

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

...
**Legislative Council
Opening of Parliament
21st April 1863**

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 22nd April 1863

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.

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

...
Legislative Council
21st April 1863

...
Extracted from the third party account as published in the
Courier 22nd April 1863

AT five minutes to twelve o'clock the President took the chair, when the Clerk read the usual proclamation calling parliament together.

The Governor, at five minutes past twelve, entered the house, and having requested the members to be seated, he directed the Usher of the Black Rod to summon the attendance of the hon. the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The summons having been complied with, his Excellency proceeded to read the following

SPEECH.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:—

1. It is with much satisfaction that I again meet you in Parliament, after another year of continued prosperity and solid progress.

2. During the recess a proposal has been made for a new division of the northern portion of this continent between the colonies of Queensland and of South Australia. My government have adhered to our present boundary at the 138th meridian of eastern longitude, as already fixed by her Majesty the Queen, in gracious compliance with an address from the Assembly in the session of 1860. Copies of the official correspondence which has taken place on this subject will be laid before you.

3. I have much pleasure in announcing that the determination of her Majesty's government, with reference to the new station near Cape York, is in accordance with the proposals of this colony. Military and naval protection will be afforded; periodical communication with Brisbane maintained; and the first public buildings erected at the cost of the imperial Treasury. You will be invited to make provision only for such civil officers as may be found necessary; and I know that I may rely on your enlightened liberality in a matter of so great importance to the development of this colony and to the trade of the whole British Empire in Australia.

4. Negotiations have been commenced on the basis of the acts recently passed by the parliaments of New South Wales and Queensland, respectively, for arranging on an equitable footing the collection of the customs on the boundary line dividing the two colonies.

5. General attention having been drawn to an announcement in the English press that one of her Majesty's Judges had publicly expressed an opinion in favor of the resumption of transportation, my responsible advisers have requested me to anticipate your decision by transmitting to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a minute of the Executive Council, to the effect that the legislature, as the constitutional exponent of the feelings of this community, would never consent to the transportation of convicts to any portion of the territory of Queensland.

6. I recommend you to make provision for the immediate extension of the electric telegraph to all our Northern ports as far as Port Denison, at all events; and also for its further extension from Port Denison to a point near our north-western boundary, whenever assurance shall be given that the inter-national telegraph, connecting Australia with Europe and Asia, will be brought to meet it there. The cost of this extension would be unimportant when compared with the great

advantages, direct and indirect, to be derived from it. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

7. The laws enacted by you during the last session have all received the approval of the Queen; and I am happy to be able to add that your efforts to promote the pastoral settlement of the colony by actual occupancy, already show the most gratifying results. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, large numbers of cattle and sheep have been, and are now being, pushed outwards. It is deemed expedient to consolidate the Acts relating to the unsettled districts, and you will be invited to consider a Bill drawn with this object.

8. In consequence of the recent appearance, to an alarming extent, of contagion among the sheep in various districts of New South Wales, a bill will be forthwith introduced, by which it is proposed to confer on the executive larger powers to deal with cases of such urgent necessity.

9. Your early attention is invited to the present condition of our Constabulary and Native Police Corps. The outbreak of violent crime in the adjacent colony, the probability of the discovery of new gold-fields within our own territory, the rapid influx of population, and many other circumstances, combine to prove that the time has arrived when our protective force should be placed under a system of organization similar to that now adopted in almost all other parts of the Empire, and calculated to ensure greater efficiency and greater economy. You will find from the official statistics that the people of Queensland are paying at the present moment, for police alone, a sum per head considerably larger in proportion than that paid by the people of Great Britain and Ireland for the British army and navy, as well as for the police of the United Kingdom. The measure which has been prepared by my government for your consideration would not involve any increase in numbers, or the expenditure of any moneys beyond those annually voted by parliament.

10. Among the other principal measures which will be submitted to you during the course of the session, bills have been prepared to extend the privilege of returning members to the Assembly to several portions of the colony which are now practically unrepresented;—to facilitate the administration of justice in the several districts;—to amend the existing Insolvency, Quarantine, and Impounding Acts; and to legalize the establishment of joint stock companies with limited liability.

