find, Sir, amongst the clauses of the speech that reference has been made to the Impounding Act; and coming, as I do, from a constituency groaning under the grievances of this act—an act much liable to abuse—I cannot but feel gratified that this subject has a likelihood of being remodelled and revised by this house. It is not alone the constituency that I have the honor to come from, but other constituencies represented in this house have the same burden of grievances to be removed. (Hear, hear.) I find that the Insolvency Act of this colony is to be revised also, and remodelled. I am sure that there is not a member of this house who is not aware of abuses in consequence of the bad principles of this act—abuses which have amounted almost to a system of abuses; and I hope to see brought down to this house by the government an act that shall do away in a great measure with the ability which dishonest men have under the act of doing even more than evading creditors whom they could easily pay. I hope to see in that act embodied a principle which does not exist in the present law, and that is, the power to creditors to manage their own estates (hear, hear), which they have not now the power to do, but the lack of which has caused such great losses to sequestered estates situated a long distance from Brisbane. (Hear, hear.) Then the question of increased representation has been referred to with an intention clearly of being well met by the government and the parliament of this country. I am sure that no hon. members in this house can for a moment deny the great want of increased representation in many parts of Queensland. In that portion northward of Brisbane there is a great, a startling want of representation which, I hope, this act will improve. I will, then, sir, refer in connection with the subject of increased representation to that system in the old and present act—the mixture and amalgamation of constituencies—which evades that proper representation of clans and people which a better separation of the constituencies as they at present stand (or ought to stand) would avoid. I see that the question of immigration has not been forgotten in the Governor's speech; and the government of the day has referred to that question as one to be brought down to this house for revision also. And the speech alludes, I believe, to errors and mistakes in the act, which this house may have the opportunity to improve. I have given my own opinions and intentions with regard to this act, which I have always looked upon as an act not at all suited for this country. Although I look upon it in that way, this act has succeeded somewhat, and has been of advantage, and done some good to the country; yet, as at the first, I was not in favor of it, I am not of different opinion now. Only time can show all its advantages and disadvantages. Without further going into the questions alluded to in his Excellency the Governor's speech, I shall now formally move the adoption of the address which has been read to hon. members of this house; and, in doing so, I may express a hope that hon. members will not consider it a question as between parties in this house, but as a question between this house and the country. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. M'LEAN seconded the motion for the adoption of the address. The hon. member who had preceded him had entered into the subject of the programme of the government with such ability, with such display of understanding and ability to deal with it, as he (Mr. M'Lean) could not pretend to. He believed, however, that it was generally the case that the seconders of the address must necessarily say something. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He had, therefore, the satisfaction to express his belief that the programme of the government was satisfactory to every gentleman—to every hon. member who had the good of the country at heart. There was no novelty of legislation in it. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He did not propose any radical changes in the constitution of the country. (Laughter.) He believed that was one of the grand merits of it—one of the greatest merits that it could possibly have. (Hear, hear.) He believed no hon. member would dispute that. The ministry went fairly and straightforward to the matters in hand, the advancement of the prosperity and improvement of the country. They endeavoured as much as possible to develop the resources of the colony. They proposed grand measures for improving the communication with the inland districts, which no man could possibly deny was not a desirable thing at this moment. He believed that hon. members who came down the country lately could inform the house, that most of the people up in the country were famishing for want of food (hear, hear) in consequence of the want of roads. (Hear, hear.) And, he believed it was impossible that the colony could subsist much longer without the government and parliament, hand in hand, to remedy fully the existing state of things. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member for West Moreton had mentioned something about insolvency law. He (Mr. M'cLean) pleaded his entire

ignorance of that subject. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He never had anything to do with it, and therefore he could not tell whether the law was good, bad, or indifferent. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) However, he congratulated himself that the aggregation of wisdom and legal knowledge in the house would be able to deal with it. With regard to the "Prodigal Son" (laughter)—the hon. member whom he saw before him—he must admit that he did experience great pleasure in seeing that gentleman in this place to-day; for it was not his business at this moment to express an opinion whether he (Mr. Herbert) had done right or wrong. (Hear, hear.) That was a matter which the house would, in due time, deal with. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the proposition of the government to extend telegraphic communication to the far north, he quite agreed with the proposition so soon as we had anything to communicate with at the other end; at present there was no use for extension to the north-west corner of the coast, not until some medium of communication beyond was established; then it would be our duty to take advantage of it.