11. The three separate systems of immigration now in force have had the effect of landing on our shores a large addition to our population. To the encouragement of a continual and systematic introduction of labor and capital, we must look for the development of our resources. Although under the land order system our land revenue has been considerably affected, yet that system has attracted attention to Queensland on the part of all classes in the mother country to a degree unknown in the case of any colony of like age. 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.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:—

12. The estimates will be laid before you without delay. I trust that you will find that the important object of appropriating to public works the largest practicable proportion of the revenue has been steadily kept in view.

13. The state of our internal communications has occupied for some time past the earnest attention of the government. You have in former sessions expressed your approval of a more sure and speedy method of transit than that now supplied by our ordinary roads. Consequently, a bill will be laid before you to authorise the construction of a railway between Ipswich and Dalby. The rapid progress of settlement towards the West, and the constant increase of population, property, and traffic in that direction, seem to point out this line as the best that can be adopted for the commencement of an economical and effective improvement upon our existing means of communication. At the same time, the progress of our trade and navigation render urgent the improvement of our principal rivers and harbors. It would be unjust, even if it were possible, to provide out of the current revenue for permanent and reproductive works, calculated to confer lasting benefits on future generations. It will, therefore, be proposed to you to authorise the

raising of a loan to the extent which the completion of these undertakings may, in your opinion, render necessary.

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN:—

14. I congratulate you on the very remarkable results exhibited by the statistical register of Queensland for 1862. It will be seen that our population has doubled during the period of little more than three years, which has elapsed since the erection of these districts into a separate colony. In all the other items, the returns show the progress of only two years. And yet during that brief interval, our revenue and our trade (including both imports and exports) have been nearly doubled. The shipping, inwards and outwards, has increased by 75 per cent. Pastoral occupation has advanced further towards the north and west over fully four hundred miles of our territory. The amount of land brought under cultivation has also increased by 100 per cent.; and cotton has become one of our permanent staples. The returns of the amount of coin and bank notes in circulation, and of the live stock in 1862, when compared with the figures of 1860, exhibit an almost equal rapidity of progress. I am confident that it is your earnest desire, by a continuance of wise and moderate legislation, to promote and consolidate, under the favor of Divine Providence, the prosperity which we now enjoy.

The President, as usual, for greater accuracy, obtained from his Excellency a copy of the speech.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the House adjourned until 3 p.m. the same day.

The members present were the Hon. Messrs. Yaldwyn, Harris, Roberts, Barker, White, Galloway, Macdougall, Dr. Hobbs, Dr. Fullerton and the Attorney-General.

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

PAPERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, by command, laid on the table the following papers, which were ordered to be printed:—

1. Despatch respecting Addresses of Condolence with her Majesty the Queen.
2. Despatch respecting supposed Disqualification of Messrs Fleming and Sandeman.
3. Despatch concerning the Correspondence respecting the Western Boundary of Queensland.
4. Report of the Brisbane Botanic Garden.
5. Additional Royal Instructions to the Governor of Queensland.
6. Correspondence respecting Anglo-Australian and China Telegraph.
7. Statistical Register of Queensland for the year 1861.
8. Third Annual Report of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

INQUESTS IN CASES OF FIRE, &c.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL presented a bill empowering the coroners to extend their investigations to cases of fire, &c.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, the bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on the next sitting day.

THE SPEECH.

The PRESIDENT, according to the usual form, then read the speech as given above.

THE ADDRESS.

On the motion of Mr. YALDWYN, a committee was appointed to frame an address on his Excellency's speech, the members named being Messrs. Harris, Macdougall, Galloway, Roberts, and the mover.

The committee then retired, and after a few minutes Mr. Yaldwyn, as chairman of the committee, brought up the following address, which, by direction of the President, was read by the clerk 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, the members of the Legislative Council of Queensland in Parliament assembled, desire to assure your Excellency of our loyalty and affection to the person and government of our most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank your Excellency for the speech which you have addressed to the parliament.

We are gratified to learn that her Majesty's government has consented to form the new station at Cape York, in accordance with the proposal transmitted by your Excellency; and we trust that this settlement will be of immediate value to the shipping of Australia, and will, at no distant day, be the seat of extended commercial operations.