Mr. RAFF rose and said: I do not think, sir, that it would be right for the members of the opposition benches to allow this question before the house to pass without making some remarks. I shall, therefore, make a few remarks on the different matters placed before us this morning by the government through his Excellency; and, in doing so, I must, in the first place, take exception to the opinion of the hon. member who moved the address in reply to the speech of his Excellency, that it was a document "fraught with wisdom, liberality, and usefulness." I do agree with him that rapid legislation is to be deprecated; I also think, Sir, that very large promises are to be deprecated; and I am very glad to see that on this occasion the government have avoided making large promises—that they have not made the mistake which was made at the opening of last session by giving an extensive programme, committing themselves to large measures, which measures were only introduced to be rejected. I am glad, Sir, that on this occasion they will be saved the disgrace of occupying their position, after having so many important measures as we saw last session rejected. (A laugh.) I cannot agree with the hon. member who seconded the address that the wisdom displayed by the government in this reserve shows their independence. I rather think, Sir, that the hon. member, when he comes to look at the matter, will find that it rather speaks for their dependence upon the opinion of the opposition benches. ("Hear, hear," from Mr. Blakeney.) I quite agree, Sir, with one remark, that the government have done right; but there can be no merit in doing what was so clear and unmistakably to be done—that was, to repudiate unequivocally all desire on the part of this colony to sanction any scheme for introducing convicts to any portion of this territory. (Hear, hear.) It appears, Sir, that we are to have an act "to consolidate the acts relating to the unsettled districts"—that is, the land laws of the colony, the laws affecting the reception of the waste lands; and I do hope, Sir, that this will not be an act to consolidate, but also an act to make plain these laws. (Hear, hear.) I hope the Minister for Lands and Works will be able to produce such a measure that he himself will be able to understand. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) I hope, Sir, that there will be no blundering in future in letters to the Commissioners of Crown Lands and in the *Gazette* respecting these important causes. It appears, also, that we are to have another Scab Act. I did expect, when I read the address, that this was to be called the Contagion Act; but the bill we have speaks plainer—it is a bill for the further prevention of scab. I suppose the word "scab" could hardly be pronounced in another place this morning to so many "ears polite." (A laugh) it would have been satisfactory to have heard, also, that the executive had taken prompt measures to enforce the present law, and to prevent the introduction of scab into the colony. The proposed act "to ensure greater efficiency and greater economy" in the police of the colony I hope, Sir, will be what is here represented; and I have no doubt that if it will "ensure greater efficiency" at no greater cost to the colony, than is at present incurred, it will receive the approbation of hon. members. We are also to have an act "to facilitate the administration of justice in the several districts" of the colony. I do hope, Sir, and I think most hon. members will see, that this does not require any further votes for the salaries of judges; if it is to impose any further tax on the colony for the administration of justice. (Hear, hear.) As to the Electoral Bill, I hope, sir, it will not only give members to several portions of the colony which are now practically unrepresented (hear, hear), but that it will also give a fair proportion to all other districts of the colony to meet the large increase of the population. (Hear, hear.) I cannot, like the hon. member who seconded the address, plead ignorance of the law of insolvency. (Hear, hear). And I would