We cordially concur in the prompt expression by your Excellency's government of what could not fail to be the feeling of the colony generally, on the subject of transportation to Queensland, and we are confident that the idea of carrying into execution so injurious a project will no longer be entertained.

It will be our desire to assist in the work of consolidating the acts relating to pastoral occupation, and to give our careful consideration to those other important measures which your Excellency has announced as about to be laid before us.

We shall receive with much satisfaction any matured and well considered scheme for improving the internal communications of the colony, and for extending as far as possible the advantages conferred by the electric telegraph on the more remote districts.

We thank your Excellency for the assurance that the government is prepared to introduce, without delay, such a measure as may provide the necessary power of preventing, as far as possible, the spread within the colony of that contagious disorder among sheep by which so large an amount of property is imperilled.

It will be our earnest endeavour to co-operate with your Excellency, and with the other branch of the legislature, in promoting and securing upon a firm basis that prosperity for which the colony has so much reason to be thankful."

Mr. YALDWYN, in moving the adoption of the address, explained that although the duty had devolved on him on two previous occasions, yet he thought some junior member would have been found to move the adoption of the address then. Still as there was no such hon. member present, he felt it incumbent on him to adopt the principle which he had acted on hitherto in reference to the address in answer to the vice-regal speech. Adverting to his Excellency's speech he wished he was enabled to indorse every word his Excellency had said in reference to the continued prosperity of the colony for the last year. So far from cherishing this notion he knew that many serious losses of stock had been sustained by stockholders in various parts of the country during the past season. He for one had lost upwards of 5000 sheep, and he believed that this was only an average criterion as to the losses sustained by stock-holders in other districts. He believed, however, that the sufferers would eventually succeed, and that permanent prosperity would be the result. The hon. member then went into the various matters contained in the speech consecutively, and after alluding to the universal feeling of loyalty which pervaded this community, proceeded to notice the proposed settlement at Cape York, which he conceived would have an immense effect in extending the commercial and colonizing capabilities of this colony. With regard to transportation he was very glad to find, from the speech, that the government determined to oppose it in every form. He was only astonished to find that any

English judge should so far forget himself as to recommend the transportation of Britain's felony to a new colony like Queensland. He sincerely hoped that the remonstrance sent home would have the effect of setting the question at rest for ever. The proposal to introduce a measure for the consolidation of certain laws he entirely agreed with, and also the attempt to extend telegraphic communication to Port Denison, and establish railways on those lines of thoroughfare where they were most required. He believed, however, that electricity should precede the establishment of railways, but in the meantime he thought railways, under the ordinary circumstances of the colony, would be the more economical as compared with the present system of road-making. He was informed that a railway might be constructed for £4000 per mile, which sum would be required for the metalling of an ordinary macadamised road. Then, with regard to scab in sheep, he considered this one of the most momentous questions that had ever come before parliament. His own experience in sheep ranged over 27 years, and his opinion was, that they ought not to allow sheep even suspected of contagion to enter the colony, by sea or land, for a period of three or four years. Once allow the disease to get into the colony and it was sure to go a-head, and there was no knowing where it would end. He was therefore glad to find that the government were prepared to introduce a measure to prevent the evils apprehended. He concluded by reciprocating the cordial sentiments of his Excellency touching the prosperity of the colony.

Mr. HARRIS seconded the motion in the absence of another member, on whom it was understood the duty would devolve. He agreed with the mover that the past year was not one of such remarkable prosperity as the speech represented, and in making this assertion he was borne out by his own experience in business. He believed, however, that the steps taken to colonise Cape York would tend materially to the enlargement of their commercial relations, and the future civilisation of the Northern districts. The hon. member then proceeded to express generally his approval of the principles enunciated in the speech, and regretted that no definite support was indicated in the address with regard to the establishment of railways, which he believed were absolutely necessary to the interior prosperity of the colony.

The motion was then put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. YALDWYN, it was agreed that the address as agreed to should be presented to the Governor to-morrow, at such hour as his Excellency might appoint, by the President and members of the Council.

The House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past 4, until a quarter to 2 o'clock to-morrow (this day).