make a few remarks upon this subject. I would say that the bill presented to us at the close of last session does not meet the requirements of the times. ("Hear, hear," for Mr. BLAKENEY.) I hope, sir, that before that bill is again laid on the table of the house, it will be submitted to the severe scrutiny of the Government. I consider that one great want is, there is no classification of insolvents. (Hear, hear.) I think it is unfair to put in the same category all insolvents. There are the unfortunate, the careless, and the fraudulent insolvents. These are three classes that should not be classed in common and known simply under the word insolvents. (Hear, hear.) The honest insolvent should be classed as such, and have his certificate accordingly. Under the present law, the creditor, however, much robbed and swindled, has no protection. When this Act was first administered under, the able judge who introduced it into New South Wales, it worked well; it was a check; but as at present administered it is no check whatever. We are promised, I see, a system of immigration. There are "three separate systems of immigration now in force,"—"these systems of immigration will be presented for your consideration, with a view to remedy such defects as their practical working may have made apparent." There is very much ambiguity here, sir. We are not given to understand in plain terms whether there is any proposition to come before us to amend the Act, or whether we are merely the character of the regulations framed by the government from time to time. I consider that this Act has been tampered with in the most unwarrantable way by the government. I shall not make any comment at this time, as I have given notice of a motion to bring it before the house. I did expect that amongst the bills would be one to remove doubts as to whether the absence for eight months of the Prime Minister was unconstitutional or not. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I have come to the conclusion that no Act is requisite in this matter; but that it is very necessary that a simple resolution of this house would prevent the act which has been referred to from becoming a precedent. (Hear, hear.) And I have given notice of a resolution to that effect. (Hear, hear.) I admit that there is very little in this address to find fault with, and certainly the concluding paragraph, containing the congratulatory matter, is most delightful. But I would caution hon. members not to allow this concluding paragraph to act upon them as a soporific. We are certainly here encouraged to believe that all is going on well—that the state ship is going along smoothly and prosperously—and that if we leave everything to those gentlemen who framed this address, the ship will continue to sail well. But I would have hon. members to bear in mind that the large increase of population increases their responsibilities; that the increasing revenue holds out increasing temptations to responsible ministers—temptations to create offices in order to extend their own influence—temptations to be corrupt—although, Sir, I do not for a moment mean to insinuate that the present government have given way to such temptations, or that they are likely to give way to such temptations; but, Sir, we must admit that it is the duty of the members of this house to be on the watch that the increasing revenues of the country are not wasted on useless offices. I would say a word to the hon. members on the opposition benches. Much has been left to them—certainly, much has been left to them. The Government, I have no doubt, are quite prepared to support any good measures which may be suggested, or to accede to any alterations in their own measures which may be considered necessary by the gentlemen on the opposition benches. (Hear, hear.) I hope they will then see that there is much work for them to do. I hope that they will be prepared to exert their power and influence on the government, that they will let the government see that they are determined to carry out measures conducive to the good of the country, and that they will not sanction any waste of the country's funds, or sanction any measure which they may consider hurtful or unnecessary. I hope, sir, at the same time, that they will not, from the small force which is now shown by government—"hear, hear," and laughter—I hope that they will not be tempted, by the present state of ministerial benches, to any attempt to overthrow the ministry. (Laughter.) They may depend upon it they will never get any ministry so reasonable, so pliable (laughter), so open to conviction, and so ready to act upon their suggestions. (Continued laughter.) With these remarks I conclude. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HALEY could not agree in all the speech from the throne, and was sorry that the northern districts were ignored altogether in the matter of railway extension. (Hear, hear.) He could not see why we should carry a railway from Ipswich to Dalby without carrying one from Rockhampton or Port Curtis westward. (Hear, hear.) He thought that the land orders were the savings of the colony at the present moment. He agreed with the introduction of the Scab Bill. No



man knew the ravages of that disease better than himself—he had felt it personally. (Uproarious Laughter.) Yes, he had felt it in the loss of his sheep. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. B. CRIBB would not give a silent vote for fear it might be thought that he assented to the Governor's speech. (No, no.) He did not agree with everything that was said in it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GROOM addressed the house with a view to direct the attention of the government to the present impassable state of the roads; and he urged that it would be much wiser to make the roads good than to spend the public money in a railway to Dalby. A bag of flour was not seen in Condamine township for the past month; and flour was £50 a tonne at Toowoomba, owing to the state of the roads. He was in favor of the proposed telegraph extension, the increased representation for the Northern and Western districts, and the amendment of the impounding law.

Mr. JONES must say, that he was considerably surprised at the position in which the hon. member for Brisbane (Mr. Raff) had left the house. When he rose to address the house, he (Mr. Jones) did think, from the position the hon. member assumed, and the tone he adopted, that he was really about to attack the government, and to show broadly and clearly how it was that he sat on one side of the house, and the ministry on the other. However, the hon. member for Brisbane, in the most vague and general way, contented himself with "putting in," what he called "an appearance for the opposition!" (laughter); simply an "appearance." It was as much as to say—"Now, take notice; there is an opposition." (Laughter.) In no way, by no word, did he justify that position. He (Mr. Jones) was disappointed. The hon. member might have abilities—great abilities he got credit for, in town; but he (Mr. Jones) had not been enabled to understand them. The hon. member had never been good enough to communicate with him. (Laughter.) However, for his position, he must believe that the hon. member had something in his sleeve that was not to be made known yet—not till the proper time; but if the hon. member expected to receive the support of independent members of that house he had no right to coquette in the way he had just now. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Jones), for one, entered his protest against such conduct. (Continued laughter, and "hear, hear.") If nothing further was to be done let them agree to do away with party and unite generally to consult upon what was best; abolish the petitioner's miscalled policy, when no man had the manliness, no man had the spirit, no man had the mind and power to come forward and say with what he disagreed. (Hear, hear.) The hon. and learned member for Warwick then passed in review the speeches that had been made; and, in doing so, he again referred to the hon. member for Brisbane, who, he thought, should have been able to say something about the land orders. For himself (Mr. Jones) he believed that a great mistake had been made—that the immigrant had been swindled—most infamously swindled; and that the colony had been cheated—most infamously cheated; and that anything of profit arising from the land order system had gone into the pockets of the middle-man. (Hear, hear.) The system had been initiated, it had failed somehow; the government frankly placed the whole system before the house and asked them to assist in setting the wrong right. The government could do no more. He thought therefore, that under the circumstances the speech of his Excellency the Governor was one that the house might receive with welcome and gratitude; and he hoped the house would lay aside all paltry considerations and endeavor to carry out the high promise of the speech. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WARRY had no fear or care for the ministers or any other person. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He was desirous of stating this in the face of what anybody might say to the contrary—that the Governor's address was as good and practical an address for the Crown as anybody had seen, and perhaps more so. (Hear, hear.) He referred to the several measures promised; and in the course of his remarks on the Insolvent Law he said that though he knew a little about it he was not a "Prodigal Son" (laughter), but as good a son as father ever had. (Hear, hear, and continued laughter.) He did not agree with Mr. Herbert's going home; but he should give him a hearty welcome back to the colony. (Hear, hear.) Amongst other things he supported the extension of telegraphs and railways—*tempora mutant uz, et nos mutamur in illis*; and rapid strides that the colony was making bound us to proceed with such works. (Applause.)

The question was then put and agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said, Mr. Speaker, I may state for the information of the house, that it will be the pleasure of his Excellency to receive the address of this house in reply to the Governor's speech, at Government House, to-morrow, at half-past two o'clock.

### SUPPLY.

The COLONIAL TREASURER moved, without notice, "That so much of the speech of his Excellency as was addressed to this house be taken into consideration to-morrow."

The SECRETARY for LANDS and WORKS seconded the motion.

Agreed to.

On the motion of the Colonial Secretary, the house adjourned at five minutes to five o'clock until next (this) day at two o'clock.